INTERNATIONAL GP14 CLASS ASSOCIATION
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP 2026
At Royal North of Ireland Yacht Club

8th to 14th August 2026

Sailing Instructions

ORGANISING AUTHORITY
The Organising Authority (OA) is Royal North or Ireland Yacht Club (RNIYC), in association with the International GP14 Class Association.

The notation '[NP]' in a rule of the sailing instructions (SIs) means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1.
The notation '[SP]' in a rule of the sailing instructions (SIs) means that the standard penalty for a breach of the rule may be applied by the race committee or technical committee without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.

1. RULES

1.1 The event is governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing*.

1.2 In the event of a discrepancy between the Notice of Race and the Sailing Instructions, the Sailing Instructions take precedence. (this changes RRS rule 63.5 (c)).

1.3 Breaches of the GP14 Class rules shall be at the discretion of the International Jury. [DP]

2. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

2.1 Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted before 0900 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.

3. COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

3.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located at www.racingrulesofsailing.org/events/15561. A link to the WhatsApp notices is provided in the Additional Information section below.

3.2 The race office is located on the first floor, up the stairs by the main entrance of Royal North of Ireland Yacht Club, 7 Seafront Road, Cultra, County Down, BT18 0BB. Telephone +44 (0) 2890 428 041, email: manager@rniyc.org.

4. CODE OF CONDUCT

4.1 (DP] Competitors and support persons shall comply with reasonable requests from race officials.

4.2 [DP] Competitors and support persons shall handle any equipment or place advertising provided by the organizing authority with care, seamanship, in accordance with any instructions for its use and without interfering with its functionality.

5. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

5.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed at RNIYC flagpole in front of the clubhouse.

5.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 90 minutes' in Race Signals AP. This changes race signal AP.

5.3 [DP] Boats shall not leave the shore until flag D is displayed with one sound. The warning signal will not be made before the scheduled time or less than 90 minutes after flag D is displayed.

6. SCHEDULE OF RACES

6.1 Schedule is as per Notice of Race

Race times are the time of the first warning signal.

Date		*Time. All times are BST*	*Time of high tide*
Saturday August 8th	Registration: Race Office	10.00 to 18:00 BST	
	Equipment Inspection and event measurement: RNIYC Dinghy Park and Far Yard	09:30 to 18:00 BST	
	Competitors Briefing: RNIYC Marquee	18.00 BST	
Sunday August 9th	Registration: Race Office	09:30 to 11:00 BST	08:18, 3.00m HW
	Equipment Inspection and event measurement: RNIYC Dinghy Park and Far Yard	09:30 to 11:30 BST	
	Practice race 1st Points race	12:00 BST 13.30	
Monday August 10th	Points race Points race	11:00 BST To follow	09:41, 3.08m HW
Tuesday August 11th	Points race Points race	11:00 BST To follow	10:34, 3.21m HW
Wednesday August 12th	**Optional race day.**	As required	11:29, 3.34m HW
Thursday August 13th	Points race Points race	11:00 BST To follow	12:08, 3.7m HW
Friday August 14th	Points race Points race	11:00 BST To follow	13:03, 3.45m HW
	Prize Giving RNIYC	18:00 TBC	

6.2 One extra race per day may be sailed, provided that the event does not become more than one race ahead of schedule and the change is made according to SI 2.1 -

6.3 To alert boats that a race or sequence of races will begin soon, the orange starting line flag will be displayed with one sound at least five minutes before a warning signal is made.

6.4 An additional race may be run at the discretion of the Race Committee. To indicate this intention the finish boat (CV) will display Numeral 3 at the end of the last scheduled race that day.

6.5 On the last scheduled day of racing no warning signal will be made after 16.30 .

7. CLASS FLAGS

7.1 The Class flag is a black bell on a white background.

8. RACING AREA

8.1 The racing area is Belfast Lough and depending on wind direction may be to the North of the shipping channel, Area A or alternatively in the area beyond Gray Point, Area B. A chart of the racing areas can be found in Addendum A to these sailing instructions.

8.2 The fleet will be advised by the beach team each morning as to which race area will be used. The race committee may indicate which area shall be used by posting a notice on the official notice board.

9. COURSES

9.1 The diagram(s) in SI Addendum B shows the courses, including the approximate angles between legs, the order in which marks are to be passed, and the side on which each mark is to be left.

9.2 No later than the warning signal, the main committee vessel will display the approximate compass bearing of the first leg and the course to be sailed.

9.3 Sausage-Triangle with Leeward Finish course shall be indicated by Code Flag Juliet. Sausage – Triangle with Windward Finish Course shall be indicted by Code Flag Kilo. The Windward/Leeward course shall be indicated by Code Flag Romeo.

10. MARKS

10.1 Course marks are described in Addendum C. Starting is described in Addendum D and finishing marks are described in SI 14.

10.2 New marks, as provided in SI 13, are described in Addendum A.
Robotic Triangle Marks will be in use. However, as a back-up should there be an issue with the Robotic Marks, these will be replaced with yellow spherical Buoys.

10.3 When a leeward gate is set, if one or other of the gate marks is missing, the remaining mark shall be left to port. This changes RRS 34.

11. OBSTRUCTIONS

11.1 Should the Fleet need to cross the Shipping Channel to access that day's Racing Area. The Fleet will be controlled by a committee vessel located close to Channel Mark 6. Boats must cross close to Channel Mark 6 and only when the committee vessel is flying a green flag. Boats who cross the shipping channel when the committee vessel if flying a Red flag shall be penalised [DP]. On returning after racing the same system shall operate with a committee vessel positioned close to Channel Mark 5. Mark 5 & 6 are approximately due North of RNIYC.

12. THE START

12.1 Gate Starting shall be used. The starting system is described in Addendum D.

13. CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

13.1 To change the next leg of the course, the race committee will move the original mark or the finishing line to a new position. If there is a problem with a robotic mark, a replacement mark shall be laid and a RIB positioned close by. The RIB shall make repeated sound signals.

13.2 Minor course changes may not be signalled. This changes RRS33.

14. THE FINISH

14.1 The finishing line is between a staff displaying a blue flag on a committee boat at the starboard end and the course side of the port end finishing mark. It is intended to use a Red robotic mark for the finish mark.

14.2. In addition to RRS 32, the race committee may also award a score to a boat that is still racing by displaying to her from committee vessel (which may be in motion) flag W with two sound signals. A boat so notified is no longer required to sail the course,

shall stop racing and shall return to the starting area, or return ashore if there is no more racing. A score under this sailing instruction will be the score she would have received had she sailed the course and finished within any time limit, without gaining or losing any place. The decision by the race committee to use this procedure or not to use it shall not be grounds for requesting redress. This changes RRS 28.1, 35, 61.1(a) and 61.4(b), A5.1, A5.2 and A10

15. PENALTY SYSTEM

See NOR 12.

16. TIME LIMITS AND TARGET TIMES

16.1 The Mark 1 Time Limit, Race Time Limit (see RRS 35), and the Finishing Window are shown in the table below.

Mark 1 Time Limit	Race Time Limit	Finishing Window
45 minutes	*120 minutes*	*30 minutes*

16.2 If no boat has passed the first mark within the Mark 1 Time Limit, the race will be abandoned. .

16.3 The Finishing Window is the time for boats to finish after the first boat sails the course and finishes. Boats starting but failing to sail the course and finish within the Finishing Window, and not subsequently retiring, penalized or given redress, will be scored Time Limit Expired (TLE) without a hearing. A boat scored TLE will be awarded points as for a RTD boat.

17. HEARING REQUESTS

17.1 The protest time limit for protests about an incident observed in the racing area is 60 minutes after the last boat has checked in at the slipway. The protest time limit for other protests is 30 minutes after the relevant information is available to the protestor. This changes RRS 60.3(b) and 61.2(b)(1).

17.2 Hearing request forms are available at www.racingrulesofsailing.org/events/15561 *See RRS 60.3(b) and 61.2(b).* All hearing requests shall be lodged electronically.

17.3 Notices will be posted no later than 30 minutes after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Hearings will be held in the protest room, located at RNIYC clubhouse beginning at the time and date posted

17.4 A list of boats that have been penalized for breaking RRS 42 under Appendix P will be posted.

17.5 The right of appeal from a protest committee decision is denied as provided in RRS 70.3[(b)][(c)][(d)]. This is repeated from NOR 12.1

18.SCORING

18.1 See NOR Section 13.

19. SAFETY REGULATIONS

19.1 All sailors shall be issued with electronic RFID fobs when they register. The fobs are specific to each person and shall be retained for the duration of the event. The fob system being used is Shorepass.club. Fobs shall be attached to each competitor's buoyancy aid. Sailors are responsible for their fob and shall return their fob at the end of the event.

19.2 In the event of a failure of the fob RFID system, a rubber band system shall be used. Competitors shall be issued rubber bands according to their tally number. Sailors shall tally out before launching and tally back in on returning to the shore.

19.3 [DP] Competitors shall fob/tally out before departing the shore and fob/tally back in on returning to the shore, via the Beach master. Failure to fob/tally in or out shall result in a penalty. The fobbing/tally station will be located at the top of the slipway The penalty may be by way of donation of £10.00 to the RNLI.

19.4 [DP] A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee at the first reasonable opportunity. Promptly after returning to shore, the boat shall complete a retirement declaration form, which is available at—www.racingrulesofsailing.org/events/15561 - - Retirements may be enabled on the Event settings. Once enabled, competitors can submit a retirement from the Actions menu on the public event pages without signing in. They identify their boat, the race number, the date of retirement, and optionally a reason. The race committee receives an email notification for each submission.

19.5 RRS 40.1 shall apply at all times when afloat.

19.6 [DP] This event is using Metasail live boat tracking. Each boat shall be issued a race tracker. The tracker shall be attached below the deck. It is suggested that the device be attached to the shroud wire on the starboard side, below the deck and above the chainplate. (Cable ties will be available at the club). These devices shall require charging periodically through the week and a dedicated charging station shall be set up in the clubhouse. Whereas the trackers are not part of the safety system, they are mandatory to carry whilst afloat. Competitors are responsible for the safe return of the tracking device. Competitors are requested to ensure that the tracker is charged. Trackers shall be returned at the end of the event.

20 REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT

20.1 [DP] Substitution of competitors is not allowed without prior written approval of the OA. *See NOR Section 6.*

20.2 EQUIPMENT SUBSTITUTION: Replacement of items such as Rudder, Centreboard, Sails and Spinnaker poles, as well as hulls is not allowed without prior written approval of the OA.

21. EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

21.1 A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules, notice of race and sailing instructions.

21.2 DP] When instructed by a race official on the water, a boat shall proceed to a designated area for inspection.

22.SUPPLIED BOATS - Does not apply.

23. OFFICIAL VESSELS

23.1 Official vessels will be identified as follows:

"Aphros" Media / Press Vessel

"Tip Top" Main Committee Vessel

- The Guard Boat will be a Blue RNIYC Dory.
- The Gate Boat will be an Orange RIB.
- Official Event Mark station boats will be Orange RIBs.

24. [DP] SUPPORT TEAMS

24.1 See NOR 14.1. Support Boats will not be permitted.

24.2 Support personnel shall comply with the Racing Rules of Sailing, the Notice of Race, these Sailing Instructions and any directions given by the Race Committee or Organising Authority. Failure to comply may result in action being taken under the Racing Rules of Sailing, including against the boat(s) associated with the support person.

25. TRASH DISPOSAL

25.1 Trash may NOT be placed aboard official vessels.

26. BERTHING

26.1 [DP] Boats shall be kept in their assigned places while in the boat park.

27. HAUL OUT RESTRICTIONS – Does not apply.

28 - DIVING EQUIPMENT AND PLASTIC POOLS – Does not apply.

29. PRIZES - see NOR section 19

30. RISK STATEMENT NOTE: This is repeated from NOR 17.

30.1 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:

(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.

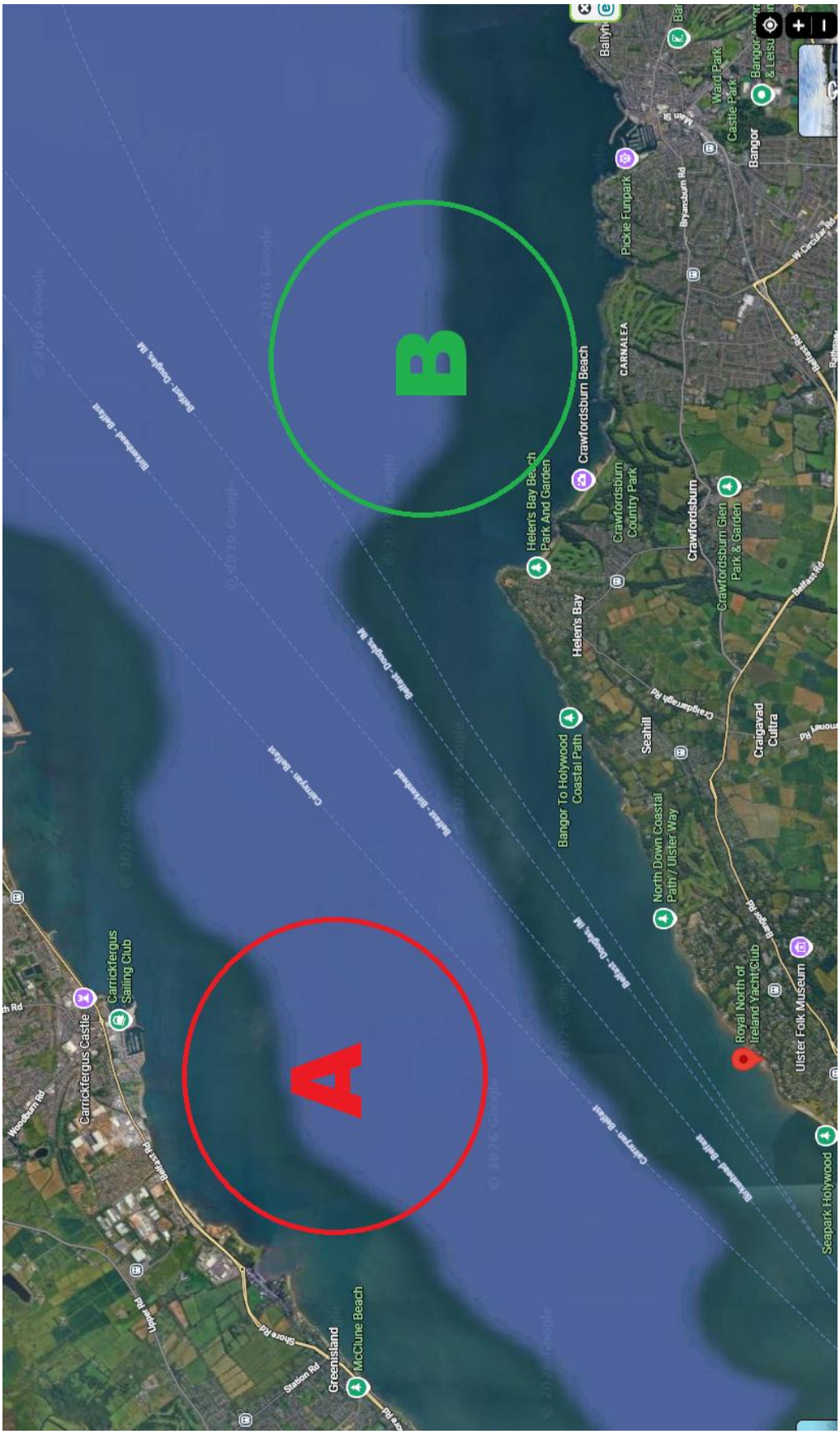
(e) The provision of a race management team, patrol boats and other officials and volunteers by the event organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities.

(f) The provision of patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstance.

(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 and information produced for the venue or event and to attend any safety briefing held for the event.

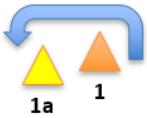
31. INSURANCE: See NOR 18.

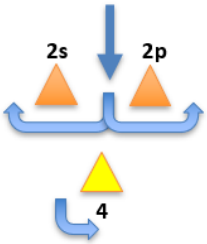
Addendum A: Course Locations Map



Addendum B: - COURSE DIAGRAMS

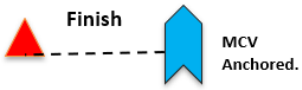
Course: Sausage – Triangle Leeward Finish
Mark Rounding Order :
Start, 1, 1a, Gate, 1, 1a, 3, 4, Finish.
Designated Code Flag: Juliet

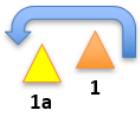




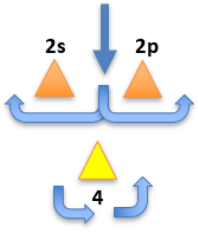
Marks 1 ,1a, 3, and 4 to be rounded to Port.
2s/2p are a Gate.
All Marks to be Robotic and coloured as per diagram.

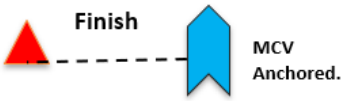
Course: Sausage – Triangle Windward Finish
Mark Rounding Order :
Start, 1, 1a, Gate, 1, 1a, 3, 4, Finish.
Designated Code Flag : Kilo



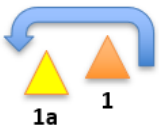


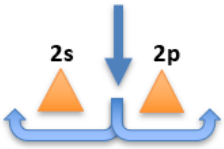
Marks 1 ,1a, 3, and 4 to be rounded to Port
2s/2p are a Gate.
All Marks to be Robotic and coloured as per diagram.





Course: Windward – Leeward
Mark Rounding Order:
Start, 1, 1a, Gate, 1, 1a, Gate, Finish.
Designated Code Flag : Romeo.





Marks 1 & 1a to be rounded to Port.
2s/2p are a Gate.
All Marks to be Robotic and coloured as per diagram.

Addendum C: MARK DESCRIPTIONS

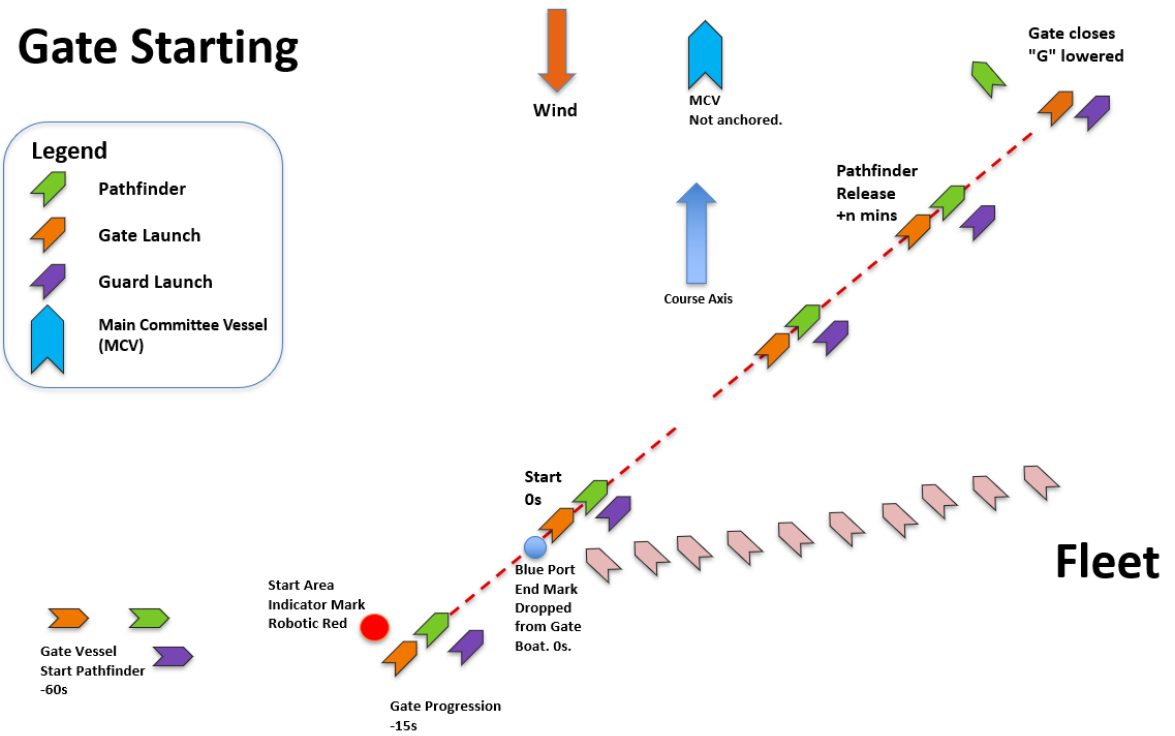
Robotic Marks as shown in the image above shall be used for this event with the exception of the *Start* Mark which shall be a blue buoy.

The robotic marks are Orange (4 of) Yellow (2 of) and Red (2 of).

In the event of a problem with the operation of a robotic mark, the mark may be replaced with a spherical yellow mark anchored or a RIB flying Code Flag Mike.

Note: Robotic marks will remain in position unless effected by an external force such as a boat dragging it. Once freed, the mark will return to its original position. Boats must avoid marks and hitting a mark returning to its original position shall not be grounds for redress.

Addendum D: Gate Start procedure.



Note: The diagram above is for illustrative purposes only.

D1. The Main Committee Vessel will be positioned in the Starting Area to weather of the anticipated track of the Pathfinder.

D2 Distinguishing Flags and Starting Signals
2.1 The Main Committee Vessel and Gate Vessel will display IC Flag “G”
2.2 The signals for starting the race will be made from the Main Committee Vessel.

D3. Selection of Pathfinder.
3.1 The Race Committee will nominate the Pathfinder and a reserve Pathfinder for the first race. Subsequently, the Pathfinder will be the tenth boat in the preceding race. If this boat is unable to race, or has already been Pathfinder previously in the event, the Pathfinder will be the eleventh boat in the preceding race and so on. The reserve Pathfinder will be the next boat in the previous race. If necessary, the Race Committee may designate another boat
3.2 The sail numbers of Pathfinder and reserve for the first race of each day will be posted on the official notice board , and will be displayed on the side of the Committee Vessel at least 10 minutes before the preparatory signal for the first race. If more than one race is sailed on the same day , the numbers will be displayed on the side of the Committee Vessel at least 10 minutes before the preparatory signal for each successive race.
3.3 The Pathfinder and reserve shall report to the Committee Vessel as soon as possible after her number is displayed and before her preparatory signal (DP)

D4. Positioning of Pathfinder and Gate Vessel.
4.1 The Pathfinder shall follow directions given by the Race Committee.(DP)
4.2 At or up to 30 seconds before the starting signal the Pathfinder shall commence her close hauled port tack from a Red robotic mark, which is not a mark of the course, leaving the mark to port, followed by the Gate Vessel which will keep close astern of her. If the Pathfinder is unable to do this, the race committee will signal race abandoned.
4.3 The Pathfinder will be considered separately to have started at the starting signal (NP).

D5. Starting Mark and Line.

5.1 At the start the port end Starting Mark will be dropped from the back of the Gate Launch. The port end Start Mark shall be a blue buoy with a weight.

5.2 The starting line for all boats except the Pathfinder shall be between the Starting Mark and the centre of the stern of the Gate Vessel.

5.3 The Gate Vessel, Guard Vessel and the Pathfinder until released, rank as starting marks.

D6. Pathfinder Course.

6.1 The Pathfinder shall maintain her close-hauled course for a minimum of 3 minutes and any further time which the Race Committee deems necessary.

6.2 The Pathfinder will then be released by hail from the Gate Vessel, after which the Pathfinder may tack onto starboard tack or hold course as she pleases.

6.3 After releasing the pathfinder, the Gate Vessel will maintain her course and speed, for a further minute at the discretion of the Race Committee at which point the gate will be fully open.

D7 Closing the Start Line

7.1 A sound signal will be made when the Gate is fully open. The Gate Vessel will then stop engines, partly lower flag “G” with one sound, and drift for at least one minute.

7.2 IC flag 'G' shall be fully lowered with one sound, to indicate the closing of the gate.

7.3 No boat shall start after IC flag 'G' has been fully lowered.

D8. Starting.

8.1 Boats other than the Pathfinder shall start by crossing the starting line on starboard tack after the starting signal and before the Gate closes.

8.2 A boat that has not started shall not cross the starting line from the course side.

8.3 No boat shall start after the gate start line is closed

D9. Interference with Pathfinder and Gate Vessel.

9.1 a) After the preparatory signal, a boat shall not threaten the unobstructed sailing of the pathfinder and shall not interfere with the Pathfinder, the Guard Vessel or the Gate Vessel.

b) After the preparatory signal, a boat shall not pass between the Pathfinder, the Guard Vessel or the Gate Vessel.

9.2 No boat shall cause another boat to interfere in the ways specified above. (DP)

9.3 A keep clear boat that cannot avoid touching a starting mark or breaking 9.1 may hail a right-of-way boat for room. The hailed boat shall respond by giving room. The boat hailing for room shall then retire.

D10. Penalties

10.1A boat breaking SI D8.2, SI D8.3 or D9.1 shall be disqualified by the Race Committee without a hearing. This changes RRS 60.5(b), and A5. If the race is re-started or re-sailed, she shall not sail in it. The race committee will display her sail number before the next warning signal for that race. If she does sail in the restarted race, her disqualification shall not be excluded in calculating her series score. This changes RRS 60.5 and A5.

End of Sailing Instructions.

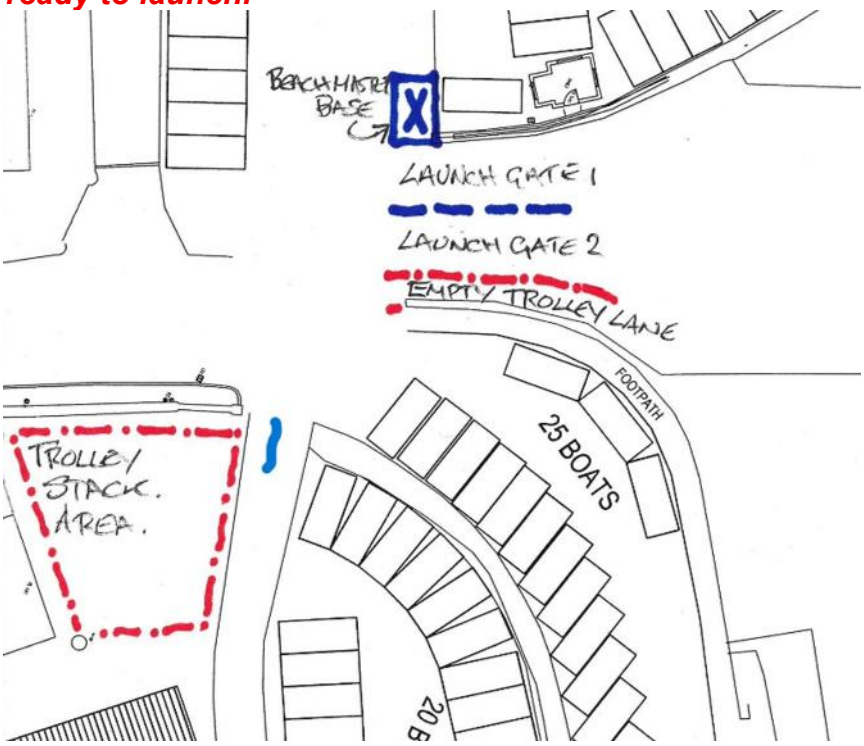
Additional Information for Competitors.

GP 14 Worlds – Beachmaster Launching and Recovery procedures.

The organising committee has agreed that –

- launching will be operated on a first come queue basis.
- competitors want to use their own trolley every day.

It is critical that sailors only go through the tally gates when they are completely ready to launch.



Launching Procedure

1. Boats queue from the top of the slipway.
2. Two gates operate for FOB scanning.
3. Boats only pass through the tally gate when they are ready to launch.
4. The trolley team will wait for empty trolleys at the water's edge.
5. There will be no one from the slipway team in the water for launching.
6. There will be an empty trolley lane alongside the east wall of the slipway.
7. Empty trolleys will be put outside the rescue shed until all boats are launched.
8. One of the trolley team will stand at the top of the slipway to keep a clear route to prevent boats waiting to launch blocking the route.

Recovery Procedure

1. Trolleys are parked in blocks relating to boat tally number.
2. Boat tracking system should give the slipway team advance warning of what boats are approaching the slipway. A spotter will be assigned each day to coordinate the trolley runners.
3. The Rescue Crews will also try to assist with incoming boat numbers.
4. As back up there will be binoculars and lists of sail numbers etc.

5. We will have two or three of the slipway team in the water to assist with end of day recovery.
6. One or two of the Beach Team will control boat traffic to avoid congestion beyond the top of the slipway.
7. There will be a boat wash at the top of the slip – the idea is boats are washed from both sides as they pass ***without stopping***. The yard team may set up a washing layby if the process slows boats clearing the slipway.

The Beach Team

Morning Beach Team Timing	0830 - 1030
Afternoon Beach Team Timing	Variable - 1500-1600

Supported by Ards and North Down Borough Council

RNYC 2026 GP14 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

International GP14 Class Association World Championships

WhatsApp Notices

Regatta officials are using a web-based program to assist with the management of this regatta. It provides electronic forms for such actions as scoring inquiries, protests, equipment substitutions, etc. And it provides for electronic communication with competitors if competitors have provided an email and/or telephone number accepting SMS. But Competitors can also subscribe to notifications via WhatsApp. Competitors will be notified electronically of protest time limits, confirmation of a protest filing, scheduled hearing times, etc. This electronic system allows competitors to move freely about the event and remain in contact with relevant officials. And all competitors have electronic access to the scoring inquiries, jury decisions, etc. via the web.

Link to Subscribe to WhatsApp Notices

Or send +14154807420 the message "Event#15561".

NOTICE: WhatsApp requires that you specifically subscribe to RacingRulesOfSailing to receive notices. Scan the above QR code and open the link that it contains. It will open WhatsApp and you will then need to send the message it contains. Once subscribed, we will send all public notices to your WhatsApp account.