

Notice of Race

The Holms Race

Saturday 12th September 2026

boatfolk



*Advance
Marine*

THE BOAT REPAIR CENTRE
Weston-super-Mare

THE EVENT

1.1 A race from Portishead, around Flat Holm and Steep Holm and back to Portishead, giving a sailing distance in excess of 35nm.

1.2 The organising authority is Portishead Cruising Club (PCC) via email to commodore@pccsail.com.

1.3 There will be a social event following this year's event: details will be published in the Sailing Instructions.

2.0 RESPONSIBILITY

2.1 Yacht racing can be dangerous. The attention of owners, skippers and crew is drawn to RRS Fundamental Rule 4: "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone". The safety of a yacht and her crew is the sole and inescapable responsibility of the owner or owner's representative who must do their best to ensure that the yacht is fully found, thoroughly seaworthy and manned by an experienced crew who are able to sail in bad weather. They must be satisfied as to the soundness of the hull, spars, rigging, sails and all gear. They must ensure that the safety equipment is properly maintained and stowed and that the crew know where it is kept and how it is to be used. Nothing, whether in the Notice of Race or Sailing Instructions or anywhere else, reduces this responsibility.

2.2 Nothing done by the organisers can reduce the responsibility of the skipper nor will it make the organisers responsible for any loss, damage, death or personal injury, however it may have occurred, as a result of the boat taking part in the race. The organisers encompasses everyone helping to run the race and the event, and includes any appointed organising authority, race committee, race officers and beachmasters.

3.0 RULES & REGULATIONS

3.1 The race will be governed by the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) of the ISAF and the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea.

4.0 ELIGIBILITY & CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

4.1 This is an open race and is open to all self-sufficient cruising yachts who have read and accepted this Notice of Race and submitted a completed entry form.

4.2 All boats shall be self-righting (unless multi-hulled) and carry an auxiliary engine. Hulls should be strongly built with a cabin capable of being made essentially watertight.

4.3 All boats shall, while racing, display any flags, stickers and/or sponsor's logo provided.

4.4 All boats shall carry an operational marine VHF radio.

4.5 Boats shall carry suitable anchor & sufficient cable to hold the boat in the likely depth of water and weather conditions. Dan buoy flags shall be rolled up so as not to be visible unless purposely deployed.

4.6 The boat is required to hold adequate insurance and in particular to hold insurance against third party claims in the sum of at least £2,000,000 sterling.

4.7 All competitors to wear lifejackets for the duration of the race.

5.0 ENTRIES/CLOSING DATES/ETC

5.1 [Entries will be accepted online until Sunday 6th September 2026.](#)

5.2 Late entries will only be accepted at the discretion of the race committee.

5.3 A completed entry form must be submitted for each yacht. In submitting a form electronically, an entrant is assuring PCC that they have the necessary insurance cover.

5.4 Mooring fees are NOT included in the entry however, Portishead Marina are offering reduced rates for moorings on Friday and Saturday nights for boats participating in the Holms Race. [Boats must have registered for the race to take up this offer and discounted moorings must be reserved by 1st September 2026.](#)

5.5 PCC race committee reserves the right to accept or refuse any entries.

6.0 REGISTRATION

6.1 Entry forms can be completed online via the PCC website (pccsail.com).

7.0 TIME KEEPING

7.1 Elapsed time will be recorded by PCC race officials

8.0 HANDICAP

8.1 The race handicap will be based on The Portsmouth Yardstick System. Numbers will be taken from Byron (www.byronsoftware.org) where possible, with adjustments made for configuration differences as identified on the application form. The application must contain all relevant information. To ensure consistency across all entrants, individual certificates obtained from Byron will be considered but not necessarily used (as historically there have been few certificates presented and significant variations within classes).

8.2 To correct for the bias in favour of the higher handicap number boats (due to the race being 'with tide'), a supplementary correction will be applied to correct for tidal influence across the handicap spectrum. This correction uses 'linear regression analysis' and generates a correction for each boat. Detail is available from the race organisers.

8.3 The race will also be scored under IRC for any boat that submits a valid, current IRC number.

9.0 PRIZES & PRIZE GIVING

9.1 Prizes will be awarded to the first three boats under Portsmouth Yardstick.

9.2 A prize will also be awarded to the club with best three results (sum of top three positions, lowest number wins).

9.3 Prizes will be awarded at the post race social event (see Sailing Instructions for more information).

10.0. THE START AND FINISH

10.1 Each entrant selects their own start time; the earliest start time is 10:00 BST and the latest start time is 15:00 BST. Note HW Avonmouth is 13.48m at 08:52 and 13.65m at 21:09 BST. Sunrise is at 06:40 and sunset is 19:31 BST.

10.2 The Start and Finish Line is between Portishead Point (a.k.a. Battery Point, roughly 0.7NM West of Portishead Pier) and the Newcombe (red lateral) buoy. This is the same as recent races (since 2020).

10.3 The PCC race committee reserve the right to postpone the start at any time before the earliest start time.

10.4 Please note that there are limited locks out of Portishead Marina ahead of the start. It is strongly recommended that you reserve a lock before 1st September 2026.

11.0 THE COURSE

11.1 As follows:

1. Start
2. North West Elbow to port
3. Flatholm to port
4. Steepholm to port
5. Northwest Elbow to starboard
6. Finish

12.0 COMMUNICATIONS

12.1 Between Race Officers, and entrants - use VHF CH37 (M1)

12.2 Channel 77 will be the preferred inter yacht channel.

12.3 All entrants should monitor Bristol VTS CH 12 when in their zone of control.

13.0 POSTPONEMENT/ABANDONMENT

13.1 In the event of the weather conditions not being suitable, the race officials reserve the right to postpone or abandon the race. The starting and the continuing of the race does not imply that the conditions are suitable for safe sailing (see 2.0 Responsibility).