

MEDWAY YACHT CLUB



SIXTY-SECOND MEDWAY MARATHON SUNDAY 6th September 2026 SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

RULES

The racing will be governed by:

- 1.1 The rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing.
- 1.2 The Notice of Race.
- 1.3 These Sailing Instructions.

2 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1 Any changes to these SI's will be posted on the Official Notice Board located in the foyer of the Clubhouse no later than 0900 on Sunday 6th September 2026. [NP]

3 COMMUNICATIONS TO COMPETITORS

- 3.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the Official Notice Board.

4 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 4.1 When flag AP is displayed from the yard of the mast in front of the clubhouse, "1 minute" is replaced by "not less than 30 minutes" in the race signal AP.

5 STARTING TIMES AND CLASS FLAGS

- 5.1 See Notice of Race.

6 RACING AREA

- 6.1 The River Medway - See Imray Chart Y18 The River Medway and Approaches.

7 THE COURSES

- 7.1 **The Marathon** course to be sailed will be designated by the display of the numbers **01** or **02** from the Race Box not later than the warning signal for that class.
- 7.2 **The Half Marathon** course to be sailed will be designated by the display of the numbers **25** or **35** from the Race Box not later than the warning signal for that class.
- 7.3 **Marathon Course 01** - MYC Line, Folly Point Beacon (P), Darnett Beacon (S), 16 (S), Otterham FB (P), 13 (S), Zulu 2 (P), Blackstakes Orange Pillar Racing Mark (P), South Kent (S), Queenborough Spit (S), Blackstakes Orange Pillar Racing Mark (S), Stangate Creek, Red Can (S), Stangate Spit (P), 12 (P), 16 (S), Darnett Beacon (P), Folly Point Beacon (S), 30 (P), MYC Line (approximately 26 miles).
- 7.4 **Marathon Course 02** - MYC Line, Folly Point Beacon (P), Darnett Beacon (S), 16 (S), Otterham FB (P), 16 (P), Darnett Beacon (P), Folly Point Beacon (S), 30 (P), MYC Line (approximately 13 miles).
- 7.5 **Half Marathon Course 25** - MYC Line, Folly Point Beacon (P), Darnett Beacon (S), 16 (S), Otterham FB (P), 16 (P), Darnett Beacon (P), Folly Point Beacon (S), 30 (P), MYC Line (approximately 13 miles).

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- 7.6 **Half Marathon Course 35** - Special Instructions will be posted on the Official Notice Board no later than 0900 on Sunday 3rd August 2025.

8 MARKS

- 8.1 Marks will be Medway navigation buoys except Blackstakes which is an orange inflatable pillar mark that will be positioned approximately 500 metres to the East of the entrance to Stangate Creek. Please see the chart attached to the Notice of Race as Appendix 2 as guidance for Medway navigation buoys.
- 8.2 There will be several Guard Boats around the course displaying a yellow day-glo flag.
- 8.3 The race committee will endeavor to have guard boat in the vicinity of Otterham FB and Stangate Creek buoy. However, if there are no guard boats in the vicinity of these marks there will be no grounds for boats to protest.

9 OBSTRUCTIONS

- 9.1 Racing is held on a navigable river and ships or other large vessels have right of way. International regulations and local bylaws may apply to ships or vessels using the river, jetties, piers, or berths.
- 9.2 No boat shall obstruct the fairway, or sail between a ship/vessel and an accompanying guard boat displaying Naval Numeral 'Zero'. [DP, NP]
- 9.3 Boats shall not sail between Folly Beacon and Hoo Island, nor between Darnett Beacon and Darnett Ness, nor cross Bishop Marsh which lies between Darnett Ness and Bishop Ness.
- 9.4 Passage through Hoo Creek, Copperhouse Marshes, Bishop Marsh or Bartlett Creek is prohibited.
- 9.5 Boats shall not sail over span lines on fore and aft moorings.
- 9.6 The variable exclusion zones relating to the LNG Terminal and LNG Vessels referred to in clauses 13 and 14 of the General Directions for Navigation in the Medway Ports 2013 are deemed to be obstructions.

10 THE START

- 10.1 The start line will be a transit line running approximately north/south through the apexes of two white triangles mounted on poles positioned above and to the rear of the Race Box.
- 10.2 Races will be started using RRS 26.
- 10.3 The MYC advisory light procedures will be available (see Appendix).

11 CHANGE AND SHORTENING OF COURSE AND RACE ABANDONMENT

- 11.1 If a race committee vessel displays flags "C" over "R" with repeated sound signals at a mark of the course, all sailing boats in the race are to leave this mark on the designated side and proceed direct to the finishing line leaving navigation mark 30 to port, this changes RRS 33 and RRS Race Signals.
- 11.2 "C" over "R" should only be used at marks such that the definition of "Sail the Course" in the RRS is adhered to (the string test).
- 11.3 The course may be shortened according to RRS 32 at any rounding mark of the course.
- 11.4 If the race is abandoned, in addition to official boats displaying flag "N", Guard Boats will display a pink day-glo Flag.

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12 THE FINISH

- 12.1 The finish line will be a transit line running approximately north/south through the apexes of two white triangles mounted on poles positioned above and to the rear of the Race Box.
- 12.2 If the course is shortened in accordance with 11.3 above the finish line will be a line between a rounding mark and the staff on a Committee Boat displaying flag "S" in accordance with RRS32.2(a)

13 PENALTY SYSTEM

- 13.1 Penalties and scoring penalties are determined by the rules RRS 44.

14 TIME LIMITS

- 14.1 No warning signal will be displayed after 13:55hrs
- 14.2 The time limit for finishing will be 17.00hrs.

15 DECLARATIONS

- 15.1 If a boat has retired before finishing or is required to make a declaration under clause 19.1 of these SI's the competitor shall note this fact on the declaration sheet in the Race Office.
- 15.2 Any boat failing to declare within 30 minutes of the time limit shall be scored a penalty of 10% without a hearing. [SP]
- 15.3 If a boat has retired and the competitor is unlikely to return to the shore before the time limit, she shall make every effort to advise the race committee of the situation.

16 HEARING REQUESTS

- 16.1 Hearing request forms are available from the Race Office. Hearing requests must be in writing and shall be delivered to the Race Office within the protest time limit.
- 16.2 The protest time limit will be
 - 16.2.1 when the boats finish as required by clause 12.1 of the SI's, 60 minutes after the last boat has finished; or
 - 16.2.2 if the course is shortened at a mark downstream, 120 minutes after the last boat finishes at that mark.
- 16.3 Notices will be posted no later than 30 minutes after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Hearings will be held in the protest room; the location, times and date will be described in the notice.
- 16.4 The RYA Post-Race penalty, the RYA Advisory Hearing and RYA Arbitration provided for by the RYA Rules Disputes Process will be available.

17 SCORING

- 17.1 Boats will be scored according to their elapsed time corrected with PY Handicaps indicated in

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section 11 of the NOR.

18 REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT

- 18.1 Boats wishing to use a sail that does not bear the boat's registration number, must obtain prior written approval from the race officer. The alternative number must not duplicate the number of another boat racing in the same class.

19 SAFETY REGULATIONS

- 19.1 Moored Vessels and moorings.
 - 19.1.1 If a boat or its crew make contact with a moored or anchored vessel, she shall declare the contact when signing off at the end of the race and accept a 20% Scoring Penalty pursuant to RRS 44.3(c). If a boat caused injury or serious damage, her penalty shall be to retire.
- 19.2 Use of Engines and Manual propulsion
 - 19.2.1 Any reasonable means of propulsion including the use of an engine may be used by the boat to avoid making contact with a moored or anchored vessel, or to get clear after a collision with a moored or anchored vessel if a boat intends to continue racing, providing that the use of the engine or other means of propulsion ceases as soon as the boat is clear, and she does not gain a significant advantage in the race.
 - 19.2.2 Grounded boats may use any reasonable means of propulsion including support from a safety boat to recover sailing water, provided the use of the engine or other means of propulsion ceases as soon as the boat is clear, and she does not gain a significant advantage in the race.
- 19.3 Safety Equipment
 - 19.3.1 RRS 40.1 will apply to all competitors at all times when racing.
 - 19.3.2 Competitors will conform to the MYC Minimum Equipment List 2026 as referred to in clause 9.3 of the Notice of Race.

20 OFFICIAL BOATS

- 20.1 Official race support boats will display ICF Numeral Pennant "9".

21 GUARD BOATS

- 21.1 Guard boats will display a yellow day-glo flag when anchored.
- 21.2 if the race is abandoned Guard boats will display a pink day-glo flag.

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APPENDIX

MYC ADVISORY LIGHT PROCEDURE

<u>Signal</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Lights</u>	<u>Visual Signal</u>
Warning	5 min	3 fixed lights	Class flags displayed.
Preparatory	4 min	2 fixed lights	Preparatory signal displayed.
One Minute	1 min	1 fixed light	Preparatory signal removed.
Start	0 min		Class flags removed.
Individual Recall		1 flashing light	X flag displayed.
General Recall		2 flashing lights	1st Substitute displayed.
Race abandoned			N flag displayed.

(Any failure or other irregularity in the display of these advisory lights will not be grounds for boats to protest)