

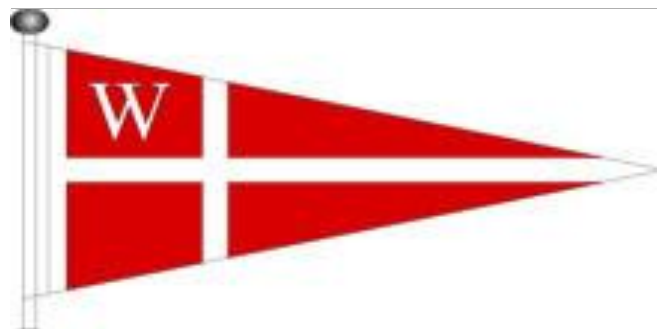


## **51st Sabre Class Victorian Championships**

# **SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

**To be held Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd February 2026  
Location: Waters off Western Port Yacht Club, Balnarring Beach**

**Organising Authority and Host Club: Westernport Yacht  
Club (WYC)**



## 1. Rules

- 1.1. The race will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing 2025-2028, the Yachting Australia Special Regulations Part 2 for Off the Beach Boats and the rules of the respective class, except as any of these are changed by these Sailing Instructions.
- 1.2. A boat may receive outside help where the Race Committee deems that the vessel and its crew require assistance in order to right a capsized vessel in order to continue racing, and where no advantage in the boat's position in the race is obtained through such assistance. This changes RRS Rule 41.

## 2. Advertising

Boats may be required to display advertising chosen and supplied by the Organising Authority. Details (if any) will be supplied at registration.

## 3. Notices to Competitors

Notices to competitors will be posted on the Notice Board at WYC located at the base of the stairs.

## 4. Changes to Sailing Instructions

- 4.1. Any change in the sailing instructions will be posted on the Notice Board not less than 60 minutes prior to the scheduled time of the Warning Signal for the first start of the relevant session, and Code Flag "L" will be flown from the flagpole of WYC with one sound signal.
- 4.2. Any change to the schedule of races will be posted no later than 1900 hours on the day before it will take effect.

## 5. Signals Made Ashore

- 5.1. Signals made ashore will be displayed from the WYC flagpole.
- 5.2. If Flag AP is displayed ashore the warning signal for the first start will be made not less than 30 minutes after AP is lowered with one (1) sound signal. This changes the RRS: Race Signals 'AP'.

## 6. Schedule of Races

- 6.1. The warning signal for the first start will be not before 1130 hours on Saturday 22nd February 2026

- 6.2. Schedule

Event	Location	Time
<b>Saturday 21 February 2026</b>		
Registration	WYC Outdoor Area	08.30-09.45 am
Race Officer Information session	Outdoor Meeting Area	10.00 am
Race Warning Signal – Session 1	Waters off WYC	Not before 11.30 am. Time to be advised at the Information Session
<b>Sunday 22 February 2026</b>		
Race Warning Signal – Session 2	Waters off WYC	10.30 am
Presentation	WYC Outdoor Area or clubrooms	After Racing (unless a resail is required)

- 6.3. The number of races in each session will be determined by the Race Officer, depending on weather conditions. No more than 5 races will be conducted over the course of the regatta, with a minimum of 3 races required to constitute a series.
- 6.4. No warning signal will be made after 1600 hours on Sunday 22 February 2026.
- 6.5. The provision for a re-sail will only be invoked if 3 races have not been completed on the

weekend of 21 and 22 February. The date of any resail will be advised to competitors following the event.

- 6.6. There may be a short lunch break between morning and afternoon sessions on Sunday, depending on conditions.

### **7. Class Flag**

The class flag is the Sabre Class insignia on a white background.

### **8. Racing Area**

- 8.1. The racing area will be on the waters of Western Port in the vicinity of the Westernport Yacht Club.

### **9. The Course**

- 9.1. The course is triangular (60/60/60). The diagrams in Attachment A show the course. All marks are to be left to port.
- 9.2. No later than the warning signal, the Race Committee will designate the course by displaying a numeral pennant:
- Numeral Pennant 1: Course 1 Start – 1 – 2 – 3 – 1 – 3 - Finish
  - Numeral Pennant 2: Course 2 Start – 1 – 2 – 3 – 1 – 3 – 1 – 2 – 3 - Finish
- 9.3. No later than the warning signal, the race committee may display the approximate compass bearing of the first leg.
- 9.4. Legs of the course will not be changed after the preparatory signal. This changes RRS 33.

### **10. Shortening:**

- 10.1. Courses may be shorted in accordance with Rule 32.
- 10.2. If Code Flags "S" and "F", accompanied by 2 sound signals, are attached to or positioned in the vicinity of a mark of the course still to be rounded by the leading boat then all boats shall round the mark and proceed directly to the Finishing Line after completing the same number of laps as the first boat in their division. This clause supplements Rule 32.

### **11. Tides**

Approximate Tide Times for Westernport in the vicinity of WYC:

- Saturday, 21 February 2026 - Low Tide: .68m at 10.18 a.m.  
High Tide: 2.82m at 16.54 p.m.
- Sunday, 22 February 2026 - Low Tide: .5m at 10.59 a.m.  
High Tide: 2.92m at 17.41 p.m.

### **12. Marks**

- 12.1. The windward mark (Number 1) will be an orange conical buoy. The wing (Number 2) and leeward (Number 3) marks will be yellow conical buoys.
- 12.2. The pin end starting mark will be an anchored boat flying an orange flag.
- 12.3. The pin end finishing mark will be a bright blue conical buoy with a chequered flag symbol.

### **13. The Start**

- 13.1. Races will be started in accordance with rule 26 except that the warning signal shall be given 3 minutes before the first starting signal, and the preparatory signal two minutes before the starting signal.
- 13.2. To alert boats that a race or sequence of races will begin soon, the orange 'on station' flag will be displayed with one sound at least five (5) minutes before the warning signal for the first race in a session is made. For subsequent races in a session, the orange flag will be displayed with one sound at least two (2) minutes before the warning signal for the relevant race.

- 13.3. The starting line will be between an anchored boat flying an orange flag at the port end and a staff displaying an orange flag on the race committee boat at the starboard end. The race committee boat may stream a barging buoy, which will be considered an extension of the race committee boat.
- 13.4. A boat starting later than 5 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start. This changes RRS rule A4 and A5.

#### **14. The Finish**

- 14.1. The finishing line will be between a bright blue conical buoy on the port end and the blue flag on the committee boat.
- 14.2. A boat that re-crosses the finishing line deliberately after she has finished racing may be disqualified (DSQ) at the discretion of the Race Officer.
- 14.3. Flag AP over A flying on the committee boat at the conclusion of a race indicates that no further races will be conducted in that session of racing. Boats may return to the Beach.

#### **15. Penalty System**

- 15.1. Rule 44.1 is changed so that the Two-Turns penalty is replaced by the One-Turn Penalty.

#### **16. Time Limit**

- 16.1. The target time for a race is 50 minutes.
- 16.2. The time limit for the first boat to reach mark 1 is 30 minutes
- 16.3. The time limit for the first boat to complete the course is 90 minutes
- 16.4. Boats failing to finish within 15 minutes after the first boat sails the course and finishes will be scored "Did Not Finish". This changes RRS 35, A4 and A5.2.
- 16.5. The Race Committee may allocate a finish place for a boat or boats at their discretion to allow for a timely re-start of subsequent fair racing.

#### **17. Protests and Requests for Redress**

- 17.1. Protest forms are available at the race office of Westernport Yacht Club. Protests and requests for redress or reopening shall be delivered there within the appropriate time limit. The protest time limit is 60 minutes after the last boat to finish the session or the race committee signals no more racing in this session, whichever is later.
- 17.2. Notices will be posted no later than 30 minutes after the protest time limit to inform competitors of the hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses.
- 17.3. Hearings will be held at Westernport Yacht Club, beginning at the time posted. Competitors and witnesses named may participate by phone or videoconferencing.
- 17.4. Notices of protest by the race committee or protest committee will be posted to inform boats under rule 60.2.
- 17.5. A competitor may not protest on a question of measurement or equipment control later than the normal protest time applying to the first race session except on the grounds that there has been a subsequent alteration to the boat or equipment.
- 17.6. A request for reopening a hearing shall be delivered no later than 30 minutes after the requesting party was informed of the decision on that day. This changes rule 63.7(b).

## **18. Scoring**

- 18.1. The 'Low-point' scoring system, RRS Appendix A will apply.
- 18.2. Five races are scheduled of which 3 are required to be completed to constitute a series.
- 18.3. When fewer than four races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of its race scores.
- 18.4. When four or more races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of its race scores excluding the worst score.

## **19. Safety Regulations**

- 19.1. A competitor from each boat must "sign on" as directed at Westernport YC before each morning and afternoon series of races.
- 19.2. All Boats, including those that retire, are required to sign off at the end of the race as directed at the event information session within 60 minutes of the last boat finishing or the Race Committee signals no more racing today, whichever is later. At the time of signing off, all boats should make a declaration of status if they did not complete all races in the session.
- 19.3. A boat which fails to sign on or sign off in accordance with this rule 19 may be scored DSQ for the last race of the relevant session at the discretion of the Organising Authority. This changes rules A4 and A5.

## **20. Disclaimer of Liability**

- 20.1. Competitors participate in this event entirely at their own risk. See RRS rule 3 Decision to Race "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone."
- 20.2. Westernport Yacht Club and the Organizing Authority will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury, or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the event.
- 20.3. Each competitor should note the indemnity that is granted to the Westernport Yacht Club and the Organising Authority on signing the Entry Form.

# ATTACHMENT A: COURSE DIAGRAM

Numeral Pennant 1: Course 1 Start – 1 – 2 – 3 – 1 – 3 - Finish

Numeral Pennant 2: Course 2 Start – 1 – 2 – 3 – 1 – 3 – 1 – 2 – 3 - Finish

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