



BRITISH OPEN TEAM RACING CHAMPIONSHIP

FOR THE

77th WILSON TROPHY

WEST KIRBY SAILING CLUB
8th / 9th / 10th May 2026

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

1 Rules

- 1.1 The event will be governed by the rules defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) including Appendix D, Team Racing Rules.
- 1.2 Special rules:
 - 1.2.1 Competitors will be provided with boats that shall not be modified. The painter shall not be attached to the mast or boom.
 - 1.2.2 The boats have been prepared and equalised for the event as much as possible. Claims relating to differences between the boats will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 61.1(a).
 - 1.2.3 While on the water, helms shall wear the team bibs issued at registration.
 - 1.2.4 Teams shall sail in the order entered on the website or at registration; the first helm shall sail in the lowest numbered boat and so on.
 - 1.2.5 All races will be umpired (RRS D2.1).
 - 1.2.6 A boat capsized at or after her starting signal, in a Swiss-League race, shall retire promptly. A boat breaking this SI shall have 6 points added to her score without a hearing.
 - 1.2.7 Add to RRS D5.2 (breakdowns): If she cannot continue racing, she shall retire promptly.
 - 1.2.8 Competitors shall report boat damage or breakdown to race control promptly on coming ashore.
 - 1.2.9 A registered team shall change only in exceptional circumstances and with the written permission of the race committee. There shall be no right to request redress concerning such changes. This changes RRS 61.1(a).
 - 1.2.10 RRS 40.1 (personal flotation devices) shall apply at all times while afloat.
 - 1.2.11 The penalty for breaking SIs 1.2.1 (modifying kit) and 1.2.8 (reporting damage) shall be the deduction of one race without a hearing.
 - 1.2.12 The penalty for breaking SIs 1.2.3 (wearing bibs), 1.2.4 (helm/boat order), 1.2.10 (personal flotation device) and RRS 47 (trash disposal) shall be a £10 fine payable to the RNLI without a hearing.
 - 1.2.13 Competitors shall respect the supplied boats. If the race committee observes that a sailor or a team has been negligent in the care of the supplied boats, it may make a report to the protest committee and/or penalise the sailor or team appropriately with any of: a £10 fine payable to the RNLI; the deduction of a half race win without a hearing; the deduction of a race win without a hearing. Negligence is defined as any act not appropriate to the careful stewardship of a supplied boat. Monetary penalties for any damage incurred by the negligence will be made separately.

1.2.14 A temporary replacement boat in a set of three may not have the same-coloured hull, sail or number as the boat it replaces. Any replacement boat may not match the flight in which it is a replacement but will be obviously different from the opposing team's boats.

1.2.15 Add RRS D2.3(g): breaks SI 5.7 (Course Limits).

2 Prescriptions

2.1 The national authority of the venue is the Royal Yachting Association (RYA).

2.2 The RYA has prescribed under RRS 65.1 (legal liability and costs):

2.2.1 Any issue of liability or claim for damages arising from an incident while a boat is bound by The Racing Rules of Sailing shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the courts and not considered by a protest committee.

2.2.2 A boat that takes a penalty or retires does not thereby admit liability for damages or that she has broken a rule.

3 Communication with Competitors

3.1 The official notice board will be the event website (<https://wilson trophy.co.uk/2026-notice-board/>). It may be replaced for some purposes by display screens or boards located in the portacabin behind race control.

3.2 Any change to the Sailing Instructions will be posted at least ten minutes before the warning signal of the first race to which it applies.

3.3 Signals ashore will be displayed on a flagpole by race control.

3.4 Teams will not be mustered. It is the competitors' responsibility to be ready to race.

4 Event Format

4.1 At 20.00 on Thursday 7th May 2026, a draw will be made in the Clubhouse for the order teams will be entered into a Swiss League-type format, details of which are in Appendix G.

4.2 A new round in the Swiss League will not be started after 12.45 on Sunday and a new Swiss League race will not be started after 13.45. The best placed teams will qualify for the finals which will be a knock-out competition. Quarter finals will be (first to score two race wins) 1 v 8 (A), 2 v 7 (B), 3 v 6 (C) and 4 v 5 (D). The semi-finals will be A v D and B v C. The winner of a semi-final will be the first team to score two race wins. The winner of the final will be the first team to score three race wins.

4.3 In the final the team placed higher in the Swiss league will draw for boat colour within the flight determined by the race committee. Teams will not swap boats.

4.4 The race committee may change the format after considering the consequences for all teams involved in that stage of the event. Changes in the Event Format shall not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 61.1(a).

4.5 The second sentence in RRS D4.5(a) is deleted and replaced with: the quarterfinals, semi-finals and finals are each separate rounds of the second stage of the event. RRS D4.5(c)(2) is deleted.

5 Racing Area, Courses and Marks.

5.1 Racing will be on the West Kirby Marine Lake.

5.2 The course will be a starboard hand 'S' course as shown in Appendix 2.

5.3 A start vessel, buoys and a finish vessel will mark the course. Vessels will be at the starboard end of their lines.

5.4 The start line will be between the start vessel's mast and the nearby mark displaying the letter S.

- 5.5 The finish line will be between the finish vessel's mast and the nearby mark displaying the letter F.
- 5.6 The race committee may move a mark at any time. RRS 27.2 and RRS 33 are deleted.
- 5.7 Course Limits:
- 5.7.1 Grey/brown cannisters with white tops will be laid to define exclusion zone(s).
- 5.7.2 Whilst racing, boats shall not cross the imaginary straight line between two adjacent cannisters nor otherwise enter the exclusion zone.
- 5.7.3 These lines shall rank as obstructions. There is no penalty for touching these cannisters.
- 5.7.4 A breach of this SI is not open to protest by a boat, but it is subject to penalty by the umpires under RRS D2.3. This changes RRS 60.1(a).
- 5.8 Media vessels will fly a pink flag. Whether anchored or motoring, media vessels shall rank as obstructions.

6 Starting Races

- 6.1 RRS 26 (starting races) and related visual and sound signals will not apply.
- 6.2 In the start sequence, audible signals will take precedence.
- 6.3 The race number may be displayed on the start boat.
- 6.4 Coloured shapes, representing the colours of the boats in the next race to start, may be displayed on the start boat before the preparatory signal.
- 6.5 A digital clock, displayed on the start boat, will show the time to the start of the next race.
- 6.6 The automated starting sequence will be:

Signal	Time before Start	Sound (hoots)
Warning	3 minutes	3 long
Preparatory	2 minutes	2 long
	1 minute	1 long
	30 seconds	3 short
	20 seconds	2 short
	10 seconds	1 short
	5 seconds	1 short
	4 seconds	1 short
	3 seconds	1 short
	2 seconds	1 short
	1 second	1 short
Starting	0 seconds	1 long

- 6.7 The starting signal of a race will normally be the warning signal for the following race and thus the warning signal of the following race will be 1 long sound signal.
- 6.8 Failure to hear a sound signal shall not be grounds for redress.
- 6.9 A yellow flashing light may replace flag X to indicate a boat is OCS. This changes RRS 29.1.
- 6.10 An erroneous OCS call or the failure to hear one shall not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 61.1(a).
- 6.11 RRS D3.1(b) is deleted and replaced by: When a boat is OCS and does not either return to start before rounding the first mark, or promptly retire, 10 points shall be added to her score.
- 6.12 A boat shall not start more than 2 minutes after her starting signal. A boat breaking this SI shall have 6 points added to her score without a hearing. This changes RRS D3.1(a).
- 6.13 RRS 29.2 (general recall) will not apply.

6.14 The digital clock may be replaced by displaying flag E from the start boat. When flag E is displayed, the starting signals described in SI 6.6 will be changed to:

Signal	Time before Start	Sound (hoots) and Batters
Warning	3 minutes	1 sound signal + 3 batters
Preparatory	2 minutes	1 sound signal + 2 batters
	1 minute	1 sound signal + 1 batten
Starting	0 seconds	1 sound signal

7 Postponement and Abandonment

- 7.1 Postponement of a race after its warning signal will be indicated only by several short sound signals. An AP flag will not be flown. This changes RRS Race Signals.
- 7.2 The race committee may abandon a race for any reason. Communication of abandonment to the boats will be through the umpires. This changes RRS 32.

8 Umpiring and Protests

- 8.1 When the race umpires decide that a boat has broken RRS 14 and there is damage or injury, they may penalise her team half of a race win without a hearing. The boat will be informed as soon as is practical and may request a hearing. Any penalty after a hearing will be in accordance with RRS D3.3(a).
- 8.2 Protest time limit for competitors is ten minutes from coming ashore.
- 8.3 A hearing may be declined if it is not relevant to progress to the next round. This changes RRS 63.2(a).
- 8.4 Right of appeal is denied under RRS 70.3(b).
- 8.5 There shall be no request for redress or appeal against the decisions of the race committee under RRS D5 (breakdowns). This changes RRS 61.1(a).

9 Risk Assessment

- 9.1 Competitors are referred to the Notice of Race.

10 Prizes

- 10.1 The winners will be awarded the Wilson Trophy.
- 10.2 The second placed team will win the Runners-up Salver.
- 10.3 The best placed team which does not qualify for the knockout part of the competition will be awarded the Wilson Plate.
- 10.4 An under 21 prize, presented by the Eric Twiname Trust, will be awarded to the best placed team with five or more members under 21 years of age on the 8th May 2026.

Appendix G: Swiss League

- G1 A draw will determine the first round.
- G2 The second round will be using the order of the original draw, the first winner against the second winner and so on, except the first loser will sail the last loser or the last winner.
- G3 Rounds will then be scheduled at the conclusion of a round for the next round but one by ordering the teams, using the tie-breaks below, and then matching them as far as possible in order of their places (the first team will sail the second team and so on), except that teams shall not be matched if they have met within eight rounds of the round being scheduled.
- G4 If the final round is not completed, its results will be ignored.
- G5 Races that cannot be sailed in order, or for which results are not entered or complete, will be ignored for scheduling purposes. Subsequently corrected or altered results shall not affect a published schedule.
- G6 A 'drop-out' is a team unlikely, in the opinion of the race committee, to take any further part in the event. The decision to designate a team as a drop-out will be posted, after which its races will continue to be scheduled but will not be sailed and opponents shall score a win. Drop-outs will be scheduled from the first unscheduled round after dropping out, first against each other and then, where possible, against the lowest-placed team the drop-out has not met. Drop-outs may re-join the event at the discretion of the race committee whose decision will be final.
- G7 Any other missing team is a no-show and the opposing team shall be given a walk-over after at least one of its boats has started and sailed for two minutes.
- G8 Resails will be scheduled at the end of the next available round using the original race number. They will not necessarily be in the same boats as the original race.
- G9 Race win (1/2 or more) penalties shall be applied after the end of the round and before tie-breaks are applied.
- G10 RRS D4.4 is deleted and replaced with: Ties shall be broken, in order of precedence, in favour of the team(s) that has:
- a. if the tie is between two teams only, won the last race between them;
 - b. sailed more races against teams that have a higher place;
 - c. sailed fewer races against teams that have a lower place;
 - d. the lowest sum of the places of the teams the tied teams have beaten;
 - e. the lowest sum of the places of the teams to which the tied teams have lost;
 - f. beaten the highest-placed team the tied teams have individually beaten;
 - g. not been beaten by the lowest-placed team to which the tied teams have individually lost.
- Step (a) shall be applied whenever a step leaves a tie between two teams.
- Steps (b) to (g) shall be repeated until no more ties can be broken. Any remaining ties shall then be broken by the draw for the first round; ties in odd-numbered rounds shall use the draw, ties in even-numbered rounds shall use the draw inverted.

Appendix 2: The Course

