ROYAL HONG KONG YACHT CLUB

Hong Kong to Hainan Race 2026

Starts Thursday 29 October 2026

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

1. RULES

1.1 The Hong Kong to Hainan Race 2026 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 HK Marine Department Notices or Notices to Mariners that may have an impact on racing (available at 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.

2. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any change to the SIs will be posted before 0900hrs on the day it will take effect.

3. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

3.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed on the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club (RHKYC) Kellett Island flag poles on the hardstanding pontoon access steps.

3.2 When AP over H is displayed on the Kellett Island flag poles or on the race committee signal vessel the race is postponed with further signals posted on the official notice board (ONB). This changes Race Signals AP.

4. RACE SCHEDULE

4.1 The skippers' briefing will be held at 1830hrs on Wednesday 28 October 2026 at RHKYC Kellett Island.

4.2 The scheduled time of the warning signal for all divisions on Thursday 29 October 2026 is 1110hrs.

4.3 To alert boats that a race will begin soon, the orange starting line flag will be displayed with one sound at least five minutes before a warning signal is made.

5. CLASS FLAGS

The class flag is IC flag W for all classes and divisions of classes.

6. STARTING AREA

The starting area will be in Victoria Harbour.

7. THE COURSE

The course will be the following:

Starting Line	
TCS 4	Port (passing)
TCS 3	Port (passing)
Waglan Island	Starboard
Dangan Liedao	Starboard
Jiapeng Liedao	Starboard (passing)
Wenwei Zhou Rock (Light)	Starboard (passing)
Luhuitou Jiao	Starboard
Finishing Line	

Approximate course length: 390 nm

8. MARKS

8.1 Inflatable marks, fixed navigation marks and geographical features will be used.

8.2 For a club line start, the Outer Distance Mark (ODM) is a white robotic mark, an orange robotic mark with a white jacket or an orange inflatable buoy with a white jacket laid roughly to the north of the RHKYC Kellett Island clubhouse. The Inner Distance Mark (IDM) is an orange robotic mark or an orange inflatable buoy.

8.3 For a committee vessel start, the starting marks are the race committee signal vessel at the starboard end of the line and a white robotic mark, an orange robotic mark with a white jacket or an orange inflatable buoy with a white jacket at the port end.

8.4 The finishing marks are described in SI 11.1.

9. PROHIBITED AREAS AND OBSTRUCTIONS

9.1 These rules apply at all times while afloat.

9.2 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.

9.3 Marine works areas as described in current Marine Department Notices (see SI 1.2) shall be considered prohibited areas.

9.4 A boat that is racing shall neither enter nor sail in the prohibited areas set out below:

Tathong Channel Prohibited Area - a polygon defined by TCS 4, TCS 3, TCS 2 and TCS 1 whose coordinates are as follows:

Tathong Channel TCS4: 22° 16.243N, 114° 15.647E

Tathong Channel TCS3: 22° 14.025N, 114° 16.564E

Tathong Channel TCS2: 22° 13.158N, 114° 17.614E

Tathong Channel TCS1: 22° 13.158N, 114° 20.147E

Yalang Bay Prohibited Area - a polygon defined by points A, B, C, D whose coordinates are as follows:

A: 18° 11.891N, 109° 41.986E

B: 18° 07.993N, 109° 41.783E

C: 18° 06.550N, 109° 34.383E

D: 18° 09.601N, 109° 34.414E

9.5 [DP] Boats shall comply with MarDep's requirement that boats shall not sail within 100 metres of any commercial pier in the Harbour. Boats shall not sail within the Kai Tak exclusion zone.

9.6 Commercial vessels underway and vessels engaged in towing shall be considered a 'Moving Prohibited Area' as follows:

(A) In Victoria Harbour:

- Ahead of the vessel, 100 metres or one length of the vessel, whichever is greater. For vessels under tow, 100 metres.
- Abeam of the vessel, 50 metres or one width of the vessel, whichever is greater.
- Astern of the vessel, 25 metres.

(B) Outside Victoria Harbour:

- Ahead of the vessel, 200 metres or two lengths of the vessel, whichever is greater. For vessels under tow, 100 metres.
- Abeam of the vessel, 100 metres or two widths of the vessel, whichever is greater.
- Astern of the vessel, 50 metres.

9.7 Boats shall not enter any prohibited area.

9.8 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.

9.9 All prohibited areas defined in this rule shall also be considered 'obstructions' (as provided for in the RRS definition of 'Obstruction') and applicable to RRS 19 and 20.

9.10 It is the intention of SI 9 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.

10. THE START

10.1 The race will be started using RRS 26 with the warning signal made **TEN** minutes before the starting signal.

10.2 The location of the start line will be indicated on the ONB at least one hour before the warning signal.

10.3 For a club line start, the starting is between the white staff with a yellow triangle on the starter's box and the course side of the ODM. Boats shall start by passing between the IDM and ODM in the direction to the first mark of the course.

10.4 For a committee vessel start, the starting line is between a staff displaying an orange flag on the starting mark at the starboard end and the course side of the port-end starting mark.

10.5 A boat that does not start within 60 minutes after the starting signal will be scored Did Not Start (DNS) without a hearing. This changes RRS A4 and A5.

10.6 The race committee may broadcast on VHF Channel 72 the sail numbers of boats failing to start correctly. Failure to transmit or receive such broadcasts will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 61.4(b)(1).

11. THE FINISH

11.1 The finishing line is in the vicinity of the lighthouse on the breakwater at the entrance to Serenity Marina, whose coordinates are 18° 12.96N, 109° 28.72E. A large orange marker buoy (2m high - truncated cone) will be set at as the ODM at a distance of 100m from the lighthouse. Boats shall pass between the lighthouse and the ODM from the course side and will finish when their bearing to the lighthouse is 130 degrees magnetic.

11.2 If the location of the finishing line needs to be moved due to a local obstruction, the new position will be sent to the boats via YB Connect. Failure to receive this information will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 61.4(b)(1).

11.3 Boats shall call the race committee approximately one hour before their anticipated finish on VHF Channel 72 giving their boat name and sail number. If the race committee cannot be reached by VHF, alternate communication by telephone shall be used: (+852 6465 4131 – RHKYC Sailing Manager).

11.4 Boats shall enter their finish time on their online Race Declaration Form (see also SI 15).

11.5 Boats finishing in darkness shall illuminate their sail numbers as they cross the line and call the race committee on VHF Channel 72. In the event of no response, boats shall call the race committee on the mobile number detailed in SI 11.3.

11.6 A “Follow Me” boat will be on station in the vicinity of the finish to escort boats into the marina and their assigned berth.

11.7 Times taken by the race committee will take precedence over declarations. This will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 61.4(b)(1).

12. PENALTY SYSTEM

12.1 RRS 44.1 applies up to one hour after the warning signal.

12.2 Subsequently and for the remainder of the race, RRS 44.3 applies. However a boat need not display a yellow flag. This changes RRS 44.3(a) and 44.3(b).

13. TIME LIMIT

The time limit is 1600hrs on Sunday 1 November 2026. Boats failing to finish within the time limit will be scored Did Not Finish (DNF) without a hearing. This changes RRS 35, A4 and A5.

14 RETIREMENT

Boats retiring shall report their retirement and give their position via YB Connect. Boats must continue to operate their Yellowbrick tracker unit they reach a safe haven and then call the race committee on the mobile number outlined in SI 11.3.

15. DECLARATION

15.1 The person in charge, the navigator and one crewmember of each boat shall sign the online Race Declaration Form (located at https://www.chinacoastraceweek.com/race-hainan) that they have completed the race and shall report any infringements on the declaration. For Two-Handed Class boats both crew members shall sign the declaration.

15.2 The declaration shall be completed as soon as possible but in any case within 4 hours of finishing.

16. HEARING REQUESTS

16.1 Hearing request forms are available at www.rhkyc.org.hk/sailing/race-management/race-management.

16.2 Protests under RRS 78 shall be lodged by 1800hrs on Friday 23 October 2026, and the protest fee will be US$250 or HK$2,000 which may be refunded at the discretion of the protest committee.

16.3 Other protests and requests for redress shall be lodged at the Serenity Marina race office within 4 hours of the boat’s finishing time. If the race office is closed, the protest or request for redress shall be delivered within 1 hour of the next posted opening time of the race office.

16.4 Notices will be posted within 6 hours of the finishing time of whichever boat involved in the incident is the last to finish, or within 3 hours of the next posted opening of the Serenity Marina race office, whichever is later. Notices will inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses.

16.5 If a boat does not finish the race but wants to lodge a protest or request for redress, the hearing request form shall be emailed to sailingoffice@rhkyc.org.hk by 1600hrs on Tuesday 2 November 2026.

16.6 Protest hearings will take place in Hong Kong on Monday 9 November 2026 at 1830hrs in the Protest Room, RHKYC Kellett Island, Causeway Bay.

17. RADIO/DATA COMMUNICATIONS

17.1 While racing, a boat shall keep a listening watch on DSC on their VHF radio and have a satellite phone and their Yellowbrick tracker unit switched on at all times.

17.2 While racing, a boat shall switch on her designated mobile phone in time to receive the race committee communications specified in SI 18.1. The phone shall be the one linked to the boat's YB Connect unit.

17.3 [DP] While racing, except in an emergency and as permitted by these SIs, a boat shall not receive voice or data transmissions that is not available to all boats.

17.4 RRS 41(c) is amended as follows:

RRS 41 – A boat shall not receive help from any outside source, except

(c) [DP] Help in the form of information which is freely available to all boats, which shall include navigational, weather, tide or current information from any source which is available to all boats whether or not by payment of a fee or subscription, but shall not include any information gathered or the subject of interpretation by, or any advice received from, any source not on board the boat and which is specific to the boat and her situation.

17.5 There are no specific restrictions on radio and electronic aids to navigation that may be used while racing.

17.6 [DP] All radio messages received, transmitted, or attempted to be transmitted shall be entered in the boat's log, or in a separate radio log.

17.7 As the race committee may broadcast information to the fleet on VHF Channel 72 at the start and finish of the race, boats are strongly advised to monitor VHF Channel 72. A boat may, without infringing RRS 41 (outside help), request and receive repetition of information broadcast by the race committee, or be told whether or not a broadcast has been made.

18. REPORTING SCHEDULE

18.1 The race committee will send boat position reports and weather updates to the fleet at 0900hrs and 1800hrs during the race.

18.2 While racing, when the wind strength exceeds 30 knots, a boat shall report wind strength and wave heights to the race committee via YB Connect.

19. SAIL LIMITATIONS

Sail limitations shall be in accordance with the IRC/HKSF Prescriptions under which the boat is racing.

20. ENGINES

20.1 An engine may be used for charging batteries, winches, halyards, pumping bilges or supplying power for weighing anchor or refrigeration while in neutral.

20.2 [DP] An engine may be used for propulsion while racing to avoid collision or in an emergency. This changes RRS 42.1.

20.3 If SI 20.2 applies, the full facts of the incident shall be reported on the boat's declaration.

21. SELF-STEERING AND POWERED DEVICES

The use of electronic, mechanical and wind-vane devices for steering are prohibited except by Double-Handed Class boats.

22. PRIZES

22.1 Prizes will be awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place IRC Overall and 1st place PHS.

22.2 Battle Flags will be awarded at the location prize giving at 1700hrs on Saturday 31 October 2026 at Serenity Marina.

22.3 Trophies and prizes will be presented at the Hong Kong to Hainan Race prize giving at 1900 - 2100hrs on Wednesday 11 November 2026 at RHKYC Kellett Island, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong.

23. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

Competitors participate in the event entirely at their own risk. See RRS 3, Decision to Race. The organising authority (RHKYC, Serenity Marina, the Hong Kong to Hainan Race 2026 race committee, the sponsor(s) (including any affiliated companies), their respective staff, members, volunteers or persons working for or on behalf of the above will not accept any responsibility for any loss of life or injury to members of crew or other parties, or for the loss of, or damage to a vessel sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the event.