

# 2025 - 2026 Swansea Yacht & Sub-Aqua Club Race Series

incorporating

the SYSAC Summer Series 18/05/2025 - 30/08/2025,  
the SYSAC Autumn Series 13/09/2025 - 15/11/2025,  
the SYSAC Winter Series 29/11/2025 – 28/03/2026, and  
the SYSAC Evening series 30/04/2025 - 20/08/2025.

## Notice of Race

The Organising Authority (OA) is Swansea Yacht & Sub-Aqua Club (SYSAC) unless otherwise stated.

### 1. RULES

1.1 The events will be governed by:

- a. the racing rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing 2025 – 2028 (RRS); and
- b. the National Authority (RYA) prescriptions which can be found at <https://www.rya.org.uk/racing/rules>.

1.2 Boats shall also abide by:

- a. the RYA Racing Charter, which can be found in the RYA rule book (Racing Rules of Sailing 2028-28) and at <https://www.rya.org.uk/racing/rules/racing-charter> ; and
- b. the byelaws and regulations of ABP Swansea and ABP Port Talbot, as applicable.

1.3 When participating in races for which SYSAC is the OA south of the limiting line defined by Mumbles Head light, East Scarweather east cardinal mark and Porthcawl Point (for clarity, these races are marked with ■ in the schedule in section 5), skippers/those responsible for boats must ensure satisfactory compliance with the World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations for Category 4 races plus lifejackets & tethers (as Category 3).

1.4 The Notice of Race can be changed by amendment or by the Sailing Instructions. In the event of a conflict, the Sailing Instructions (SIs) shall prevail. This changes RRS 63.7.

1.5 The Official Notice Board will be the racing notice board located in SYSAC club hallway.

1.6 The primary OA for the Scarweather race and BCYC 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary race is the Bristol Channel Yacht Club, although they count as part of the SYSAC series. This Notice of Race shall be read in conjunction with that issued for those events by the BCYC, and in the case of conflict, the BCYC Notice of Race shall have precedence.

1.7 The Racing fleet must have at least two boats registered and willing to race.

1.8 Between sunset and sunrise (as defined in the Sailing Instructions) navigation lights shall be lit and International Regulations for Preventing Collision at Sea shall replace the corresponding rules of RRS.

1.9 An engine may only be used for propulsion to recover a man over-board, to render assistance, or in any other grave emergency, but may be subject to protest. Full details must be reported on the race declaration. Any time penalty or disqualification will be at the discretion of the Protest Committee. This changes RRS 42.

## **2. ADVERTISING**

2.1 Advertising is permitted in accordance with World Sailing Regulation 20.

2.2 Boats may be required to display advertising chosen and/or supplied by the OA.

## **3. RATING AND MEASUREMENT CERTIFICATES**

3.1 Boats will be handicapped using the YTC system. Boats that do not have a valid 2025 YTC certificate may apply for one online, using the procedure set out within the YTC website ([www.ytc.rorcrating.com](http://www.ytc.rorcrating.com)).

3.2 No alteration in a boat's rating or handicap will be permitted after the first race of each series (Summer, Autumn and Winter) in which she competes for any part of that series, except as a result of a protest or to correct IRC rating office or YTC rating errors, and boats shall sail in a configuration compliant with their submitted rating. Each boat shall be scored using the YTC rating valid on the date of the first race she sails in the series.

3.3 For boats participating in the Winter series, the 2025 YTC rating provided on their entry shall continue to be used until the end of that series in 2026.

3.4 A copy of a boat's valid 2025 RYA YTC certificate shall be received before the start of the first race of each series in which she competes, unless otherwise agreed by the OA in which case races will be retrospectively scored according to the rating once received. Where the OA holds a certificate supplied for a previous race or series in the 2025-2026 year and a replacement is not supplied, the previous rating will be taken to apply.

3.5 Boats shall declare to the OA prior to the first race of a series in which they compete the YTC sail configuration with which they will compete. Those declaring a white sails configuration will be so restricted for the entirety of the series. Boats failing to so declare their sail configuration shall be handicapped according to their spinnaker rating.

## **4. ENTRY**

4.1 Eligible boats may enter by:

- i. Completing the online entry form available at <https://sysac.org/yachting-and-racing/>; or
- ii. Submitting to the office of the OA a completed copy of the paper entry form at Annex A.

4.2 A boat may enter a series at any point prior to the conclusion of that series, but a valid entry must be received prior to the first race in which she participates. Acceptance of late entries will be at the sole discretion of the OA.

4.3 Boats should notify the OA of their intention to participate in each day of racing, in advance of that day (communication via the dedicated Whatsapp group, verbally, or email/SMS constitute such notification) and races may be cancelled at short notice if insufficient boats have so notified.

4.4 For summer race 8 - Ilfracombe, a full list of the boat's crew with next of kin / emergency contact details must be provided to the OA prior to commencement of the race. This may be provided in a sealed envelope and will be securely destroyed within one week after completion of the race.

## 5. SCHEDULE

5.1 Each weekend series will consist of 8 races with either 1 or 2 races per day. The evening series will consist of 9 races, one per day.

5.2 The intended schedule of race dates and start times is:-

### Summer series:

Sun 18/05/25	Sun 01/06/25	Sun 13/07/25	Sat 19/07/25	Sat 02/08/25	Sat 17/08/25	Sat 30/08/25
Race 1 11:00	♦ Race 2 11:00	■ Race 3 10:00 <i>Helwick</i>	Race 4 12:00 <i>Kenfig Patches</i>	▼ Race 5 10:30	Race 6 10:00 Race 7 13:00	■ Race 8 12:00 <i>Ilfracombe</i> (OR Race 8 10:00)
Suggested locks (out, in)						
09:00, 13:30	10:00 14:30	09:00, 17:30	11:00, 16:30/17:30	09:00, 15:30/16:30	09:00, 15:30/16:30	09:00, (13:30/14:30)

■ OSR Category 4 regulations apply

♦ BCYC 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary race. Separate entry through BCYC.

▼ BCYC Scarweather race. Separate entry through BCYC.

### Autumn series:

Sat 13/09/25	Sun 21/09/25	Sun 28/09/25	Sun 12/10/25	Sat 01/11/25	Sat 15/11/25
Race 1 10:30	Race 2 10:30 Race 3 14:30	Race 4 10:45	Race 5 10:30	Race 6 11:00 Race 7 13:30	Race 8 12:30
Suggested locks (out, in)					
09:00, 13:30/14:30	09:00, 15:30	09:00, 13:30	09:00, 13:30	10:00, 16:30	11:00, 15:30/16:30

### Winter series:

Sat 29/11/25	Sun 14/12/25	Thu 01/01/26	Sun 25/01/26	Sun 08/02/26	Sat 14/03/26	Sat 28/03/26
Race 1 11:30	Race 2 11:30	Race 3 13:20 <i>New Year's Day</i>	Race 4 10:45	Race 5 10:30	Race 6 11:30 Race 7 14:00	Race 8 11:30
Suggested locks (out, in)						
10:00, 14:30/15:30	10:00, 14:30/15:30	12:00, 15:30/16:30	09:00, 13:30	09:00, 13:30	10:00, 16:30	10:00, 15:30

### Evening series:

The evening series will comprise 9 races, one on each of the following Wednesdays starting at 18:45 with anticipated exit from the Tawe using the 18:00 lock: 30/04/2025, 14/05/2025, 28/05/2025, 11/06/2025, 25/06/2025, 09/07/2025, 23/07/2025, 06/08/2025, and 20/08/2025.

5.3 The first warning signal each day is expected to be at five minutes prior to the advertised start time.

5.4 Races may be cancelled due to causes including insufficient demand or unsuitable weather.

5.5 Times of races may be changed due to weather considerations or by consent of the competitors for other reasons.

5.6 Reasonable efforts shall be made to consult competitors prior to decisions to cancel races or change times.

5.7 Times shown are local time as applicable on the date of race, i.e. BST until the 26<sup>th</sup> of October and thereafter GMT.

## **6. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

The SIs will be published on the SYSAC website and official notice board at least 48 hours prior to the race.

## **7. RACE AREA**

The racing area will be Swansea Bay and its environs. An indicative map is available in section 10.

## **8. THE COURSES**

A variety of courses will be sailed using existing marks. Further details and a list of marks will be included in the SIs.

## **9. PENALTIES**

9.1 The two-turn penalty as described in RRS 44.1 is replaced by one-turn penalty (one tack and one gybe).

9.2 A boat that may have broken a rule of RRS Part 2 or RRS 31 may, after finishing the race concerned and before the start of the first related protest hearing, notify the RC that she accepts a 30% scoring place penalty as stated in rule 44.3(c), except that the minimum penalty is two places provided that does not result in a score worse than DNF.

9.3. Penalties arising from protests will be at the discretion of the Protest Committee and may be less than disqualification. This changes RRS 64.2.

## **10. SCORING**

10.1 The Low Point System of World Sailing Appendix A will apply with the following changes:

- a. one race shall be completed to constitute a Series; and
- b. discards:
  - i. when six or fewer races are completed, no score shall be excluded;
  - ii. when seven races are completed, one score shall be excluded;
  - ii. when eight races are completed, two scores shall be excluded.

10.2 Whether or not a committee boat or shore-based finish line is used, boats shall record their own finish times in local time (i.e. BST until the 26<sup>th</sup> of October, 2025 and thereafter GMT) using GPS acquired time as a reference, and convey these to the OA within 48 hours of finishing each race.

## **11. PRIZES**

11.1 Prizes are not given for these race series.

## **12. COMMUNICATION**

12.1 All boats shall carry a Marine VHF radio and monitor the appropriate channel as defined in the SIs at all times while competing.

12.2 While racing, except in an emergency, a boat shall not make voice or data transmissions except in communication with the race committee or other competitors on the specified race channel, and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats. Any competitor transmissions on channels used by the race committee shall be limited to those pertaining to the race(s) taking place at the time.

12.3 Owing to the small fleet size and informal nature of this racing, the race committee afloat responsible for course communication and transmission of start sequence may be, by agreement of the competitors, part of the crew of one of the boats competing. 12.2 shall not apply to transmissions from that boat conducting the business of the race committee.

## **13. RIGHTS TO USE NAMES & LIKENESSES**

Competitors automatically grant to the OA, without payment, the right in perpetuity to make, use and show any motion pictures, still pictures and live, taped or filmed television of or relating to the event.

## **14. INSURANCE**

14.1 Each entrant shall ensure that their boat is adequately insured for racing against all third-party claims with a minimum of £3 million cover.

## **15. RISK STATEMENT**

15.1 Rule 4 of the 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 inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event, each competitor agrees and acknowledges that:

- i. 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;
- ii. they are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore;
- iii. they accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions;
- iv. their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate;

- v. the provision of a race management team, patrol boats and other officials and volunteers by the event organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities;
- vi. the provision of patrol boat cover if any is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can practically be provided in the circumstances;
- vii. it is their responsibility to familiarise themselves with any risks specific to this venue or this event drawn to their attention in any rules or information produced for the venue or event and to attend any safety briefing held for the event; and
- viii. 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 sufficient in 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.

## **16. PRIVACY STATEMENT**

16.1 The personal information you provide to the OA will be used to facilitate your participation in the event. If you have agreed to be bound by the Racing Rules of Sailing and the other rules that govern the event (the rules), the legal basis for processing that personal information is contract. If you are not bound by the rules, the legal basis for processing that personal information is legitimate interest. Your personal information will be stored and used in accordance with the organizing authority's privacy policy. When required by the rules, personal information may be shared with the RYA and/or World Sailing. The results of the event and the outcome of any hearing or appeal may be published.

## **17. FURTHER INFORMATION**

17.1 Contact details:

Swansea Yacht & Sub-Aqua Club,  
The Clubhouse,  
Pockett's Wharf,  
East Burrows Rd,  
Swansea,  
SA1 1RE

[SysacOffice@sysac.org.uk](mailto:SysacOffice@sysac.org.uk)

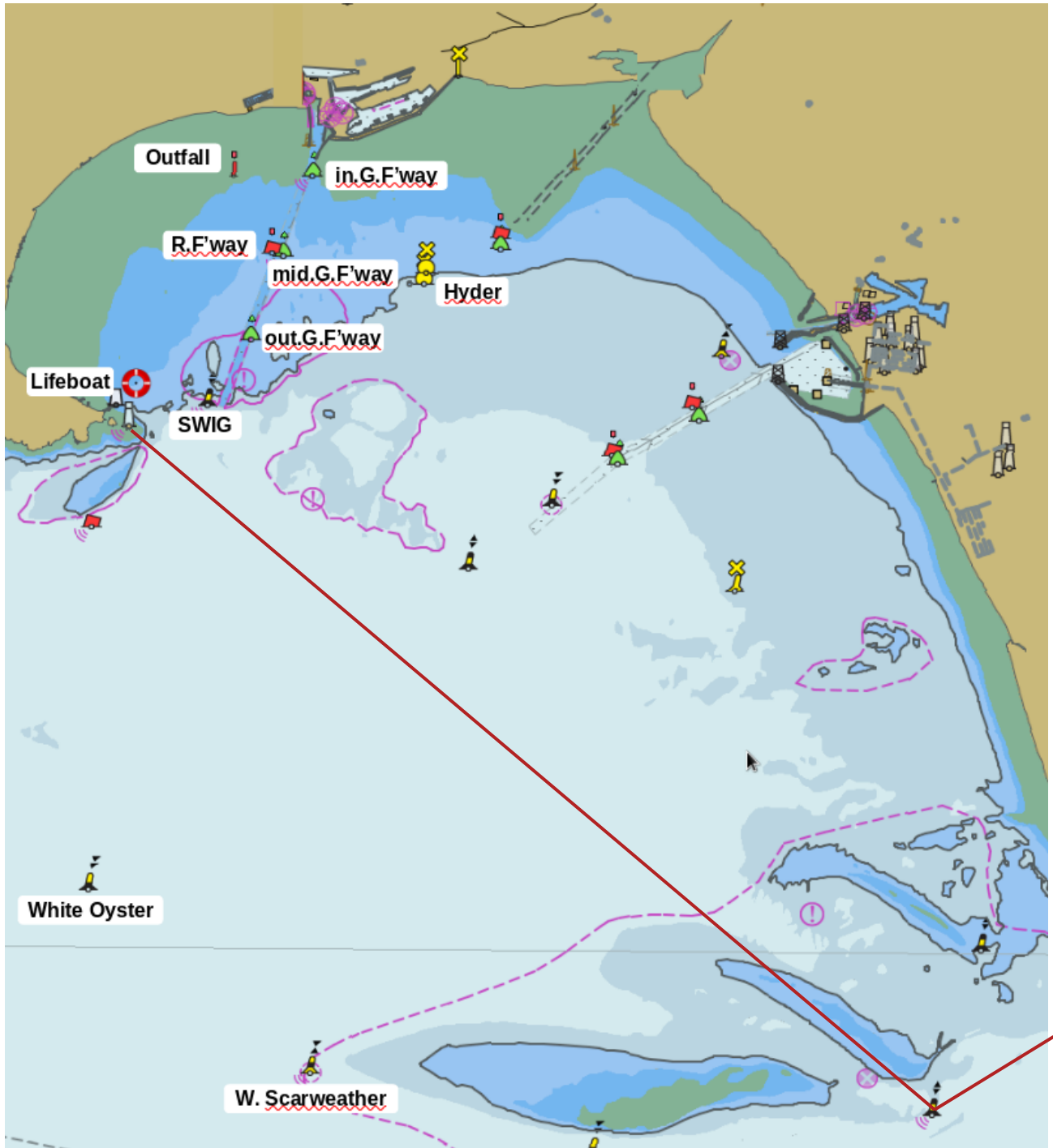
<https://sysac.org/yachting-and-racing/>

17.2 All competitors are welcome as guests of SYSAC on race days.

17.3 Races have been scheduled according to predicted tides with a view to allowing timely transit through the Tawe barrage. However, advertised lock opening times may affect the schedule and it is each boat's responsibility to ensure adequate water for safe transit in and out of the lock.

## 18. COURSE LOCATIONS

18.1 The diagram below shows the course area and normally used mark locations. With the exception of races to Scarweather and Helwick, racing shall take place to the north of the red line, and is deemed to fall into the inshore category.



# SYSAC race series Entry Form

Please register my entry for the SYSAC series selected below of the 2025-2026 season.

## Boat details

Boat Name: .....

Make and model: .....

Sail number: .....

Length overall (LOA) (m): ..... Draught (m): .....

YTC rating: ..... **Please enclose copy of certificate**

Summer series

Autumn series

Winter series

Evening series

I agree to be bound by the Racing Rules of Sailing and all other rules which govern these events. I have read the Notice of Race including the conditions of Entry above and confirm that I shall conform to these requirements throughout the events, and I undertake to sail in compliance with the RYA Racing Charter.

## Your details

Phone: ..... Email: .....

Whatsapp ?

Print name: .....

Signature: ..... Date: .....

## Emergency contact

In case of emergency, please contact: .....

Telephone Number.....