



OGA
Western Australia
The Association for Gaff Rig
and Traditional Sailing Yachts

in conjunction with

Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club

28th OGA SWAN RIVER REGATTA

Sunday 3 May 2026

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS



www.rfbyc.asn.au
ORGANISING AUTHORITY

OGA of WA – 28th SWAN RIVER REGATTA 2026

Sailing Instructions

1. RULES

- 1.1 The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing 2025-2028.
- 1.2 Australian Sailing special regulations Part 1 (Cat.7) apply.

2. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

- 2.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the RFBYC Official Online Notice Board located at <https://rfbyc.asn.au/web/pages/oldgafferregatta>
- 2.2 Every effort will be made to post notices and changes on the RFBYC website. Failure to do so will not be grounds for protest.

3. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 3.1 Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted before 1100 on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule will be posted by 2000 on the day before it will take effect.
- 3.2 Every effort will be made to email registered competitors of any changes. Failure to do so will not be grounds for protest.

4. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 4.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed from the main flag pole located at the upper lawn area of Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club.
- 4.2 When AP is displayed ashore, “1 minute” is replaced with “not less than 30 minutes” in the race signal AP.

5. SCHEDULE

- 5.1 Registration will take place from 1200hrs on the veranda of the Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club. Registration will include confirming persons on board and emergency contacts.
- 5.2 There will be a briefing for skippers at 1230 hrs on the veranda of the Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club.
- 5.3 The regatta will consist of one race on Sunday 3 May 2026.
- 5.4 The scheduled time of the warning signal is 1325 hrs.
- 5.5 Presentation of prizes will take place at 1700 hrs on the lawn area outside the RFBYC clubhouse or as soon as practicable after that time.

6. CLASS FLAG

The class Flag will be a flag displaying the Old Gaffers insignia.

7. RACING AREA

Appendix A shows the location of the racing area.

8. THE COURSES

- 8.1 The courses to be sailed are as set out in Appendix B for all Fleets as signalled.
- 8.2 Flag “S” displayed along with two sound signals and the activating of the Orange Flashing light mounted on top of the start box means, ‘after rounding the mark of the course indicated by asterisks (****), proceed directly to the finishing line to finish in the direction of the course from that mark’. This changes RRS 32 and Race Signals.

9. MARKS OF THE COURSE

Marks of the course will be standard club fixed buoys as shown in the Guide to Swan River Yacht Racing marks – see Appendix A.

10. AREAS THAT ARE OBSTRUCTIONS

All navigation posts that are not listed as a rounding or passing mark on the course sheet, shall be passed on their correct navigational side. All such navigation posts shall rank as obstructions for the purpose of RRS Part 2. RRS Rule 19 shall apply at all such obstructions. The floating starboard channel markers either side off Point Walter need not be complied with.

11. THE START AND FINISH

- 11.1 Each boat will be allocated a starting number. Boats shall start on or after the fall of their number as displayed on a number board on the Start Box.
- 11.2 Club Starting Line No. 1 / Club Finish Line
Will be between the triangle on top of the start box and a black and white chequered outer mark placed in an easterly direction from the Start Box. An inner start mark will mark the length but not the position of the line.
- 11.3 Club Starting Line No. 2
Will be between the triangle on top of the start box and a black and white chequered outer mark placed in a northerly direction from the Start Box. An inner start mark will mark the length but not the position of the line.
- 11.4 After the first warning signal, boats shall not pass between the Start Box and the inner mark of the Club Starting Line No. 1 when the line is in use. The only exceptions will be boats that are forced between the Start Box and the inner mark at the start.
- 11.5 A boat starting before the fall of her number will be disqualified. This changes Rule 29.
- 11.6 A boat starting later than 10 minutes after the fall of her starting number will be scored Did Not Start (DNS) without a hearing. This changes RRS A4.
- 11.7 A conspicuous orange flag will identify a 'line in use' for starting and finishing. Except when starting or finishing a boat shall not cross a 'line in use' in either direction when this flag is displayed. (Club line 2 will not be 'in use' after the completion of the starting sequence for Course 2, E/SE Course)

12. PENALTY SYSTEM

RRS 44.1 is changed so that the Two-turn penalty is replaced by the one-turn penalty.

13. TIME LIMIT

- 13.1 The time limit for boats in all fleets will be 1530.
- 13.2 Boats failing to finish by this time will be scored Did Not Finish without a hearing. This changes RRS 35, A4 and A5.

14. PROTESTS AND ARBITRATION

- 14.1 Protest forms are available at the Sailing and Boating office located inside the Dinghy Clubhouse. Protests and requests for redress or reopening shall be delivered there within the appropriate time limit.
- 14.2 The protest time limit shall be 60 minutes after the last boat of the relevant fleet has finished.

15. SCORING

- 15.1 The race will be conducted as a Handicap start with boats being scored in accordance with their finish place across the line. The Race Committee prior to the event will establish handicaps and boats will be assigned their individual fall number at or before registration on the day. There will be no fall number greater than 30.

16. SAFETY REGULATIONS

A boat that retires from a race shall notify the Race Committee as soon as possible by using either VHF Channel 77 or the Start Box Phone number 0422 654 833. In particular, this is a requirement for boats that return directly to their home clubs after retiring.

17. RADIO COMMUNICATION

Except in an emergency, a boat that is racing shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats.

18. PRIZES

18.1 The following Perpetual trophies and plaques will be awarded;

- Fastest Gaffer on the Swan - Traditional Marine Services Trophy and plaque
- First Gaffer "A" Fleet - President's Trophy sponsored by Morgan Timbers and plaque
- First Gaffer "C" Fleet - The Deadeye Trophy and plaque.
- Fastest "C" Fleet - Foss Marine Trophy and plaque

OGA flags for the first three places and wine for the first five place getters in each fleet will be awarded.

An additional prize will be awarded as follows:

- Spirit of the Regatta - Commemorative Plaque

19. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. See Rule 3, Decision to Race. The Old Gaffers Association and the Organising Authority take no responsibility for the seaworthiness of a boat nor the sufficiency or adequacy of its equipment. The Old Gaffers Association and the Organising Authority will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the regatta.

20. INSURANCE

Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third party liability insurance with a minimum cover of \$10 Million.

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Appendix B – Courses

A Fleet

Course 1 – South Westerly/Westerly

Club Start Line 1		
Mosman Buoy A	14	P
Blackwall Buoy	11	P
Parker South day buoy	17a	S
Miller Buoy	28	P
Parker Buoy	17	P
Mosman Buoy A	14	P
Pt Walter Buoy	12	P
Burnside Spit	58	S
College Buoy	23	S
Parker Buoy ****	17	P
Mosman Buoy A	14	P
Blackwall Buoy	11	P
Parker Buoy	17	P
RFBYC Finish Line No. 1		

Course 2 – Easterly/South Easterly

Club Start Line 2		
Squadron Buoy	37	P
North Point Walter Buoy	26a	P
Miller Buoy	28	P
Parker Buoy	17	P
Pt Walter Buoy	12	P
Parker Buoy ****	17	P
Burnside Spit	58	S
College Buoy	23	S
RFBYC Finish Line No. 1		

C Fleet

Course 1 – South Westerly/Westerly

Club Start Line 1		
Mosman Buoy A	14	
Mosman Buoy B	13	P
Burnside Spit	58	S
College Buoy	23	S
North Point Walter Buoy	26a	P
Parker Buoy	17	P
Mosman Buoy A	14	P
Pt Walter Buoy	12	P
Parker Buoy ****	17	P
Burnside Spit	58	S
College Buoy	23	S
RFBYC Finish Line No. 1		

Course 2 – Easterly/South Easterly

Club Start Line 2		
Miller Buoy	28	P
Parker Buoy	17	P
Mosman A Buoy	14	P
Mosman B Buoy	13	P
Burnside Spit	58	S
College Buoy	23	S
North Point Walter Buoy	26a	P
Parker Buoy ****	17	P
Burnside Spit	58	S
College Buoy	23	S
RFBYC Finish Line No. 1		

NOTE North Point Walter Buoy 26a is designated as a Rounding Mark

**** Shortened Course, (all courses). Flag "S" displayed along with two sound signals and the activating of the Orange Flashing light mounted on top of the start box means, 'after rounding the mark of the course indicated by asterisks (****), proceed directly to the finishing line to finish in the direction of the course from that mark'.