

**2026**  
**Women's Helm, Navigator and**  
**Radio Operator Race**  
Notice of Race



Photo Credit: Cas Bukor

## Amendments

Number	Sections Changed	Summary of Amendment

Key Information	
Entries Close	2359 Thursday 20 August 2026
Race Date and Warning Signal	0925 Saturday 29 August 2026
ORCV Office Phone	0493 102 744
Race Director Phone	0418 396 605

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## 2026 ORCV Women's Helm, Navigator and Radio Operator Race Notice of Race

### About the Race

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The Women's Helm, Navigator and Radio Operator (WHNR) Race is a stand-alone destination race from Brighton to Geelong. The Race has two Categories, Racing and Cruising, with the latter recognising the increasing number of women becoming involved with the ORCV through the KISS (Keelboat Introduction to Sailing Savvy) training program. The Racing Category attracts more experienced sailors whilst the Cruising Category encourages newly graduated KISS alumni, less experienced women or those who prefer a non-spinnaker alternative.



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The 2026 ORCV Women’s Helm, Navigator and Radio Operator Race (WHNR) will be conducted on the waters of Port Phillip. Owners of eligible yachts are invited to enter this Race under the conditions of this Notice of Race. The Race is organised and conducted by the Ocean Racing Cub of Victoria Inc (ORCV).

## 1. The Race

- 1.1. The warning signal for the Race will be displayed at 0925 Saturday 29 August 2026.
- 1.2. This is a Category 5 race for monohull keelboats within the waters of Port Phillip.
- 1.3. The Race will start in the vicinity of RBYC.
- 1.4. The Race will finish at Royal Geelong Yacht Club (RGYC)
- 1.5. The details of the course including any marks will be in the Sailing Instructions for the Race.

## 2. Rules

- 2.1. The Race will be governed by the current versions of:
  - The 2025-2028 Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) of Australian Sailing (AS),
  - The Prescriptions and Special Regulations of Australian Sailing (AS),
 except as amended by this Notice of Race and the Sailing Instructions for this Race.
- 2.2. The ORCV reserves the right to amend this Notice of Race. Any amendments will be published on the ORCV website ([www.orcv.org.au](http://www.orcv.org.au)) and entrants at the time of any such amendment will be notified.
- 2.3. By entering this Race, the owner of a yacht agrees that this Notice of Race (including amendments) and the entry form, the rules and regulations referred to in Condition 2.1 and the Sailing Instructions must be complied with by the yacht and by the owner.
- 2.4. RRS Appendix T – Arbitration will apply.
- 2.5. The Sailing Instructions will be issued through the ORCV website at [www.orcv.org.au](http://www.orcv.org.au).

## 3. Race Categories and Handicap Systems

- 3.1. The WHNR Race will be conducted with the following Race Categories and Handicap System:

Category	System
Racing	PHS
Cruising Non-Spinnaker	PHS

- 3.2. Yachts in both Categories must have at least 3 female crew. Any additional crew can be male or female.
- 3.3. The Race Committee may split a Race Category into a number of Divisions having regard to the number of entries and the performance characteristics of the entrants.
- 3.4. The Race Committee reserves the right to cancel any Race Category or Division with fewer than 3 entries.

## 4. Eligibility

- 4.1. The Race is open to monohull yachts of a thoroughly seaworthy nature, which are entered by a member of a yacht club affiliated with AS.
- 4.2. Each yacht must comply with the eligibility requirements listed in Appendix A: Yacht Eligibility and Entry Requirements.
- 4.3. A decision of the ORCV as to any matter under this Condition 4, including as to whether a yacht and its crew meet the eligibility criteria, is final and binding and will not be grounds for a request for redress.
- 4.4. The roles of helm, navigator and radio operator must be filled by individual women.

## 5. Application for entry

- 5.1. Application for entry must be made on the TopYacht online entry system (TES) at [www.orcv.org.au](http://www.orcv.org.au).
- 5.2. To enter the Race, a completed application for entry, including crew details, must be received by 2359 Thursday 20 August 2026. ORCV reserves the right to close the WHNR Race entry once the maximum number of entries (30) has been reached.
- 5.3. The ORCV may consider entries after that date but late entries that are accepted may not appear in any race publications.
- 5.4. Any crew changes must be done in TES until 2359 on Thursday 27 August, after which TES will be locked out for any further crew changes. After this date and time any crew changes are to be sent to the Race Director via email [race.director@orcv.org.au](mailto:race.director@orcv.org.au).
- 5.5. Privacy Note: Personal information about crew members is contained in the crew lists. That information is obtained for use in search and rescue situations and for media purposes.  
  
The information may be given to search and rescue authorities and organisations, the Water Police, volunteer coastal stations and media representatives and may be passed on by them to other organisations.  
  
A condition of entry is that crew members are to be informed of this and advised that they may obtain access to the information held about them by contacting the ORCV.
- 5.6. The ORCV is not obliged to accept an application for entry.

## 6. Fees

- 6.1. The Race fee must be paid using TES. The entry fee includes Australian Goods and Services Tax. A tax invoice will be issued on request.
- 6.2. The Race entry fees are as follows.

<b>Race Entry</b>	\$85
<b>Bay Pass (any person without an <u>active</u> Australian Sailing Number)</b>	\$20

- 6.3. ORCV members receive a 15% discount on the Race entry fee.
- 6.4. A boat will not be considered a valid entrant until all fees are paid.
- 6.5. There is no designated crew fee. However, any crew member who does not hold an Australian Sailing number, or international equivalent, must purchase a temporary membership, in the form of an ORCV Bay Pass for the Race. This is done via the ORCV website, with a cost of \$20 per race.
- 6.6. Refund Policy: Unless the Race is cancelled, there are no refunds on entry fees.

## 7. Scoring

- 7.1. The scoring system will not be subject to protest or dispute.
- 7.2. The Race will be scored using the Performance Handicap System.

## 8. Trophies

- 8.1. The Custom Yacht Covers WHNR Race Helm Perpetual Trophy will be awarded to the helm of the WHNR Racing PHS winner.
- 8.2. The Custom Yacht Covers WHNR Novice Helm Perpetual Trophy will be awarded to the novice helm with best performance in the WHNR PHS Racing Category, for women who have been helming keelboats for less than 2 years.
- 8.3. The WHNR Cruising Helm Perpetual Trophy will be awarded to the helm of the WHNR Cruising PHS winner.
- 8.4. The WHNR Navigators Perpetual Trophy will be awarded to the navigator with the best navigation log for combined WHNR Racing and Cruising entrants.
- 8.5. The WHNR Radio Operators Perpetual Trophy will be awarded to the radio operator with the best radio log and on-air protocols for combined WHNR Racing and Cruising entrants.
- 8.6. Medallions will be awarded to the helms of the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> placed yachts on Racing PHS and Cruising PHS.
- 8.7. A medallion will be awarded to the helm of the highest placed yacht, with a novice helm, in Racing PHS.

- 8.8. The presentation of trophies and medallions will be at the next ORCV Awards Evening at a date, time and location to be announced.

## 9. Changes to Rules and Special Regulations

### 9.1. Changes to the Racing Rules of Sailing

- 9.1.1. **RRS 51:** A boat with movable ballast or variable ballast (within the meaning of those terms in the AS Special Regulations) may move that ballast for the purpose of changing trim or stability to the extent permitted by their stability rating.
- 9.1.2. **RRS 52:** The rule will be modified:
- to allow self-steering equipment to be used.
  - to allow the adjustment of movable water ballast or canting keels on any boat and the use of stored power to do so
  - to allow the use of stored power for sail handling and sail trimming on any boat.
- 9.1.3. **RRS 55:** Fixed and retractable spinnaker poles and bowsprits will be permitted for the purpose of setting asymmetrical spinnakers.

### 9.2. Changes to Australia Sailing Category 5 Special Regulations

- 9.2.1. Boats must have on board a VHF marine radio capable of communications with Ocean Racing over VHF Channels 12, 16, 67, 71, 73 and 82 during the period of the Race and must have continuous monitoring capability for both 16 and 82.

## 10. Sustainability

The ORCV is dedicated to promoting and upholding the principles of environmental stewardship in racing. Competitors are strongly encouraged to conscientiously consider their environmental by:

- Eliminating single-use plastic bottles – opt for refillable and store water using jerries or tanks on board.
- Containing and sorting rubbish, and disposing appropriately (e.g., recycling and organics, and reduce the amount sent to landfill).
- Picking up litter, especially in marinas or around clubs.
- Provisioning and storing food to reduce food and packaging waste, eg using reusable storage containers.
- Preventing oil, chemicals and microplastic pollution going to sea by inspecting and maintaining a clean bilge.

## 11. Event Classification & Advertising

- 11.1. Advertising on a yacht must comply with the requirements of WS Regulation 20 (WS Advertising Code) for Category C.

- 11.2. The ORCV must be advised of all advertising that a yacht intends to carry. The ORCV must be advised of all changes to that advertising.
- 11.3. The ORCV may decline to accept an application for entry of a yacht which, in its opinion, is carrying advertising which conflicts with governmental regulations. If in doubt, the ORCV should be consulted as soon as practicable.

## 12. Trademarks & Copyright

- 12.1. “ORCV Women’s Helm, Navigator and Radio Operator” is a trademark of the Ocean Racing Club of Victoria Inc and the use of the trademark is absolutely restricted and limited to use by or with the consent of the ORCV.
- 12.2. This document is Copyright © Ocean Racing Club of Victoria Inc 2026
- 12.3. All enquiries should be directed to:  
Ocean Racing Club of Victoria  
3 Aquatic Drive  
ALBERT PARK VIC 3206  
Australia  
orcv@orcv.org.au

## 13. Media Rights & Restrictions

- 13.1. It is a condition of entry that the owner of the yacht and all crew members:
  - acknowledge that the ORCV owns all media rights to the ORCV Women’s Helm, Navigator and Radio Operator and may exercise those rights as it sees fit;
  - grant the ORCV the unconditional, perpetual right and authority to publish and broadcast anywhere in the world, for any purpose and in any media, the names, images and biographical information relating to the crew and photographs, video footage and audio recordings taken of the yacht and its crew prior to, during and after the Race.
- 13.2. Crew members of yachts may, prior to, during and after the Race, speak or provide material to any media representatives accredited by the ORCV, regarding the race and the prospects, performance or strategy of yachts entered or participating in the Races, subject to any comments and material not undermining or interfering with, or having a detrimental impact on, the ORCV, any sponsor and their officers and employees, the Race Committee, the Protest Committee, measurers or current or former sponsors of the ORCV. This approval may be revoked by the ORCV in respect of a yacht or media representative at any time.
- 13.3. Entrants acknowledge and accept the media restrictions referred to in this clause by completing the entry form.
- 13.4. Any breach of these conditions may, at the discretion of the ORCV lead to the rejection of an entry, the cancellation of an entry or the disqualification of a yacht (refer RRS 76.1). This does not limit the right of the ORCV to take any other action it sees fit to enforce compliance with these conditions.

## 14. Disclaimer

- 14.1. All those taking part in this Race do so at their own risk and responsibility. Crew acknowledge this and release the ORCV and its respective officers, employees, volunteers and members, from all liability by entering their names on the crew list.
- 14.2. Specific attention is drawn to RRS Fundamental Rule 3, which states:  
*“The responsibility for a boat’s decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone.”*

## 15. Crew Behaviour

- 15.1. All participants are reminded that they are expected to comply with ORCV’s Member Protection Policy and Code of Conduct. For more information refer to <https://www.orcv.org.au/club/inclusion-diversity-and-protection>
- 15.2. Skippers are reminded that crew behaviour is both the skipper and all the crew’s responsibility to manage at all times, including during any deliveries or pre and post race social events.

## 16. Mooring Arrangements

- 16.1. **RBVC Overnight Berthing:** Free berthing will be available on the evening of Friday 28 August 2026 for boats coming from other clubs. Further information will be provided on the ORCV website.
- 16.2. **RGYC Overnight Berthing:** Berthing will be available on the evening of Saturday 29 August 2026. Further information will be provided on the ORCV website.

# Appendix A: Yacht Eligibility and Entry Requirements

Yachts must comply with the requirements laid out in this Appendix to be considered eligible for entry to the Race.

Check	Category	Requirement
	<b>General</b>	Structural features and stability requirements will be those of AS Special Regulations, Part 1, Category 5.
	<b>Insurance</b>	The owner of a yacht entered in the Race must hold a marine legal liability insurance policy with respect to the yacht, current when racing, with a sum insured of not less than A\$10 million. The insurance policy must state that the yacht is covered for the Race or that it is covered for yacht races of a length greater than the Race length.
	<b>Membership and day passes</b>	All persons sailing on competing yachts in a Race must be members of a AS-affiliated club. Day passes are available from the ORCV website for an AS membership for each race.
	<b>Radio</b>	Each competing boat must carry a VHF marine radio with channels 12, 16, 67, 71, 73 and 82. All boats must be able to continuously monitor channel 16 and the Race channel 82.
	<b>Entry</b>	<p>Entry is via the ORCV website, and the boat's details are to be filled in using TES. A boat must have a TopYacht profile already set up to be able to enter this Race online.</p> <p>The online Crew List must be correctly and fully completed with all associated personal details. The skipper is responsible for its accuracy and currency.</p>