



Aberdeen Boat Club

Opening Yacht Regatta 2026

“2026 ABC 帆船開鑼賽”

Saturday 26th & Sunday 27th September

Supported by:



ABC Commodore's: Welcome Message

Welcome to the Aberdeen Boat Club Opening Regatta 2026.

It is a great pleasure to welcome everyone back to our Club for one of the highlights of our sailing calendar. Whether you are a long-time ABC competitor, a regular visitor from another club, or joining us for your first Opening Regatta, we are delighted to have you with us for what promises to be another memorable weekend on the water.

Now firmly established in its regular slot, the Opening Regatta once again takes place on the last weekend of September. Like every sailor, we are hoping the Northeast Monsoon has settled in by then. While weather patterns have become less predictable in recent years, this weekend traditionally marks the beginning of Hong Kong's finest sailing season, with the reliable breezes that carry us through to April.

As its name suggests, the Opening Regatta signals the start of the new racing season. It is an Open Regatta, welcoming all insured keelboats in Hong Kong holding a recognised handicap, and ABC is proud to host competitors from across the local sailing community.

Following last year's successful event, we return to the proven format of windward/leeward racing on Saturday, followed by the ever-popular island race on Sunday. Whether you are aiming for a podium finish, testing a new crew, or simply enjoying a weekend of competitive sailing with friends, we hope there will be something for everyone.

Our divisions are designed to give every yacht a fair opportunity to grace our racecourses. While healthy competition is always part of the weekend, the real goal is to enjoy safe, exciting racing and good company, finishing with prize-giving back at Middle Island on Sunday afternoon.

As always, racing will be conducted under the Notice of Race and ABC's Standard Sailing Instructions 2025 Etd. Although the overall format remains familiar, there are important updates each year, so I encourage all skippers and crews to read them carefully before heading afloat.

This year's Regatta is made possible through the generous support of our sponsors. We are delighted to welcome Pontique Hotels, Nha Trang, as a new supporting sponsor, offering alongside our long-standing supporters Sky International, Hepworth Craft Beer, Fullers London Pride Beer, and Fuegy Fuels. Their continued support helps us deliver a first-class event, and we are sincerely grateful for their partnership.

My thanks also go to our Race Management team, Marine & Sailing Department, volunteers and everyone working behind the scenes. Their professionalism, enthusiasm and countless hours of preparation ensure the Regatta runs smoothly and safely, allowing the rest of us to enjoy a wonderful weekend of racing.

Finally, I warmly welcome every competitor—whether you are racing a large yacht or a small one, a seasoned campaigner or a first-time entrant. I hope you enjoy the superb sailing waters around Hong Kong's southern islands, close racing, great company, and everything that makes our sailing community so special.

Good luck to every crew, sail safely, and I look forward to seeing you all back at Middle Island to celebrate another successful Aberdeen Boat Club Opening Regatta.

Fair winds and enjoy the weekend.



Steve Perret
ABC Commodore



Aberdeen Boat Club Opening Yacht Regatta 2026

“2026 ABC 帆船開鑼賽”

Revised Notice of Race

Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th September

The Regatta Organising Authority is the Aberdeen Boat Club under the auspices of the Sailing Federation of Hong Kong, China.

1. Rules

- 1.1 The Regatta will be governed by the 'Rules' as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) 2024 - 2028.
- 1.2 The Prescriptions of the Sailing Federation of Hong Kong, China (SFHKC) will apply, together with:
 - The 2026 IRC Rules, Parts A, B and C (IRC Rule 22.4 shall not apply). There will be no limitations on crew numbers or weight;
 - with the exception of single handed, shorthanded yachts or keelboat entries without accommodation, which are not acceptable;
 - the PHS rating: <https://www.sailsys.com.au/>;
 - the World Sailing Special Regulations Category 4 - Appendix B, Inshore Racing plus VHF radio; except that the requirement to be self-righting will not apply to the Multihulls;
 - Class Association rules of competing classes – e.g., Cape 31s, J 80;
 - Multi-hulls will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Race Committee for the Sunday Islands Race only;
 - this Notice of Race (NoR) and the ABC SSI's 2025 Edition.
- 1.3 In case of conflict between any of the above, succeeding items take precedence. This changes RRS 63.7.
- 1.4 For the purposes of IRC Rule 21.1.5 (d) & (e) the regatta is run on consecutive days. Replacement sails may be permitted during the regatta in exceptional circumstances with the permission of the Race Committee. A replacement sail will only be permitted if it is of similar cloth weight, area, and design.
- 1.5 If the Protest Committee decides that a boat which is party to a protest has broken a rule and is not exonerated, it may impose a scoring penalty (which may be no penalty) at its discretion, as an alternative to disqualification. This changes RRS 64.1.

- 1.6 This NoR may be amended by the ABC SSI 2025 Edition and/or an Opening Regatta Notice to Competitors (NTC's).

2. Advertising

- 2.1 Boats may be required to display the regatta sponsor's advertising chosen and supplied by the organising authority.
- 2.2 World Sailing Regulation 20 will apply for Competitors boat/crew wear displayed during the event.

3 Eligibility and Entry

- 3.1 The regatta is open to the following classes and boats:

3.1.1 Class or division of Class

- Yacht IRC Class/divisions – Rating split – to be announced.
- Yacht PHS Class/divisions – Rating split – to be announced.
- Multi – hulls will race in the PHS Division A.
- Day Keelboats with accommodation, such as J 80's, will race under PHS but must have a rating registered on the SailSys website.

- 3.2 Boats from other classes may also be considered by the Race Committee on application, by 1700 hrs on Wednesday 23rd September 26.

- 3.3 The final regatta divisional splits will be allocated by the Race Committee in a Notice to Competitors (NTC # 1) subject to entries received and in the interests of fair racing, by 1700 hrs. on **Friday 25th September 26.**

- 3.4 A boat will be entered in one class only. The IRC and PHS Classes will be divided into suitable rating bands depending on the number of entries received.

- 3.5 A class or division will consist of a three-boat minimum for all classes.

- 3.6 All boats must be in the vicinity of the starting line at its class warning signal to be eligible for the Regatta.

- 3.7 Eligible boats are yachts which have valid IRC 2026 Certificates or PHS ratings and other seaworthy boats at the discretion of the Race Committee.

- 3.8 Boats without valid 2026 IRC or PHS ratings may be accepted by at the discretion of the Race Committee. Any such allocation will not be subject to protest. Valid 2026 IRC & PHS ratings will be listed as published on the current Sailsys website by 1700 hrs. on Wednesday 23rd September 26.

- 3.9 Entry may be made by submitting a completed online entry form (available at https://www.abclubhk.com/opening_yachtregatta_2026.aspx) before 1700 hrs. on Wednesday 23rd September 26. Late entries may be accepted at the discretion of the Race Committee but will be subject to an additional late entry fee of \$250 HKD.

- 3.10 Class lists will be published on the event website no later than 1700 hrs. on Thursday 24th September 26.

4. Entry Fees

- 4.1 The entry fees will be as follows:

- Yachts: \$675.
- Multihulls (with accommodation): \$675.
- Keelboats - J80s & Keelboats with accommodation: \$675.

- 4.2 For non -Yacht Club or outside HK/ mainland entries, the club will accept bank account transfer payments. Please contact Ms. Jayne Li – ABC Marine & Sailing Secretary for the club's bank account details.

5. Schedule and Course Locations

5.1 Saturday:

- IRC Yacht divisions up to **three** windward/leeward races; PHS Yachts/keel boats divisions: up to **two or three*** windward / leeward races in the Lamma sailing area.
- (* to be determined by the Race Committee and/or Race Officer considering demand, weather, and/or wind conditions).
- The scheduled time for the first warning signal will not be before: **1055 hrs.**

5.2 Sunday:

- IRC Yachts divisions, PHS Yachts/keel boats/Multi - hulls, an Island course.
- The start area will be determined by the Race Committee and/or Race Officer, depending on the weather conditions and ABC's designated sailing areas on each day of the regatta.
- The start area for all divisions will be posted on the regatta website by 0900 hrs on the day of racing.
- The scheduled time for the first warning signal will not be before: **1055 hrs.**

6. Measurements

- 6.1 Boats entering the IRC divisions shall submit a copy of their current IRC 2026 certificate to the Sailsys website no later than 1800 hrs. on Wednesday 23rd September 2026.
- 6.2 No alteration to a boat's TCC will be permitted after this date, except because of a rating protest or to correct Rating Authority errors.

7. Sailing Instructions

The event will be sailed under the ABC SSI's - 2025 Edition which can be downloaded at: https://www.abclubhk.com/annual_events.aspx

8. Venue

The organising authority will use the ABC main club house and Middle Island club house. Racing will take place to the South, East and West of Hong Kong Island.

9. Penalty & Arbitration

- 9.1 Prior to a protest hearing an Arbitration Hearing may be offered in accordance with Appendix T, as modified in NoR 9.2. If an arbitration hearing is not available, a boat may nonetheless take a postrace penalty, as defined in NoR 9.2. (This changes Appendix T2.)
- 9.2 A boat may take a penalty at the time of the incident as per RRS 44.1.
- 9.3 Provided that RRS rule 44.1(b) does not apply, a boat that may have broken one or more rules of Part 2 or RRS Rule: 31 in an incident may take a Post-Race Penalty at any time after the race until the beginning of a protest hearing involving the incident, in accordance with Appendix T, as modified below:
- 9.4 (a) The Post-Race Penalty is a 20% Scoring Penalty except the minimum scoring penalty shall be three (3) places. (This changes Appendix T1.b.).
- (b) A boat takes a Post-Race Penalty by notifying a member of the race committee, or for incidents resulting in a protest, an arbitrator, or a member of the protest committee in writing that she accepts a scoring penalty. (This changes Appendix T1 (c) and Appendix A.5).
- (c) Arbitration Process of Appendix T2 - 4 may be offered for each incident resulting in a protest by a boat. (This changes Appendix T2).

- 9.5 The protest time limit for all boats is 90 minutes after the last boat finishes racing, in the last race of the day, on both days of the regatta.
- 9.6 RRS rule - Appendix A - Clause 5.3 will apply.
- 10. Scoring**
- 10.1 Boats will be scored according to their IRC or PHS ratings, depending on the class entered.
- 10.2 Yachts and multi-hull divisions: Scoring all races will count equally, with no discards.
- 11. Safety & Support Boats.**
- 11.1 While racing, **no exposed anchors or large bow rollers** shall be carried on deck forward of the bow, unless enclosed by the hull or a fixed bowsprit.
- 11.2 Yachts failing to comply may be penalised by the Regatta Committee with a time penalty.
- 11.3 All boats shall carry adequate lifesaving and PFD equipment **for all** persons onboard.
- 11.4 ABC support boats may be suitably marked with the sponsors or event branding.
- 12. Berthing & Moorings**
- Subject to availability, temporary moorings can be provided, in either Deepwater Bay or Aberdeen Typhoon Shelter for boats wishing to stay overnight before or after the race. Details may be obtained from the Club on 2552 8182 (Ext. 834) or by emailing to marinecoord@abclubhk.com. Space booking is required but not guaranteed.
- 13. Minimum Safety Requirement**
- Boats must comply with their class rules regarding safety requirements and Cruisers must comply with the World Sailing Special Regulation Category 4: Appendix B – Inshore Racing plus VHF Radio: <http://www.sailing.org/documents/offshorespecialregs/index.php>
- 14. Radio Communications**
- 14.1 Communications between the Race Committee and competitors will be on Marine VHF Channel 72. This applies to all competing boats in the regatta.
- 14.2 Except in an emergency, a boat shall neither make radio transmissions while racing nor receive radio communications not available to all boats. This restriction also applies to mobile telephones.
- 15. Prizes**
- 15.1 The Opening Yacht Regatta 2026 Trophies and prizes will be awarded to boats placed overall first, second and third places for each class, depending on the number of entries and class entered – e.g., either IRC or PHS Divisions.
- 15.2 A Line Honours prize will be awarded to the first boat in each Division or class to finish the Island Course on Sunday 27th September 26.
- 16. Prize Giving**
- Prizes will be awarded at the ABC Middle Island clubhouse on Sunday after racing, subject to any outstanding protest hearings.
- 17. Disclaimer of Liability**
- 17.1 The Aberdeen Boat Club, the Organising Committee, the Race Committee, Regatta Sponsors and their respective representatives, Officers, Members, Staff and Volunteers accept no liability whatsoever for any loss of life or property, personal injury and damage caused by, or arising out of the Regatta.

- 17.2 The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone. (RRS Fundamental Rule 3). In addition, competitor's attention is drawn to the World Sailing Special Regulations 1.02.1 (first point) which begins "Under RRS 3, the responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or continue racing is hers alone. The safety of a boat and her crew is the sole and inescapable responsibility of the Person-in-charge..." Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk.
- 17.3 Owners and skippers are invited to co-operate with the Organising Authority, Race Committee and ABC Marine & Sailing Office in completing the formalities of their boat entries by submission of all required information, certificates, forms, etc. within the deadline dates quoted throughout this NoR. Failure to comply will result in a boat not entering the series correctly and will require supporting evidence to be presented to the race committee to comply.
- 18. Insurance**
Entered boats shall have third party liability insurance at least to the minimum cover required under Hong Kong SAR law.
- 19. Food and Beverage Arrangement**
A breakfast buffet will be available at the main clubhouse from 0800hrs on Sunday 27th September: early bird – 0800 to 0900 hrs: \$95 HKD, after 0900 hrs: \$105 HKD.
- 20. Further Information**
- 20.1 **Car Parking**
Car parking is not available for visitors on race days. Other public car parks are opposite the main club above the bus station and the Jumbo Car Park on Welfare Road.
- 20.2 **Club Signing Rights**
Visiting competitors from the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club and Hebe Haven Yacht Club may sign chits on the race day on presentation of their club membership card.
- 20.3 **Food and Beverage**
Non-member competitors may use Octopus Cards at the Coffee shop and at ABC MI, which are valid for use only on the designated race days and prize giving presentation.
- 20.4 **Ships Stores & Fuel**
Drinks and ice are available from the Galley on the day of the race and the takeaway food requires pre-order the day before. Diesel Fuel is obtainable from Fuegy Fuel Barge located at the western entrance of the Aberdeen Harbour or the Aberdeen Marina Club fuel pier.
- 20.5 Event website: http://www.abclubhk.com/opening_yachtregatta_2026.aspx
- 20.6 **For Event enquiries:**
Alex Johnston – Marine Services Manager
Email: marine.services@abclubhk.com
Tel: +852 2518 9535 - Ext: 835.
- 20.7 **For Entries & Mooring enquires:**
Jayne Li – Marine & Sailing Secretary
Email: marinecoord@abclubhk.com, Tel: +852 2552 8182 - Ext: 834