



MERSEA WEEK 2026



NOTICE OF RACE

Sunday 9th to Friday 14th August 2026

The races are organised jointly by West Mersea Yacht Club (WMYC) and Dabchicks Sailing Club (DSC) known as the Joint Organising Authority.

The Joint Organising Authority has appointed the Mersea Week Committee as the Organising Committee for the event (RRS 89.1).

The notation '[NP]' in a rule means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1.

1. RULES

- 1.1 The event is governed by the rules as defined by The Racing Rules of Sailing and the IRC Rules 2026 Parts A, B, and C shall apply.
- 1.2 RRS Appendix T, Arbitration, will apply.
- 1.3 Rule 40.1 shall apply at all times on the water for dinghy classes. [DP]
- 1.4 All documents including any amendments, pertaining to this event are available at [Mersea Week Online Notice Board](#).
- 1.5 In the case of conflict between the Notice of Race and the Sailing Instructions, SI's will take precedence. This changes Rule 63.5 c.

2. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1 The Sailing Instructions will be published on the Official Notice Board by 1st August 2026.

3. COMMUNICATION

- 3.1 The Official Notice Board is located at [ONB](#). Notices posted on the Notice Boards in the West Mersea Yacht Club Long Room are advisory only.
- 3.2 While racing, except in an emergency, a boat shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communications that is not available to all boats. [DP, NP]
- 3.3 On the water, the Race Committee may make courtesy broadcasts on VHF Channels and/or WhatsApp Groups. Details of both will be given in the Sailing Instructions. Failure to broadcast information or broadcasting incorrect information will not be grounds for redress.

4. ELIGIBILITY

- 4.1 The event is open to all boats of the following classes:-

4.1.1 IRC Class

Open to all keelboats with a valid 2026 IRC rating. Boats shall submit a copy of their IRC certificate with their online entry or if not available then, by email not later than 8th August 2026 to the Race Office. No alteration to a boat's TCC will be permitted after this date, except as a result of a rating protest, or to correct Rating Authority errors. IRC Rule 22.4.2 shall not apply. There will be no limitations on crew weight except as required for boats rated as One Designs which shall comply with IRC Rule 22.4.1.

4.1.2 **YTC Handicap Cruisers**

Open to all keelboats with a valid 2026 YTC rating. Boats shall submit a copy of their YTC certificate with their online entry or if not available then, by email to the Race Office by 8th August 2026.

4.1.3 **White Sail Cruisers**

White Sail Fleet is intended to appeal to boats which are family cruisers crewed by friends and family with fewer than a full crew. The White Sail Fleet shall not use spinnakers or similar specific downwind sails. Open to all keelboats with a valid 2026 YTC rating. Boats shall submit a copy of their YTC certificate with their online entry or if not available then, by email to the Race Office by 8th August 2026. The non-spinnaker YTC rating will be used for this class.

4.1.4 **Classic and Gaff Rigged Yachts**

The Mersea Week definition of a Classic Yacht for the purposes of this event, this should be a Mono-Hull Yacht of a 'Classic Yacht' style and constructed of any material. The Committee reserves the right to refuse any entry for the Classic Yacht event which in their opinion fails to comply with the spirit of a 'Classic Yacht'. Such entries may race in other appropriate classes. Open to all such keelboats with a valid 2026 YTC rating. Boats shall submit a copy of their YTC certificate with their online entry or if not available then, by email to the Race Office by 8th August 2026.

4.1.5 The Class divisions, in YTC Cruisers, YTC White Sail Cruisers and Classic Yacht and Gaff Rigged Yachts will be at the sole discretion of the Mersea Week Committee.

4.1.6 **National Sonata Class**

This Class will race as a One Design Class and in accordance with the current National Sonata Class rules. (DP)

4.1.7 **Smacks**

The handicaps used and the fleet split (Fast/Slow) will be those issued by the local Smacks Handicap Committee.

4.1.8 **Dinghies**

The Dinghy Class is open to boats of any recognized monohull dinghy class with a current Portsmouth Yardstick Number of 1450 to 925. The performance class is open to boats of any recognised Dinghy Class with a current Portsmouth Yardstick number of 926 or less. The handicaps used will be the RYA Portsmouth Yardstick System (Dinghy Classes).

4.1.9 **Mersea Fisherman's Open Boats**

This Class will also be governed by the Class Rules and Safety Regulations of the Mersea Fisherman's Open Boat Association. For details please contact: - Connor Wey. The handicaps used will be those issued by the Mersea Fisherman's Open Boat Association.

4.1.10 Dinghy Classes only. Helm substitution of the registered sailor is not permitted. Sailors aged under 18 on the first day of the event will need to have a Parent/Guardian Declaration Form completed and signed by a parent or guardian, to confirm that the parent/guardian understands and accepts that their sailors are entirely responsible throughout the event for themselves and their boats on land and on the water. Forms must be completed online via the event website.

4.1.11 Parents or Guardians of people under the age of 18 must be confident in their child's ability to sail in the prevailing conditions and without support services. They should not permit their child to start or to continue to race if they are in any doubt as to their child's ability.

4.1.12 The responsible adult and competitor shall register together as shown in NOR 8.1.

4.1.13 To be considered an entry in the event, a boat shall complete all registration requirements and pay all fees.

5. FEES

5.1

CLASSES	EARLY ENTRY FEE	EARLY ENTRY DAY FEE	ENTRY FEE	DAY FEE	LATE ENTRY FEE	LATE DAY FEE
Keelboat Classes Smacks	£120	£30	£135	£30	£160	£38
Dinghies MFOBs	£90	£24	£100	£24	£125	£27

5.2 The early entry fee is available for all entries up to midday 31st May 2026.

5.3 Entry closes at midday on 2nd August 2026.

5.4 All entries after the entry closing date are at the discretion of the Organising Authority and shall be charged late entry fees.

5.5 Keelboat entry fees include mooring fees from 8th to 14th August 2026 inclusive. Mooring fees outside those dates shall be paid by the boat.

5.6 All entries must be made online by paying the appropriate fee and completing the online entry form available on the event website.

5.7 Should the event be cancelled, a refund of at least 80% of the entry fee will be made after transfer fees. This will be dependent on the expenditure committed to by, and at the discretion of the Organising Authority.

5.8 Competitor cancellation:-

CANCELLATION DATE	REFUND
Before 12:00 2 nd August 2026	Maximum 80% of entry fee, after cost of entry
After 12:00 2 nd August 2026	No refund

6. CREW SUBSTITUTION [DP]

6.1 For Dinghy Classes only. Boats shall sail with the crew declared at registration. Any change or substitution to the registered crew must have the prior approval of the Race Committee.

7. ADVERTISING

7.1 Boats may be required to display advertising chosen and supplied by the Organising Authority. [DP]

8. SCHEDULE

8.1 Registration

DATE	OPEN	CLOSE	LOCATION
8 th August 2026	17:30	19:00	WMYC Long Room
Daily	08:30	15:00	WMYC Long Room

8.2 Equipment Inspection – See NOR 9.0.

8.3 Number of Races targeted per day – scheduled:-

CLASS	09/08/26	10/08/26	11/08/26	13/08/26	14/08/26
IRC	1	1	1	1	1
YTC Handicap Cruiser	1	1	1	1	1
White Sail Cruiser	1	1	1	1	1
Classic and Gaff Rigged Yachts	1	1	1	1	1
National Sonata Class	1	1	1	1	1
Smacks	1	1	1	1	1
MFOB	1	2	1	2	1
Dinghy Slow Handicap	1	2	1	2	1
Dinghy Medium Handicap	1	2	1	2	1
Dinghy Fast Handicap	1	2	1	2	1
Dinghy Performance	1	2	1	2	1

The Round Mersea Island Race will take place on Sunday 13th September. This is not a Mersea Week event - please see the WMYC website for more details.

8.4 Prizegiving and Briefings:-

DATE	EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
08/08/26	Skippers Briefing Dinghy/MFOB	17:00	DSC
Daily	Daily Prizegiving	19:30	Clubs
14/08/26	Weekly Prizegiving	19:30	WMYC

8.5 The scheduled time of the Start Signal for the first race each day is:-

CLASS	09/08/26	10/08/26	11/08/26	13/08/26	14/08/26
IRC	11.00	To be advised in the Sailing Instructions			
Smacks B	11.10	To be advised in the Sailing Instructions			
Smacks A	11.20	To be advised in the Sailing Instructions			
YTC Handicap Cruiser A	11.30	To be advised in the Sailing Instructions			
Classic and Gaff Rigged Yachts A	11.40	To be advised in the Sailing Instructions			
White Sail Cruiser	11.50	To be advised in the Sailing Instructions			
YTC Handicap Cruiser B	12.00	To be advised in the Sailing Instructions			
Classic and Gaff Rigged Yachts B	12.10	To be advised in the Sailing Instructions			
Sonata	12.20	To be advised in the Sailing Instructions			

CLASS	09/08/26	10/08/26	11/08/26	13/08/26	14/08/26
MFOB Slow	12:00	To be advised in the Sailing Instructions			
MFOB Fast	12:05	To be advised in the Sailing Instructions			
Dinghy Slow Handicap	12:15	To be advised in the Sailing Instructions			
Dinghy Medium Handicap	12:20	To be advised in the Sailing Instructions			
Dinghy Fast Handicap	12:25	To be advised in the Sailing Instructions			
Dinghy Performance	12:30	To be advised in the Sailing Instructions			

Dependant on entries, the MFOB's Fast & Slow may have one start.

- 8.6 On the last scheduled day of racing no warning signal will be made after 15:00.
8.7 Each day succeeding races will be started as soon as practicable after the finish of the previous race.

9. EQUIPMENT INSPECTION [DP]

- 9.1 Boats may be inspected at any time.
9.2 Competitors sailing in Cruiser Fleets shall, before racing, deposit a Safety Declaration (contained within the entry form and on the event website) with WMYC or the Mersea Week Committee.
9.3 **All Cruisers** shall carry the following safety equipment:-
- Lifejackets, one per crew member
 - Lifebuoy with whistle and drogue attached
 - Second means of propulsion (Inboard, Outboard, Paddle)
 - Handheld or permanently installed VHF able to be operated from on deck
 - Foghorn
 - Echo sounder or lead line
 - Fire Extinguisher
 - Anchor and rode suitable for securing the vessel
 - First aid kit
 - Marine compass
 - A means to detach the rigging from the chainplate
 - Bucket and lanyard
 - Waterproof flashlight
 - Suitable knife accessible from the deck effective for cutting sheets and halyards
 - Heaving and towing line
- 9.4 **MFOBs** must comply with the specific safety requirements set out in the MFOB Sailing Instructions 2026:-
- Mandatory items
 - Lifejackets or buoyancy aids for all crew members
 - A suitable anchor and warp
 - A bucket
 - Adequate buoyancy, with the aim of keeping the boat in an upright position when swamped
 - A painter 1.5 times length of boat with a float tied to the end

10. VENUE

- 10.1 The intended racing area will be The Blackwater Estuary and its creeks.
10.2 When racing in the creeks of Mersea, competitors shall keep a good lookout for all manoeuvring vessels.

11. COURSES

11.1 The courses to be sailed will be detailed in the Sailing Instructions.

12. PENALTY SYSTEM

12.1 For all Classes RRS 44.1 is changed so that only one turn, including one tack and one gybe, is required.

13. SCORING

13.1 Three races are required to be completed to constitute a series.

13.2 All Classes will be scored as a single series.

13.3 When fewer than 4 races have been completed, a boats series will be the total of her race scores.

13.4 When four (4) five (5) or six (6) races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst result. When seven (7) or eight (8) have been sailed, a boats series score will be the total of her races excluding her two (2) worst results.

14. SUPPORT PERSON VESSEL

14.1 There are no support boats for this event, only official boats.

15. BERTHING AND LAUNCHING [DP, NP]

15.1 Boats shall be kept in their assigned area of the dinghy park or mooring during the championship from the start of their event until the completion of the final race.

15.2 MFOB and Dinghy Fleets Tally-on/Tally-off. All skippers in these Classes shall Tally-on and Tally-off using the appropriate WhatsApp group before and after racing each day. Details of the WhatsApp group will be set out in the Sailing Instructions for each class.

16. DATA PROTECTION

16.1 The personal information you provide to the Organising 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 Organising Authority's privacy policy. When required by the rules, personal information may be shared with the RYA, Racingrulesofsailing.org your National Authority and/or World Sailing. The results of the event and the outcome of any hearing or appeal may be published.

16.2 All personal information held by Mersea Week will be deleted by August 2027.

17. RISK STATEMENT

17.1 Rule 3 of the Racing Rules of Sailing 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:-

17.1.1 They are aware of the inherent element of risk involved in the sport and accept responsibility for the exposure of themselves, their crew and their boat to such inherent risk whilst taking part in the event.

17.1.2 They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat, and their other property whether afloat or ashore.

17.1.3 They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions.

17.1.4 Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate.

17.1.5 The provision of a race management team, patrol boats if any and other officials and volunteers by the event organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities.

17.1.6 The provision of patrol boat cover if any is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can practically be provided in the circumstances.

17.1.7 It is their responsibility to familiarise themselves with any risks specific to this venue or this event drawn to their attention in any rules or information produced for the venue or event and to attend any competitor briefing held for the event.

18. INSURANCE

18.1 Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £3 million per event or equivalent.

19. RIGHTS TO USE NAMES AND LIKENESS

19.1 Competitors automatically grant to the Organising Authority without payment the right in perpetuity to make, use and show any motion pictures, still pictures and live, digital, taped or filmed television of or relating to the event.

End of Notice of Race