



BOI Etchells Regatta 2026

Russell Boating Club

Event date: 7th & 8th March, 2026.

Reserve date: 14th & 15th March, 2026

The Organising Authority is the Russell Boating Club Inc (“the Club”) Sailing Committee.

NOTICE of RACE (NoR)

1. RULES

- 1.1. The event will be governed by “Rules” as defined in the Yachting NZ Racing Rules of Sailing 2025-2028. Note: Where a rule number has changed from the previous Racing Rules of Sailing it has been unlined.
- 1.2. There will be other motor and sailing vessels in the region of the race course who are not Regatta participants but who must be respected with (and are expected to also honour) the ‘Collision Prevention’ rules.
- 1.3. Boats must carry all safety equipment specified in the NoR [Appendix A](#)
- 1.4. It is the obligation of the boat’s skipper to ensure compliance with the Safety Regulations.
- 1.5. Between sunset and sunrise Part 2 of the Racing Rules shall cease to apply and will be replaced with the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea.
- 1.6. Sailing will take place within the Pēwhairangi Marine Mammal Sanctuary area. Regatta organisers have applied to the Department of Conservation for a permit to allow for all participating boats and support vessels to be exempted from the rules of the sanctuary upon arrival to the start line and during racing. Sanctuary rules will apply at all other times.

2. CHANGES TO RULES

- 2.1. The Racing Rules will be changed in accordance with Rule 86 as follows:
 - 2.1.1. Rule 44.1 is changed so that the Two Turns Penalty is replaced by the One Turn Penalty.
 - 2.1.2. Rule 44.3 of the Racing Rules, which provides for scoring penalties, does not apply.
- 2.2. Where there is a conflict between this NoR and the Racing Rules of Sailing, the NoR rules will apply.
- 2.3. Additional Regatta rule changes may be advised in the Sailing Instructions.

3. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 3.1. The sailing instructions will be available one week before the Regatta.

4. COMMUNICATION

- 4.1. Please refer to the Club's Etchells page for all Regatta-related communications.
- 4.2. All boats shall carry a VHF radio capable of communication on channels 16, 63(Russell Radio), 77(Race Committee Boat)
- 4.3. On the water, the race committee will make courtesy broadcasts to competitors on VHF channel 77. The channel will be confirmed In the Sailing Instructions.

5. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

- 5.1. The event is open to all Etchells class yachts.
- 5.2. Eligible boats may enter the Regatta by completing the online entry form which is available on the Club's [Etchells page](#). Online entries will open on the 15th of December, 2025.
- 5.3. Entries for the event will close on the 22nd of February 2026.
- 5.4. To be eligible to compete in the event, each helmsman or skipper shall be a financial member of a yacht club affiliated with that club's national authority.
- 5.5. To be considered for an entry in the Regatta, a boat shall complete all registration requirements and pay all fees.

6. FEES

- 6.1. The entry fee for this regatta is \$50.
- 6.2. Payment should be made to Russell Boating Club Inc, Westpac account # 03-0394-0031108-00. Please use your boat name as a reference.

7. SCHEDULE

- 7.1. A skipper's briefing will be held at the Russell Boating Clubhouse at 0930 hrs on the first day of the Regatta. Attendance is mandatory for the skipper or a crew member of each racing yacht.
- 7.2. Racing will be held on Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th of March, 2026. Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th of March are the regatta reserve dates if the weather prevents racing on the scheduled date.
- 7.3. The scheduled time for the first race warning signal is 11:30 hrs.

8. SAILING AREA

- 8.1. The race will be held In the Bay of Islands area. Charts NZ 5124 & NZ 5125

9. COURSES

- 9.1. Depending on the weather, the Club's race committee will attempt to hold 3 races each day. All races will be Windward Leeward courses.

10. PENALTY SYSTEM

- 10.1. Rule 44.1 is changed so that the Two Turns Penalty is replaced by the One Turn Penalty.

11. SCORING

- 11.1. The Low Point System without handicaps will apply as set out in Appendix A of the Racing Rules.
- 11.2. A single completed race is required to constitute the series.
- 11.3. If 4 or more races are completed, a yachts series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.
- 11.4. If 3 or less races are completed, a yachts series score will be the total of her race scores.

12. RISK STATEMENT

- 12.1. The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue to race is hers alone.' By participating in this Regatta each competitor agrees and acknowledges that sailing is a potentially dangerous activity with inherent risks. These risks include strong winds and rough seas, sudden changes in weather, failure of equipment, boat handling errors, poor seamanship by other boats, loss of balance on an unstable platform, and fatigue resulting in increased risk of injury. **Inherent in the sport of sailing is the risk of permanent, catastrophic injury or death by drowning, trauma, hypothermia, or other causes.**
- 12.2. It is the responsibility of all skippers to ensure that their vessel and equipment is, at all times, satisfactory and maintained to a standard to ensure the safety of the crew and other competitors.
- 12.3. Competitor's attention is drawn to the fundamental rules of racing in Part 1 of the Racing Rules. These cover helping those in danger, life-saving equipment and personal flotation devices, fair sailing, decision to race, and acceptance of the rules.
- 12.4. The Club and its Racing Committee are not responsible for the actions of any vessel either participating in the races or not, except for the committee and patrol boats.

13. TROPHIES & PRIZES

- 13.1. The prizegiving will take place in the Russell Boating Club rooms at 18:30hrs on the last day of racing.
- 13.2. The BOI Etchells Cup together with other Prizes will be awarded at the prizegiving.
- 13.3. Trophies, prizes, and results awarded on the day of the races are provisional only. The Club reserves the right to review and amend results at their discretion.

14. CANCELLATION OF THE REGATTA

- 14.1. The Club's Sailing Committee reserves the right to cancel the regatta completely by written notification to each yacht entered, via email to the contact provided on the Entry Form.
- 14.2. If the regatta is postponed or abandoned for reasons beyond the organiser's control, a refund in whole or part will be limited to payments made for the entry fee only, at the discretion of the Club's Sailing committee.

15. FURTHER INFORMATION

15.1. For further information please contact the Club's organising committee at etchells@russellboatingclub.org.nz

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BOI Etchells Cup Regatta



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Appendix A

The Safety Equipment Requirements for this regatta are listed below.

Equipment Description	Required for the Event
PFD for each crew Type 403 minimum	Yes
Manual bilge pump, at least 1	Yes
3.5 kg Anchor, 2m x 6mm chain, and 45m warp	Yes
Bucket with lanyard	Yes
Tow rope, 25-30m not less than 12mm	Yes
2 paddles 1200mm long	Yes
Flashlight or signalling device	Yes
Handheld Orange Flare x 1 or equivalent Electronic Flare	Yes
Heaving line	Optional
Medical Kit	Yes
Sound signalling device	Optional
VHF Radio and Cell Phone	Yes
Knife, sheathed and secured in or near the cockpit	Yes
V Sheet	Optional
Shackle key or sufficient tools to effect minor repairs	Yes
Drinking water (Sufficient for crew)	Yes