

# Event Notice of Race

British Keelboat League 2026

[www.britishkeelboatleague.co.uk](http://www.britishkeelboatleague.co.uk)



## BKL Schools Championship

The Royal Thames Yacht Club at Queen Mary Sailing Club

7<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> March 2026

The Organising Authority (OA) is the Royal Thames Yacht Club

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1. The British Keelboat League is a nationwide competition leading to the Sailing Champions League.
- 1.2. The British Keelboat League Schools Championship will take place between 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at Queen Mary Sailing Club, Ashford Rd, Ashford TW15 1UA.
- 1.3. This qualifying event forms part of the British Keelboat League Series 2026. The competition is open to Teams or Clubs to compete in qualifying events for invitation to the Series Final. The Event will be sailed in Sonar type keelboats supplied by the Organising Authority.
- 1.4. There will be more Teams than boats at each event with each Team being scheduled to race in a selection of races against as many different Teams as equitably possible.
- 1.5. Details and entry for other BKL Qualification Events is available via [www.britishkeelboatleague.co.uk](http://www.britishkeelboatleague.co.uk).
- 1.6. Details and entry for the BKL Series Final is available via [events.ksail.co.uk/2026/BKLFinal/](http://events.ksail.co.uk/2026/BKLFinal/).
- 1.7. The RYA Racing Charter is in effect and competitors are expected to sail in compliance with it. The Charter can be found at the front of the RYA edition of the Racing Rules of Sailing (the yellow pages after the definitions), or on the RYA website at [www.rya.org.uk/racingrules](http://www.rya.org.uk/racingrules).

### 2. Rules

- 2.1. The event will be governed by the Rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) and local byelaws.
- 2.2. Races will be umpired; rule changes can be found in Appendix UF British Keelboat League Edition.
- 2.3. RRS 40.1 (Personal Floatation Devices) applies at all times whilst sailing, on the pontoon or transferring between boats.
- 2.4. All competitors are considered 'Users' of Queen Mary Sailing Club (QMSC) and therefore are subject to their byelaws. The QMSC byelaws can be located at <https://www.queenmary.org.uk/club/club-documents/>.

### 3. Event Details

- 3.1. These are published at <https://events.ksail.co.uk/2026/BKLSchools/>

### 4. Entry

- 4.1. The Entry fee shall be £550
- 4.2. Teams may request an invitation by completing [the online invitation request form](#) no later than 2359 Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2026 and paying a £100 non-refundable deposit.
- 4.3. Invitations to the event will be issued no later than Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2026.
- 4.4. To remain eligible for the event, teams shall pay the entry fee in full by Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February after which point their entry may be forfeit and given to another team
- 4.5. If a team withdraws after the deadline in 4.4 Their entry fee is forfeit.
- 4.6. A minimum of 10 entries and a maximum of 24 entries will be accepted. If more than 24 requests are received, invites will be issued as follows:
  - (a) 1 entry per organisation in order of receipt of application.
  - (b) 2 entries per organisation in order of receipt
  - (c) Additional entries allocated in order of receipt
- 4.7. Late or Additional entries may be accepted at the sole discretion of the Organising Authority.

### 5. Eligibility

- 5.1. The number of crew, including helm, is four. There are no weight limits.
- 5.2. Teams will compete using a team name, this can be a school, club, class association, school, or a name that has relevance to the team.

- 5.3. Each competitor shall be in full time secondary education.
- 5.4. The competitors in a team shall be bona-fide members of the Organisation they represent and should not change during the event.
- 5.5. All organisations must be accompanied by a designated adult chaperone.
- 5.6.
- 5.7. All crew under 18 years of age must provide a completed parent/guardian consent form by 23.59 5<sup>th</sup> March or a declaration provided by a School guaranteeing that consent has been provided.

## **6. Event Format and Schedule**

- 6.1. Registration will be on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March between 0830-0855 in the Clubhouse at QMSC
- 6.2. A briefing for competitors will be held at 0900 in the clubhouse at QMSC
- 6.3. The first warning signal will not be before 0927
- 6.4. On the final day of racing, it is anticipated that races won't be started after 16:00.

## **7. Scoring**

- 7.1. Races will be scored using a High Point System as defined in the SI's. There will be no discards.

## **8. Sailing Instructions**

- 8.1. Sailing Instructions will be available at registration and posted on the online official notice board which is located at <https://events.ksail.co.uk/2026/BKLSchools/>

## **9. Damage**

- 9.1. By entering, Teams agree to be bound by the damage requirements as found in NoR Attachment X.
- 9.2. Damage costs attributed to competitors generally or to an unidentified team will be attributed equally between all teams.

## **10. Prizes and Onward Qualification**

- 10.1. Prizes and mementos will be awarded to the three highest ranked Crews.
- 10.2. Additional trophies and prizes may be awarded at the discretion of the OA.
- 10.3. Qualification to the Series Final
  - (a) The highest performing teams will receive invitations to the Series Final to be held at the Royal Southern Yacht Club on the 25-27th September.
- 10.4. Additional invitations for wildcard entries to the Series Final may be issued at the sole discretion of the Organising Authority of the Series Final.

## **11. Advertising and Sponsorship**

- 11.1. Boats may be required to display advertising chosen and supplied by the OA.
- 11.2. The organising authority may provide bibs that competitors are required to wear as permitted by the World Sailing Advertising Code.

## **12. Support Boats**

- 12.1. Support boats will only be allowed at the discretion of the OA and shall be clearly marked to identify the club they are supporting. Requests to launch must be made to the OA by the entry deadline for the event.

## **13. Media, Data Protection and Privacy Statement**

- 13.1. When required, supplied media personnel, equipment or dummies shall be carried on board while racing.
- 13.2. Any member of a Crew may be required to wear provided devices that may record, transmit or provide two way communication and; will make themselves available for interviews when requested by OA.
- 13.3. Competitors shall not interfere with the normal working of supplied media equipment.
- 13.4. The personal information you provide to the Organising Authority will be used to facilitate your participation in the event and may be shared with the British Keelboat League and other third party organisations; a list of whom may be obtained by contacting the Organising Authority. If you have agreed to be bound by the Racing Rules of Sailing and the other rules that govern the event (the rules), the legal basis for processing that personal information is contract. If you are not bound by the rules, the legal basis for processing that personal information is legitimate interest. Your personal information will be stored and used in accordance with the Organising Authority's privacy policy. When required by the rules, personal information may be shared with the RYA, your national authority and/or World Sailing. The results of the event and the outcome of any hearing or appeal may be published.
- 13.5. By participating in this event competitors automatically grant to the Organising Authority the right in perpetuity to make use and show at their discretion any photography, audio and video recordings and other reproductions of them made at the venue or on the water from the time of their arrival at the venue until their final departure, without compensation.

## **14. Risk Statement**

Rule 3 of the Racing Rules of Sailing states: "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone".

Sailing is by its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore inherently involves an element of risk.

- 14.1. By taking part in the event, every competitor agrees and acknowledges that:
  - (a) they are aware of the inherent element of risk involved in the sport and accept responsibility for the exposure of themselves, their crew and their boat to such inherent risk whilst taking part in the event;
  - (b) they are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore;
  - (c) they accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions;
  - (d) the provision of a race management team, patrol boats, umpires and other officials and volunteers by the event organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities;
  - (e) The provision of patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances.
  - (f) It is their responsibility to familiarise themselves with any risks specific to this venue or this event drawn to their attention in any rules and information produced for the venue or event and to attend any safety briefing held for the event.
  - (g) It is their responsibility to ensure that they are familiar with the type of boat used, and the supplied equipment and are suitably experienced with its operation.
  - (h) It is their responsibility for ensuring all supplied equipment is carried on board.
  - (i) They are fit to sail and that they believe the boat and crew are capable of competing in the anticipated conditions.

## **15. Cancellation Policy**

Should the event be cancelled, the OA will attempt to rearrange, if this is not possible a refund will be issued to effected entries less any expenses already incurred.