



2026 CARMELA CUP

RYA Two-boat Keelboat Team Racing with spinnaker Championship
For the Carmela Cup

NOTICE OF RACE

Royal Thames Yacht Club at Queen Mary Reservoir

11th & 12th April

The Organizing Authority (OA) is the Royal Thames Yacht Club Limited and the Royal Yachting Association

1. RULES

- 1.1. The event will be governed by the *rules* as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing* (RRS), including Appendix D.
- 1.2. RRS 40.1 shall apply at all times while afloat or on a pontoon.
- 1.3. RRS D2, Umpired Races, will apply.
- 1.4. The right of appeal will be denied in accordance with RRS 70.3
- 1.5. 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.
- 1.6. 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/>.

2. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1. The sailing instructions will be available no later than Wednesday 8th April on the [Official Notice board](#)
- 2.2. Questions regarding the notice of race or sailing instructions, may be submitted in writing to the RTYC Sailing Office via email: jack.fenwick@royalthames.com by Thursday 9th April. Questions and responses from the race committee will be posted to the online official notice board.

3. COMMUNICATION

- 3.1. The online official notice board is located at <https://events.ksail.co.uk/2026/CarmelaCup/>
- 3.2. On the water, the race committee will make courtesy broadcasts to competitors via UHF radio. This channel will be announced at the briefing. *Note: RTYC will provide UHF radios as part of the supplied equipment.*
- 3.3. [DP] While racing, except in an emergency, a boat shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats.
- 3.4. [DP] Attendance at the initial competitors' briefing scheduled for 0845 on Saturday 11th April at Queen Mary Reservoir is mandatory for the skippers from each team. All team members are encouraged to attend.
- 3.5. The Race Committee will use a [Telegram group](#) to facilitate communications during the event. The app is available for both apple and android devices. <https://telegram.org/>.

4. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

- 4.1. A maximum of sixteen (16) teams will be invited by the OA.
- 4.2. Teams may request an invitation between Monday 5th January and by completing [the online invitation request form](#) no later than 2359 Sunday 1st March 2026. Invitations to the event will be issued no later than Friday 6th March 2026.
- 4.3. To remain eligible for the event, teams shall pay the entry fee in full by Friday 13th March after which point their entry may be forfeit and given to another team
- 4.4. If a team withdraws after the deadline in 4.3 Their entry fee is forfeit.
- 4.5. Each team shall [submit a crew list](#) which will include contact information for each competitor by 2359 Thursday 9th April via the online entry system.

5. FEES

- 5.1. The entry fee is £880 per team.

- 5.2. **DAMAGE DEPOSIT:** A damage deposit is not required before racing however each boat is liable for up to £1000 of associated costs due to damage as a result of any one incident (this includes boats, sails, equipment, and property). A failure to comply with this instruction or an invoice issued may result in disqualification from the event without a hearing. This changes RRS 60.5(b). The OA may also file a RRS 69 report to the jury.

6. CREW LIMITATIONS & TEAM COMPOSITION

- 6.1. A boat shall have a crew of four (4) people.
- 6.2. A team shall consist of two (2) boats. The total number of female or male sailors per team shall not exceed (6) six.
- 6.3. When a registered crew member is unable to continue in the event, the OA may authorise a substitute, a temporary substitute or other adjustment.

7. ADVERTISING

A boat and her crew shall comply with World Sailing Regulation 20, Advertising Code.

8. FORMAT

- 8.1. The OA intends to provide 12 Sonar type boats for racing in the event. Each boat will have the following sails: Mainsail, Jib, Spinnaker.
- 8.2. While all reasonable steps are taken to equalise the boats, variations will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 61.4(b).
- 8.3. The sailing instructions will describe the racing format and include the race pairings.
- a. If More than 13 teams enter, racing will run using a "single change Swiss League" and may include a knockout round.
- b. If less than 13 teams enter, racing will be round robin(s), and may include a knockout round

9. SCHEDULE

	Saturday 11 th April	Sunday 12 th April
Competitors' Briefing	0845	--
Check-In	--	0830-0845
First warning signal	0957	0927
No warning signal after	---	1630

10. RACE VENUE

Racing will take place on Queen Mary Reservoir.

11. COURSES

- 11.1. The course will be a port square or starboard 'S'.
- 11.2. Course diagrams will be provided in the sailing instructions.

12. SCORING

- 12.1. D4.3 Scoring a Round-Robin Stage is deleted and replaced with:
- a. Teams in a round robin group shall be ranked in order of number of race wins, highest first. When a single round robin is terminated before completion, or a multiple round robin is terminated during the first-round robin, and teams have completed an unequal number of races, they shall be ranked on the percentage of races won, highest first.
- b. If any of the teams have sailed less than four races in the round robin series, the entire round robin series will be disregarded and, if necessary, the event declared void.
- c. When a multiple round robin is terminated with an incomplete round robin, only one race win shall be available for the races sailed between any two teams, as follows:

<i>Number of races completed between any two teams</i>	<i>Value for each race win</i>
1	1 race win
2	Half a race win
3	A third a race win
(etc)	

12.2. D4.4 Round-Robin Tie Break is deleted and replaced by the following:

Ties in a round robin stage shall be broken by using, in the following order, only results in the stage,

- a. the most number of wins in the races between the tied teams;
- b. the most wins against a team placed highest in the round-robin or, if necessary, second highest, and so on until the tie is broken;
- c. has won the last race between the two tied teams;

When two separate ties must be resolved but the resolution of each depends upon resolving the other, the higher place ties shall be resolved before the lower place tie, unless this is not possible. If a tie is partially broken by one of these, the remaining tie shall be broken by starting again at the beginning of this rule.

13. DATA PROTECTION & RIGHT TO USE LIKENESS

- 13.1. The personal information you provide to the organizing authority will be used to facilitate your participation in the event. 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 organizing 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.
- 13.2. By participating in this event, competitors automatically grant to the OA unconditional, perpetual right and authority to publish and broadcast anywhere in the world, for any purpose and in any media, photographs, video footage, and audio recordings taken of them prior to, during, and after the event without compensation.

14. PRIZES

The Royal Thames Yacht Club Carmela Cup will be awarded to the highest ranked team and the Olin Stephens Appreciation Award will be awarded to the highest ranked team representing a University Sailing Club at the annual RTYC Prize Winners' Dinner in November 2026. Invitation to follow.

15. CODE OF CONDUCT

- 15.1. Competitors shall comply with any reasonable request from any official, including attendance at official functions and shall not behave so as to bring the event or the sport into disrepute.
- 15.2. Participation in this event is by invitation. Any team who, in the opinion of the OA, has demonstrated poor seamanship, poor sportsmanship, or misconduct may have their invitation revoked and be excused from the event. In addition, and separate from the decision of the OA, the protest committee may initiate proceedings under RRS 69.

16. RISK STATEMENT

RRS 3 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. By taking part in the event, each competitor agrees and acknowledges that:

- a. They are aware of the inherent element of risk involved in the sport and accepts responsibility for the exposure of themselves and their crew to such inherent risk while taking part in the event.
- b. They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew and any property they may bring, 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 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 any rules and information produced for the venue or event and to attend any safety briefing held for this 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. That they are fit to sail and that they believe the boat and crew is capable of competing in the anticipated conditions.

17. INFORMATION

For more information contact

Jack Fenwick

Sailing Development Manager | Royal Thames Yacht Club

teamracing@royalthames.com

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