



2026 SUNBEAM CHAMPIONSHIP REGATTA

Friday 4th – Sunday 6th September 2026
Organising Authority (OA): RCYC Sailing Ltd
in conjunction with the Sunbeam Association

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Preamble

For 2026 the championship will be scored by combining the results of the FSC Silver Sunbeam on Saturday 30th May and the Championship Regatta over Friday 4th to Sunday 6th September, The FSC 2026 Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions were amended to make the Silver Sunbeam a series of 3 races in Carrick Roads. This Notice of Race applies to the Championship Regatta and overall scoring of the championship

Abbreviations:

[NP] - A breach of this rule will not be grounds for protest by a boat.

[DP] - Rules for which the penalties are at the discretion of the protest committee.

1. RULES

The regatta is governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing* (RRS).

- RRS 37 and 54 are deleted

Other changes to the racing rules are described in the relevant sailing instruction.

2. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1** Except as provided in SI 2.2, any change to the sailing instructions will be posted at least 2 hours before the first scheduled warning signal for the first race on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 2000 on the day before it will take effect.
- 2.2** Descriptive information contained in these SI, e.g. mark colours and shapes, may be changed verbally by an announcement on marine VHF channel **77**. An announcement shall be introduced as a change to a SI and shall identify the SI being changed. Failure to receive this information shall not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 62.1(a).

3. COMMUNICATION WITH COMPETITORS

- 3.1** The race office is the Royal Cornwall Yacht Club (RCYC) sailing office.
- 3.2** Notices to competitors will be posted to the "Sunbeams" WhatsApp group. Competitors are strongly advised to register at least one phone with the WhatsApp group
- 3.3** Reference copies of documents may be found on the RCYC website at <https://royalcornwallyachtclub.org/on-the-water-facilities/sunbeam-championships-2026/>
- 3.4** On the water, the race committee will make official, courtesy and safety broadcasts to competitors on VHF channel **77**. Failure to receive such broadcasts shall not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 61.1(a).
- 3.5** [DP] While racing, except in an emergency, boats shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats, unless using equipment provided by the OA.

4. CODE OF CONDUCT [DP]

Competitors and support persons shall comply with reasonable requests from race officials.

5. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

No visual signals will be displayed ashore. Equivalent information will be posted to the class WhatsApp group.

6. SCHEDULE OF RACES

6.1 Schedule

Date	Activity	Time	High Water
Fri 4 th Sep	Three races back-to-back	No warning signal before 1055	1021 4.4m
	Daily prize-giving at RCYC	After racing	-
Sat 5 th Sep	Two races back-to-back	No warning signal before 1055	1148 4.72m
	Daily prize-giving & pasty at Allspars	After racing	-
Sun 6 th Aug	One race	No warning signal before 1055	1332 4.1m
	Prize-giving & regatta tea at RCYC	After racing	-

One extra race may be sailed on Saturday and/or Sunday to compensate for a race or races not completed or likely not to be completed because of forecast weather conditions.

6.2 The warning signal for each succeeding race will be made as soon as practicable. To alert boats that a race will begin soon, the orange starting line flag will be displayed with one sound approximately five minutes before a warning signal is displayed.

6.3 No warning signal will be made after 1400 on Sunday.

7. CLASS FLAG

The class flag displayed at the warning signal will be international code flag "V".

8. RACING AREAS

8.1 Racing will take place in Falmouth Bay or adjacent waters to the east. If conditions in the Bay are unsuitable, racing may be held within the Fal estuary (see Appendix A).

8.2 The normal course will be area 1. If conditions dictate e.g. wind, sea state, commercial shipping, then either area 2 or area 3 will be used, and an announcement will be made on WhatsApp and VHF 77 and an official vessel, or vessels, will direct boats to the appropriate area.

9. COURSES

9.1 Courses will be windward / leeward (WL). The diagram in Appendix B shows the course, the order in which marks are to be passed, and the side on which each mark is to be left.

9.2 The course selected will be signalled by VHF 77.

9.3 Shortening the course at Mark 2. If the race committee signals by VHF 77 a shortened course as boats approach Mark 2 then boats shall round Mark 2 and proceed to the finish line. This changes RRS 32.2

10. MARKS

10.1 Marks 1 and 2 will be orange cylindrical buoys.

10.2 Mark 1a will be a faded orange stubby cylindrical buoy.

10.3 The mark at the starboard end of the start line will be the race committee signal vessel. The mark at the port end will be a yellow conical buoy.

10.4 The finish line marks will be the race committee signal vessel at the starboard end and a yellow stubby cylindrical buoy at the port end.

11. OBSTRUCTIONS [NP][DP]

11.1 Commercial and naval shipping. Areas around commercial and naval vessels under way and constricted in their ability to manoeuvre or constrained by their draft are designated as moving exclusion zones. Such exclusion zones extend to 100m on all sides of the vessel and around any tugs, pilot/harbour authority boats and official boats escorting the vessel. A boat shall not enter the exclusion zone, and, if becalmed, shall use any method of propulsion to move out of the way. This shall only be sufficient to

move out of the exclusion zone by the safest possible route and shall not offer the boat significant advantage in the race.

- 11.2** Diving activity. Exclusion zones extend 25m around a dive boat displaying international code flag “A”, a coloured pillar mark indicating a diver beneath the surface, and a diver on the surface. A boat shall not enter the exclusion zone.

- 11.3** Falmouth Harbour Moorings. Whilst racing, boats shall not cross the straight lines between the course sides of the mooring buoys (whether a vessel is attached or not) of the outer line of moorings on both sides of the fairway.

- 11.4** St Mawes Harbour Moorings. Whilst racing, boats shall not cross the straight lines between the course sides of the mooring buoys (whether a vessel is attached or not) of the outer line of moorings on the north and south sides of St Mawes Harbour.

12. THE START

- 12.1** The starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the race committee signal vessel at the starboard end, and the course side of the mark at the port end.

- 12.2** A boat starting later than 4 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start (DNS). This changes RRS A4 & A5.

13. CHANGE TO THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

- 13.1** To change the next leg of the course, the race committee will move the original mark. The change will be signalled on VHF **77**. This changes RRS 33.

- 13.2** When the windward leg is moved, Marks 1 & 1a will be replaced by a single mark to be rounded to port.

14. THE FINISH

The finishing line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the race committee signal vessel at the starboard end and the course side of the mark at the port end.

15. PENALTY SYSTEM

RRS 44.1 is changed so that the Two-Turns Penalty is replaced by the One-Turn Penalty.

16. TIME LIMITS AND TARGET TIMES [NP]

- 16.1** Time limits and target times are as follows:

	Mark 1 Time Limit	Time Limit	Finishing Window	Target Time
Friday and Saturday	40 mins	90 mins	15 mins	50-60 mins
Sunday	60 mins	120 mins	25 mins	75-90 mins

- 16.2** If no boat has passed Mark 1 within the Mark 1 time limit, then the race shall be abandoned. This changes RRS 35.

- 16.3** The Finishing Window is the time for boats to finish after the first boat sails the course and finishes. Boats still racing when the stated Finishing Window expires shall be scored Time Limit Expired (TLE) without a hearing. A boat scored TLE shall be scored points for the finishing place one more than the points scored by the last boat that finished within the Finishing Window. This changes RRS 35, A4, A5 and A10.

- 16.4** To expedite the start of the next race, the Race Committee may score any boat apparently still racing TLE before the Finishing Window expires. Boats affected will be notified by VHF **77** and on receipt of the notification should immediately make their way to the starting area. A boat so scored TLE, and not subsequently retiring, penalised or given redress, shall be scored points for the finishing place one more than the points scored by the last boat that finished ahead of her. This changes RRS 35, A5.1, A5.2 and A10.

- 16.5** Failure to meet the target time will not be grounds for a request for redress. This changes rule 62.1(a).

17. HEARING REQUESTS

- 17.1** The protest time limit is 90 minutes after the last boat has finished the race.

- 17.2** The same time limit applies to protests by the race committee and protest committee, and to requests for redress.

- 17.3** Hearing request forms, if needed, will be available at the RCYC race office. Protests and requests for redress or reopening shall be delivered there within the appropriate time limit.

- 17.4** Within 30 minutes after the protest time limit, notices will be posted on the noticeboard to inform competitors and race officials of hearings in which they are named as parties or witnesses. An alert will be broadcast by WhatsApp. Hearings will be heard in the protest room located at RCYC beginning at the time posted.
- 17.5** Notices of protests by the race committee or protest committee will be posted to inform boats under RRS 61.1(b).
- 17.6** Adding to RRS 66, if racing is abandoned ashore on the last scheduled day of racing a request to reopen a hearing shall be delivered no later than 30 minutes after the abandonment is signalled.

18. SCORING

- 18.1** Boats' individual race results from the FSC Silver Sunbeam series will be carried forward to those of the Championship Regatta to form the overall championship series.
- 18.2** Up to nine races are scheduled. Races 1, 2 & 3 are the races of the Silver Sunbeam series. Races 4 to 9 are the six races of the Championship Regatta. A minimum of 6 races is required to be completed to constitute the championship series.
- 18.3** When less than 4 races have been completed, no race shall be excluded.
- 18.4** When 4 to 7 races have been completed, a boat's championship series score shall be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.
- 18.5** When 8 or 9 races have been completed, a boat's championship series score shall be the total of her race scores excluding her two worst scores.
- 18.6** To request correction of an alleged error in posted race or series results, a boat shall post a message to the event WhatsApp group.

19. SAFETY REGULATIONS [DP][NP]

- 19.1** The race committee will protest a boat for a breach of these safety regulations.
- 19.2** Boats not leaving the harbour for a scheduled race shall promptly notify the race officer (07779 513591 or 07528 573669).
- 19.3** On arrival in the racing area, boats shall sail on starboard tack past the stern of the race committee signal vessel, clearly showing their sail numbers.
- 19.4** A boat that retires from racing shall notify the race committee before leaving the racing area, or if that is not possible, shall notify the race officer as soon as possible after returning ashore.
- 19.5** All boats shall maintain a listening watch on VHF 77.

20. REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT

There is no restriction on the substitution of competitors or damaged/lost equipment.

21. EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS [DP]

Boats and equipment may be inspected at any time during the regatta for compliance with the class rules and sailing instructions. On the water, a boat can be instructed by a race committee equipment inspector or measurer to proceed immediately to a designated area for inspection.

22. SUPPLIED BOATS

Not applicable.

23. OFFICIAL VESSELS

- 23.1** The race committee signal vessel will be the white sloop *Melkin*.
- 23.2** Mark-layers will be marked with the letters "RCYC" on the hull.

24. SUPPORT BOATS [DP]

Except when asked to assist by the race committee, or to rescue a competitor who is ill, injured or in danger, support boats shall remain more than 100 metres from the course area from the preparatory signal until all boats have finished or retired or the race committee signals a postponement, general recall or abandonment.

25. TRASH DISPOSAL

Not applicable.

26. BERTHING

See NoR 18.

27. HAUL-OUT RESTRICTIONS [DP]

See NoR 19.

28. DIVING EQUIPMENT AND PLASTIC POOLS [DP]

See NoR 20.

29. PRIZES

29.1 Prize glasses will be awarded to the first 3 boats in each race, except that a boat can only win daily prizes once during the event. Thereafter the daily prizes will be presented to the highest placed boat that hasn't already won a daily prize.

29.2 Sunbeam Association perpetual championship trophies will be awarded as follows:

Race 4	RCYC Challenge Cup
Race 5	Polly's Plate
Race 6	J S Tripconney Cup
Race 7	HMS Maidstone 1921 Trophy
Race 8	Vanity Mirror
Race 9	Boathouse Trophy
1st overall in series	Jubilee Trophy
2 nd overall in series	Bomber/Toby West Bowl
3 rd overall in series	Greenbank Hotel Trophy
Highest placed lady	Wendy Decanter

In addition, "keeper" prizes will be awarded to the first three boats overall.

30. RISK STATEMENT

See NoR 22.

31. INSURANCE

See NoR 23.

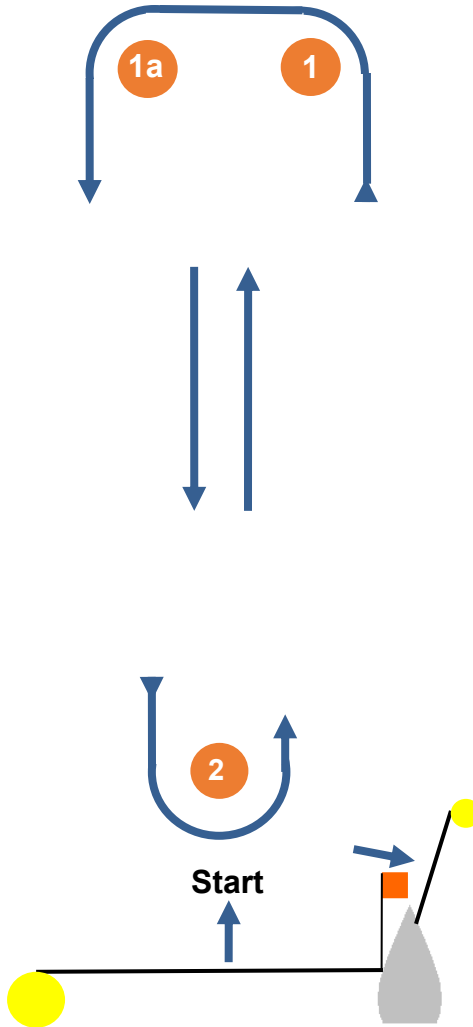
Appendix A

Indicative course areas



Appendix B

Course illustration and mark rounding order



Course Signal	Mark Rounding Order
WL2*	Start - 1 - 1a - 2 - 1 - 1a - 2 - Finish
WL3**	Start - 1 - 1a - 2 - 1 - 1a - 2 - 1 - 1a - 2 - Finish

* normal course

** likely course for area 3