



2026 New Zealand Starling National Championship

Worsler Bay Boating Club, Seatoun, Wellington



8th - 12th April 2026

The Organising Authority is *Worsler Bay Boating Club, Karaka Bay Road, Seatoun, Wellington, NZ*

Notice of Race (NoR)

'[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 2025-2028](#)

1.2 The Yachting New Zealand Safety Regulations Part 1 shall apply.

Refer to [Yachting New Zealand Safety Regulations 2025 – 2028](#)

1.3 **Greater Wellington Regional Council Navigation and Safety Bylaws 2021** applies.

The attention of all Support Vessel Skippers and Coaches is drawn to these Bylaws:

- 2.1 Life Jackets
- 2.9 Collision Prevention
- 2.15 Means of Communication
- 3.1 Minimum age for operating powered vessels
- 3.2 Speed of vessels
- 6.1.6 Directions for Transiting Wellington Harbour Entrance. Deemed a "Narrow channel" for COLREGs Maritime Rules (Narrow Channels) Part 22.9
- **Schedule 6:** Narrow Channel. Western Boundary

1.4 **Maritime Rules Part 22 Collision Prevention** applies.

It is strongly recommended that Support Vessel Skippers or sailors do not venture into the "Narrow" Shipping Channel off Worsler Bay. Outgoing shipping on the western side of the channel has total right of way. Attention is drawn to Part 22:9(2) Narrow Channels. Vessels less than 20m and sailing vessels.

1.5 Appendix T, Arbitration will apply.

1.6 Appendix G3, Chartered or Loaned boats, will apply.

2 SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

2.1 The supplementary sailing instructions will be available before 19:00 on 4 April 2026 at www.wbbc.org.nz.

2.2 The sailing instructions will consist of the instructions in RRS Appendix S, Standard Sailing Instructions, and supplementary sailing instructions that will be published on the event website www.wbbc.org.nz and posted on the official notice board located at Worsler Bay Boating Club.

3 COMMUNICATION

- 3.1 The online official notice board is located at wbbc.org.nz
- 3.2 Notices will also be posted to the event WhatsApp group “Starling Nationals 2026 WBBC” URL = <https://chat.whatsapp.com/BZdVWAEPomb2YalH3FeiAt?mode=hqrt3>
- 3.3 [DP] [While racing, 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 The event is open to all boats of the Starling class that comply with the Starling Class constitution and class rules. See <https://www.starling.org.nz/measurement-rules/measurement-certificates-rules>
- 4.2 Eligible Boats may enter the event by completing the online entry form on the event website at www.wbbc.org.nz and paying the required fee via the On-line Shop feature.
- 4.3 To be considered an entry in the event, a boat shall complete all registration requirements and pay all fees by 2 April 2026 at 2000 hours.
- 4.4 No entries will be accepted after 2000 hours on 2 April 2026.
- 4.5 To be eligible to compete in this event each competitor shall be a financial member of a club recognised by the competitor’s national authority.

Proof of affiliated club membership to be presented at registration.

- 4.6 Each competitor shall be *a Member of the Starling Association*. Join at <https://www.starling.org.nz/membership>

The Development Fleet is to encourage less experienced and less confident Starling sailors to sail and participate at a major Starling regatta. To be eligible to race in the Development Fleet a competitor shall not have previously raced in the Open Fleet except where no Development Fleet was offered.

5 FEES

- 5.1 Entry fees are as follows:

Class	Early Entry Fee until 2000hr Thursday 19 March 2026	Standard Fee 2000hr Thursday 2 April 2026
<i>Starling Open</i>	\$200	\$265
<i>Starling Development</i>	\$150	\$195

The entry fee includes a T-Shirt of the selected size, if ordered before 19 March 2026. If the entry is received after 19th March then neither the T shirt or the size can be promised.

- 5.2 Other fees:

Meals, breakfasts, BBQ, coffee, drinks, snacks, packed lunches and other event merchandise may be ordered via the WBBC Web Site at Registration or at the Club House.

6 ADVERTISING

6.1 Boats may be required to display advertising chosen and supplied by the organising authority.

7 QUALIFYING SERIES AND FINAL SERIES

7.1 Development Fleet

The regatta will be run as a single series and sailed as one fleet. There will be no Qualifying or Final Series.

7.2 Open Fleet

All boats in the Open Fleet will race and be scored as one fleet unless split under NOR 7.3

7.3 If entries exceed 90 boats in the Open Fleet, the regatta MAY consist of a Qualifying and a Final Series.

The Open Fleet may be split into Yellow and Blue flights of equal, or as near equal as possible, size for a Qualifying Series. Thereafter, the Open Fleet may be split into Gold and Silver Fleets for the Final series. Full details will be provided in the Supplementary Sailing Instructions.

8 SCHEDULE

8.1 Registration:

Will take place inside the Worser Bay Boating Club house.

Date	From	To
<i>Wednesday 8th April 2026</i>	<i>10:00</i>	<i>18:00</i>

8.2 Equipment inspection and event measurement:

Will take place on the grass area behind Worser Bay Beach, north of the Pavilion.

Sailors must follow the measurement team’s instructions on how and when to form a queue to avoid causing congestion on the beach or the park.

Date	From	To
<i>Wednesday 8th April 2026</i>	<i>09:00</i>	<i>17:00</i>

8.3 Dates of racing:

Development Fleet		
Event	Date	<i>Time / First Warning Signal</i>
<i>Informal Practice Races</i>	<i>Wednesday 8th April 2026</i>	1500
<i>Welcome & Sailor Briefing</i>	<i>Thursday 9th April 2026</i>	1000
<i>Support Boat Briefing</i>	<i>Thursday 9th April 2026</i>	1030
<i>Racing</i>	<i>Thursday 9th April 2026</i>	1130

<i>Racing</i>	<i>Friday 10th April 2026</i>	1130
<i>Racing</i>	<i>Saturday 11th April 2026</i>	1130
<i>Racing</i>	<i>Sunday 12th April 2026</i>	1100
Open Fleet		
Event	Date	<i>Time / First Warning Signal</i>
<i>Informal Practice Races</i>	<i>Wednesday 8th April 2026</i>	1500
<i>Welcome & Sailor Briefing</i>	<i>Thursday 9th April 2026</i>	0900
<i>Support Boat Briefing</i>	<i>Thursday 9th April 2026</i>	0930
<i>Racing</i>	<i>Thursday 9th April 2026</i>	1100
<i>Racing</i>	<i>Friday 10th April 2026</i>	1030
<i>Racing</i>	<i>Saturday 11th April 2026</i>	1030
<i>Racing</i>	<i>Sunday 12th April 2026</i>	1000

The Informal Practice Races, if they are held, weather permitting, will be notified by a sound signal at 14:30 on Wednesday. The Sailing Instructions and course will be written up on the White Board at the North End of the Club House. Multiple starts will be from in front of the Club House Start box and will be in the form of short sprint races in the bay. No results will be recorded.

8.4 Number of races:

Class	Total Number Scheduled	Races per Day - Scheduled	Races per Day - Maximum	Target time (minutes)
<i>Development</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>Up to 3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>45</i>
<i>Open</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>45</i>

8.5 On last scheduled day of racing no warning signal will be made after 15:00.

9 EQUIPMENT INSPECTION

9.1 Each boat shall produce or verify the existence of a valid Starling Class Association measurement certificate.

9.2 [DP] Each boat shall be presented to the regatta measurer for measurement and inspection from 09:00 on 8 April 2026. This will include hull weighing, mast and boom measurement, sail check, centreboard and rudder measurement, and life jacket inspection (must be suitable for the sailor).

9.3 Competitors shall register one set of equipment to be used in the regatta. Those items being hull, centreboard, rudder blade, rudderstock, mast, boom, and sail. Parts can only be changed if they incur damage that is beyond repair at the time of the regatta as confirmed by the Race Committee.

9.4 Boats may be inspected at any time.

9.5 Each boat must comply Yachting NZ safety regulations Part1. (NOR 1.2). Particular

attention is drawn to rudder/tiller lock, a towing eye or fairlead, a centreboard lanyard, a suitable bailor tied on and the sail number on the hull in figures 50mm high.

9.6 [DP] Boats shall also comply with RRS 78.1 when presented for inspection.

10 VENUE

10.1 NoR Addendum A shows the plan of the event venue.

10.2 NoR Addendum B shows the location of the racing areas.

11 COURSES

11.1 The courses to be sailed will be trapezoid , triangle or windward/leeward.

11.2 The Development Fleet may also sail an “adventure”/ “destination” course.

12 SCORING

12.1 5 races are required to be completed to constitute a series.

12.2 (a) When fewer than 5 races have been completed, a boat’s series score will be the total of her race scores.

(b) When from 5 to 10 races have been completed, a boat’s series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.

(c) When 11 or more races have been completed, a boat’s series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her two worst scores.

13 SUPPORT PERSON VESSELS

13.1 [DP] Support person vessels shall be marked with a Flag to be supplied by the Organising Authority at the Briefing on the first day.

13.2 Support Boat Skippers should be familiar with Local Body bylaws:

- regarding the wearing of PFDs
- regarding the location and lack of Right of Way in the Narrow Shipping Channel off Worsler Bay.

13.2 [DP] All support person vessels shall always have an engine safety cut out switch (kill cord) attached to the driver while the engine is running, unless prior written exemption has been provided by the organising authority.

13.3 [DP] No privately operated RPAS (drones) are allowed within the course area, or within 100m of any boat or vessel associated with the event.

13.4 [DP] There will be an exclusion zone for support vessels around the course while racing is underway. This area remains in place from the first warning signal to the last boat finishing. Support vessels must keep well clear of the finish line. Your sailors can sail out to you.

13.5 At least one member of every support vessel must attend the Compulsory Support Vessel Briefings for the fleet she follows.

14 CHARTERED OR LOANED BOATS

14.1 A chartered or loaned boat may carry national letters or a sail number in contravention of her class rules, provided that the race committee has approved her sail identification

before the first race.

15 BERTHING

- 15.1 [DP] Registered Support Vessels shall be kept in their assigned places while in the boat park and shall use their assigned mooring buoy off the south end of the club. Support Vessels shall not moor or remain against breastwork other than for immediate transfer of gear or passengers.

16 LAUNCHING RETRIEVING and STORAGE

- 16.1 [DP] All competing boats shall be launched and retrieved from Worsler Bay Beach to the south of the Club and between the flags on the beach, unless instructed otherwise by the Organizing Authority.
- 16.2 [DP] Beach trolleys shall be prominently marked with the boat's sail number.

17 RISK STATEMENT

- 17.1 RRS 3 states: 'The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone.' By participating in this event 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.**

18 INSURANCE

- 18.1 The Organizing Authority recommends that each participating boat shall be insured with a third-party liability insurance, with a minimum cover \$1,000,000 per incident or the equivalent.

19 RIGHTS TO USE NAME AND LIKENESS

- 19.1 By participating in this event, competitors automatically grant to the organising authority and the event sponsor(s) the right, in perpetuity, to make, use, and show, at their discretion, any photography, audio and video recordings, and other reproductions of them at the venue or on the water from the time of their arrival at the venue for the event, until their final departure, without compensation.
- 19.2 The regatta venue is within the Wellington Airport 4 km drone exclusion zone. Only those with explicit permission and who have the appropriate drone operator licence may fly in this zone. Ref [AirShare](#)".
Drones / RPAS (Remote Piloted Aircraft System) under the control of the organising authority may be used during the event. Participation in the event will be taken as agreement and consent to be overflown by and have RPAS operate within close proximity to competing boats.
[DP] No drones are permitted to be used within the vicinity of racing without prior agreement from the Race Committee.

20 PRIZES

20.1 National Champions will be recognised in accordance with Yachting New Zealand regulation 4.5.4.

20.2 Prizes will be given as follows:

Trophies are described in Page 12 "Trophies" of Starling Class Rules 1 April 2023.

There are two Open Divisions:

U19 =Entrants whose age is under 19 years on January 31 in the year of the contest.

>19 =Entrants whose age is over 19 years on January 31 in the year of the contest.

- The John Peet Trophy shall be awarded to the winner of each contest and shall be recorded as the Starling Class National Champion.
- The Kohi Cup shall be awarded to the runner-up in each contest.
- The Murrays Bay Cup shall be awarded to the third place in each contest. .
- The Howick Cup may be awarded to the winner of any Silver Fleet event run in conjunction with the contest.
- The Graeme Leonard Hays Shield may be awarded to any skipper who, in the opinion of the host club, showed exceptional courage and effort during the event.
- The Harken Trophy may be awarded to the youngest skipper in the first 10 places.
- The Chris Timms Memorial Trophy shall be awarded to the highest placed **under 16** years old.
- The Cooke Trophy shall be awarded to the leading boat at the end of the qualifying series The Alan Sayer Trophy shall be awarded to the highest placed female in each contest.
- The Queen Charlotte Trophy shall be awarded to the most improved skipper during the course of the regatta.
- The Development Fleet Trophy shall be awarded to the highest placed competitor, under 19, in the Development Fleet.

Entrants whose age is over 19 years on January 31 in the year of the contest

- The Des Townson Trophy shall be awarded to the highest placed over 19 year old.

The trophies shall remain the property of the Starling Class Association. The winner shall hold them for one year. In the event of a tie, each joint winner will hold the trophy for equal parts of the year. It shall be the responsibility of the holder of each trophy to ensure that it is forwarded to the host club for the next contest prior to that contest date.

The engraving is the responsibility of the trophy winner and this should follow existing style and layout.

21 SUSTAINABILITY

25.1 [DP] A competitor shall not intentionally put trash in the water. RRS 55 applies at all times while afloat.

25.2 This regatta is a Clean Regatta and we request that competitors, supporters and officials support this initiative:

- a) Bring your own reusables: water bottle, coffee cup, lunch box/bag for yourself and your support team and avoid single-use plastics.
- b) Carefully choose the correct waste stream at the regatta venue - landfill, compost,

recycling.

c) Choose electronic viewing over printing out NOR or Sailing instructions

22 FURTHER INFORMATION

22.1 For further information please contact

Regatta Manager: Kate Clarke starlings2026@gmail.com

or

Vice Commodore: Michael Gray vicecommodore.wbbc@gmail.com

or

Event Web Page. <https://www.wbbc.org.nz/events/2026-starling-national-championship>

Addendum A: Plan of Event Venue

The regatta venue will be Worser Bay Boating Club, 256 Karaka Bay Road, Seatoun, Wellington



Off Street Parking and trailer parking is available on the park on corner of Awa Road, opposite the Club. Enter through a gate north of the Club.

Overnight Registered Support Vessel storage will be in the coned-off Car Park adjacent to the Club. Un-registered support vessels must park elsewhere. Registered Support Vessel launching from the club ramp will be assisted by club members, but will only be allowed for restricted times early in the morning and later in the afternoon. Vessels afloat will moor on one of the small buoys south of the ramp. A ferry service will be available to bring skippers ashore from moored vessels Support vessels may only come to the breastwork for transfers of gear or passengers. Competitors rigging area and over-night boat storage is on the grass north of the Pavillion behind the beach.

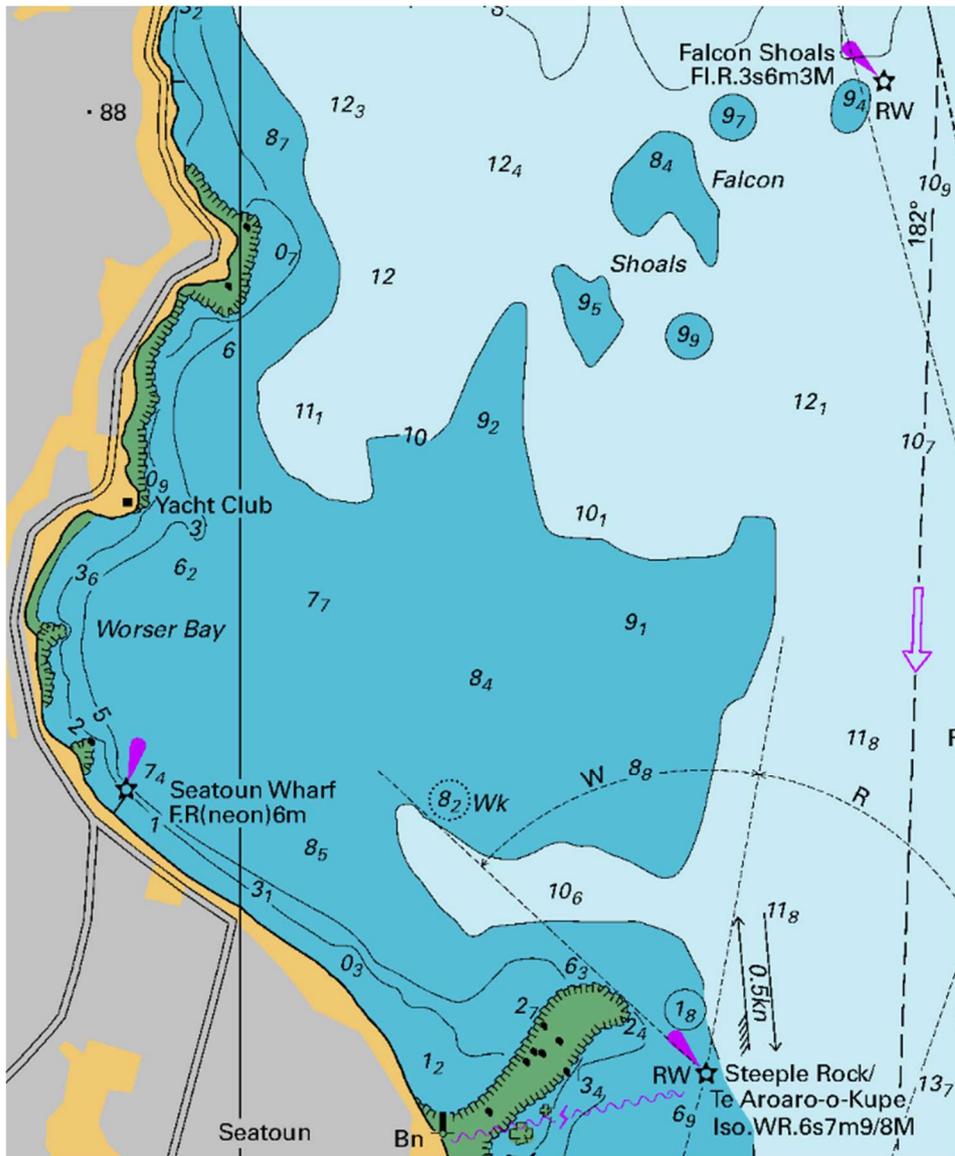
There will be a marquee on the grass behind the beach. This will be a the Sign-on Sign-off location and a beach communications point.

Beach trolleys will be organised by a Beach Marshall for easy of retrieval after sailing. All boats must stay well to the south of the Surf Club and the beach ramp. This is to allow free , uncongested , movement of people, including the public to and from the beach and the club house. A sign will indicate the limits.

Toilets: at Pavillion, at Carpark near Surf Club, in Changing Rooms , in Club House.

Coffee , drinks and food will be available all day in the Club House.

Addendum B Area of Racing



SHIPPING CHANNEL:

- Harbour Chart NZ4633 <https://charts.linz.govt.nz/charts/paper-chart/nz4633>
- Both Support Vessels and Competitors must avoid sailing into the narrow shipping channel at all times.
- All vessels under 20m and all sailing boats have no rights in the “Narrow channel”.
- The western edge of the channel is defined by a line between Steeple Rock Light and Falcon Shoal Mark, which is the original eastward mark. Outward bound vessels sail close to the western side of the channel.
- The edge of the channel between Falcon Shoal and Steeple Rock Light can be determined by observing what distant land feature is behind the Falcon Shoal Mark (original, eastern) when viewed from the south at sea. If any part of Matiu/Somes Island is in the background, then the boat is not yet in the channel. If the motorway to south of Matiu/Somes Island is behind Falcon Shoal, then the boat is either too close to the channel or already in it. Turn back to the west.
- The Race Officer will avoid setting courses that either require or tempt a sailor to sail into the channel, but navigation is the skipper’s responsibility.