



HOBIE CAT ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA  
THE FUN STARTS HERE...

# 2024/2025 Hobie Cat National Championships

McCrae Yacht Club  
McCrae, Victoria

Series 1: 28th December – 31st of December 2024

Series 2: 2nd January - 5th January 2025

**Organising Authority:**  
McCrae Yacht Club

## SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

*The notation '[NP]' in a rule of the sailing instructions (SIs) means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1(a).*

*The notation '[DP]' in a rule means that the penalty for a breach of the rule may, at the discretion of the protest committee, be less than disqualification.*

## **1. RULES**

- 1.1. The event is governed by:
  - 1.1.1. The rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing 2021-2024; and
  - 1.1.2. The Australian Sailing Special Regulations Part 2; and
- 1.2. The class rules of the International Hobie Class Association (IHCA) will apply
- 1.3. Racing rule 40 will be changed as follows:
  - 1.3.1. Competitors shall wear personal flotation devices whilst afloat, except briefly while changing or adjusting clothing or personal equipment. Wetsuits and drysuits are not personal flotation devices. This changes RRS Rule 40.
- 1.4. RRS Appendix T, Arbitration, will apply.
- 1.5. Reasonable actions by event officials to implement Covid-19 guidance, protocols or legislation, even if they later prove to have been unnecessary, are not improper actions or omissions.
- 1.6. RRS 2025-2028 shall not be adopted for this event.

## **2. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

- 2.1. Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted at least 90 minutes before the scheduled racing session on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 20:00 on the day before it will take effect.

## **3. COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS**

- 3.1. Notices to competitors will be posted on the official noticeboard located on the upper deck opposite the tower. Notices to competitors will also be posted to the "2024/25 Hobie Cat National Championships" regatta page within the Sailor App.
- 3.2. The race office is upstairs in the tower on the eastern end of the clubhouse.
- 3.3. There will be a sailor's meeting at:
  - 3.3.1. Series 1: 8:30am 28th of December 2024
  - 3.3.2. Series 2: 8:30am 2nd of January 2025
  - 3.3.3. Other sailor's meeting may be scheduled as required

## **4. CODE OF CONDUCT**

- 4.1. Competitors and support persons shall comply with any reasonable request from an event official. Failure to comply may be considered misconduct. [DP]

## 5. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 5.1. Signals made ashore will be displayed at the signal mast adjacent to the tower.
- 5.2. When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with "not less than 30 minutes". This changes Race Signal AP.

## 6. SCHEDULE

- 6.1. Series 1 Classes:
  - 6.1.1. Hobie 16 Open, Masters, Grand Masters and Great Grand Masters
  - 6.1.2. Hobie 18
- 6.2. Series 1 Schedule:

	Date	Time
Registration	27th of December 2024	2pm - 4pm
Competitors' Briefing	28th of December 2024	8:30am
Racing Day 1	28th of December 2024	10am
Racing Day 2	29th of December 2024	10am
Racing Day 3	30th of December 2024	10am
Racing Day 4	31st of December 2024	10am
Presentation	31st of December 2024	6pm

- 6.3. Series 2 Classes:
  - 6.3.1. Hobie 14 Open, Non-Trapeze, Women + Youth
  - 6.3.2. Hobie 14 Turbo
  - 6.3.3. Hobie 16 Women
  - 6.3.4. Hobie 16 Youth
  - 6.3.5. Hobie 17
  - 6.3.6. Hobie Dragoon
  - 6.3.7. Hobie Tiger + Wildcat

6.4. Series 2 Schedule:

	Date	Time
Registration	1st of January 2025	2pm - 4pm
Competitors Briefing	2nd of January 2025	8:30am
Racing Day 1	2nd of January 2025	10am
Racing Day 2	3rd of January 2025	10am
Racing Day 3	4th of January 2025	10am
Racing Day 4	5th of January 2025	10am
Presentation	5th of January 2025	6pm

- 6.5. To alert boats that a race or sequence of races will begin soon, the orange starting line flag will be displayed with one sound at least five minutes before a warning signal is made.
- 6.6. All classes will have up to 16 races over 4 days with a maximum of 4 races on any race session.
- 6.7. Hobie Dragoons will have up to 12 races over four days with a maximum of 3 races on any race session.
- 6.8. On the last day of racing for either series, no warning signal will be made after 3pm.

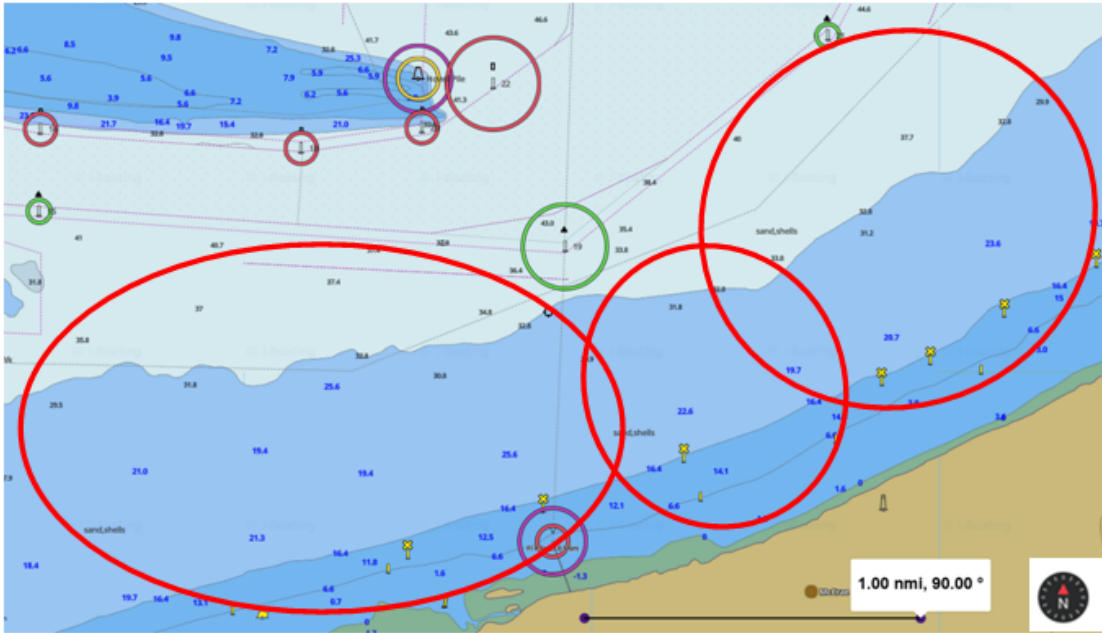
## 7. CLASS FLAGS

- 7.1. The class flags are:

Hobie Tiger / Wildcat / Hobie 18	Pink flag with Hobie emblem
Hobie 17	Green flag with Hobie emblem
Hobie 16	Red flag with Hobie emblem
Hobie 14	White flag with Hobie emblem
Hobie 14 Turbo	Green flag with Hobie emblem
Hobie Dragoon	Yellow flag with Hobie emblem

## 8. RACING AREA

- 8.1. The racing area is on Port Phillip Bay within the vicinity of McCrae Yacht Club.



## 9. COURSES

- 9.1. The International Hobie Cat Class Courses will be used as shown in item 9.4
- 9.2. The diagram in item 9.5 shows the courses, including the approximate angles between legs, and the side on which each mark is to be left.
- 9.3. When there is a gate, boats shall sail between the gate marks from the direction of the previous mark and round either gate mark.
- 9.4. Courses:

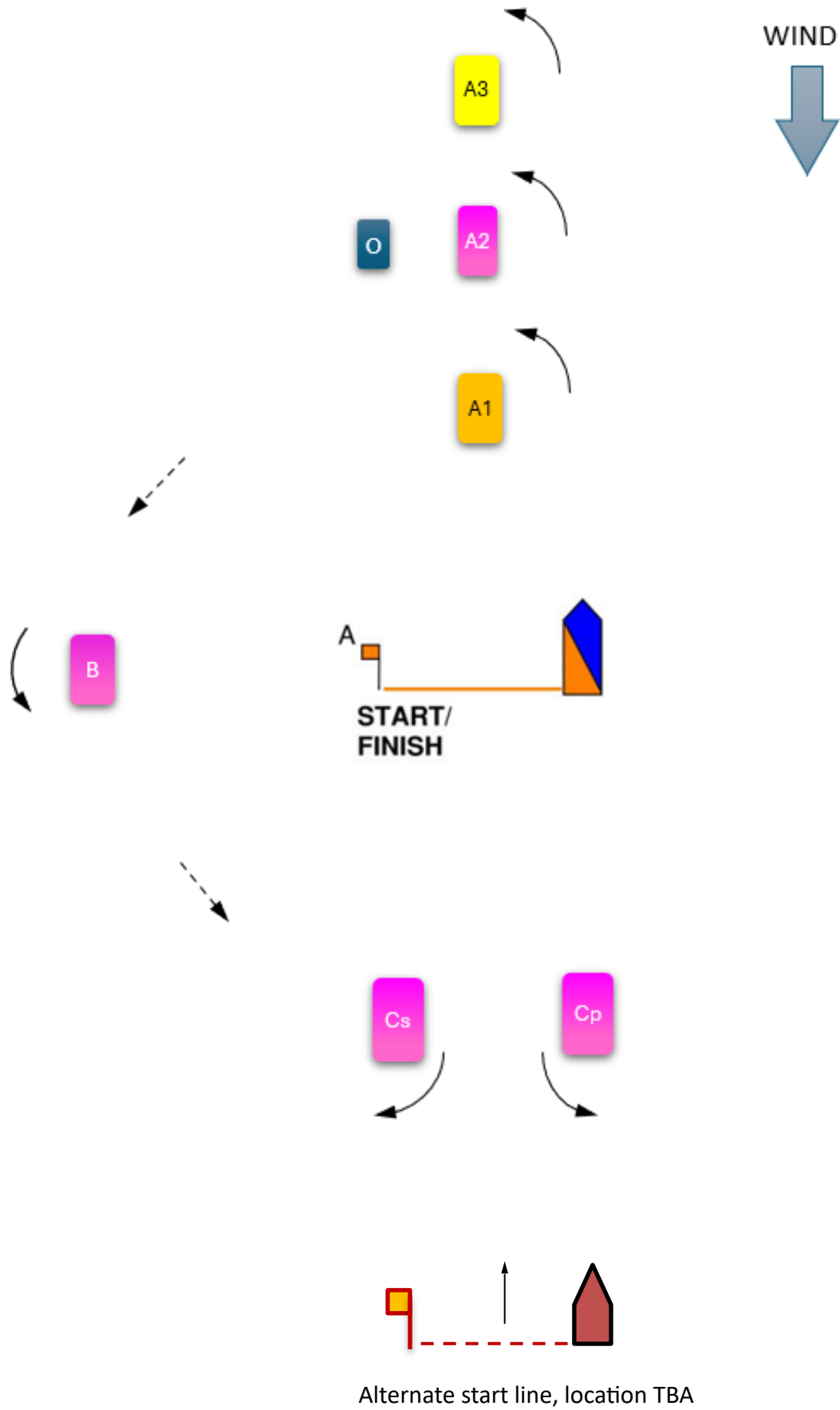
### IHCA STANDARD COURSES

#	Course	Finish	Race Committee Options
1	(S) A C A (F)	Downwind	1G 1O 1GO
2	(S) A C A C A (F)	Downwind	2G 2O 2GO
3	(S) A C A B C (F)	Upwind	3O
4	(S) A C A B C A (F)	Downwind	4O
5	(S) A C (F)	Upwind	5G 5O 5GO
6	(S) A C A C (F)	Upwind	6G 6O 6GO
7	(S) A C A B C A C (F)	Upwind	7O

S = start, A = weather mark, B = reaching mark, C = leeward mark, G = gate, F = finish, O = offset mark

"B" MARK LOCATION: The Race Committee will endeavour to locate "B" Mark, the reaching mark, at either the windward or leeward end of the course approximately 90 to 105 degrees abeam of the windward or leeward mark.

9.5. Course Configuration:



## **10. MARKS**

### 10.1. Series 1:

- 10.1.1. A1 (If required) Orange inflatable
- 10.1.2. A2 = Pink inflatable
- 10.1.3. A3 (If required) Yellow inflatable
- 10.1.4. B = Pink inflatable
- 10.1.5. C = Pink inflatables (x2)
- 10.1.6. O = Blue pencil inflatable
- 10.1.7. Pin = Orange flag

### 10.2. Series 2:

- 10.2.1. A1 (Dragoon) = Orange inflatable
- 10.2.2. A2 = Pink inflatable
- 10.2.3. A3 (Tiger/F18) = Yellow inflatable
- 10.2.4. B = Pink inflatable
- 10.2.5. C = Pink inflatable (x2)
- 10.2.6. Offset = Blue pencil inflatable
- 10.2.7. Pin = Orange flag

10.3. Where only 1 mark is present where there should be a gate that remaining mark shall be rounded on the same hand as all other marks.

## **11. OBSTRUCTIONS**

- 11.1. For boats that have started, the start line is classed as an obstruction. Passing through it in either direction while an orange flag or shape is displayed will be scored DNF without a hearing. This changes RRS 63.1, A4 and A5.
- 11.2. The finish line is an obstruction and a boat sailing through it in either direction, other than when finishing, will be scored DSQ without a hearing. This changes RRS 63.1, A4 and A5.

11.3. A no boating zone exists to the northeast of the McCrae Yacht Club launching area. Failure to comply may result in a boat being scored DSQ for the race or races without a hearing. This changes RRS 63.1 and A5.

11.4. No boating diagram:





## **12. THE START**

- 12.1. Races will be started using RRS 26.
- 12.2. The starting line is between a staff displaying an orange flag on the committee vessel at the starboard end and the course side of the port-end starting mark.
- 12.3. The committee vessel may deploy a barging buoy at the stern of the boat. This buoy is considered as extension of the race committee vessel.
- 12.4. Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area during the starting sequence for other races. [NP] [DP]
- 12.5. A boat that does not start within 4 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.1 and A5.2.
- 12.6. Minimum wind conditions: No race will be started in under 5 knots of wind at all marks of the course whilst drifting over a 10 minute period as determined by the Race Committee.

## **13. CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE**

- 13.1. Legs of the course will not be changed after the preparatory signal. This changes rule 33.

## **14. THE FINISH**

- 14.1. The finishing line is between a staff displaying a blue flag on the committee vessel and the course side of the start/finish pin mark.
- 14.2. When the blue flag is flying from the committee vessel, a boat shall not cross the start/finish line unless finishing. [NP] [DP]
- 14.3. The Race Committee may, at its discretion, assign boats a finish place relevant to their position on the race course at the time the finishing window closes.

## **15. PENALTY SYSTEM**

- 15.1. RRS 44.1 is changed so that the Two-Turns Penalty is replaced by the One-Turn Penalty.

## 16. TIME LIMITS AND TARGET TIMES

16.1. [NP]

Mark 1 Time Limit	Race Target Time	Race Time Limit	Finishing Window
30 Minutes	45 Minutes	60 Minutes	15 Minutes

16.2. The Finishing Window is the time for boats to finish after the first boat of class sails the course and finishes.

16.3. Failure to meet the Race Target Time will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 62.1(a).

## 18. HEARING REQUESTS

18.1. For each class, the protest time limit is 60 minutes after the last boat in that class finishes the last race of the day or the race committee signals no more racing today, whichever is later. The protest time limit will be posted on the official notice board and sailor app regatta page.

18.2. Hearing request forms are available from the race office.

18.3. 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 a location to be advised.

## 19. SCORING

19.1. The Low Point scoring system of Appendix A4 of the Racing Rules of Sailing will be used.

19.2. **One (1)** race is required to be completed to constitute a series.

19.3. When fewer than **four (4)** races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores.

19.4. When **four (4)** races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.

19.5. When **twelve (12)** races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of its race scores excluding its two worst.

19.6. All boat weight, crew weight, and equipment violations will be scored Disqualification Not Excludable. Whenever possible, competitors should be warned of potential equipment violations on the beach before racing when observed by other competitors, the protest committee, or regatta officials.

## **20. SAFETY REGULATIONS**

- 20.1 For each race session, yachts intending to race shall 'Sign-on' using the Sailor app or by notifying the race office no later than 15 minutes prior to the first warning signal. Failure to comply will result in a boat being scored DNC for the first race of the session without a hearing. This changes RRS 63.1, A4 and A5. [NP]
- 20.1. All boats shall 'Sign-off' using the Sailor app or by notifying the race office upon returning to shore within 60 minutes of the last boat finishing. Failure to comply will result in the boat being scored DNC for the last race of the session without a hearing. This changes RRS 63.1, A4 and A5. [NP]
- 20.2. If there is only one race in a session, a boat will only receive one penalty. This changes RRS A4 and A5.
- 20.3. A boat which retires from a race shall notify the race committee at the first reasonable opportunity. Promptly after returning to shore, the boat shall complete a retirement declaration form, located at the race office. [NP] [DP]

## **21. REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT**

- 21.1. Substitution of competitors is not allowed without prior written approval of the Race Committee and must comply with the provisions of IHCA General Rule 17. [DP]
- 21.2. For substitution of sails, IHCA General Rule 12.3 applies.
- 21.3. Substitution of damaged or lost equipment is not allowed unless authorised in writing by Race Committee. Requests for substitution shall be made to the committee at the first reasonable opportunity, which may be after the race. [DP]

## **22. COMMUNICATION, EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS**

- 22.1. A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules, notice of race and sailing instructions.
- 22.2. When instructed by a race official on the water, a boat shall proceed to a designated area for inspection. [DP]
- 22.3. Boats may use digital watches and single function electronic compasses. [DP]
- 22.4. 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.

## **23. TRASH DISPOSAL**

- 23.1. Trash may be placed aboard official or support person vessels.

## **24. PRIZES**

- 24.1. Prizes will be given at the discretion of the Hobie Cat Association of Victoria.

## **25. RISK STATEMENT**

- 25.1. It is the competitor's Decision to enter an event or to start and continue in any race. Competitors shall accept that their participation in an event is at their exclusive risk in every respect. **Attention is drawn to Fundamental Rule 3 – Decision to Race.** The Organising Authority, and the respective host class association(s), their officers, members, servants and agents accept no liability in respect of loss of life, personal injury or loss or damage to property which may be sustained by reason of their participation or intended participation in an event or how so ever arising in connection with an event.
- 25.2. The sponsors, organising authority and their officers, members, servants and agents and all parties involved in the organisation and conduct of the regatta shall not be liable in respect of loss of life, personal injury or loss or damage howsoever caused which may occur whether ashore or afloat during or in conjunction with the regatta.
- 25.3. The Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions do not limit or reduce the complete and unlimited responsibilities of each competitor for the management and care of a boat that he or she has entered in the regatta.
- 25.4. IHCA Safety Notes to Competitors:
- 25.4.1. If wind, wave or water conditions make you doubtful of your ability to handle the conditions, retire from the race.
  - 25.4.2. Before raising the mast and always whilst sailing, check for and avoid low overhead electrical power lines. If you see a power line, avoid it. A mast coming in contact or even near an electrical power line can cause serious injury or death to people on or touching the boat.

## **26. INSURANCE**

- 26.1. Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of \$10,000,000 per incident or the equivalent.

## **27. ADVERTISING**

- 27.1. Advertising will be as defined by ISAF Regulation 20.
- 27.2. If provided, boats shall be required to display and maintain Sponsorship stickers on port and starboard hulls, in a location acceptable to the organising authority.