



CHINA COAST REGATTA 2026
Incorporating the Hong Kong Kettle 2026
Saturday 17 to Monday 19 October 2026



SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

The notation '[NP]' in a rule in the Sailing Instructions (SIs) means that a breach of this rule will not be grounds for a protest or request for redress by a boat. This changes RRS 60.1 and 61.1 (a).

1. RULES

- 1.1 The event is governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing* (RRS) and as listed in Notice of Race (NoR) 1.
- 1.2 Any Marine Department Notices or Notices to Mariners that may have an impact on racing (available at <https://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/notices/notices.html>) shall be deemed rules governing the event. In accordance with RRS 56.2, a boat shall comply with the Traffic Separation Scheme regulations.
- 1.3 **IRC Racer Class Rating Bands:** Subject to adjustment as provided in NoR 4.4, the IRC Racer Class rating bands are as follows:

IRC 0: 1.220 and above

IRC 1: 1.050 to 1.219

IRC 2: 1.049 and below

- 1.4 Any adjustment to rating bands or divisions or the creation of any additional divisions will be posted by 2000hrs on Wednesday 14 October 2026.
- 1.5 If there is a difference between the Notice of Race (NoR) and the SIs, the SIs will prevail. This changes RRS 63.5(c).

2. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1 Any change to the SIs will be posted before 0900hrs on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 2000 on the day before it will take effect.
- 2.2 Change to a sailing instruction may be made on the water by the race committee communicating to all boats on VHF Channel 72 at least 10 minutes before the warning signal.

3. COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

- 3.1 Prior to the event, the race office will be located at the RHKYC Sailing Office at Kellett Island. The race office will re-locate to RHKYC Middle Island on Saturday 17 October.
- 3.2 Notices to competitors and other information governing the event will be posted on the online official notice board at www.chinacoastraceweek.com/onb.
- 3.3 On the water, the race committee intends to monitor and communicate with competitors on VHF channel 72. The race committee, call sign Race Committee, will transmit information including anticipated start times, courses, shortened courses and islands races starting area, and may transmit OCS sail numbers.
- 3.4 Competitors shall maintain a listening watch on VHF Channel 72 from 0900hrs on each race day until racing is completed for the day. Failure of equipment or failure to hear race committee transmissions will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 61.4(b)(1).

4. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 4.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed on the flagpole on the RHKYC Middle Island hardstanding.
- 4.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 60 minutes' in Race Signals AP.

5. SCHEDULE OF RACES

- 5.1 The schedule of races is as follows:

5.1.1 IRC Racer Class

Saturday 17 October	3 races
Sunday 18 October	2 races
Monday 19 October	2 races

5.1.2 IRC Premier Cruiser Class

Saturday 17 October	2 race
Sunday 18 October	1 race
Monday 19 October	1 race

5.1.3 PHS Class

Saturday 17 October	2 races
Sunday 18 October	1 race
Monday 19 October	1 race

- 5.2 The race committee intends to include two islands races for IRC Racer Class and PHS Class, and four islands races for IRC Premier Class over the series. However scheduled races may be any combination of windward/leeward and islands courses to suit the prevailing conditions.
- 5.3 The schedule in SI 5.1 may be varied by increasing or decreasing the number of races in a day, provided that IRC Racer Class shall not have more than three races a day and IRC Premier Class and PHS shall not have more than two races a day.
- 5.4 The scheduled time of the warning signal for the first race each day is 1025hrs. The starts of subsequent races will be signalled as soon as it is practicable to do so.
- 5.5 To alert boats that a race or a sequence of races will begin soon, the orange starting line flag will be displayed with one sound signal at least five minutes before a warning signal is made.
- 5.6 On Monday 19 October, no warning signal will be made after 1600hrs. In the case of one or more general recalls when the initial warning signal was made prior to 1600hrs, the race committee may display subsequent warning signals after this time. This exception will not apply to a race that is abandoned or postponed.
- 5.7 No race will be started if local Storm Warning Signal No. 3 or higher is in effect. Any race affected may be rescheduled.

6. CLASS OR DIVISION FLAGS

- 6.1 Class or division flags and streamers will be:

<u>Class/Division</u>	<u>International Code Flag</u>	<u>Streamer</u>
IRC Racer Class		
Div 0	G	Purple
Div 1	R	Pink
Div 2	E	Orange
IRC Premier Class	W	Black
PHS Class	T	Turquoise

- 6.2 [NP][DP] Boats shall display the appropriate coloured streamer, as supplied by the race office, on their backstay (or starboard shroud in the case of boats not having backstays) at all times whilst racing.

7. RACING AREAS AND STARTING AREAS [NP]

- 7.1 The racing area for windward/leeward and most islands courses will be in the waters to the east and south of Hong Kong Island. Some islands courses extend to the waters to the east of Sai Kung.
- 7.2 For windward/leeward courses, the starting area will be south-east of Lamma Island. For islands courses, the starting area will be south-east of Lamma Island or south of Stanley Peninsula as advised by the race committee on VHF channel 72. The location of the starting area may be changed by the race committee at any time and will be broadcast on VHF channel 72.

8. COURSES

- 8.1 Attachment A lists the windward/leeward courses. Attachment B lists the islands courses.
- 8.2 No later than the warning signal, the race committee signal vessel may display the approximate compass bearing of the first leg.
- 8.3 If the windward mark is laid for an islands course, a red or green flag will be displayed on the race committee signal vessel to signify if the windward mark is to be left to port (red) or starboard (green).

9. MARKS

- 9.1 **For windward/leeward courses,**

- 9.1.1 Mark A will be:

IRC Racer Divisions 0, 1 & 2 and IRC Premier Cruiser - an orange robotic mark with a black cover or a black inflatable buoy.

PHS – an orange robotic mark or inflatable buoy.

- 9.1.2 Mark C for all divisions will be an orange robotic mark with a black cover or a black inflatable buoy.

- 9.1.3 New marks, as provided in SI 12, will be:

IRC Racer Divisions 0, 1 & 2 and IRC Premier Cruiser - a black inflatable buoy with a white band.

PHS - a white inflatable buoy.

- 9.1.4 The starting marks will be a race committee vessel at the starboard end of the line and an orange robotic mark or inflatable buoy with a white cover at the port end.
- 9.1.5 The finishing marks will be a race committee vessel at the starboard end of the line and an orange robotic mark or inflatable buoy with a pink cover at the port end (Courses 1 & 2) or Mark A at the port end (Courses 3 & 4).
- 9.1.6 Marks may carry sponsor's logos on them, but this will not affect the general shape or colour of the marks.

9.2 For islands courses,

- 9.2.1 The windward mark (if laid) is an orange robotic mark or inflatable buoy with a yellow cover.
- 9.2.2 Ocean 1 and 2 marks are orange inflatable buoys. The approximate GPS coordinates of the Ocean 1 and 2 marks are in Attachment B. Any difference between the coordinates of the Ocean 1 and 2 marks in Attachment B and the actual location of the marks will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 61.1(a).
- 9.2.3 Other marks of the islands courses are geographical features.
- 9.2.4 The starting marks will be a race committee vessel at the starboard end of the line and an orange robotic mark or inflatable buoy with a white cover at the port end.
- 9.2.5 The finishing marks are a race committee vessel at the starboard end of the line and an orange robotic mark or inflatable buoy with a pink cover at the port end.

10. PROHIBITED AREAS AND OBSTRUCTIONS

- 10.1 These rules apply at all times while afloat.
- 10.2 The 100m exclusion zone surrounding Waglan Island is a prohibited area.
- 10.3 Buoys (usually yellow or orange, but may be other colours) may be laid adjacent to construction sites. An area bounded by virtual lines between such buoys, and where appropriate, the nearest point of the shore shall be considered a prohibited area.
- 10.4 Marine works areas as described in current Marine Department Notices (see SI 1.2) shall be considered prohibited areas.
- 10.5 Commercial vessels underway and vessels engaged in towing shall be considered a 'Moving Prohibited Area' as follows:
- Ahead of the vessel, 200 metres or two lengths of the vessel, whichever is greater. For a vessel towing, 100 metres.
 - Abeam of the vessel, 100 metres or two widths of the vessel, whichever is greater.
 - Astern of the vessel, 50 metres.
- 10.6 Boats shall not enter any prohibited area. Any boat entering a prohibited area shall be automatically and irrevocably disqualified without any hearing.
- 10.7 All prohibited areas defined in SI 10 shall also be considered 'obstructions' (as provided for in the RRS definition of 'Obstruction') and applicable to RRS 19 and 20.
- 10.8 At all times boats shall keep clear of commercial traffic. The International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (IRPCAS), including Rule 10 – Traffic Separation Schemes thereof, shall apply and shall govern the behaviour of all competing boats with respect to commercial vessels and other non-racing pleasure craft.
- 10.9 Any report to the organising authority that a boat may not have complied with this directive will be investigated. Action may be taken by the race committee, after considering available information, by disqualifying the boat involved without a hearing and, if appropriate, by barring her entry in future events. The onus to prove that this rule had not been broken remains on the skipper of the involved boat.
- 10.10 It is the intention of SI 10 to provide a framework for safe and fair sailing in accordance with the spirit of the RRS and IRPCAS. Nothing in these SIs shall relieve a boat from its obligations not to impede the passage of any commercial vessel that can navigate only within a narrow channel or fairway.

11. THE START

- 11.1 The starting line is between a staff displaying an orange flag on the starting mark at the starboard end of the line and the course side of the port-end starting mark.
- 11.2 [NP][DP] Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area during the starting sequence for other races.
- 11.3 A boat that does not start within 10 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start (DNS) without a hearing.

12. CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE (windward/leeward courses only)

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.

13. THE FINISH

The finishing line is between a staff displaying a blue flag on the finishing mark at the starboard end and the course side of the port-end finishing mark.

14. PENALTY SYSTEM

- 14.1 A boat that has taken a penalty or retired under RRS 44.1 shall submit a penalty report within the protest time limit. The form is available at <https://www.chinacoastraceweek.com/onb>.
- 14.2 When the protest committee decides that a boat which is party to a protest has broken a rule and is not exonerated, it may impose a scoring penalty (which may be no penalty) at its discretion, as an alternative to disqualification. This changes RRS 60.5(c).

15. TIME LIMITS

- 15.1 For windward/leeward races, if no boat in a class or division passed the first mark within 30 minutes after the starting signal, the race for that class or division may be abandoned.
- 15.2 For windward/leeward races, if no boat in a class or division finished a race within 90 minutes after the starting signal, the race for that class or division may be abandoned.
- 15.3 For islands races, if no boat in a class or division finished a race by 1630hrs or such later time as announced by the race committee on VHF channel 72, the race for that class or division may be abandoned.
- 15.4 A boat which fails to finish a windward/leeward race within 30 minutes (corrected time) of the leading boat in her class or division or fails to finish an islands race within 60 minutes (corrected time) of the leading boat in her class or division will be scored Did Not Finish (DNF) without a hearing.

16. PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

- 16.1 Hearing request forms are available at the race office and online at <https://www.chinacoastraceweek.com/onb>. Protests and requests for redress or reopening shall be submitted online or emailed to sailingoffice@rhkyc.org.hk or submitted to the race office within the appropriate time limit.
- 16.2 Protests relating to measurement, ratings or handicaps shall be submitted before the expiry of the protest time limit for the first day's racing on Saturday 17 October.
- 16.3 For each class or division, the protest time limit is 60 minutes after the last boat in the class or division has finished the last race of the day or the race committee signals no more racing today, whichever is later.
- 16.4 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 located at RHKYC Middle Island at the time posted, except that any protest hearings from Monday's races will be held in the Protest Room at Kellett Island on Tuesday 20 October 2026 from 1830hrs.
- 16.5 It is the responsibility of each competitor to ascertain whether or not he/she is required to attend a protest hearing, to attend at the correct time and have all likely witnesses in attendance. Failure to attend at the appointed time will not be grounds for redress.
- 16.6 RRS Appendix T, Arbitration, applies.

17. CREW [DP]

- 17.1 For IRC Racer class, each boat shall restrict the number of crew carried on board whilst racing to comply with its Declared Initial Crew Number (DICN) or the crew number on its IRC certificate with the following permitted variations (except as provided in SI 17.3):

<u>Declared Initial Crew Number</u>	<u>Limit of Variation</u>
Up to 4	-1 +1
5 to 12	-2 +2
13 to 20	-3 +2
21 or more	-4 +3

- 17.2 If no DICN is included on a boat's entry form, the number of crew shall be restricted to the specified number on its IRC certificate.
- 17.3 For IRC Racer class, the same number of crew shall be on board for all races on any day when there is more than one race on such day unless approved by the race committee.

18. SELF STEERING AND POWERED DEVICES

- 18.1 The use of electronic, mechanical and wind-vane devices for steering is prohibited.
- 18.2 In accordance with IRC Rule 15.1, RRS 52 shall not apply to boats using stored power for adjustment and operation of sails and moveable appendages.

19. SAFETY REGULATIONS

- 19.1 [DP] A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee as the first reasonable opportunity.
- 19.2 Notification can be made by VHF channel 72 or telephoning Race Control on 9326 5908.
- 19.3 In an emergency, the Sailing Manager, Ailsa Angus, can also be called on 9426 8187.

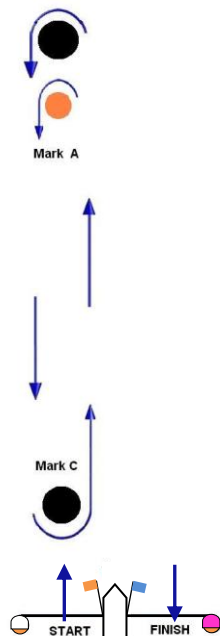
20. SAFETY EQUIPMENT

- 20.1 All boats shall be equipped with adequate and functioning equipment to satisfy the World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations Category 4 requirements. The onus is on the owner or person in charge of each boat to ensure that adequate equipment is carried.
- 20.2 Boats shall not race with an anchor stowed on and projecting over the bow. A boat that breaches this instruction will be disqualified without a hearing.

ATTACHMENT A – WINDWARD/LEEWARD COURSES

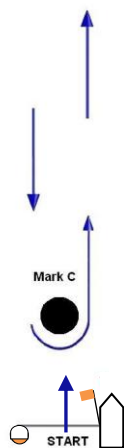
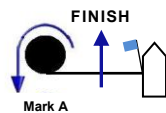
Course 1	Start – A – C – A – Finish
Course 2	Start – A – C – A – C – A – Finish
Course 3	Start – A – C – A – C – Finish at A
Course 4	Start – A – C – A – C – A – C – Finish at A

Marks A and C are rounding marks and shall be left to port.



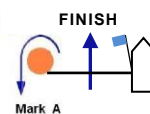
Courses 1 & 2

Black Mark A - IRC Racer Div 0, 1 & 2, IRC Premier Cruiser
Orange Mark A - IRC Racer Div 3, PHS



Courses 3 & 4

IRC Racer Div 0, 1 & 2,
IRC Premier Cruiser



Courses 3 & 4

IRC Racer Div 3, PHS

ATTACHMENT B - ISLAND COURSES

1. Apart from starting and finishing marks, all marks are rounding marks unless specified by 'passing' means a passing mark. 'P' and 'S' means the mark is to be rounded to port or starboard respectively.
2. Starting areas are south-east of Lamma Island or south of Stanley Peninsula as advised by the race committee on VHF channel 72.
3. The finish will be south of Stanley Peninsula. The location of the finish may be changed by the race committee and will be broadcast on VHF channel 72 before the starting signal.
4. The mark Ocean 1 will be approximately located at 22° 09.21 N 114° 11.20 E.
5. The mark Ocean 2 will be approximately located at 22° 12.23 N 114° 17.62 E.

Course 11	13nm
Start	
Windward mark	P/S
Sung Kong	S
Finish	

Course 12	15nm
Start	
Windward mark	P/S
Ocean 1	P
Ocean 2	S
Sung Kong	S
Finish	

Course 13	20nm
Start	
Windward mark	P/S
Ocean 1	P
Ocean 2	S
Sung Kong	S
Po Toi	S
Beaufort	P
Finish	

Course 21	10nm
Start	
Windward mark	P/S
Ocean 1	P
Beaufort	S
Finish	

Course 22	15nm
Start	
Windward mark	P/S
Ocean 1	P
Ocean 2	S
Beaufort	S
Finish	

Course 23	18nm
Start	
Windward mark	P/S
Ocean 1	P
Ocean 2	S
Waglan	S
Sung Kong	P
Po Toi	P passing
Beaufort	S
Finish	

Course 31	10.5nm
Start	
Windward mark	P/S
Ocean 1	P
Beaufort	P
Finish	

Course 32	13nm
Start	
Windward mark	P/S
Ocean 1	P
Po Toi	P
Beaufort	S
Finish	

Course 33	16nm
Start	
Windward mark	P/S
Ocean 1	P
Waglan	P
Finish	

Course 41	23nm
Start	
Windward mark	P/S
North Ninepin	P
Finish	

Course 42	22nm
Start	
Windward mark	P/S
South Ninepin	P
Beaufort	P passing
Finish	

Course 51	8.5nm
Start	
Windward mark	P/S
Beaufort	P
Finish	

Course 52	14nm
Start	
Windward mark	P/S
Beaufort	P
Sung Kong	P
Ocean 2	P
Finish	

Course 53	19.5nm
Start	
Windward mark	P/S
Beaufort	P
Sung Kong	P
Ocean 2	P
Po Toi	S
Beaufort	P
Finish	

Course 61	9nm
Start	
Windward mark	P/S
Beaufort	S
Finish	

Course 62	14nm
Start	
Windward mark	P/S
Ocean 2	S
Sung Kong	S
Finish	

Course 63	19.5nm
Start	
Windward mark	P/S
Ocean 2	S
Sung Kong	S
Po Toi	S
Beaufort	S
Po Toi	P passing
Finish	