

2026 TOP OF THE SOUTH SECONDARY SCHOOLS TEAMS RACING REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Thursday 12th - Saturday 14th March –2026

Hosted by Nelson Bays Team Sailing in conjunction with
Nelson Yacht Club

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

The Organising Authority for the Championships is Nelson Yacht Club

1.0 RULES

- 1.1 The Championships will be governed by the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) 2021-2024, the Prescriptions of Yachting New Zealand (YNZ), the YNZ Safety Regulations Part 1, Appendix D of the RRS, the 420 Class Rules, the Notice of Race (except as any of these are changed by these Sailing Instructions), and by these Sailing Instructions.
- 1.2 All races will be umpired. The "Single-Flag Protest Procedure", D 2.3(a) shall be used.
- 1.3 The 420 Class rules are changed so that spinnakers and trapezes will not be permitted. SI 1.5 also changes class rules.
- 1.4 Add new rule D 1.1(i) when a boat completes a leg of the course she is not permitted to return to that leg.
- 1.5 In RRS Appendix D2.4(a) change "green and white" to "green and white or green" and In D1.2(b)(1) and D2.4(c) change "black and white " to black and white or black"
- 1.6 In RRS Appendix D 5.2 change "red" to "yellow". When a yellow flag is displayed while racing the umpires will usually display a black and white flag (Amended in SI1.4 above). When the umpires display a black flag in this situation and also under D2.4(c) boats are required to wait after finishing for a hearing by race umpires. This hearing will determine if a hearing on the water can be decided on immediately or must be referred to further hearing chaired by the Chief Umpire either afloat or ashore. This changes RRS D5 and RRS D2.4
- 1.7 SIs 9, 10, 12, 13,14,17,19 and 20 also change the rules and/or RRS Appendix D
- 1.8 In RRS D2.3 change to "Breaks rule 14;," this is to allow umpire-initiated penalties on boats that could have avoided contact.

2.0 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

- 2.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the Official Notice Board located in the Nelson Yacht Clubhouse at Race Headquarters.

3.0 CHANGES TO THE SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 3.1 The Race Committee reserves the right to change the Sailing Instructions at any time during the championship.

4.0 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 4.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed from the startbox located above the Nelson Yacht Club
- 4.2 Code Flag "AP" Answering Pennant, displayed ashore, means, "The race is postponed." Boats should not launch or if afloat should return to the launching area. When AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 5 minutes'.

5.0 PROGRAMME

- 5.1 Thursday March 12th Registration and weigh in from 8.30am
1000 Briefing
1030 Racing as per draw commences
- Friday 31st 10:00 Briefing with racing to commence after.
- Saturday 1st 10:00 Briefing with racing to commence after.
18:30 Formal dinner and prize giving at the Aurora Lounge, Nelson Yacht Club

6.0 BOATS & EQUIPMENT

- 6.1 Competitors shall not modify the boats allocated to them, or cause them to be modified, in any way except that:
- Yarn or thread may be tied or taped anywhere on the boat below a height of 2 m. above the chain plate.
 - Masthead wind pennants are prohibited.
 - Hulls, centreboards and rudders may be cleaned only with water.
 - Adhesive tape may be used anywhere above the waterline
 - Standing rigging, including forestay tension and the main halyard, shall not be adjusted. All other fittings or equipment designed to be adjusted may be adjusted, provided the class rules are observed.
- 6.2 Boats will be identified by coloured sails. Boats shall be allocated to each team in accordance with a draw that ensures a rotation of boats between teams.
- 6.3 The boats shall be left at night on the Yacht Club grounds under the custody of the Boat Master. The team which sails the boats in the last race of the day shall be responsible for de rigging.
- 6.4 All equipment provided with the boat for sailing purposes shall be carried while afloat. It is not permitted to add to, remove or replace any part of the boat's gear or running rigging.
- 6.5 No tools or electronic devices other than protest and breakdown flags, bailers, tape and shackle keys may be carried onboard.
- 6.6 The penalty for infringement of the above instructions may be disqualification from all races sailed in contravention of the instructions.
- 6.7 The handover of boats between competitors is to be completed without delay. After finishing competitors shall sail directly to the crew changeover point without interfering with any race in progress. A boat shall remain the responsibility of the team until handed over to a race committee representative or the next team to use that boat. Boats shall be handed over empty of water as practical and in racing trim.
- 6.8 Competitors shall report any damage or loss of equipment, however slight, to the Boat Master or finish boat immediately before handing the boats over to another team or after securing them ashore. The penalty for infringement of this instruction, unless the Protest committee is satisfied the competitor made a determined effort to comply, will be disqualification from the race most recently sailed.
- 6.9 Malicious damage or maladjustment of equipment or boats will make the team responsible liable to disqualification from the Championship.
- 6.10 Mainsails may be reefed at the race committee's discretion and all boats mainsails must remain at the reefed dimension set by the boatmaster. Adjustments from these dimensions could lead to disqualification from the races by the infringing boat.
- 6.11 All teams are requested to supply their own red protest flag and yellow breakdown flags (minimum size 200x150mm), bailers, weights (if required) and distinctive "bibs" to make teams recognizable on the water. Where feasible distinctive school colours are recommended but a predominance of red can cause problems with protesting.
- 6.12 Fleets of boats are as near as possible equally tuned. Except at the discretion of the Race committee, no changes to the schedule will be made or redress given for any perceived differences between pairs.

7.0 TEAM COMPOSITION

- 7.1 The two members of the crew of each boat are expected to weigh a minimum of 110kgs combined body weight. However crews between 100 and 110kgs body weight may be accepted but shall make up their body weight to 110kgs with a maximum of 10kgs in approved sand filled bottles to be fixed to the boat near the mast step. These bottles shall be marked in water proof ink with school name, weight and crew combination requiring the weight. If the crew combination is close to or under the weight limitation, the team members shall be weighed in normal dry sailing gear.
- 7.2 A team manager or coach may change the composition of his crews for races provided the changeover does not delay the racing in any way. Minimum weight requirements will be met at all times.

8.0 RACING AREAS

- 8.1 The racing area will be on Nelson Harbour in the vicinity of Nelson Yacht Club

8.2 Crews shall change boats on RHIBs. Boats returning to the starting area after changing boats or after finishing a race shall keep clear of all boats racing or preparing to start and umpire boats umpiring. The penalty for infringing this sailing instruction may, at the discretion of the protest committee, be loss of points or disqualification from the race most recently sailed or about to be sailed by the infringing boat.

9.0 THE COURSE

9.1 The Diagram in Attachment A shows the course, including the approximate angles between legs, and the order and side on which marks are to be rounded.

9.2 The Race Committee may move marks of the course at any time. Rule 33 will not apply. The moving of a mark by the race committee shall not be grounds for redress.

10.0 MARKS

10.1 Marks 1, 2, 3, 4 will be orange floats with orange flags. The flags are numbered 1 to 4.

10.2 The starting and finishing marks shall be a race committee boat at the starboard end an orange buoy with an orange flag at the port end of the start line and an orange buoy with an orange flag at the port end of the finish line

10.3 Provided the flag stays attached to the buoy there shall be no penalty when a boat touches any part of a flag which does not surround the staff of the mark. This amends RRS 31.

11.0 START and FINISHING LINES

11.1 The starting line will be between an orange staff on the committee boat at the starboard end and the course side of a port end start mark.

11.2 The finishing line shall be between a staff on the race committee boat and the port end finishing mark

12 STARTING PROCEDURE

12.1 A sound signal starting system will be used. RRS 26 will not apply.

12.2 AP will be used for postponement during start sequence. Subsequent warning signal will be given one minute after lowering AP

12.3 Postponement and abandonment signaled by the race committee signal boat will be made by sounding of five short signals and a verbal announcement. Shortly before the start of a new sequence a further five short sounds signals will be made.

12.4 When at her starting signal a boat must comply with rule 29.1 the Race Committee will promptly display a coloured flag corresponding to the sail colour of the boat(s) accompanied by a short sound signal and will hail the number of such boats. These signals will be displayed until the boat(s) have returned to start correctly but not later than 2 minutes after the starting signal. The Race Committee may repeat hailing the offending boat(s) until they have returned to the pre start side of the Starting line, or for such time as the Race Committee considers appropriate. Failure to hear hails will not be grounds for redress. This changes Rule 29.1 and Rule 41

12.5 In the next race to be started the teams to compete will be indicated by two coloured flags, corresponding to the colours of the teams' sails. These will be displayed on the Race Committee boat no later than the warning signal for that race and removed approximately one minute before the start.

12.6 No boat shall start more than 2 minutes after her starting signal. If a boat fails to start within this time, she shall be scored DNS.

12.7 The Starting Sequence will be:

SIGNAL SOUND		TIME BEFORE THE START
Warning	3 long	3 minutes
Preparatory	2 long	2 minutes
	1 long	1 minute
	3 short	30 seconds
Start	1 long	0 seconds

12.8 Signals will be timed from their commencement.

12.9 Audible signals will govern. This changes rule 26.

12.10 Failure of a competitor to hear a signal will not be grounds for redress. This changes Rule 62.1(a).

13.0 TIME LIMITS & WIND STRENGTHS

- 13.1 No race will be started when, in the opinion of the Race Officer there is insufficient wind, or the average wind strength is in excess of 20kts, or if the conditions are so adverse that sailing would be unwise. However, a race may continue in such conditions but will be abandoned if the Race Officer considers conditions to be unsafe or if boats are unlikely to finish within the time limit.
- 13.2 The time limit for the first boat to finish shall be 15 minutes. Boats not finishing within 8 minutes after the first boat finishes will be scored "Did Not Finish". This changes RRS 35.
- 13.3 A race will be abandoned when the leading yacht does not reach mark 2 of the course within 8 minutes of the starting time. The race will be restarted at the first opportunity.

14 ABANDONMENT

- 14.1 The Race Committee may abandon a race for any reason. Abandonment(s) may be advised orally by umpires of that race. This changes RRS 32 and RRS Signals

15.0 SCRUTINISING OF YACHTS

- 15.1 Team Managers and coaches may be rostered to scrutinise, under the direction of the Boat Master, all boats before they leave the ramp.

16.0 LAUNCHING AND RETRIEVING BOATS

- 16.1 All boats shall be launched from the ramp in the vicinity of Nelson Yacht Club unless directed otherwise by the Race Committee. The Race Committee will advise arrangements for changeovers and periods of rest.
- 16.2 Prior to the first race each day or after a Postponement ashore, boats shall not leave the ramp or any other holding area specified by the Beachmaster without permission.

17.0 BREAKDOWNS

- 17.1 Competitor shall inspect a boat when they take charge of it and report any damage to the race committee at the first reasonable opportunity prior to the warning signal.
- 17.2 Except as expressly modified herein, when a breakdown results in material prejudice, RRS Appendix D5(as changed by SI 1.6 above and 17.3 below), shall be followed.
- 17.3 A skipper intending to apply for breakdown compensation must display a yellow flag, notify an umpire and attempt to notify the nearest competitor by hailing. This changes Appendix D5.2
- 17.4 Breakdown compensation will only be considered for breakdowns that would result in material prejudice and compensation will not be granted for broken tiller extensions or damage resulting from unseamanlike boat handling
- 17.5 A boat claiming breakdown must finish the race if possible, unless the boat would be further damaged.

18.0 SUPPORT BOATS

- 18.1 Support and private boats are not permitted

19.0 PROTESTS

- 19.1 This sailing instruction applies to claims for redress and Umpire Black Flag reviews. It is intended that all hearings are held on the water, at the time of the incident.
- 19.2 Boats intending to protest, or seek redress, for an incident during a race, shall display a red flag at the time of the incident and inform an umpire of that intent immediately on completion of that race, advising the boat number(s) being protested or the reason for the protest or the claim for redress. This changes RRS 60.2, 61.2.

20.0 FORMAT AND SCORING

- 20.1 Scoring will be in accordance with RRS Appendix D except as changed by this Sailing Instruction.
- 20.2 **The race programme and scoring will be as per the Swiss League software system produced kSail Event Platform.**

The following rules and details are included in Sailing Instructions for any event which is using the kSail Single Change Swiss League:

Add new RRS D4.1 (e)

D4.1(e) *A Single Change Swiss League stage consists of multiple rounds in which each team sails two races. The first round in the stage is determined by a random draw with races in the second round being scheduled during the first round. From the end of the first round, the next round but one is then scheduled at the end of each round.*

- (1) No team shall be matched against another team more than once in eight consecutive matches; unless otherwise stated in the notice of race or sailing instructions.
- (2) Races in a round that have not been *started*, not been *finished*, have been *abandoned* or for which results are not entered, shall be ignored for scheduling purposes. Subsequently corrected or altered results shall not affect a published schedule.
- (3) Resails will be scheduled at the first reasonable opportunity using the original race number. They will not necessarily be in the same boats as the original race.

Add new RRS D4.6:

D4.6 Scoring a Single Change Swiss League Stage

- (a) Teams shall be ranked in order of percentage of races won, highest first.
- (b) If the stage is terminated with an incomplete final round, the results from the final round shall be ignored.

Add new RRS D4.7:

D4.7 Single Change Swiss League Tie Breaks

Ties in a Single Change Swiss League stage shall be broken using results from that stage only.

- (a) When any step in the tie break leaves any number of teams tied that have all sailed against all other teams in the tie break at least once, the tie shall be broken in favour of:
 - (1) the highest sum of the percentage wins against each team in the tie;
- (b) When two or more teams are tied, ties shall be broken in the order below, until no more ties can be broken.
 - (1) the lowest sum of the places of the teams the tied teams have beaten;
 - (2) the lowest sum of the places of the teams to which the tied teams have lost;
 - (3) sailed more races against teams with a higher place;
 - (4) sailed fewer races against teams with a lower place;
 - (5) if the tie is between two teams that have raced, the winner of the last race between them;
 - (6) beaten the highest-placed team the tied teams have individually beaten;
 - (7) not been beaten by the lowest-placed team to which the tied teams have individually lost.
- (c) Any remaining ties shall be broken using the draw from D4.1(e). Ties in odd-numbered rounds shall use the draw, ties in even-numbered rounds shall use the draw inverted.

20.3 The top four places in the regatta will be determined in a finals round. The four finalists will be the top four teams at the end of the last completed round before the Race Officer decides to run the finals. The finals round will consist of semifinals, a petite final and a grand final. The semifinals and finals shall be raced in a best of three races format. If it is not possible to complete the finals round, regatta placings will be the finishing places at the end of the last completed round.

20.4 The winner of the Top of the South trophy will be the region with the highest number of wins from all races when Marlborough versus Nelson.

20.5 The top girls school team will be the girls team that places highest.

20.6 As we are racing with a Swiss League system there will not be a silver fleet winner. The silver fleet trophy will be awarded to the highest placed development team. The development teams entered are Garin B, NCG Tuesday, NCG Friday, Nelson schools combined, Marlborough schools combined.

20.7 The winner of the Nelson trophy will be the top placed Nelson team.

20.8 The Race Committee reserves the right, in consultation with the Protest Committee, to make adjustments to the regatta format.

21.0 TROPHIES

21.1 The following trophies will be awarded:

Top of the South trophy

Overall winner trophy

Silver Fleet winner trophy (awarded to top development team as per

Top Girl's team

Top Nelson Team

22.0 DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

22.1 Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. Neither the Organising Authority nor the host Club, the organizing authority, nor individuals appointed or volunteering for the regatta accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with, or prior to, during or after the regatta, nor are they responsible for the seaworthiness of any boat or the adequacy of equipment.

Attachment A

2026 Top of the South
Secondary Schools Teams Racing Championships

COURSE

