



Sail Our Way



BYS Women's Sportsboat Regatta 21 - 22 March 2026

NOTICE OF RACE

The Organising Authority (OA) is the Blairgowrie Yacht Squadron (BYS).

Blairgowrie Yacht Squadron is pleased to invite all competitors to the 2025 Women's Sportsboat Sprint Series Regatta, to be held at Blairgowrie on the Mornington Peninsula. The regatta aims to showcase and promote the participation of women and girls in sailing.

The series will feature two days of short, sharp, windward-leeward racing, designed to provide excellent opportunities for competitors to sharpen their skills in a high-energy format.

This event is made possible through the generous support of the Club's J/70 boat owners, who kindly make their boats available for the series, and the Department of Health, Australian Sailing and the Sail Our Way Grant.

1. RULES

- 1.1. The racing will be governed by:
 - a. the rules as defined in the 2025-2028 Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS); and
 - b. the prescriptions and special regulations of Australian Sailing (AS), as may be amended [DP].

2. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

- 2.1. The event is open to all boats of the J/70 Class, with female crew aged 15 or older.
- 2.2. For entries using a loan boat the skipper must be at least 18 years old.
- 2.3. All boats shall have a valid AS Special Regulations Category 7 Equipment Audit form.
- 2.4. All skippers and crew shall be financial members of an Australian Sailing recognised yacht club, or hold a valid BYS Sail Pass, available at www.bys.asn.au/sailpass, to comply with RRS 46.
- 2.5. Entries and payment of the applicable fee shall be made online at <https://sailingresults.net/entry/default.aspx?ID=1769105> by 17:00hrs Monday 16 March 2026.
- 2.6. 5 loan boats shall be made availability for the regatta to teams without their own boat, subject to a usage agreement. Boats will be allocated by the Race Committee.

3. FEES

- 3.1. The entry fee with BYO boat is \$200.
- 3.2. The entry fee with a supplied boat is \$600.
- 3.3. The entry fee includes berthing and trailer storage for 21 & 22 March, five competitor tee shirts, and regatta racing.
- 3.4. An additional damage and repair deposit of \$1000 will apply for entries using a loan boat. Deposits held will be refunded back at the end of the regatta, minus any incurred costs for damage.

4. EVENT FORMAT & SCHEDULE

- 4.1. The event will be sprint racing with spinnakers. The Race Officer may, in strong wind conditions, signal that spinnakers are not to be used as described in the Sailing Instructions, by flying code flag F.
- 4.2. There is no set maximum number of races scheduled.
- 4.3. The start times for the second and succeeding races on each day will be as soon as practical after the conclusion of the preceding race, at the discretion of the Race Officer.

4.4. On the last scheduled day of racing, no warning signal will be made after 1500 hrs.

4.5. Berthing, registration, racing and social schedule:

Date	Time	Event
Saturday 21 March	1000 – 1015 hrs	Registration
	1015 hrs	Information Briefing (Racing Lounge)
	1200 hrs	Race Session – first warning signal
	1800	Live music, dinner is available in the clubhouse, at menu prices.
Sunday 22 March	1030 hrs	Race Session – first warning signal
	ASAP after last race	Presentation

5. INSPECTION

5.1. No boat shall carry any unreasonable quantities of water or anything else for the purpose of adding ballast. The amount of water permitted to be carried should be sufficient for the crew for drinking purposes during the day's racing. A maximum of 10 litres of water per boat is acceptable.

6. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

6.1. The Sailing Instructions will be available online on the regatta page of the club's website <https://bys.asn.au/womens-sportsboat-regatta-2026/> by 18 March 2026 and also posted on the official online notice board.

7. VENUE AND RACE AREAS

7.1. The Racing Area will be the waters of Port Philip in the vicinity of Blairgowrie Yacht Squadron (APPENDIX A).

8. THE COURSES

8.1. The courses shall be windward/leeward courses as described in the Sailing Instructions.

9. PENALTY SYSTEM

9.1. The penalty for breaking a rule of Part 2 shall be a One Turn Penalty (one tack and one gybe in the same direction). This changes RRS 44.1 and RRS 44.2.

10. ARBITRATION

10.1. RRS Appendix T shall apply.

11. PROTESTS

11.1. Protest forms will be available from the BYS Sailing Office.

11.2. The protest time limit will be 60 minutes after the last boat has finished the last race of the day.

11.3. Notices will be posted within 30 minutes of the protest time limit expiry to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as a witness.

12. SCORING

12.1. The Low Point System, RRS Appendix A, will apply.

12.2. Two (2) races are required to be completed to constitute a series.

12.3. When fewer than five (5) races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores.

12.4. When between five (5) and eight (8) races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her races scores excluding her worst score.

12.5. When nine (9) races or more have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her 2 worst scores. This changes RRS Appendix A2.

13. SUPPORT BOATS [DP]

- 13.1. Visiting coach or support vessels may be berthed at BYS for the duration of the regatta by prior application with the Sailing Office and subject to availability. Additional fees may apply.
- 13.2. Coaches and support boats must remain well away from the start area, the course area and racing areas (at a minimum of 100m) from the time of the first warning signal each day until racing has concluded for the day.
- 13.3. Competitors shall have no communication with support boats and competing boats shall not be tied to coach or support boats from the first warning signal each race day until racing has been concluded for the day.
- 13.4. Support boats shall always make themselves available while afloat to assist the Race Committee in the case of an emergency or rescue, as directed in person by the relevant race officer, or via VHF Radio, or as signalled by the flying of code flag V on the start. Refer to RRS 37.

14. BERTHING AND TRAILER PARKING

- 14.1. Boats competing in the regatta may be stored free of charge at BYS on the hardstand in nominated berths during the regatta.
- 14.2. Any visiting boats wishing to berth before or after the regatta must apply in writing to sailing@bys.asn.au and receive written approval. Additional fees may apply.
- 14.3. The hardstand will be open and the crane available for use for boats arriving on Friday 20 March 2026. For visitors, craning boats into the water will require assistance from the BYS Sailing Office.
- 14.4. Underwater breathing apparatus, closed plastic pools or their equivalent, the use of dehumidifiers or electric fans of any type shall not be used around boats while they are afloat.
- 14.5. Once boats are berthed, the trailers may be stored on the travel lift runway.

15. RADIO COMMUNICATION

- 15.1. All boats shall carry a marine band VHF radio capable of receiving and transmitting Marine VHF channels. The radio shall be switched on at all times and tuned to the correct race committee frequency. The race committee intends to monitor VHF radio and communicate race information to competitors. [DP]
- 15.2. Boats are required to use the VHF radio to report retirement from racing and may use the radio to request assistance in an emergency. No other transmissions are permitted by competing boats during each racing day from their warning signal until the completion of their race.

16. PRIZES

- 16.1. Prizes will be awarded to the first three overall places.
- 16.2. The Rising Star Award will be awarded to the most improved boat during the event.

17. RISK STATEMENT

- 17.1. 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.
- 17.2. All those taking part in these races are reminded of their obligations as set out in the AS Special Regulations clause 1.02 'Responsibility of the Person in Charge'. The safety of a boat and its crew is the sole and inescapable responsibility of the person in charge who shall do their best to ensure that the boat is fully found, thoroughly seaworthy and manned by an experienced crew who have undergone appropriate training and are physically fit to face bad weather. They must be satisfied as to the soundness of the hull, spares, rigging, sails and all gear. They shall ensure that all safety equipment is properly maintained and stowed and that the crew know where it is kept and how it is to

be used. They shall also nominate a person to take over the responsibilities of the person in charge in the event of his incapacitation.

18. INSURANCE

18.1. Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party property and personal liability insurance with a minimum cover of \$10,000,000.00 per incident or the equivalent. All insurance cover shall be maintained for the period of racing. Supplied boats will include the appropriate insurance cover.

19. RIGHTS TO USE NAME AND LIKENESS

19.1. In participating in this event, a competitor automatically grants to the OA the right in perpetuity, to make, use and show, from time to time and 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 competition in which the competitor participates and in all material related to the event without compensation.

20. FURTHER INFORMATION

BYS Sailing Office: (03) 5925 9620, sailing@bys.asn.au

ATTACHMENT A – RACING AREA

