



2026

# THREE KINGS

## OFFSHORE YACHT RACE



1100hrs • 16th April 2026

# NOTICE OF RACE



**THREE  
KINGS  
OFFSHORE  
YACHT  
RACE  
16  
APRIL  
2026**

2026 marks the third edition of the RNZYS Three Kings Offshore Yacht Race, launched in 2022.

This 500nm race blasts out of Auckland from right in front of the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron, charges past Cape Reinga, and sends crews around the remote and rugged Three Kings Islands before the final push home.

With two 35nm open-water crossings where the Tasman Sea collides with the South Pacific, the course demands sharp strategy, seaworthy boats, and serious offshore knowledge. This is the real deal - a pure bluewater challenge.

Open to fully-crewed and two-handed teams from any yacht club this race serves as the perfect qualifier for major events like Round New Caledonia, Round North New Zealand and the Sydney Hobart. The Category 2 race is your ticket to the next level of offshore racing.

# THREE KINGS OFFSHORE YACHT RACE HISTORY

## RACE RECORD

Year	2022
Yacht	Wired
Design	BW52
Skipper	Rob Bassett
Elapsed Time	2d, 3h, 42m, 39s



### 2024 • PHRF

<b>Fully Crewed</b>	<b>Shorthanded</b>
Equilibrium	Akonga
Graham Matthews	Nick Roberts & Max Livingstone
Botin 55	Dehler 41

### 2022 • PHRF

<b>Fully Crewed</b>	<b>Shorthanded</b>
Wired	Titanium
Rob Bassett	Shane Bellingham & Ben Beasley
BW52	Thompson 38



# Three Kings Offshore Yacht Race

## Notice of Race

16th April 2026

The Organising Authority (OA) is the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron  
181 Westhaven Drive, Westhaven, Auckland 1011

‘[NP]’ denotes a rule that shall not be grounds for protest by a boat under RRS 60.1

### 1. RULES

- 1.1. The event is governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS)*, and;
  - 1.1.1. Auckland Harbour Navigation Safety Bylaws 2021 available at: [www.at.gov.nz](http://www.at.gov.nz)
  - 1.1.2. Northland Safety bylaws 2017 available at: [www.nrc.govt.nz](http://www.nrc.govt.nz)
  - 1.1.3. PHRF rules apply to monohulls available at: [www.yachtingnz.org.nz](http://www.yachtingnz.org.nz)
- 1.2. The Yachting New Zealand (YNZ) Safety Regulations (SR) Part II Category 2 shall apply modified as follows.
  - 1.2.1. All boats shall carry a satellite communication system. The satellite communication system shall be powered on, and able to receive voice calls at all times. Boats shall provide the satellite phone number to the OA. Boats must produce evidence that their satellite communications are functioning properly (refer to NoR 4.1.9).
  - 1.2.2. Boats shall carry a copy of the “Failed Communications Plan” and store it near their VHF radio and satellite voice communication system. (This document will be provided by RNZYS)
  - 1.2.3. All boats shall carry and maintain RNZYS supplied Trackers, which must remain switched on while racing until finished or retired in safe harbour.
  - 1.2.4. [NP] An AIS Transponder shall be carried and be switched on, such that it is receiving and transmitting at regular intervals (no more than 5 minutes) for the duration of the race. The failure of any station to receive a signal from a boat’s AIS Transponder shall not be subject to protest or grounds for redress (amends RRS 60.1 and 61.1(a) and RRS 63.2 shall not apply).
  - 1.2.5. Boats shall carry the minimum engine fuel as prescribed by YNZ SR for Category 2, and not less than the amount required to give the boat a motoring range of at least 150nm in flat water.
  - 1.2.6. A life jacket shall be worn by each member of the crew when on deck between the hours of sunset and sunrise and/or when alone on deck.
    - 1.2.6.1 *It is strongly recommended that a lifejacket be worn by each member of the crew at times such as, but not limited to,*
      - a) *When on deck when the true wind speed is 15 knots or above*
      - b) *When on deck when visibility is less than 1 nautical mile*

1.2.7. Each inflatable lifejacket shall be checked and serviced at the intervals as prescribed by the manufacturer and documented evidence of that servicing must be provided to the OA (refer to NoR 4.1.4).

1.2.8. The following paper charts must be carried as a minimum:

ECN (NZ)	Chart Title	CN
404111	Manawatāwhi / Three Kings Islands	4111
300041	North Island – North Cape	41
300051	Tauroa Point to Cape Brett	51
300521	Cape Brett to Paepae-o-Tū / Bream Tail	521
300522	Paepae-o-Tū / Bream Tail to Kawau Island including Great Barrier Island (Aotea Island)	522
305322	Approaches to Auckland	532

1.2.9 All boats must carry enough charts and related publications to navigate safely. The list below shows the recommended minimum area coverage, in addition to the mandatory charts listed above. Extra charts may be carried in either paper or electronic form, as outlined below. Each boat is responsible for its own safety and should also carry charts for inshore navigation and possible ports of refuge.

**Option A:** Charts and related publications stored electronically on at least two separate chart plotters. One device must have an independent power source that can be recharged separately from the boat's main engine and operate for an extended period.

**Option B:** Additional paper charts and related publications.

ECN (NZ)	Chart Title	CN
405111	Parengarenga Harbour	5111
405113	Rangaunu Bay	5113
451141	Doubtless Bay	5114
451142	Whangaroa Harbour	5114
505121	Cavalli Passage	5121
405124	Kerikeri Inlet and Te Puna Inlet	5124
405125	Bay of Islands	5125
551112	Whangaruru Harbour	5111
552121	Tutukaka Harbour	5212
504219	Marsden Point	5219
505322	Auckland Harbour East	5322

- Symbols, Terms and Abbreviations NP5011 or equivalent.
- Current NZ Almanac, including tide tables for 2026.
- Cruising Guides

1.3. *The Racing Rules of Sailing* will be changed in accordance with RRS 86. The changes will appear in full in the sailing instructions. The sailing instructions may also change other racing rules.

1.3.1. Add the following to RRS 41:

- a) Whilst racing a boat may retrieve data from any page of the race website, details of which are provided in the Sailing Instructions, even if that page is not publicly available. After the warning signal, a boat shall not contact, or be in contact with, any person or private entity using any medium to receive private meteorological forecasts, tactical advice or information customized for a particular boat or group of boats. A boat may however obtain assistance in the form of any readily available commercial meteorological or hydrographical information regardless of cost.
- b) While racing, a boat may receive assistance in ensuring that satellite or cellular communication systems on board are able to transmit and receive data.

1.3.2. Suspension of racing – Changes to RRS 41 and 48:

- a) A boat may suspend racing for safety and seamanship reasons but not be used to gain tactical advantage (e.g. to get out of adverse tide), provided that she informs the RNZYS at the first reasonable opportunity.
- b) A boat that has suspended racing may use a propulsion engine, haul out, or make fast, until she resumes racing
- c) A boat that has suspended racing, may, before resuming racing, remove garbage, use any equipment or receive help to effect repairs but shall not take on food, water or other provisions, or replace sails, equipment, or crew, without the prior permission of the RNZYS.
- d) Before resuming racing, a boat shall return to the position where she suspended racing and inform the Race Committee at the first reasonable opportunity.

1.3.3. RRS 51 shall not apply

1.3.4. RRS 52: is changed for fully crewed boats to: The rotation of a boat's rudder(s) shall be adjusted and operated only by the power provided by the crew. RRS 52 does not apply to a Double Handed Boat.

- 1.4. Between the hours of official sunset and sunrise RRS Part 2 will be replaced by the right-of-way rules of the International Regulations for the Prevention of Collisions at Sea.
- 1.5. RRS 63.1 will be altered to allow a penalty to be applied without a hearing to boats failing to meet reporting procedures.
- 1.6. Appendix T, Arbitration will apply.
- 1.7. Protests: Any protest hearing the protest committee may give a penalty less than disqualification at their discretion. This changes RRS 64.2
- 1.8. Protests: No request for reopening will be accepted after two hours from the publication of a protest decision. This changes RRS 66.

## 2. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1. The sailing instructions will be available by 1800hrs on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2026 at [www.rnzys.org.nz/sailing/threekings](http://www.rnzys.org.nz/sailing/threekings)

## 3. COMMUNICATION

- 3.1. The online official notice board is located at [www.rnzys.org.nz/sailing/threekings](http://www.rnzys.org.nz/sailing/threekings)
- 3.2. Notices will also be posted to the event WhatsApp group "2026 Three Kings Offshore Yacht Race" The link to join can be found on the official notice board.
- 3.3. VHF monitoring and satellite phone reporting requirements will be detailed in the Sailing Instructions

## 4. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

A boat and its crew must satisfy the following requirements in order to have its entry accepted. All required documentation must be provided to the RNZYS by the due date to retain a valid entry.

### 4.1. Boats

A boat shall:

- 4.1.1. Be a self-righting monohull of not less than 8.4 meters or Multihull of not less than 10 meters hull length (as defined in the Equipment Rules of Sailing).
- 4.1.2. Have a current Category 2 safety certificate. To be submitted by 1800hrs on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2026.
- 4.1.3. Have a current Liferaft inspection certificate to a minimum of YNZ SR Category 2. To be submitted by 1800hrs on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2026.

- 4.1.4. Have an inflatable lifejacket for each crew member checked and serviced at the intervals as prescribed by the manufacturer and documented evidence of that servicing submitted by 1800hrs on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2026.
  - 4.1.5. Have 406 MHz Distress Beacon Registration certificates for all EPIRB's and PLB's to be carried during the race. (see [beacons.org.nz](http://beacons.org.nz)) Emergency contacts must be up to date. To be submitted by 1800hrs on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2026.
  - 4.1.6. Have a current PHRF certificate (Monohulls only)
  - 4.1.7. Have evidence of hull cleaning in line with Northland regional by-laws (antifouled within six months or hull clean within 1 month before the race). A copy of the receipt or evidence must be submitted by 1700 hours on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2026. Boats are required to carry a receipt as proof of cleaning onboard for the entire race. This may be required to get entry into marinas during the race.
  - 4.1.8. Provide a colour photograph of the boat under sail, no older than 12 months and suitable for search and rescue purposes. This shall be a digital photo with a resolution of not less than 1200 x 800 pixels
  - 4.1.9. Carry a satellite phone on board. A boat shall be recorded as having sent a text message from the boat Satphone to Race Control on +64 27 645 7788 between 10th April and 15 April 2026: "This is {boat name} THREE KINGS 2026". Boats not recorded as having sent such a text will not be eligible to start the race.
  - 4.1.10. Submit a crew list detailing crew experience, certificates and qualifications as required by NOR 4.2, PLB HEX IDs for each crew member and emergency contacts no later than 1800 hrs on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2026.
- 4.2. **Crew**
- 4.2.1. A boat shall have a minimum of 2 crew.
  - 4.2.2. The minimum age of all crew is 16 years, with a majority of the crew being of a minimum age of 18 years. Crew members aged between 16 and 18 years must provide evidence to the Race Committee demonstrating past sailing experience and provide evidence of parent or guardian permission to compete in the race. The Race Committee may, in its absolute discretion, refuse to allow any crew member aged between 16 and 18 years of age to participate in the race.
  - 4.2.3. All crew members including the skipper shall be a financial member of a club recognized by their national authority.
  - 4.2.4. At least 30% of the crew including the skipper, or 100% for Double -Handed boats must have:
    - a) Offshore or coastal sailing experience on a passage of similar length or complexity completed within the last 5 years
    - b) a current Yachting New Zealand or World Sailing Approved Safety & Sea Survival Certificate (SSSC). This is strongly recommended for all crew.
  - 4.2.5. At least two crew members shall hold a current workplace/coastal first-aid certificate and at least one (or more) shall hold an advanced first-aid certificate, such as Dr. Dave's Offshore Medic or Oceania Medical Offshore Medic, be a practicing medical practitioner, or hold a qualification that the race committee considers is equivalent. Training must cover the safe use of medications and treatments/procedures required for offshore sailing.
- 4.3. A decision of the Organising Authority or the Race Committee as to any matter under NOR 4, including as to whether a boat and her crew meet the eligibility criteria for entry in the race, is final and binding and will not be grounds for a request for redress (amends RRS 61.1(a) and 61.4(b)(1) and RRS 63.2 shall not apply).

## 5. FEES

5.1. Entry will open for eligible boats on 12 December 2025 and can be submitted via the event website [www.rnzys.org.nz/sailing/threekings](http://www.rnzys.org.nz/sailing/threekings)

5.2. Entry fees, for all divisions, including GST are:

Category	Standard Entry received on or before 19 March 2026	Late Entry accepted until 1800hrs on 2 April 2026
RNZYS Member	\$700	\$850
Non-Member	\$840	\$1020

5.3. A boat that withdraws prior to 1800 hours on 2 April 2026 that has paid entry fee will receive 50% refund. Withdrawal after 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2026 will not be entitled to refund.

5.4. Boats failing to return a tracking device or returning a damaged device will be charged the full cost of replacement £650 GBP.

5.5. Each entry includes two tickets to prize giving dinner

## 6. SCHEDULE

6.1. The scheduled time for the warning signal for all divisions will be 1055hrs on 16th April 2026.

6.2. A compulsory race and weather briefing will be held on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 1800hrs at the RNZYS. A minimum of two crew members, who are any of the Owner (if the Owner is a member of the crew), Skipper or nominated Person in Charge, Second in Command (2IC) or Navigator, shall attend.

6.3. The Race Committee may accept changes to required documentation after the required lodgement date, subject to any conditions that the Race Committee may impose.

6.4. A boat's crew list may be changed after 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2026 to correct errors or to amend for late crew changes but shall not be changed later than three hours prior to the starting signal. Requests to change a crew list must be made in writing to the OA. After any change to a crew list, the boat shall still satisfy the general requirements of NOR 4.2.

6.5. Summary of key dates

Item	NOR	Time	Date
Entries open	5.1	1700hrs	12th December 2025
Standard Entries close	5.2	2359hrs	19th March 2026
Late entries close and all documentation received:	5.2	1800hrs	2nd April 2026
○ Category 2 safety certificate	4.1.2		
○ Liferaft inspection certificate	4.1.3.		
○ Lifejacket service certificates	4.1.4.		
○ EPIRB & PLB registration	4.1.5		
○ Photograph of boat	4.1.8		
○ Completed crew list	4.1.10		
○ Evidence of insurance	11		
Sailing Instructions available	2.1	1800hrs	2nd April 2026
Boat Inspections	7	Between 0900 10th April & 1700 11th April 2026. Times will be confirmed with Skippers.	
Hull cleaning or antifouling receipt or evidence	4.1.7	1700hrs	15th April 2026
Evidence of satellite phone communications	1.2.1 & 4.1.9	Between 10th –15th April 2026	
Race Briefing	6.2	1800hrs	15th April 2026
Warning signal for race start	6.1	1055hrs	16th April 2026
Prizegiving	15.2	1900hrs	1st May 2026

## **7. INSPECTION**

- 7.1. Every boat must be in a Central Auckland Marina with a current Category 2 (or higher) safety certificate and be available for inspection as per an inspection schedule provided by the Organising Authority between 0900 on 10th April and 1700 11th April.
- 7.2. Boats requiring berthage for an inspection can be arranged with the RNZYS. A fee may apply.
- 7.3. For inspection, safety items must be rigged ready to race. (e.g., Life rings in place, jackstays run, lifejackets for all crew available).
- 7.4. Every boat may be inspected by YNZ inspectors appointed by the OA for compliance with its safety certificate, this Notice of Race, and its ability to safely take part in the race.
- 7.5. Boats that do not pass the inspection may remedy any defects and request further inspection.
- 7.6. Any boat that does not pass further inspection 24 hours prior to the race start will be deemed to have withdrawn from the race.
- 7.7. PHRF certificate compliance measurement may be conducted at any time.

## **8. SCORING**

A boat shall be scored using one of the following handicap categories:

- 8.1. Monohulls with three or more crew will be scored using PHRF passage.
- 8.2. Double handed boats (two crew) will be scored using their short-handed (SH) PHRF.
- 8.3. Multihulls will be scored using handicaps allocated by New Zealand Multihull Yacht Club (NZMYC)
- 8.4. Any boat with current IRC certification will be scored in this category.
- 8.5. The OA may create divisions within Handicap Categories and allocate boats to divisions within a Handicap Category at its sole discretion. The composition and allocation of boats into divisions shall not be subject to protest or grounds for a request for redress (amends RRS 61.1(a) and 61.4(b)(1) and RRS 63.2 shall not apply).

## **9. COURSE**

- 9.1. The start and finish of the race will be in Auckland's Waitemata harbour with a course rounding the Three Kings Islands. The total course length is approximately 490 nautical miles. Details of the course will be included in the Sailing Instructions.

## **10. PENALTY SYSTEM**

- 10.1. RRS 44.1 is changed for Multihulls so the Two-Turns Penalty is replaced by a One-Turn Penalty

## **11. INSURANCE**

- 11.1. Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of NZD \$5,000,000 per incident or the equivalent in other currencies.
- 11.2. The insurance policy shall include coverage for racing and be suitable for participation in offshore coastal races classified under Category 2 of the Yachting New Zealand Safety Regulations.
- 11.3. Evidence of insurance shall be provided by 1800hrs on 2nd April 2026.

## **12. EVENT ADVERTISING**

[DP] Boats may be required to display advertising chosen and supplied by the organising authority in accordance with World Sailing Regulation 20.

### **13. MEDIA RIGHTS AND RESTRICTIONS**

- 13.1. The Organising Authority owns:
- 13.1.1. all media rights to the Three Kings Offshore Yacht Race; and
  - 13.1.2. all rights in and to any visual and audio material and any data taken or collected by or on behalf of the Organising Authority, or provided to it, in connection with the race.  
The Organising Authority may exercise and exploit those rights as it sees fit.
- 13.2. The owner or charterer of the boat and all crew members upon entry automatically grant the Organising Authority and race sponsors the unconditional, perpetual right and authority to publish and broadcast anywhere in the world, for any purpose and in any medium, the names, images, data and biographical information of the crew and still and moving images and audio recordings of the boat and its crew prior to, during and after the race without compensation. The use of images and video and audio content of crew members under the age of 18 years is subject to the granting of permission to do so by a parent or guardian.
- 13.3. A boat shall not use any form of positioning or telemetry system, other than that supplied or authorised by the Organising Authority, to post or broadcast the boat's position or other boat data to any media organisation or on any internet site or social media.
- 13.4. Crew members of a boat may speak to accredited members of any media organisation prior to, during and after the race, regarding the boat, the race and the prospects, performance or strategy of boats entered or participating in the race, subject to:
- 13.4.1. any comments not undermining or interfering with, or having a detrimental impact on, the Organising Authority and its officers, employees, volunteers and members, the Race Committee, the National Jury, measurers, or any sponsor or supporter of the Organising Authority;
  - 13.4.2. no reference being made during such a commentary to boats in distress or wreckage sightings; and
  - 13.4.3. all information given being accurate (for example, no deliberately false sightings or positions may be reported).
- 13.5. A boat and its crew may publish on a live or delayed basis (including by streaming to an internet site or on social media) still and moving images and audio material taken on or from the boat provided no such material being published which contains images of or refers to a boat in distress or wreckage without the prior approval of the Organising Authority.
- 13.6. The approvals in NOR 13.4 and 13.5 may be revoked by the Organising Authority at any time with respect to any boat or any accredited media.
- 13.7. All those who take part in this event as competitors as well as support crew or spectators agree to be overflown by a drone during the duration of the event, this includes your person and your property (boats).
- 13.8. A boat may not protest another boat for an alleged breach of NOR 13 (this changes RRS 60.1)

### **14. DISCLAIMER**

- 14.1. All those taking part in the race do so at their own risk and responsibility. Crew members or, if the crew member is under the age of 18 years, a parent or guardian, shall release the Organising Authority, and any sponsor or supporter and their respective officers, employees, volunteers and members, from all liability and grant the rights referred to in NOR 13.2
- 14.2. 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". It must be recognised that sailing is by its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event, you agree and acknowledge that: 1. You are aware of the inherent element of risk involved in the sport and you accept responsibility for the exposure of yourself, your crew and your boat to such inherent risk whilst taking part in the event; 2. You are responsible for the safety of yourself, your crew, your boat and your other property whether afloat or ashore; 3. You accept responsibility for

any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by your own actions or omissions; 4. Your boat is suitable for the event; 5. The provision of a race management team, patrol vessels and other volunteers by the event organiser does not relieve you of your own responsibilities; 6. The provision of patrol vessel cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances; 7. You are responsible for ensuring that your boat is equipped and seaworthy so as to be able to face extremes of weather; that there is a crew sufficient in number, experience and fitness to withstand such weather; and that the safety equipment is properly maintained, stowed and in date and is familiar to the crew;

14.3. **INSPECTIONS** The fact that the OA conducts inspections of a boat does not reduce the responsibilities of the boat set out in this Notice of Race

## 15. PRIZES

15.1. The winners will be determined using the specified handicapping system. Prizes will be determined by the number of entries received and will be outlined in the Sailing Instructions and may include categories such as Line Honours, Overall Monohull on PHRF, Fully Crewed Monohull PHRF, Double Handed Monohull PHRF and Multihull on handicap.

15.2. Prizegiving will be held at the RNZYS from 1900hrs on 1st May 2026

## 16. FURTHER INFORMATION

### **RNZYS Race Office**

Phone +64 9 306 0782  
Email [raceoffice@rnzys.org.nz](mailto:raceoffice@rnzys.org.nz)  
Website [www.rnzys.org.nz/sailing/threekings](http://www.rnzys.org.nz/sailing/threekings)  
Address 181 Westhaven Drive, Westhaven, Auckland 1011

**Race Officer** Colin Lucas - 0274479921  
**Race Director** Celia Carson - 027 451 6851  
**RNZYS Sailing Manager** Ella Sagnol - 0272883157

Date: 12 December 2025