



BLAIRGOWRIE YACHT SQUADRON

2026 Victorian Minnow Championships



NOTICE OF RACE V2 5/02/2026

Updated to include Intermediate Fleet and berthing information.

14-15 February 2026

Organising Authority:
Blairgowrie Yacht Squadron

In conjunction with the:
Minnow Sailing Association Inc. (Victoria)

2026 MINNOW VICTORIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

14-15 February 2026

NOTICE OF RACE V2

The Blairgowrie Yacht Squadron (BYS) invites entries for the Victorian Minnow Championships ("the Regatta"). The Regatta will be conducted on the waters of Port Phillip adjacent to BYS.

[DP] in a rule in the NOR or SI's means that the penalty for a breach of that rule may, at the discretion of the protest committee, be less than disqualification.

[NP] The notation [NP] in a rule means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 6.1(a).

1 RULES

- 1.1 The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing 2025-2028 ('RRS').
- 1.2 The Australian Sailing Special Regulations Part 2 for Off the Beach Boats shall apply.
- 1.3 The Novice Fleet will sail under the *ISAF Introductory Rules for Racing*.
- 1.4 Appendix T, Arbitration of RRS will apply.

2 SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1 The Sailing Instructions will be available after 1700hrs on 10 February 2026 on the official notice board.

3 COMMUNICATION

- 3.1 The official notice board is located at <https://sailingresults.net/sa/notice/?ID=82260> and can be accessed via the regatta page of the club's website <https://bys.asn.au/minnow-victorian-championship-2026/>

4 ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

- 4.1 Parents and guardians may enter eligible boats on behalf of their competitor by completing the online entry form and submitting it, together with the required fee here <https://sailingresults.net/entry/default.aspx?ID=9869131> by 1700hrs on 12 February 2026.
- 4.2 The event is open to all boats of the Minnow Class.
- 4.3 All competitors shall be current financial members of the Minnow Sailing Association (Victoria). Membership applications shall be submitted at: <https://www.minnow.org.au/home>
- 4.4 All competitors shall be a current financial member of a club affiliated with Australian Sailing or hold a valid BYS Sail Pass for the regatta dates. Sail Pass applications shall be submitted at: www.bys.asn.au/sailpass
- 4.5 Competitors and their parents and guardians shall abide by the [Australian Sailing Member Protection Policy](#).
- 4.6 Eligibility for each division shall be as follows:
 - Novice:** The Novice Fleet is intended to encourage participation and enjoyment of the Victorian Championship by inexperienced sailors. Sailors with the skills and experience appropriate to the Open Fleet are expected to enter the Open or Intermediate Fleet in order to preserve the spirit of the Novice Fleet. Final acceptance into the Novice Fleet is at the discretion of the Organising Authority, following advice from the President of the Minnow Sailing Association (Victoria) (or their nominated representative). Refer to Addendum A.2.
 - Intermediate:** The Intermediate Fleet bridges the gap between the Novice and Open Fleets. Sailors with the skills and experience appropriate to the Open Fleet are expected to enter the Open Fleet in order to preserve the spirit of the Intermediate Fleet. Final acceptance into the Intermediate Fleet is at the discretion of the the Organising Authority following advice from the President of the Minnow Sailing Association (Victoria) (or their nominated representative). Refer to Addendum A.3.
 - Junior:** Any Minnow sailor who is under twelve years of age on the day of the first scheduled race of the Championship, and who is not competing in the Novice or Intermediate Fleet.
 - Open:** All Minnow sailors, including Junior sailors, who are not competing in the Novice Fleet or Intermediate Fleet will compete in the Open Fleet.

5 FEES

- 5.1 The entry fee is \$130 for the first competitor from a family, and \$110 for each subsequent entry from the same family.
- 5.2 The entry fee includes championship racing and regatta shirt. Entries received after 5pm on 6 February may not receive a regatta shirt.
- 5.3 Minnow 50th Celebration Dinner is a separate ticketed event: <https://www.minnow.org.au/shop/11513>

6 [NP] [DP] ADVERTISING

6.1 Boats may be required to display advertising chosen and supplied by the Organising Authority.

7 SCHEDULE

7.1

Date	Time	Event
Saturday 14 February 2026	0830 - 0930	Registration & Measurement (sails only)
	0830 - 0930	Coach & Support Boat Registration
	0930	Competitor Briefing
	1130	Race session, first warning
	PM	Race session, after a break
	1800 - 2100	Minnow 50 th Celebration Dinner
Sunday 15 February 2026	1030	Race session, first warning
	After racing	Presentation

7.2 Registration must be completed prior to registration closing.

7.3 A maximum of seven races will be sailed.

7.4 On the last day of scheduled racing, no warning signal will be made after 1400 hours.

8 EQUIPMENT INSPECTION

8.1 Each boat shall produce or verify the existence of a valid Minnow Class Measurement Certificate if requested.

8.2 Boats and equipment may be subject to inspection at any time during the event to ensure compliance with the Rules.

8.3 Only one set of equipment, including sail shall be used during the event.

8.4 Note: Changes in the Rules of Measurement and Construction (Amended and approved to Aug 2015) which came into effect on 25 December 2016, namely Clause B (i) The minimum hull weight shall be 22.25 kg.

9 VENUE AND RACE AREAS

9.1 Racing shall be conducted on Port Philip in the vicinity of Blairgowrie Yacht Squadron, 2900 Point Nepean Rd Blairgowrie, Victoria.

10 THE COURSES

10.1 There will be two course areas, one for the Novice and Intermediate Fleets, and one for Open Fleet. Courses shall be triangular courses as described in the Sailing Instructions.

11 SCORING

11.1 The Low Point System, RRS Appendix A, shall be used.

11.2 Three races are required to constitute a series

11.3 When fewer than four races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores.

11.4 When four or more races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of all her race scores excluding her worst score.

11.5 The Junior Division prizes shall be awarded based on the ranking of competitors in the overall results of the Open fleet.

12 [DP] SUPPORT BOATS

12.1 Support boats shall register for the event by 1700hrs on 10 February here: <https://sailingresults.net/entry/default.aspx?ID=9869131>

12.2 **Open and Junior Division.** Team managers, coaches and other support personnel shall register with the host. Support boats shall carry a VHF radio and comply with all local safety rules in accordance with Victorian Marine Regulations, and the instructions of the Race Committee. Support Boats shall keep at least 100m clear of the course area during racing, except when asked to assist by an official from the Race Committee. Failure to comply may result in the disqualification of all competitors associated with the infringement.

12.3 **Novice and Intermediate Division.** The above Open and Junior Division regulations apply with the exception of official safety boats registered with the Race Committee approved to provide on course support.

13 [DP] RADIO COMMUNICATION

- 13.1 Except in an emergency, a boat shall neither make radio transmissions while racing nor receive radio communications not available to all boats. This restriction also applies to mobile telephones.

14 PRIZES

- 14.1 Prizes in the Victorian Championships will be awarded as follows:
1st, 2nd and 3rd places in the Open Fleet, the Junior Division, the Intermediate Fleet, and the Novice Fleet.
- 14.2 Other prizes may be awarded at the discretion of the Organising Authority.

15 RIGHTS TO USE NAME AND LIKENESS

- 15.1 In participating in the 2026 Victorian Minnow Sailing Championships, a parent/guardian unless they opt out in writing at Registration, automatically grants the Organising Authority, the Association and the sponsors of the Championships, the right in perpetuity, to make, use and show from time to time at their discretion, any motion pictures, still pictures and live, taped or film television and other reproductions of him/her during the period of the Regatta for the said Championships in which the competitor participates and in all material related to the said Championships without compensation.

16 RISK STATEMENT

- 16.1 RRS 3 states: "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue to race is hers alone." By participating in this event each competitor agrees and acknowledges that sailing is a potentially dangerous activity with inherent risks. These risks include strong winds and rough seas, sudden changes in weather, failure of equipment, boat handling errors, poor seamanship by other boats, loss of balance on an unstable platform and fatigue resulting in increased risk of injury. **Inherent in the sport of sailing is the risk of permanent, catastrophic injury or death by drowning, trauma, hypothermia or other causes.**
- 16.2 All those taking part in these races are reminded of their obligations as set out in the Australian Sailing special Regulations clause 1.02 'Responsibility of the Person in Charge.' The safety of a boat and her crew is the sole and inescapable responsibility of the person in charge who must do their best to ensure that the boat is structurally sound, thoroughly seaworthy and manned by a crew who are physically fit to face the expected conditions. The owner and the person in charge must be satisfied as to the soundness of hull, spars, rigging, sails, and all gear. The owner and the person in charge must ensure that all safety equipment is properly maintained and stowed and that the crew knows how to use it.

17 INSURANCE

- 17.1 Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of \$5,000,000.00 per event or the equivalent. A copy of the valid insurance certificate will need to be provided at the time of registration.

18 BERTHING

- 18.1 At the owners risk, boats and trailers can be left at the club and surrounding beach area in the areas designated by the organising authority.
- 18.2 Boats may be dropped off at the club from 10am on Friday 13th February.

19 AMENDMENTS

- 19.1 Any amendments to this Notice of Race shall be posted on the regatta website <https://bys.asn.au/minnow-victorian-championship-2026/>

20 FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information please contact:

- Victorian Minnow Sailing Association
Sara Lloyd-Clarke, VMSA President 0417 626 365
- Blairgowrie Yacht Squadron
Sailing Office 03 5925 9600 sailing@bys.asn.au

APPENDIX A

Novice and Intermediate Fleet Guidelines

- A.1** Whether a sailor is to sail in the Novice, Intermediate or Open fleet at a Championships can be a difficult decision for parents. Here are some guidelines for when entering such an event. They are guidelines only as 'hard and fast rules' in this situation do not cater for everyone. Final acceptance into the Novice or Intermediate fleet will be made by the Organising Authority following advice from the President of the Minnow Sailing Association (Victoria) (or their nominated representative).
- A.2 Novice Fleet Guidelines**
- A.2.1 The goal of the Novice fleet is to encourage participation and enjoyment of the State and National Championships for beginner sailors. The criteria for a Novice fleet sailor are:-
- A.2.1.1 8 years of age or less on the day of the first racing session race.
- A.2.1.2 A sailor 9 years or more on the day of the first racing session, competing in their first State/National Championships.
- A.2.1.3 A sailor with a medical condition that requires on-water treatment or has a recognized learning/cognitive disorder.
- A.2.1.4 A sailor who has never had a podium finish in an organized Minnow race.
- A.3 Intermediate Fleet Guidelines**
- A.3.1 The Intermediate Fleet bridges the gap between Novice and Open Fleets. It provides a full racing experience for developing sailors without the physical demands or performance expectations of the Open Fleet. The Intermediate Fleet race in the same course area as the Novice Fleet. The criteria for an Intermediate fleet sailor are:-
- A.3.1.1 Sailors who have previously raced in Open Fleet but regularly struggled to finish or were consistently at the back of the fleet OR
- A.3.1.2 Younger or lighter sailors who are capable racers but may find Open Fleet conditions or long days too demanding OR
- A.3.1.3 Sailors transitioning from the Novice Fleet who can sail a racecourse independently but not yet capable of racing with the Open Fleet.
- A.4 A sailor who fits any of the above criteria but is skilled enough to sail the Open course is strongly encouraged to enter the Open fleet to maintain the spirit of the Novice and Intermediate fleet, and for that sailor to challenge themselves and build their own skills.