

Skipper and Crew Survey 2025

Member's Name: David Cartmer
Yacht's Name: Mach 1
Email: davidcartmer@gmail.com
Mobile Number: 0407367978

Sunday Races:

Can we consider the Boat Harbour series to allow for spinnakers if boats choose. The handicapping and start times to level the field of spin and non-spin.

Reply: The Boat Harbour series is already the skipper's choice. No requirement for non-spinnaker.

Member's Name: Tony Towndrow
Yacht's Name: Patrol Boat
Email: rootzoneaust@bigpond.com
Mobile Number: 0409309269

Sunday Races:

Could the starting line for Sunday be made longer than 3 boat lengths?

Reply: It could, however, the starting line does several things.

- 1. It provides a higher standard of sailing at the start line which could be useful in interclub races.*
 - 2. It reduces the possibility of yachts crossing the line before their start which can make it harder for eStela to distinguish error at the start.*
 - 3. Three boat lengths were chosen as it is a distance that all yachts should be familiar with estimating as it is used for mark room.*
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Member's Name: Michael Meehan
Yacht's Name: Starship
Email: michael.j.meehan@bigpond.com
Mobile Number: 0419872235

Wednesday Races:

Could the Wednesday results be calculated on TCF as we do on Sundays?

Reply: To do this we would need accurate finish times. At present we can't rely on Skipper's use of eStela. It is also important for transparency that sailors know exactly how pursuit times are calculated. The current method is well understood and although a TCF based system could be explained the current system is simpler and produces fair results for Wednesday races of roughly a fixed time and course.

Member's Name: John Barter
Yacht's Name: L'attitude
Email: john.barter1@bigpond.com
Mobile Number: 0418253479

Sunday Races: The GPS rounding currently turn on a .1nM radius.

Would like this to be .05nM radius if skippers can confirm they and their instruments can cope.

Reply: This is so eStela can place circle around the GPS positions currently we have a limit of 100 metres. Wording to read.

When a boat crosses the line 0.05nM radius from the mark co-ordinates, she shall make a rounding in the direction specified in the course instruction, but only as permitted by the racing rules or the prevention of collision regulations if other boats are in proximity.

Distance conversion: .05 nM = 304 feet = 93 metres

Can do SMS: *Yknot, marri nuwi, L'attitude, Mach 1, Excentric, Axiom/Inception, Etre Jeune*

Wednesday Races:

Current courses have a windward leg of .66nM, Increase windward leg to .7nM.

Reply: Instruction does say .66 nM to .7 nM. This can be done by pre-planning using eStela.

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Member's Name: Jared Macquart
Yacht's Name: jazz bar
Email: macquartmarine@gmail.com
Mobile Number: 0479152235

Sunday Races:

The in the bay courses seem to be a bit boring with current courses. is it possible to create new courses?

Reply: There are 10 courses in the draft handbook, some of which we have never used. We only have 3 marks available. We have plenty of options to choose a course to suit most winds. The starting line has been shortened to provide competitive starts. See new courses 7 and 8 in draft handbook. Would welcome suggestions for alternate courses.

Rather than pursuit start, have similar paced and sailed boats start at same time like a scratch start, have the slower boats start together on an earlier start.

E.g. slower boats, Patrol Boat, Excelsior, Tobruk, Reve, marri nuwi, start at 12pm as a scratch start
Then have the faster boats, L'attitude, Jazzbar, Yknot, MC Starship, Etre Jeune, Excentric start at 12:15pm.
To calculate results just add the extra 15mins from first lot of boats elapsed time, and let the software work out the rest. It's a bit of a soldiers course otherwise.

Reply: Having the fleet divided into 2 is still a pursuit start. This has already been planned but not used yet. Our Sail100 results program provides for this, so no need to manually add time.

Section 4 (15) race tracker

I don't think yachts should be penalised for not using Estela. Providing they can prove in other means they went around virtual mark.

Reply: We have GPS rounding's where we can't set buoys (not virtual marks). Is there a reason for you not using eStela? It is also used for starting and finishing times as well as general interest with replays.

Section 4 (16). IRC

I have irc certificate, can I get irc results in short ocean

Reply: We can provide IRC results if there are other boats racing in SO with IRC certificates.

Wednesday Races:

Wednesdays need to have a wind limit. If no breeze blowing consistently over 6-knots of breeze, the race should be abandoned. Drifting around a course is not a race.

Reply: Not sure how you can know in advance the wind you will have at a start of a race so abandonment would have to be called on the course. There are plenty of incidents when the actual wind is far from the forecast. Some skippers excel in light winds. The course can be shortened as per the handbook. The draft program has a condition (to be approved) that says one yacht must complete 1 lap, if not then the race is abandoned.

Page 36, 3 summary for Wednesday point (d)yachts shall run Estella. Should read yachts can

Reply: "Should or Must" is correct. It is my intention to have all boats racing with PHS to use eStela tracking. It only requires one crew member to turn their phone on at the start. There are many benefits that flow on. This shouldn't be too hard.

Member's Name: Royden Toal
Yacht's Name: Excelsior
Email: rtoal@pfsgroup.com.au
Mobile Number: 0434143661

Sunday Races:

4. Adjustment of time.

I would think in the best interest of fairness the same rules should apply to all competitors. I am no expert, but my understanding of the rules was all boats must 'sail the course' and take any penalty turns prior to crossing the finish line for a time to be recorded.

Reply: Agree. However, boats cannot be disqualified without protests. There were no protests.

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Winter races are being used to verify changes in the draft handbook for 2025-2026 and to prove the use of eStela and to get a better understanding of all the benefits it offers.

Observations from Race 3 1 June 2025

1. Shortening of course.

- a. Some question over the validity of how the shortening of course was communicated.

Reply: Clarification to be advised.

2. Rounding of last "K" mark.

- a. Rounding in handbook (s) rounding in sealed sheets (p). (p) is correct and (s) is an error in course 6 in the handbook.
- b. Similarly, in course 5 the last mark has opposite rounding. There is no advantage as long as the mark is rounded.
- c. There was no protest against Excentric.
- d. Is calling on the radio for course instructions "outside assistance"?

Reply: A solution would be for the "sausage" to go to the other mark by swapping "K" and "C" in both courses. This way all the marks would be rounded in the same direction and avoid confusion.

3. Correcting of rounding error.

- a. Yknot returned to mark "K" and rounded to (p). However, this only undoes the wrong rounding. To round correctly she would need to do a 360 degree (p) turn around "K".
- b. **To round the course:**
Definition: a string representing her track until she finishes, when drawn taut,
(1) passes each mark of the course for the race on the required side and in the correct order (including the starting marks),
(2) touches each mark designated in the sailing instructions to be a rounding mark.

Reply: See definition of rounding marks of a course above.

4. Adjustment of time.

- a. In fairness to Yknot and in the best interest of a fair result the time lost by Yknot could be measured by eStela.
- b. This time was adjusted in Yknot's finish time and was 12m 04s.
- c. There was no advantage to Excentric.

Reply: The above may not stand up in a protest.

In my opinion, had a protest been held Excentric would have been disqualified for an invalid rounding and Yknot would have been disqualified for not completing the course.

5. eStela tracking.

- a. Requires "Activation tracking" prior to starting (say 5 minutes).

Reply: We are seeing if eStela can provide a way we can program start time in advance.

- b. Requires "Stop tracking" after finishing.

Reply: eStela can auto stop tracking when boats cross a "Termination area". This has been set in the channel at the southern end of Gunnamatta Bay. For this to work without false stops, boats must cross the start line and complete the course.

- c. On Sunday all 10 boats "Activated tracking" but only 4 completed to course.

Reply: When contact is lost due to data connection or the server going down, the phones record the position and time and upload when communication is restored. It seems the server when down for a time while we were racing so some data was uploaded after we finished. Some phones may have been turned off early, but we also may have had a recurring problem with phones stopping during a race. This will be investigated further.

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Member's Name: Tony Towndrow
Yacht's Name: Patrol Boat
Email: tonedowntown@gmail.com
Mobile Number: 0409309269

Sunday Races:

There are two three-week gaps and two one-week gaps. I can't see good reason for all of these, looks like Cronulla ruling the roost.

Reply: We have a break of 4-weeks over the Christmas period (many people are away at this time). We have a 3-weeks break around Easter (this includes time for boats to compete in "sail Port Stephens"). We then have a break of 9-weeks over winter, recommencing racing in the spring. I'm not aware of any Skippers wishing to race in July and August. This has nothing to do with Cronula.

Also, Short Ocean has one extra race 2 which of course gives the SO boats an advantage in the club championship. You need to add an extra harbour series race somewhere for fairness.

Reply: The rules for club championship in the racing handbook and web (Racing>Club Champion) states that only Sunday races are to count, so there is no advantage each has 5 races to count from the SO or HBR series plus the SH series.

Criticism demands positive suggestion so, I propose sailing dates as follows.

14/09, 28/09, 12/10, 26/10, 09/11, 23/11, 07/12 and 14/12, doesn't interfere with shell cove or any holiday weekend and only 1 case of consecutive weekends.

Reply: We are also trying to keep 5Dec2025 free for the cruising weekend to Audley and dates for the Two-handed series. This has been done by leaving the 1-week gap between SH3 and SH4 and changing two earlier dates to maintain a 2-week cycle and still providing for Audley. Good suggestion, see updated handbook on webpage.

Same logic autumn series kowtowing to CSC. 01/02, 07/02 and 08/02 non-point score Race 15/02 and so on. Solves the problem of extra SOS race as well.

Reply: There is no kowtowing. No need to make the Harbour weekend a NPS (see above) unless most of our skippers are not interested in the weekend. The autumn series needs to allow for Easter and Port Stephens regatta. No changes needed.

Wednesday Races:

Works perfectly well as is leave it alone.

Reply: I agree, but we need to hear from all.