

Etchells

2026 INTERNATIONAL ETHELLES CLASS WESTERN AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIP

18 February to 20 February 2026

2026 INTERNATIONAL ETHELLES CLASS AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIP

22 February to 25 February 2026

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS



Organising Authority

ROYAL FRESHWATER BAY YACHT CLUB INC. (RFBYC)

Keane's Point, Peppermint Grove

Perth, Western Australia

In conjunction with



**INTERNATIONAL ETHELLES
CLASS ASSOCIATION SWAN
RIVER FLEET (Inc.)**



**ROYAL PERTH YACHT CLUB
INC. (RPYC)**
Supporting Club

The Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club Inc (RFBYC) is the Organising Authority (OA) in conjunction with Royal Perth Yacht Club Inc (RPYC), and the International Etchells Class Association Swan River Fleet Inc.

The notation:

(DP) in a rule in the Sailing Instructions (SIs) means that the penalty for a breach of that rule may, at the discretion of the protest committee, be less than disqualification.

(NP) in a rule means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking this rule. This Changes RRS 60.1.

1 RULES

- 1.1 The event is governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) 2025-2028 as modified by the Sailing Instructions (SIs).
- 1.2 [DP]The International Etchells Class Association (IECA) Class Rules will apply.
- 1.3 [DP] All competitors shall carry a life jacket complying with AS 4758-2015 (Minimum Level 50) or AS1512-1196 Type 1 or 2, or equivalent or more stringent overseas standard for each crew member and shall comply with the directions of the Race Committee to wear such.
- 1.4 The Vakaros RaceSense system will be used by the Race Committee (RC) and the relevant information will be available to all boats.
- 1.5 The visual identification of boats infringing RRS 29 and RRS 30 by the RC is replaced with the electronic identification by the Vakaros RaceSense system. This changes RRS 29.1, 30.1, 30.2, 30.3 and 30.4.
- 1.6 [NP] Any kind of failure of an Atlas 2, the RaceSense system or communication systems shall not be grounds for a request for redress by a boat or Protest Committee. This changes RRS 41(c), 61.1(a), 61.1(c), 61.4(b) (1) and 60.5 (b).
- 1.7 Boats shall comply with the Australian Sailing Special Regulations Part 1 Category 7 requirements including compliance with AS Variation Approval regarding use of Anchors (Class rules shall apply). Additionally, they shall carry all the required safety equipment specified in NOR Appendix C.
- 1.8 RRS 44.1 is changed so that the penalty for breaking a rule of Part 2 while outside the Zone is a one-turn Penalty. The penalty for breaking a rule of Part 2 inside the Zone remains unchanged at two-turns Penalty. This changes RRS 44.1.
- 1.9 Delayed penalty. A boat may take a penalty for an incident in the zone around Mark 1 on the leg between Mark 1 and Mark 2, OR as soon as possible after leaving the zone around Mark 2. This changes RRS 44.1.
- 1.10 Appendix T Arbitration will apply.
- 1.11 In the event of conflict between any of the rules or regulations, other than RRS, the Sailing Instructions shall prevail. This changes RRS 63.5(c).

2 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1 Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted before 0730 hours on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 1900 hours on the day before it takes effect.

3 ETHELLS CLASS RULES -APPLICABLE

- 3.1 A boat shall use only those sails presented in accordance with Class Rule C10, and they shall not be recut or altered during the championship.
- 3.2 Repairs to sails pursuant to all applicable rules are permissible only upon prior approval of the measurer or Protest Committee.
- 3.3 [NP] Any variance from a straight taper of a mast as defined in the Etchells Class Spar Plan, shall not be grounds for a protest from a boat. This changes RRS 60.1.
- 3.4 If a boat's hull or spar or sail is rendered incapable of continuing the series, the Skipper may petition the protest committee for permission to substitute a replacement hull or spar or sail for the remainder of the series.

- 3.5 [DP] A boat shall not carry any unreasonable quantities of water or anything else for the purpose of adding ballast. The amount of water that is stored in containers or bottles which is permitted to be carried should be sufficient for the crew for drinking purposes during the day's racing, to this end a maximum of 10 litres of water per boat is acceptable.

4 COMMUNICATIONS

- 4.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the official online notice board located by clicking on the following link: [2026 Etchells Australian Championship](#) .
- 4.2 [DP] All boats shall carry a VHF radio capable of communicating with the race committee.
- 4.3 [NP] On the water, the race committee intends to monitor and may make broadcasts to competitors on VHF radio channel 72. Failure to receive any such broadcasts will not be subject to an application for redress. This changes RRS61.1(a).
- 4.4 [DP] Boats shall use the radio to report retirement from racing and may use the radio to request assistance in an emergency.
- 4.5 Unless otherwise requested by the Race Committee, a boat shall not initiate transmissions of any nature from the first warning signal of the day until the last boat has finished the last race of the day or the Race Committee signal led "no more racing today".
- 4.6 [DP] With exception of use of the Vakaros RaceSense system or in event of an emergency, the use of mobile/cell phones, or any device capable of sending and/or receiving external electronic communication and/or connecting to the internet is prohibited after the first Warning Signal on each race day until the boat has completed racing that day, except in an emergency threatening the safety of any member of the crew or the boat.

5 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 5.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed on the flag mast located on the eastern side of the main clubhouse on the main lawn.
- 5.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, 1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 45 minutes' in Race Signals AP.

6 SCHEDULE OF RACES - Western Australian Championships

- 6.1 Eight races are scheduled for the series.

Date	Time	Event
Wednesday, 18 February	0900 - 1600	Registration and Weigh-In
Thursday, 19 February	0800	Competitors Briefing on the refueling Jetty
Thursday, 19 February	0930	Racing – Time of First Warning Signal
Friday, 20 February	0930	Racing – Time of First Warning Signal
Friday, 20 February	1800	Presentation - RFBYC

- 6.2 No Warning Signal will be made after 1555 hrs on the last scheduled day of racing of each event.

7 SCHEDULE OF RACES - Australian Championships

- 7.1 Nine races are scheduled for the series.

Date	Time	Event
Sunday, 22 February	0800 - 1100	Registration and Weigh-In
Monday, 23 February	0800 - 0815	Competitors Briefing on the refueling Jetty
Monday, 23 February	1000	Racing – Time of First Warning Signal
Tuesday, 24 February	1000	Racing – Time of First Warning Signal
Wednesday, 25 February	1000	Racing – Time of First Warning Signal
Wednesday, 25 February	1800	Presentation - RFBYC

7.2 No Warning Signal will be made after 1555 hrs on the last scheduled day of racing of each event.

8 CREW WEIGHT

8.1 Each skipper and crew member shall be weighed at the regatta office at registration for the Western Australian Championships or, in the case of a crew change, at registration for the Australian Championships.

8.2 A separate weigh-in time, prior to the first race, will be advised for crew who have not achieved weigh-in.

9 CREW SUBSTITUTIONS

9.1 Requests for crew member substitutions must be made in writing and will be considered by the Race Committee. Requests must set out the reason and detail the crew to be substituted.

9.2 Approved substitute crews must weigh in and register on the morning of sailing between the hours of 0800 and 0900.

10 EQUIPMENT INSPECTION

10.1 Boats may be inspected at any time to ensure they are compliant with the Class rules.

10.2 Appendix C (attached) outlines required safety requirements.

11 VENUE

11.1 The venue for this regatta will be Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club.

11.2 The Regatta Office will be located in the Dinghy and Training Centre at RFBYC southwest of the main clubhouse.

12 CLASS FLAG

12.1 The Etchells Class flag is white with the Etchells emblem.

13 RACING AREA

The racing area is Swan River, Melville Waters as shown in Appendix B.

14 COURSES

14.1 The course to be sailed will be displayed on the committee vessel using numeral pennant 1 or numeral pennant 2. The compass bearing and distance will be announced on VHF and the compass bearing will be displayed on the committee vessel before the Warning Signal is displayed.

14.2 The diagrams in SI Addendum A show the courses, including the order in which marks are to be passed, and the side on which each mark is to be left.

14.3 If only a single windward or leeward mark is present, boats shall leave that mark to port before proceeding to the next mark of the course.

15 MARKS

15.1 Marks 1, 2, 3s and 3p will be yellow inflatable cylindrical buoys.

15.2 The start pin will be a black / white chequered cylindrical buoy.

15.3 The finish pin will be a black and white chequered cylinder buoy.

15.4 The change of course mark will be a yellow inflatable buoy with a red stripe.

16 THE START

16.1 Races will be started using RRS 26 with the warning signal made five (5) minutes before the starting signal.

16.2 The starting line is between a staff displaying an Orange flag on the signal vessel at the starboard end and the course side of a black and white cylindrical buoy at the port end of the line.

- 16.3 A boat that does not start within five (5) minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.1 and A5.2.
- 16.4 In addition to RRS 29.1, individual recalls may be broadcast on VHF. Delay or failure to broadcast or receive a recalled bow or sail number shall not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 62.1(a).
- 16.5 To alert boats that another race is to follow, code flag Q will be displayed as boats are finishing the previous race. This flag will be removed with multiple sound signals one minute before the warning signal is displayed for the following race.

17 VAKAROS RACESENSE

- 17.1 A set of instructions about the use of the electronic device will be posted on the Official Online Noticeboard.
- 17.2 [DP][NP] Each boat shall have a working Vakaros Atlas 2 configured for RaceSense at check-in, which shall be mounted (above any other device) on the aft side of the mast at all times while racing.
- 17.3 Each boat shall either provide a working Atlas 2 at check-in for configuration with RaceSense, or an Atlas 2 will be provided to any boat that does not have one available.
- 17.4 [DP][NP] Competitors shall do their best to keep the system safe and active. They shall inform the RC as soon as possible, on the water or ashore, about any problems encountered with the device. The system shall be kept running until after the last race of each day.
- 17.5 If Firmware updates to Atlas 2 devices are required between scheduled race days, notice via email and/or SMS or WhatsApp will be sent to all boats.
- 17.6 If the RC vessel displays flag G with a sound signal before the warning signal of a race, SI 1.4 to 1.6 inclusive will not apply to that race.
- 17.7 [DP][NP] If the RC vessel displays flag K with a sound signal before the warning signal of a race, Competitors shall restart their Vakaros Atlas unit by switching it off, waiting 10 seconds and then switching it back on to reconnect to the RaceSense network. Flag K will remain displayed for a minimum of 2 minutes and will be removed on or before the next warning signal.

18 CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

- 18.1 To change the next leg of the course, the race committee will lay a new mark (or move the finishing line) and remove the original mark as soon as practicable. When in a subsequent change, a new mark is replaced, it will be replaced by an original mark.
- 18.2 The Race Committee can change the course axis by up to 10 degrees and length by up to 30% without signalling a change of course. This changes RRS 33

19 THE FINISH

- 19.1 For Course 1 the finishing line is between a staff displaying a Blue Flag at the starboard end and the course side of a black / white chequered cylindrical buoy at the port end.
- 19.2 For Course 2 the finishing line is between a staff displaying a Blue Flag at the port end and the course side of a black / white chequered cylindrical buoy at the starboard end.

20 SAFETY REGULATIONS

- 20.1 [DP] A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee at the first reasonable opportunity.

21 TIME LIMITS [AND TARGET TIMES]

- 21.1 The race time limits (see RRS 35) are as follows:
- Mark 1 Time Limit 30 minutes
 - Race Target Time 45 minutes
 - Race Time Limit 90 minutes
 - Finishing Window 20 minutes
- 21.2 If no boat has passed the first mark within the Mark 1 Time Limit, the race will be abandoned.

- 21.3 The Finishing Window is the time for boats to finish after the first boat sails the course and finishes. Boats failing to finish within the Finishing Window, and not subsequently retiring, penalised or given redress, will be scored Time Limit Expired (TLE) without a hearing.
- 21.4 A boat scored TLE shall be scored points for the finishing place one more than the points scored by the last boat that finished within the Finishing Window. This changes RRS 35, A5.1, A5.2 and A10.
- 21.5 [NP] Failure to meet the Target Time will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 62.1(a).

22 HEARING REQUESTS

- 22.1 Boats intending to lodge a protest at the end of a race, shall sail past the RC Vessel and hail such intent. The hail must be acknowledged. This changes RRS 60.2 and 60.4.
- 22.2 The protest time limit is 60 minutes after the last boat finishes the last race of the day or the race committee signals no more racing today, whichever is later. The time will be posted on the official notice board.
- 22.3 Hearing requests shall be lodged at the Regatta Office.
- 22.4 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 the protest room as directed in the notice.

23 SCORING – Western Australian Championships

- 23.1 Eight (8) races are scheduled.
- 23.2 Four (4) races are required to be completed to constitute a series.
- 23.3 When fewer than five (5) races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores. This changes RRS A2.1
- 23.4 When five (5) or more races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.

24 SCORING - Australian Championships

- 24.1 Nine (9) races are scheduled.
- 24.2 Four (4) races are required to be completed to constitute a series.
- 24.3 When fewer than five (5) races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores. This changes RRS A2.1
- 24.4 When five (5) or more races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.

25 OFFICIAL VESSELS

- 25.1 Official vessels will be identified as follows:
- Race Committee vessels - White flag with RC
 - Jury vessels - White flag with JURY or J and number
 - Marshall vessels - White flag with SAFETY
 - Media vessels - White flag with MEDIA

26 SUPPORT VESSELS

- 26.1 [DP] Team leaders, coaches, other support persons and support vessels shall stay outside areas where boats are racing from the time of the first Warning Signal of the day until racing has been concluded for the day.
- 26.2 [DP] Between races, support persons and support vessels shall not approach, communicate with or transfer provisions or equipment to or from their supported boats unless in a medical emergency threatening the health of the crew or the flotation of the boat and only with the expressed permission of the Race Committee.

- 26.3 A support boat shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats. This may be in breach of RRS 62.
- 26.4 [DP] Coaches and other support personnel shall approach no closer than 100m to any racing boat or race committee vessel or mark of the course from the time of the first Prep Signal of the day until racing has been concluded for the day.
- 26.5 [DP] All Support vessels shall be registered with the organising authority. Forms are available online or at Race Office.
- 26.6 [DP] Support vessels shall be identified whilst on the water by means as directed by the Race Committee .
- 26.7 [DP] [NP] All support vessel will monitor VHF radio channel 72. They shall not communicate on channel unless responding to Race Committee or in event of an emergency.
- 26.8 In case of an emergency, the Race Committee may request the assistance of a support vessel.
- 26.9 No support vessel or other shall fly a drone within 300 metres of the RCV when in the starting sequence or when finishing

27 CHARTERED OR LOANED BOATS

- 27.1 [DP] In accordance with RRS Appendix G3, a chartered or loaned boat may carry national letters or a sail number in contravention of her class rules, provided that the race committee has approved her sail identification before the first race.

28 HAUL-OUT RESTRICTIONS

- 28.1 There are no haul-out restrictions for this event.

29 DIVING AND PLASTIC POOLS

- 29.1 [DP] Underwater breathing apparatus and plastic pools or their equivalent shall not be used around boats whilst afloat.

30 RISK STATEMENT

- 30.1 Competitors' attention is drawn to RRS 3 – Decision to Race.
- 30.2 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.
- 30.3 It is the competitor's decision to enter the Event or to start and continue in any race. Competitors shall accept that their participation in the Event is at their exclusive risk in every respect. By way of entry in the Event competitors must indemnify the Organising Authority their officers, members, staff, and agents in respect to all claims and demands of whatever nature which may be made upon them in connection with or howsoever arising from their participation or intended participation in the Event.
- 30.4 The Organising Authority, their officers, members, staff, volunteers and agents accept no responsibility 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 the Event or howsoever arising in connection with the Event.

31 INSURANCE

- 31.1 Each participating boat must be insured with current third-party property insurance cover and a valid third-party Personal Liability Insurance cover of not less than AUD10,000,000 (10 million dollars) for any one claim event in Australia.
- 31.2 All owners/competitors shall upload a copy of their Certificate of Currency during the online entry process.
- 31.3 Each Skipper and/or Co-Skipper is liable for any third-party property and personal injury claims.

32 PRIZES

32.1 Western Australian Championship

Prizes shall be awarded as follows:

- The Western Australian Perpetual Trophy shall be awarded to the overall winner
- Boats finishing 1st, 2nd and 3rd overall
- Corinthian Division first place
- Masters Division first place (Helm over 60 years of age)
- Grand Masters Division first place (Combined age of crew not less than 165 years for a 3-person crew and 220 years for a 4-person crew)
- Youth Division first place (combined crew age 90 years or less for 3-person crew, 120 years or less for 4-person crew)

All age-related prizes will use the allocated age at 2359 31st December 2025.

32.2 Australian Championship

Prizes shall be awarded as follows:

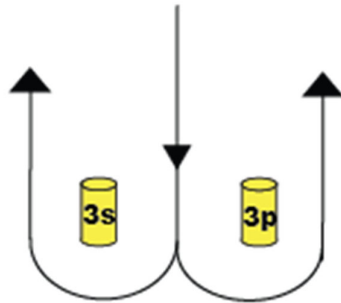
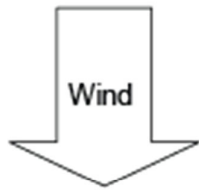
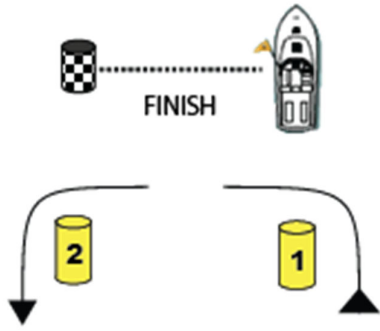
- Boats finishing 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the series
- The Australian Perpetual Trophy shall be awarded to the overall winner
- The Alex Milledge Corinthian Trophy shall be awarded to the first boat where the skipper and all crew hold a World Sailing Classification Category 1.
- The Women's Trophy shall be awarded to the first-place female helm.
- A Perpetual Trophy shall be awarded to the winner of the Masters Division (Helm over 60 years of age).
- A Perpetual Trophy shall be awarded to the winner of the Grand Masters Division (Combined age of crew not less than 165 years for a 3-person crew and 220 years for a 4 person crew).
- A Youth Trophy will be awarded to the first-place crew (combined crew age 90 years or less for 3-person crew, 120 years or less for 4-person crew).

All age-related prizes will use the allocated age at 2359 hours on 31st December 2025.

APPENDIX A – COURSES

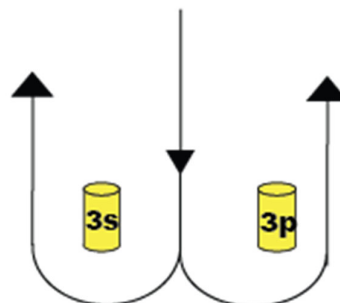
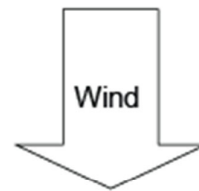
COURSE 1

Start - 1 - 2 - 3s/3p - 1 - 2 - 3s/3p - Finish

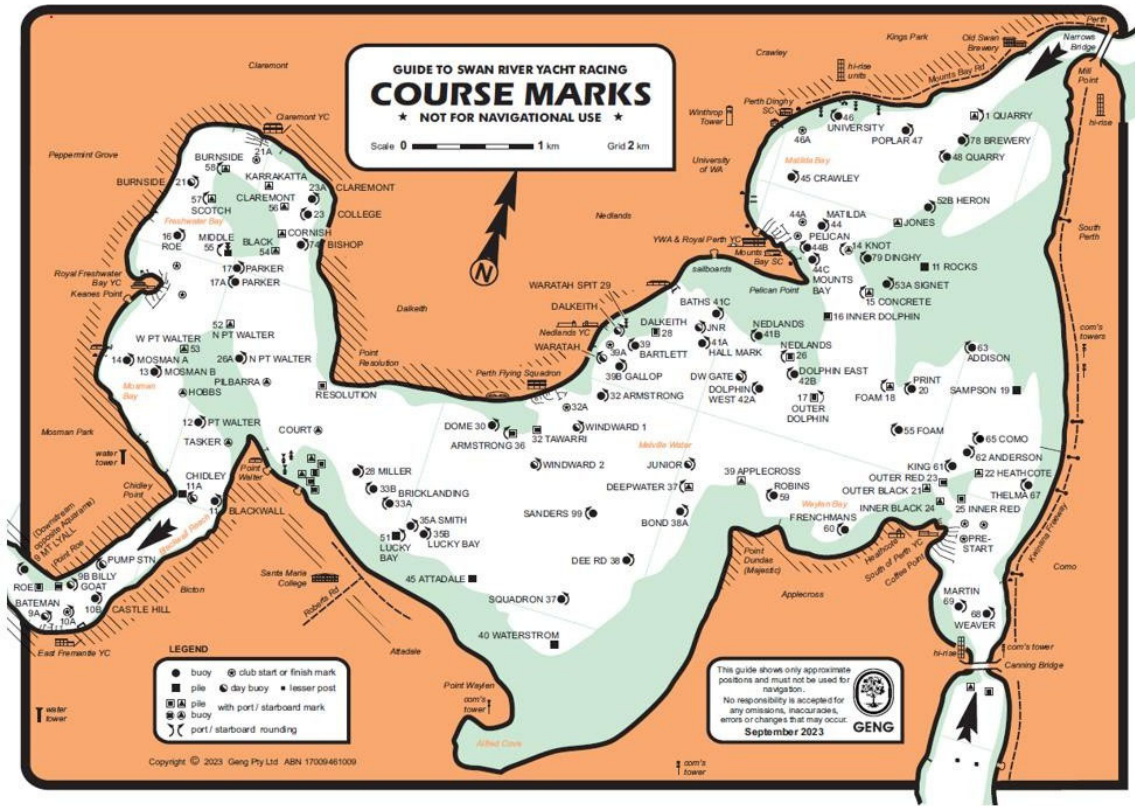


COURSE 2

Start - 1 - 2 - 3s/3p - 1 - 2 - Finish



APPENDIX B – RACE AREA



APPENDIX C –EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

Equipment Description	Class Rules	AS Cat 7	Required for Event
PFD for each crew	-	Yes	Yes
Manual bilge pump, at least 1	Yes	Yes	Yes
Anchor, chain, and warp (as per AS exemption)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Buckets with lanyards	2	Yes	Yes
Tow rope, 25-30m not less than 12mm	Yes	-	Yes
2 paddles 1200mm long	Yes	-	Yes
Flashlight or signalling device	Optional	Yes	Yes
Flares	Optional	-	Optional
Heaving line	Optional		Optional
Medical kit	Optional	Yes	Yes
Sound signalling device	Optional	-	Optional
VHF Radio	Optional	-	Yes
Knife, sheathed and secured in or near the cockpit	Optional	Yes	Yes
V Sheet	Optional	-	Optional
Drinking water (Sufficient for crew)	-	-	Yes

Note: For full descriptions of the equipment details, refer to the International Etchells Class Rules and the Australian Sailing Special Regulations Part 1.