

2026 Cock of the Bay Yacht Race Notice of Race



Credit: Al Dillon

Amendments

Number	Changes	Summary of Amendment

Key Information		
	Early Bird Entry closes	2359 Monday 07 December 2026
	Entries close	2359 Wednesday 16 December 2026
	Race date and Warning Signal	1025 Saturday 26 December 2026
	ORCV Office Phone	0493 102 744
	Race Director Phone	0418 396 605
	All times are in AEDT (Australian Eastern Daylight Time)	

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2026 Cock of the Bay Yacht Race Notice of Race

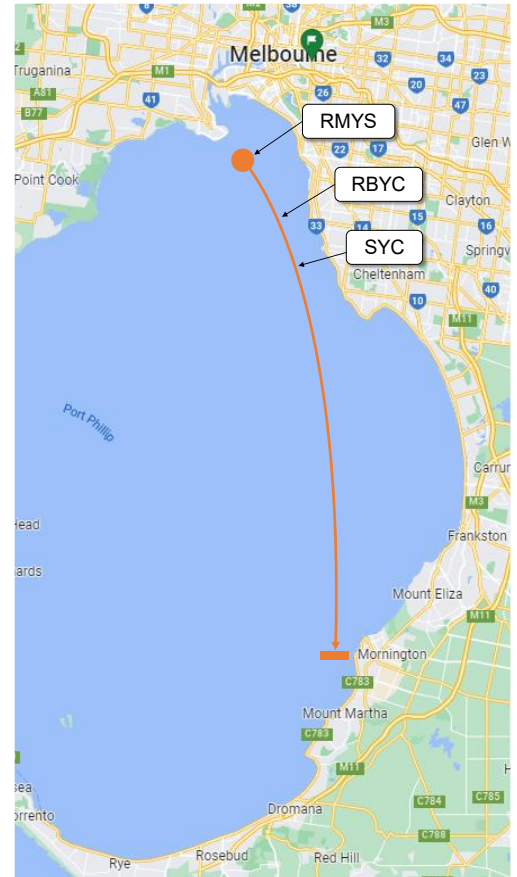
About the Cock of the Bay Race

This hugely popular 21 nautical mile race on Port Phillip is held each year on Boxing Day and, with a course designed to sail past major bay locations, is popular with sailors and spectators alike. Some say there is no better way to work off the excesses of Christmas the day before.

Besides being a great race in its own right, the event serves as a feeder for the Melbourne to Hobart blue water classic, which starts the next day from Portsea.

This race is open to yachts racing with full crew, 4+autohelm and double handed, and multihulls.

There are great vantage points for spectators at Port Melbourne, St Kilda Pier, Brighton Pier, Sandringham and Hampton foreshore as the fleet heads towards the Mornington finish.



The 2026 ORCV Cock of the Bay Yacht Race will be conducted on the waters of Port Phillip. Owners of eligible boats are invited to enter this Race under the conditions of this Notice of Race. The Race is organised and conducted by the Ocean Racing Club of Victoria Inc (ORCV).

1. Race

- 1.1. The warning signal for the Race will be displayed at 1025 on Saturday, 26 December 2026.
- 1.2. This is a Category 5 race, starting in the vicinity of Station Pier and finishing at Mornington.
- 1.3. 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),
 - Where a boat is entered under AMS, the Rules and Regulations of the Australian Measurement System (AMS).
 - Where boat is entered under ORC, the Rules and Regulations of the Offshore Rating Congress (ORC).
 - Where boat is entered under OMR, the Rules and Regulations of the Offshore Multihull Rating (OMR) Specification developed by the Multihull Yacht Club Queensland,except as amended by this Notice of Race and the Sailing Instructions for the Race.
- 2.2. The ORCV reserves the right to amend this Notice of Race. Amendments will be published on the ORCV website (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 the boat 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 boat and by the owner.
- 2.4. The Sailing Instructions will be issued through the ORCV website (www.orcv.org.au).

3. Race Categories, Divisions and Handicap Systems

3.1. The following Race Categories and Handicap Systems are provided:

Race Category	PHS	AMS	ORC	OMR
Monohull including 4+autohelm	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Double Handed	Yes	No	No	No
Cruising non-spinnaker	Yes	No	No	No
Multihull including 4+autohelm	Yes	No	No	Yes

- 3.2. Boats in the Monohull Race Category may race fully crewed, “4+autohelm” or double handed.
- 3.3. Boats in the Multihull Race Category may race fully crewed or “4+autohelm”.
- 3.4. Boats in the Double Handed Race Category must have 2 crew. They are also automatically entered and scored in the Monohull Race Category in all eligible Handicap Systems.
- 3.5. The Cruising Race Category is for monohulls only.
- 3.6. Boats in the Multihull Race Category will be entered into the PHS and OMR Handicap System if they meet the requirements of Appendix A: Yacht Eligibility and Entry Requirements.
- 3.7. The Cruising Race Category is for Monohulls only.
- 3.8. The Race Committee may split a Race Category into multiple divisions having regard to the number of entries and the performance characteristics of the entrants.
- 3.9. Boats entering ORC must hold either an ORCi rating certificate or an Endorsed ORCc Rating Certificate based on data submitted to Australian Sailing by an accredited measurer. The ORC All Purpose Handicap System will be used.
- 3.10. Non-Spinnaker and Two-Handed rating certificates are not used for the Handicap Systems used for scoring.
- 3.11. Boats entered in the AMS or ORC Handicap Systems of the Monohull Race Category must have a valid rating certificate which includes a spinnaker with a measured area of at least 130% of the area of the boat’s fore triangle, where the fore triangle area is defined as $0.5 \times FL \times J$ measured in accordance with the AMS rules.
- 3.12. The Race Committee reserves the right to cancel any Race Category, Division or Handicap System with fewer than 5 entries.

4. Eligibility

- 4.1. The Race is open to boats of a thoroughly seaworthy nature, which are entered by a member of a yacht club affiliated with Australian Sailing.
- 4.2. Each boat must comply with the eligibility requirements listed in Appendix A: Yacht Eligibility and Entry Requirements.

- 4.3. The ORCV may require remeasurement of any boat prior to the boat racing.
- 4.4. A decision of the ORCV or the Race Committee as to any matter under this Condition 4, including as to whether a boat and its crew meet the eligibility criteria, is final and binding and will not be grounds for a request for redress.

5. Application for entry

- 5.1. An application for entry must be made on the TopYacht online entry system (TES) at www.orcv.org.au.
- 5.2. To enter the Race, a completed application for entry, including crew details, must be received by 2359 on Wednesday, 16 December 2026.
- 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 up until 2359 on Wednesday 23 December 2026, after which TES will be locked out for any further crew changes. After this date and time any crew changes must be sent to the Race Director via email race.director@orc.v.org.au.
- 5.5. A crew declaration must be completed using the TopYacht link. This link will be communicated via a Notice to Competitors no later than 48 hours before each Race.
- 5.6. 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.
- 5.7. The ORCV is not obliged to accept an application for entry.
- 5.8. In accordance with RRS 76.1, the ORCV may reject or cancel the entry of a boat that does not comply with the conditions of this Notice of Race.
- 5.9. A boat's rating certificate must not be changed after 1200 on Wednesday, 16 December 2026 except as a result of a rating protest or to correct a rating office error.

6. Fees

- 6.1. The race entry 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 fee is for all eligible Race Categories and all Handicap Systems for which the yacht is eligible.
- 6.3. No additional fees apply where an eligible boat enters the Double Handed Category.

6.4. Race entry fees are as follows:

Early Bird Entry (on or before 07/12/2026)	\$88
Entry (from 8/12/2026)	\$110

6.5. ORCV members receive a 15% discount on the race entry fee.

6.6. A boat will not be considered a valid entrant until the race entry fee is paid.

6.7. 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, (<https://www.orcv.org.au/club/crew-and-passes>), with a daily cost of \$20.

6.8. Refund Policy: Unless the Race is cancelled, there are no refunds on the entry fee paid.

7. Scoring

7.1. The scoring system will not be subject to protest or dispute.

7.2. Prorated positions may be used to determine a result for the Race, if the Race is shortened.

8. Trophies and Mementos

8.1. The Cock of the Bay Yacht Race Perpetual Trophy is awarded to the overall winner of the Monohull Race Category in the ORC or AMS Handicap System with the larger number of entries (combined where additional divisions have been created in a Race Category pursuant to Condition 3). If the numbers of entrants in the Handicap Systems are equal, the trophy will be awarded to the winner under AMS.

8.2. Mementos are presented to competitors for the following achievements, subject to the number of starters qualifications noted below:

- Line Honours – First monohull and multihull to cross the finish line.
- First placegetters on corrected time within each Handicap System and Division.

8.3. All mementos are awarded subject to sufficient starters in the particular Race Category and Division as follows:

- Fewer than 3 starters, or 2 in the case of the Double Handed and Multihull Divisions, there is no race for that Race Category or Division and no mementos are awarded for the Race Category and Division.
- Line honours follow the same rules except all boats are counted regardless of Race Categories.

8.4. Results will be announced via the ORCV website.

- 8.5. The presentation of mementos and the Perpetual Trophy will be at the ORCV Awards Evening at a date, time and location to be announced. Winners will be awarded a single memento listing all eligible awards won during the season.

9. Changes to Rules and Category 5 Special Regulations

9.1. Changes to the Racing Rules of Sailing

- **RRS 41:** While racing, a boat may retrieve data from any page of the ORCV website, and other websites, even if those pages are not generally available.
- **RRS 51:** A boat with movable ballast or variable ballast (within the meaning of those terms in the Special Regulations) may move that ballast for the purpose of changing trim or stability to the extent permitted by their stability rating.
- **RRS 52:** The rule is 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.
- **RRS 55:** Fixed and retractable spinnaker poles and bowsprits will be permitted for the purpose of setting asymmetrical spinnakers.
- **RRS 60.3:** There is no time limit on protests by the Race Committee or the Protest Committee.
- **RRS 78.2:** Valid rating/class certificates must be produced by the due date specified in this Notice of Race.
- **RRS 90.3:** No time limit will apply for the correction of incorrect published results.

9.2. Changes to Category 5 AS Special Regulations

- 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. Event Classification & Advertising

- 10.1. Advertising on a boat must comply with the requirements of WS Regulation 20 (WS Advertising Code) for Category C.
- 10.2. The ORCV must be advised of all advertising that a boat intends to carry. The ORCV must be advised of all changes to that advertising.
- 10.3. The ORCV may decline to accept an application for entry of a boat which, in its opinion, is carrying advertising which conflicts with governmental regulations. If in doubt, the ORCV should be consulted as soon as practicable.

11. Trademarks & Copyright

- 11.1. “Cock of the Bay Yacht Race” and “COB” are trademarks of the Ocean Racing Club of Victoria Inc and the use of the trademarks is absolutely restricted and limited to use by or with the consent of the ORCV.
- 11.2. This document is Copyright © Ocean Racing Club of Victoria Inc 2026
- 11.3. All enquiries should be directed to:
- Ocean Racing Club of Victoria
3 Aquatic Drive
ALBERT PARK VIC 3206
Australiaorcv@orcv.org.au

12. Media Rights & Restrictions

- 12.1. It is a condition of entry that the owner of the boat and all crew members:
- acknowledge that the ORCV owns all media rights to the Cock of the Bay Yacht Race Yacht Race 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 boat and its crew prior to, during and after the Race.
- 12.2. 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 Race, 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.
- 12.3. Entrants acknowledge and accept the media restrictions referred to in this clause by completing the entry form.
- 12.4. Any breach of these conditions may, at the discretion of the ORCV or the Race Committee, 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.

13. Disclaimer

- 13.1. All those taking part in the Race do so at their own risk and responsibility. Crew acknowledge this and release the ORCV and their respective officers, employees, volunteers and members, from all liability by entering their names on the crew list.
- 13.2. Crew acknowledge that by having their names entered on the crew list, they (and any guests or supporters they invite to an ORCV event) are agreeing to abide by the ORCV Code of Conduct.
- 13.3. 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”

14. Mooring Arrangements

There are no competitor moorings available at Mornington. Details for boats racing in the Westcoaster will be provided separately.

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
	General	Monohull yachts must be built in accordance with the AS Special Regulations Part 1, Race Category 5.
	Insurance	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.
	ORC Yachts	A yacht may only be entered in ORC if the yacht has a current, valid endorsed ORCi or ORCc Certificate.
	AMS Yachts	A yacht may only be entered in AMS if the yacht has a current, valid AMS Certificate issued by YRSA Inc.
	OMR Yachts	A boat may only be entered in OMR if the boat has a current, valid endorsed OMR certificate.
	Membership and crew list	All persons sailing on competing boats must be members of a AS-affiliated club. Day passes are available from the ORCV website for an AS membership for this race. Refer to Entry Category for the crew list requirements.
	Radio	Each competing yacht must carry a VHF transceiver with channels 12, 16, 67, 71, 73 and 82. All yachts must be able to continuously monitor channel 16 and the race channel.
	Entry	Entry is via the ORCV website and the boat details are to be filled in using the TopYacht Entry System. A boat must have a TopYacht profile already setup to enter this race online. The online Crew List must correctly and fully completed with all associated personal details. The skipper is responsible for its accuracy and currency.