

Swale Regatta 2026 - Notice of Race

The Swale Regatta is run by a committee of representatives from sailing and yacht clubs within the Swale and Medway area. The Organising Authority for the 2026 event is Hoo Ness Yacht Club.

The Regatta will take place from Friday the 3rd July to Sunday the 5th July 2026 on Swale, Medway and Thames Estuary waters.

The first race shall start in the Harty/Faversham area of the Swale not before 16:30hrs on Friday 3rd July 2026.

The second race will also start in the Harty/Faversham area of the Swale, but not before 08:00hrs on Saturday the 4th July 2026.

The last race will finish in the vicinity of Sheerness before 14:00hrs on Sunday the 5th July 2026.

Rules: Races will be governed by the current ISAF Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), the prescriptions of the RYA, Medway Ports, PLA Regulations, by the Notices of Race and by the Sailing Instructions.

Risk Statement : The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in the Regatta, a race, or to continue racing, is the skippers alone.

Sailing is by its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore involves an element of risk. By taking part in this Regatta each competitor agrees and acknowledges that:

1. 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;
2. They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore;
3. They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions.
4. Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate;
5. The provision of a race management team and volunteers by the organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities;
6. Boats shall have a lifejacket for every crew member and a functioning VHF radio.

Race Numbers/Identification. Boats should have either a unique identifying number on their sails or a name/number clearly visible on their topsides/superstructure that will allow them to be easily identified by the Regatta management and other competitors. This changes RRS rule 77.

Insurance – All competitors must be insured against third party liability and entry into the Regatta implies the possession of appropriate cover that includes club racing.

Handicaps – Swale Regatta handicaps will be allocated by the committee based on the RYA NHC Handicap system. A boat's handicap may be adjusted after every race. An adjustment in handicap number is not grounds for redress, this changes RRS 62.

The overriding principal behind the handicap system adopted by the committee is to ensure fair and safe sailing by the participants. A well sailed boat should expect to see this reflected in her result.

Entry is open to (but not restricted to) any member of a Swale, Thames or Medway yacht or sailing club affiliated to the RYA. Visiting or other yachts are open to enter at the invitation of the committee.

A yacht may enter all or part of the Regatta.

There is no entry fee to the Regatta or part thereof in 2026.

Entry forms can be obtained via email to committee@swaleregatta.co.uk

Registration. All entrants are asked to notify their intention to race before Monday the 29th June 2026. This will allow the committee time to allocate handicaps and complete administration. Late entries will be accepted at the discretion of the committee up to one hour before the start of a race (on any day).

Classes: Boats may be divided into two classes, Fast and Slow. The division will be based on handicap rating and will be set at the discretion of the committee. The purpose of the division is to allow separate start times and courses to be set if deemed necessary due to sailing conditions. Classes may be combined if conditions allow.

The course for Friday 3rd July will start on the Swale in the vicinity of Faversham and finish in a similar location.

Racing on Saturday 4th July will start on the Swale in the vicinity of Faversham and finish in the vicinity of Queenborough.

Racing on Sunday 5th July will start and finish on the Medway in the vicinity of Sheerness/ Queenborough.

Races may be either timed or of a pursuit nature depending on circumstance and conditions.

Course start, marks and finish details will be announced 30 minutes before the start of a race:

The committee reserve the right to cancel or stop a race midway and issue fresh instructions should the prevailing weather or sailing conditions dictate.

Race time will be GPS unless dictated otherwise by the Race Officer.

Cancellation: If in the opinion of the committee the expected wind strength likely to be encountered before, during or after a race is deemed excessive, or in the event of reduced visibility (fog, heavy rain etc) the committee may delay, relocate or cancel a race if no viable safe alternative option is available.

Sailing Instructions will be issued not later than Monday the 29th June 2026.