



Sunderland to Hartlepool Race

Saturday 1st August 2026

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Rules

The event will be governed by RRS 2025-2028, the prescriptions of the RYA, the IRPCS, THYC, NECRA rules and these Sailing Instructions.

2. Risk Statement

Rule 4 of the ISAF Racing Rules of Sailing states: "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone." Sailing is by its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event, each competitor agrees and acknowledges that:

- a) They are aware of the inherent element of risk involved in the sport and accept responsibility for the exposure of themselves, their crew and their boat to such inherent risk whilst taking part in the event.
- b) They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore.
- c) They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions.
- d) Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate;
- e) The provision of a race management team, patrol boats, umpires and other officials and volunteers by the organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities.
- f) The provision of patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances.
- g) For offshore races: They are responsible for ensuring that their boat is equipped and seaworthy so as to be able to face extremes of weather; that there is a crew in sufficient number, experience and fitness to withstand such weather; and that the safety equipment is properly maintained, stowed and in date and is familiar to the crew.
- h) Their boat is adequately insured, with cover of at least £3 million against third party claims, which must include racing.

The safety of a boat and her entire management, including insurance, shall be the sole responsibility of the owner/person in charge, who must ensure that the boat and crew are adequate to face the conditions that may arise in the course of the race.

3. Disclaimer

Neither these Sailing Instructions nor any inspection of the boat limits or reduces the absolute responsibility of the owner/person in charge for the crew, the boat and her management. Every owner/person in charge warrants the suitability of the boat for the race or races and that the boat contains at least the minimum safety equipment specified by NERR/NECRA. By participating in this event each competitor agrees to release the race organizers from any and all liability associated with their participation in this event to the fullest extent permitted by law.

4. Conditions of Entry

- a) Boats must be registered with NECRA prior to the start of this event.
- b) Each boat shall hold a valid NERR rating certificate.
- c) Boats must be adequately insured.

- d) Boats shall comply with the WSOSR 2025 – 2026 Cat4 Monohulls.
- e) The wearing of lifejackets is strongly recommended for all events but is **compulsory** for any race where sails need to be reefed or during the hours of darkness.
- f) ISAF Cat 4. Life-rafts are strongly recommended.
- g) Boats may be inspected before or after racing

5. Intention to Race

Prior to the event boats should indicate their intention to race on the NECRA website.

On the day boats **must** indicate their intention to race by notifying the SYC race station on VHF Ch. M1. This notification must include the boats name, class and the number of people on board.

6. Classes

Boats will compete in one of the three classes below:

- Class 1 – boats with a NERR rating of TCF 0.9000 and above.
- Class 2 – boats with a NERR rating of TCF below 0.9000
- Class 3 - is designated a 'white sail' class. Boats in this class shall not use a spinnaker and their non-spinnaker NERR rating will be used to calculate the results.

Boats are required to fly the appropriate numerical pennant from their backstay.

7. Notice to Competitors

Notices to competitors will be posted in the Sunderland YC and on the NECRA website.

8. Changes to Sailing Instructions

Any changes to Sailing Instructions will be posted on the SYC notice board not later than 90 minutes before the scheduled race.

9. Schedule of Races

Saturday 01 August	All Classes	Warning 12:55	Start 13:00
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10. Tidal Times

Sunderland Tidal times BST	Hartlepool Tidal times BST
Sat 01 August - HW 05:41 5.09m	Sat 01 August - HW 18:30 4.98m

11. Starting Sequence

The start will be waterborne outside Sunderland Harbour using the Sunderland Y.C. Committee Boat.

The Start Line will be between an orange flag on SYC Committee Boat and an Outer Distance Mark (spherical buoy with a flag).

An Inner Distance Mark may be laid, if so, no yachts shall pass between it and the Committee Boat.

If weather conditions dictate the start will be within the harbour entrance between the lights on the Race Office and the white Tower "candle" on the South Pier.

The start procedure on the day will be notified on SYC notice board at least 90 minutes before the start and repeated on VHF 30 minutes before the start.

12. Start Procedure:

Time	Signal	Lights	Flags	Sound
12:55	All Class Warning	One white	Class Flag	One
12:56	Preparatory	Two white	Prep Flag	One
12:59	One -Minute	One white	Prep flag removed	One
13:00	All Class Start	All out	Class flag removed	One

These signals may also be broadcast on VHF Ch.M1/37

If started from the Race Office all classes will have a combined start using Rule 26, but with light signals displayed from SYC Race Office substituting for flags as above.

This changes RRS 29.1 and Race Signals.

13. Recalls

Signal	On the Water	From the club
Individual recall	Flag X + 1 sound	1 white light
General recall	First substitute Flag + 2 sounds	2 white lights
Postponement	Flag AP + 2 sounds	2 white lights

These SYC signals may be supplemented by VHF Ch.M1.

The new start time will be broadcast on VHF Ch.M1.

14. Course

Marks written inside brackets are left to Port, without brackets to starboard.

- Committee boat start from North to South
- Harbour start West to East then SYC Mark X approx. N 54° 55.436', W 001° 20.900'.
- Longscar Bell approx. 54° 40.86' N, 001° 09.92' W.
- (THYC H) yellow buoy approx. N 54° 41.390', W 001° 11.100'.
- THYC Finish Line from North to South.

15. Finishing line

Between the yellow inner and outer distance markers. On a transit line between the white pole on the end of the South pier carrying the red harbour light and the inner yellow distance marker.

These marks are tide and wind borne and may not be on the transit line.

Own GPS times must be taken and notified to THYC NECRA representative text 07976 938064, email honsec@necra.co.uk

Finish times must be notified no later than 2 hours after the time limit or the entrant will be deemed as DNF.

16. Course Amendments

The course may be amended. An announcement will be made via VHF Ch.M1. The OOD will attempt to confirm by VHF that each competitor is aware of the amendments. However, the onus is on competitors to monitor VHF Ch.M1 for such announcements.

17. Continuous Obstructions

The Tees and Hartlepool Approach Channels defined by the Green and Red channel buoys are designated as continuous obstructions and must not be entered when racing. Commercial shipping in many cases is constrained by draft and cannot take action to avoid collision. Traffic leaving or entering these areas might require to alter course unexpectedly. If in doubt about ship movements please call Tees VTS on channel 14.

18. Time Limit - 1800 Saturday 1st August.

19. Retirement

Any boat retiring from the race must inform NECRA representative by text on 07976 938064 or e-mail honsec@necra.co.uk

20. Penalties

If a yacht contravenes a rule of part 2 of RRS while racing she may exonerate herself by taking a 720° turns penalty in accordance with RRS44.

21. Protests

Protests must be advised to OOD by VHF Ch.M1 and protest forms handed in to THYC race office as soon as practical after the finish of the last boat.

22. Radio Communication

A boat shall neither make radio transmissions while racing nor receive communications not available to all boats. This restriction also applies to mobile phones. SYC "Sunderland Race Control" will address all racing yachts as "NECRA fleet."

Sunderland Race Control VHF Ch.M1/37 & Hartlepool Race Control VHF Ch.M2/P4

23. Scoring

Race results will be calculated using boats' NERR ratings as shown in the registered details on the NECRA Website at the time of the event.

NECRA scoring will be as RRS Appendix A using low points.

Overall trophies will be calculated on all races which are raced.

24. Marina entry

Boats wishing to berth in the Marina should book before arriving.

The latest entry for a 1.5m draft is 2.5 hours after high water.

Call Marina VHF Ch.80 to confirm.