



**IRISH
MATCH RACING
ASSOCIATION**



Qualifier

12th April 2025 – 13th April 2025

Notice of Race

The Organising Authority (OA) is Howth Yacht Club in conjunction with the Irish Match Racing Association (IMRA).

The following abbreviations apply to this Notice of Race and the Sailing Instructions:

HYC: Howth Yacht Club

NOR: Notice of Race

[NP]: A boat may not protest as per NoR 1.3

OA: Organising Authority

ONB: Official Notice Board

PC: Protest Committee

RRS: Racing Rules of Sailing

RC: Race Committee

SI: Sailing Instructions

1. Rules

- 1.1 This event is governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing. Class rules will not apply.
- 1.2 The event is a World Sailing Grade 4. This grade is subject to review by World Sailing. The event may be re-graded when there is a clear reason to do so.
- 1.3 The rules for the handling of boats and the equipment list, detailed as part of the Sailing Instructions will apply and will apply to any practice sailing.
- 1.4 Class rules will not apply.
- 1.5 RRS 40.1 (personal flotation devices) applies at all times whilst afloat, except briefly

while changing or adjusting clothing or personal equipment.

2. Sailing Instructions

- 2.1 The SI will be available on April 10th on the Irish Match Racing Association website and circulated to competitors prior to the event.

3. Communications

- 3.1 The ONB is located at <https://www.irishmatchracingassociation.com/events/qualifier-howth-yacht-club>
- 3.2 [DP] All boats shall carry a VHF radio capable of communicating on 69 and 72.
- 3.3 On the water, the RC will make courtesy broadcasts to competitors on VHF radio. The channel will be stated in the SI.
- 3.4 [DP] From the first attention signal until the end of the last race of the day, except in an emergency, a boat shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats.

4. Eligibility and Entry

- 4.1 A maximum of 8 skippers will be invited by the OA to compete in the event.
- 4.2 Only teams invited by the OA will be eligible to enter the event.
- 4.3 Skippers wishing to receive an invite may register their request with the OA at the following link prior to 23:59 on March 3rd: <https://forms.gle/xceGRRjuwEGrGHzy5>
- 4.4 Invitations will be issued no later than 10th March 2025.
- 4.5 Decisions of the OA about entry or eligibility shall not be cause for redress this amends rules 62.1 and 63.1.
- 4.6 All competitors shall hold a World Sailor ID. (WS Sailing ID can be obtained by registering online at <https://www.sailing.org/sailors/world-sailing-profile/> . Skippers shall inform the OA of their WS Sailor ID at registration.
- 4.7 All competitors shall be members of the Irish Match Racing Association at the time of competition.
- 4.8 A non-refundable entry fee of €400 shall be paid as part of the entry requirements, an entry link will accompany the invitation.
- 4.9 To be considered an entry in the event, a boat shall complete all registration Requirements, including crew weigh-in, and pay all fees.

5. Damage / Damage Deposit

- 5.1 Each skipper is responsible for the damage or loss to their boat unless responsibility is otherwise assigned by the umpires or PC. The damage deposit is the limit of the liability of each skipper for each incident. An initial damage deposit of €500 shall be paid by way of credit card authorisation at registration on the first day of the event
- 5.2 If a deduction is made from the deposit, the skipper will be required to restore the deposit to its original value to continue the event.

6. Crew Limitations

- 6.1 Each team shall be limited to a maximum of 5 persons and, have combined weight that does not exceed 350kg dressed in at least shorts and shirt determined at the time of registration.
- 6.2 Following the declaration of crew prior to the event, a crew member may not be added, removed or substituted without prior written approval from the RC.
- 6.3 After the warning signal for each match, the registered skipper shall not leave the helm, except in an emergency.
- 6.4 When a registered skipper is unable to continue the event the OA or RC may authorise an original member to substitute
- 6.5 Crew weights may be checked during the regatta. At any re-weighing, the total weight limit is increased by 10 kg. Any crew weighing in excess of this increased limit will not be penalised, but they shall reduce their weight to the increased weight limit before racing again.

7. Event Format

- 7.1 The OA intends on providing 4 x J80 type boats for racing in the event. Each boat will have the following sails: Mainsail, Jib, Spinnaker.
- 7.2 Boats will be allocated as decided by the race committee. The intention of the OA will be to allocate the boats by draw, either daily or for each round.
- 7.3 While all reasonable steps are taken to equalise the boats variations will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 62.
- 7.4 The number of matches to be sailed each day will be determined by the RC with the intention of the RC to start each subsequent flight as soon as practical after the previous flight.
- 7.5 The course will be a windward/leeward with starboard rounding, finishing downwind.

- 7.6 The races will be sailed in the sailing area Northeast of Howth Harbour.
- 7.7 The event format will consist of Round Robin(s), Knock-out Series and Finals racing. The exact format will be specified in the SI.
- 7.8 Should wind, weather or other conditions make it unlikely to complete the scheduled number of races within the time schedule, the event format may be terminated, shortened or altered in order to declare a champion.
- 7.9 The sails to be used will be determined by the RC.

8. Provisional Schedule

- 8.1 A brief practice sessions will be available before racing on Sat 12th April, after briefing and before racing begins.
- 8.2 The race office will be open from 08:00 to 09:00 on Sat 12th April, to facilitate weigh-in and registration.
- 8.3 A briefing for all competitors will take place at 09:00 in the HYC forecourt area.
- 8.4 The latest time for a warning signal shall be 10:30
- 8.5 Races shall be as per the schedule in the Sailing Instructions.

Date	Intended First Attention Signal
12 th April	10:30
13 th April	10:00

10. Scoring

- 10.1 The scoring system of RRS Appendix C - 10 will apply

11. Code of Conduct

- 11.1. Competitors and Support Persons shall comply with any reasonable request from any official, and shall behave so as to not bring the event into disrepute.
- 11.2. Competitors and support persons shall handle any equipment provided by the organising authority with care, seamanship, and in accordance with any instructions for its use and without interfering with its functionality.

12. Media, Images and Sound

- 12.1 By participating in this event, competitors automatically grant to the organising authority the unconditional, perpetual right and authority to publish for any purpose and in any media, the names, photographs, and video footage taken of the boat and its crew prior to, during, and after the race without compensation.

13. Disclaimer

- 13.1 Sailing is an activity that has an inherent risk of damage and injury. Competitors in this event participate entirely at their own risk. See RRS 3, Decision to Race.
- RRS 3 of the Racing Rules of Sailing states: "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue to race is hers alone". Sailing by its nature is an unpredictable sport and therefore inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event, each competitor agrees and acknowledges that:
- (a) 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;
 - (b) They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore;
 - (c) They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions;
 - (d) Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate;
 - (e) The provision of a race management team, patrol boats and other officials and volunteers by the event organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities;
 - (f) The provision of patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions as can be practically provided in the circumstances;
 - (g) 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 safety briefing held for the event.
 - (h) By entering this regatta, each competitor, accept and agree to the above risks

The OA will not be held responsible for the damage of any boat or other property or the injury to any competitor. By participating in this regatta, each competitor agrees to

release the race organisers from any and all liability fully associated with such competitor's participation in this event permitted by law.

14. Further Information

- 14.1 For further information please contact events@hyc.ie
- 14.2 Helmsmen and crew competing in the event and their guests shall be Temporary Members of Howth Yacht Club for the duration of the event and shall be bound by the rules of the Club. Howth Yacht Club reserves the right to remove Temporary Membership