2026 Northland O'pen Cup
26-28 September 2026
The Organising Authority is ***Taipa Sailing Club***
*Venue-**Taipa Point, Taipa***

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

NB: The notation '[DP]' in a rule in the SI means that the penalty for a breach of that rule may, at the discretion of the protest committee, be less than disqualification.

1 RULES

1.1 See NoR 1.

1.2 Further to NoR 1.5, the "O'pen BIC Class on the Water Umpiring Rules" detailed in Attachment 3 shall apply.

2 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board(s) located on the wall on the outside of the sailing club

3 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted before 0800 on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 1800 on the day before it will take effect.

4 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

4.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed at the Taipa Sailing Club

5 SCHEDULE OF RACES/CLASS FLAGS

5.1 On-Site Registration on the 26th and the 27th of September 2026

5.2 Equipment inspection: No Equipment inspections will take place

5.3 Dates of racing: 27-28 September 2026

Date	Time	Event
Day 1		
26th	1100-1300	Registration
	1300-1600	Training
Day 2	0800 – 1000	Registration
27th	1000	Welcome, Introductions & Briefing
	1100 – 1500	On Water Session 1 (Points Racing)
	1700	Family Activity and dinner
Day 3	1000	Briefing
28th	1055 – 1500	On Water Session 3 (Points Racing)
	1630	Prizegiving

5.4 FLEETS

(a) The NZOSA regattas have provision for up to three fleets (Bronze, Silver and Gold) depending on entry numbers. Where the entry number are less than 40, Gold and Silver will start together. For in excess of 40 entries, **Gold, Silver and Development** fleets will start in their own Fleet.

(b) Competitors shall nominate which fleet they want to sail in. The organising authority will then set the fleets to ensure sailors are in a fleet of equal ability

(c) The **Gold** fleet will be made up of the more experienced sailors that have raced at least five events before. The **Silver** fleet will be made up of sailors who have raced in less than five events and will have a similar, but shortened, course with coaching assistance throughout racing. The **Development fleet** will be made up of those sailors new to racing and less experienced than the Silver Fleet.

(d) A competitor cannot change fleets unless approved by both the Organising Authority and Race Committee

5.5 FLEET FLAGS

Fleet	***Flag***
Gold	White flag with O'pen Skiff insignia
Silver	Pink flag with O'pen Skiff insignia
Bronze	White flag with O'pen Skiff insignia

5.6 On the last scheduled day of racing no warning signal will be made after 1530.

6 RACING AREAS

Attachment 1 shows the location of racing areas.

7 THE COURSES

7.1 The diagrams in Attachment 2 show the courses, the order in which marks are to be passed, and the side on which each mark is to be left. All short courses and any long race sailed are point's races, with any long race scoring half points. (see scoring SI 14).

7.2 **Adventure and Combined Races**. These events may be included but are not limited to an adventure race and other non-scoring races that may involve two-up (two person) sailing. THESE RACES DO NOT COUNT TOWARDS THE OVERALL POINT SCORE, but there may be spot prizes awarded courtesy of our sponsors. These races will also be made up of both the Gold Silver and Bronze Fleets Sailing together.

8 MARKS

8.1 Marks are as follows, Mark 1 - Red cylindrical with black horns, Rest of the marks will be Red cylindrical marks or a yellow cylindrical depending on what course it sailed. This will be outlined in the daily briefing

8.2 A race committee vessel signalling a change of a leg of the course is a mark as provided in SI 10.2.

9 STARTS

9.1 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 **one** (1) minute before the first warning signal for the first race of the day is made.

9.2 Races will be started by using RRS 26 with the warning signal made Three (3) minutes before the starting signal.

Minutes before starting signal	***Visual Signal***	***Sound Signal***	***Means***
3	Class Flag	One	Warning Signal
2	Preparatory flag	One	Preparatory signal
1	Preparatory flag removed	One long	One minute
0	Class Flag removed	One	Starting signal

9.3 The starting line will be between a aluminium fishing boat and a pink teardrop bouy.

10 CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

10.1 To change the next leg of the course, the race committee will move the original mark (or the finishing line) to a new position.

10.2 Except at a gate, boats shall pass between the race committee vessel signalling the change of the next leg and the nearby mark, leaving the mark to port and the race committee vessel to starboard. This changes RRS 28. The Boat signalling the change will be displaying Code Flag "C" and making many sound signals.

11 THE FINISH

11.1 The finishing line will be between the Start boat and a pink tear drop bouy.

12 PENALTY SYSTEMS

12.1 RRS 44.1 is changed so that the Two-Turns Penalty is replaced by the One-Turn Penalty for all Penalties except any Penalty signalled by an umpire, which shall be a Two-Turn Penalty.

12.2 Appendix P will apply [as changed by SI(s) [12.1] [and] [12.3]] [and] [12.4].

12.3 RRS P2.3 will not apply and RRS P2.2 is changed so that it will apply to any penalty after the first one.

12.4 If a boat is penalised under Appendix P2 after she has finished, she shall be given a scoring penalty of 10% without a hearing although her score will not be worse than the score for a DSQ.

13 TIME LIMITS AND TARGET TIMES

13.1 Time limits and target times are as follows:

FLEET	*TARGET TIME*	*FINISH WINDOW*	*TIME LIMIT*
GOLD	*20 MINS*	*10 MINS*	*40 MINS*
SILVER	*20 MINS*	*10 MINS*	*40 MINS*
BRONZE	*20 MINS*	*10 MINS*	*30 MINS*

13.2 Boats failing to finish within 10 minutes after the first boat sails the course and finishes may be scored according to their recorded position at the last turning mark rounded. This changes RRS 35, A4, and A5.

14 SCORING

14.1 THREE (3) races are required to be completed to constitute a series.

14.2 Number of races excluded from the series score (drops)

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

b) When five (5) to seven (7) races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.

c) When eight (8) or more races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her two worst scores.

14.3 Any Long Race shall be scored as half points.

15 SAFETY REGULATIONS

15.1 Boats not leaving the shore for a scheduled race shall promptly notify the race office.

15.2 A boat retiring from racing shall notify the Race Committee before leaving the racing area, or if that is not possible, shall notify the Race Office as soon as possible after returning ashore. [DP]

16 EVENT ADVERTISING

Further to NoR 2.1, boats shall display event advertising supplied by the organising authority

17 OFFICIAL BOATS

Official boats will be identified at the first briefing

18 SUPPORT BOATS

18.1 Coach and support boats shall be deemed to be "Event Support Boats" and may enter the course area for the purpose of coaching and support. Such boats shall have a working VHF in order to follow any instructions of the Race Officer or Race Management personnel. Consideration must be given to not leaving wakes for yachts to sail through and disturbing the wind near marks.

18.2 Attention is drawn to the relevant local council bylaws regarding wearing of lifejackets and other restrictions.

18.3 When flag V (with a long sound signal) is displayed on a committee boat all support boats are requested to remain afloat and assist all sailors.

19 PRIZES

Prizes will be given as follows:

Sportsmanship Award. Awarded in recognition of qualities such as sportsmanship, perseverance, assistance to others, positive attitude.

Medals and Trophies will also be awarded to the following divisions:

Gold Fleet Overall: 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd

Female: 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd

Silver Fleet Overall: 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd

Female: 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd

Development Fleet Overall: 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd (if points racing is conducted & as appropriate to entry numbers)

Female: 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd (if points racing is conducted & as appropriate to entry numbers)

Other prizes may be awarded at the discretion of the Organising Authority.

20 INSURANCE

See NoR 13.

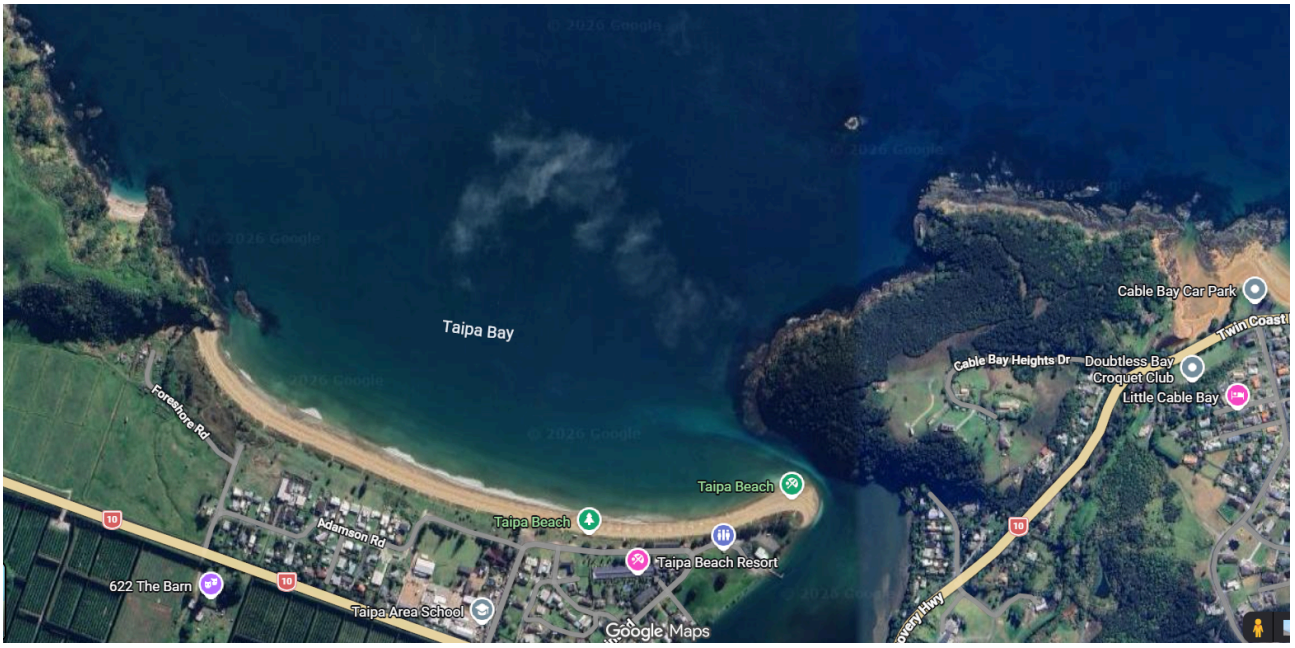
21 DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

21.1 All those taking part in the regatta do so at their own risk and responsibility.
Specific attention is drawn to RRS 4, which states; "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone".

21.2 The OA (Organising Authority), Sponsors, New Zealand International O'pen Skiff Class Association and the Race Committee are not responsible for any damage or injury either afloat or ashore.

21.3 **Risk Warning**: The OA advises competitors, legal guardians and anyone who participates in yachting events conducted by the OA that participation in the sport of yachting, whether racing or otherwise, can be dangerous and can result in harm, personal injury and property damage. The OA is not responsible for any harm or injury suffered by any person in any yachting event conducted by the OA of whatever nature. All participants (and their legal guardians) acknowledge that competing in yachting events may be dangerous and may result in harm or personal injury and participate in such events aware of such dangers and voluntarily accept any risk of harm.

Attachment 1 Racing Area



Attachment 2

Courses

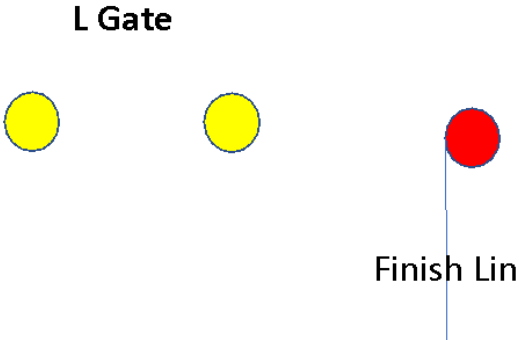
Race lengths are targeted to be 20 minutes long (for the first finishers in Gold fleet)

Where breeze drops and race length target is significantly threatened, the race committee may decide to shorten the course at a gate. This will be discussed at briefing, specific signals will be used to notify sailors of these changes.

*__Note__ – These courses are only guidelines and can be changed at any time by the race committee. If courses are changed, they will be explained at the daily briefing.

Course One

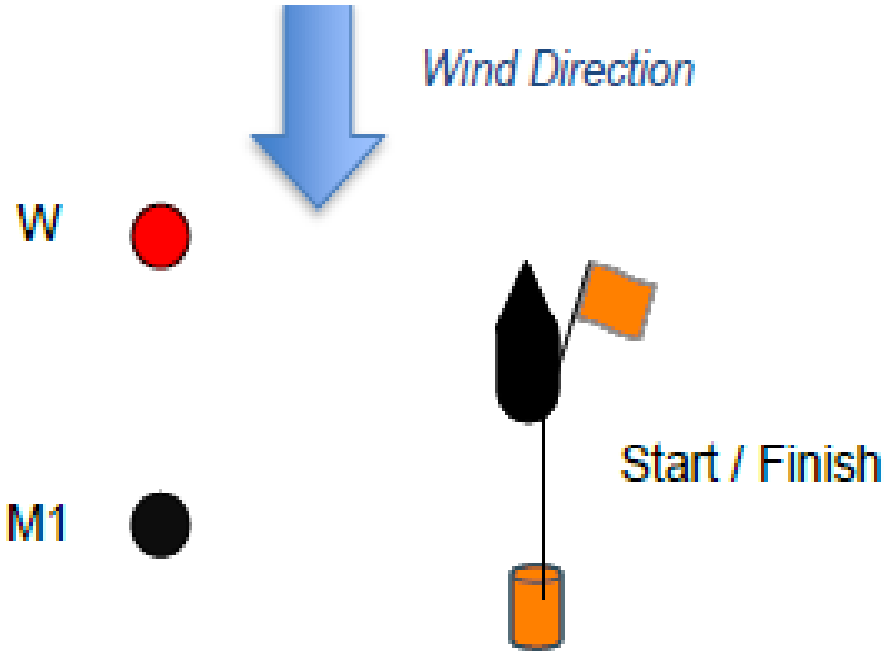




Gold Fleet: Start – W(port) – L Gate – W (port) – L Gate – Finish

Silver Fleet: Start – W(port) – L Gate - Finish

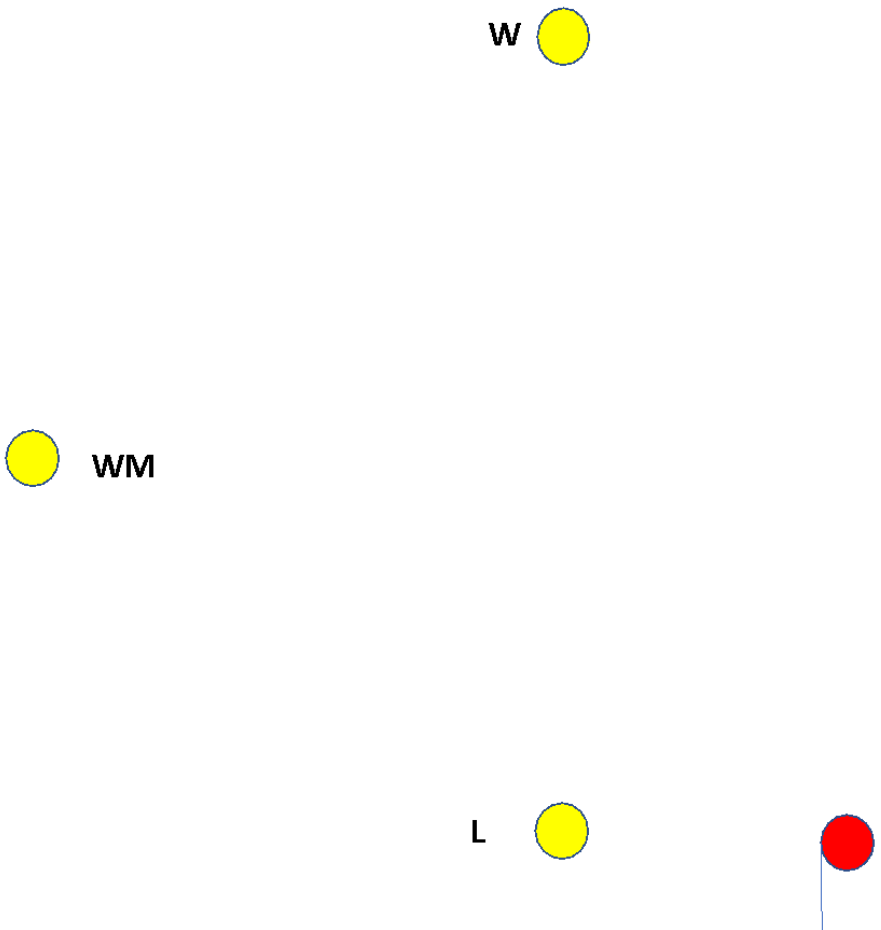
Course Two – Gold & Silver



L Gate

Start - M1(port) - L Gate – W(port) - L Gate – W(port) – M1(port) – Finish.

Course 3

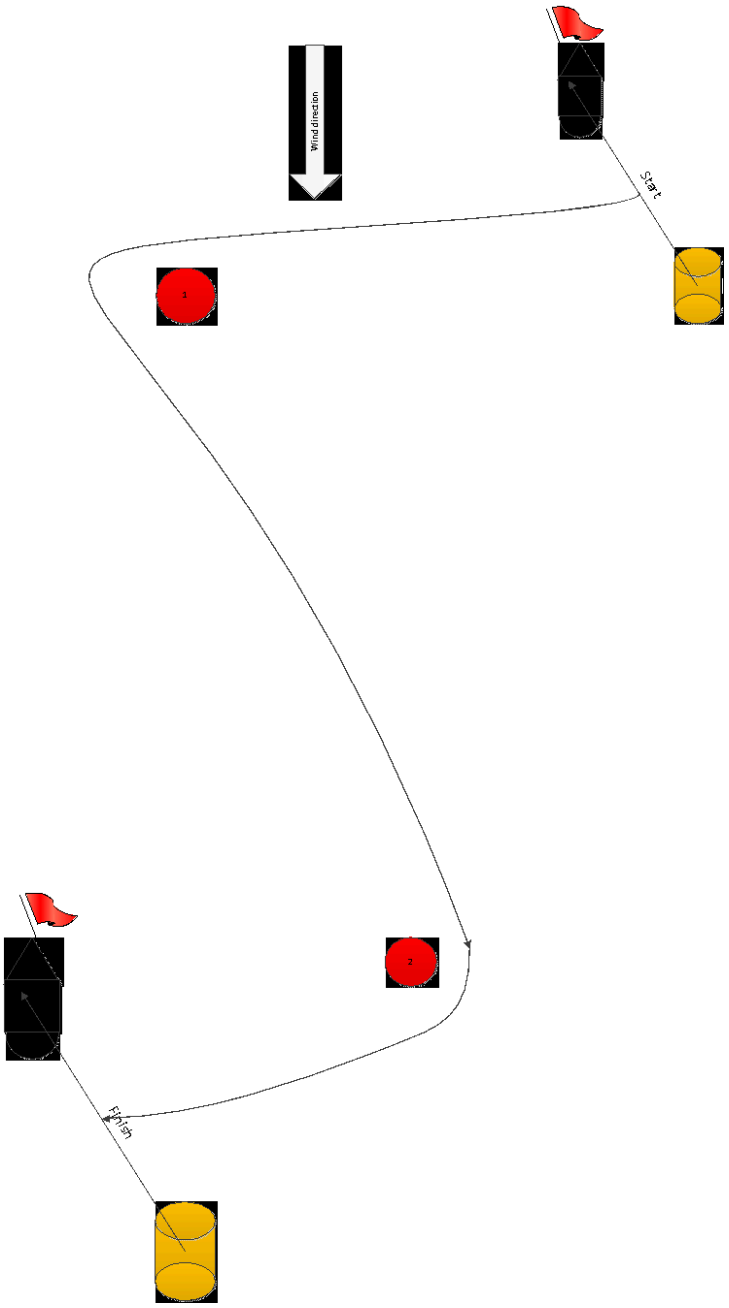


GOLD FLEET:
Start–W(port)– WM(port) – L(port) – W(port) – WM(port) – L(port) – Finish

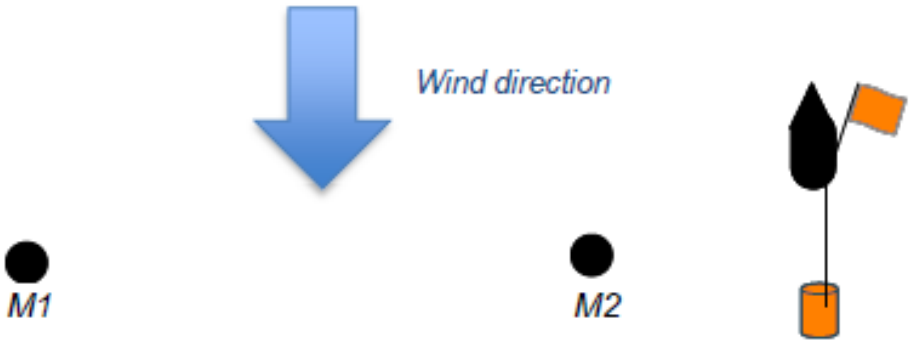
SILVER/Development FLEET:
Start – W (port)– WM (port)– L (port) – Finish

Course 4 (Gold & Silver Fleet)

Points scoring Long Distance Race - 'Down-wind blast'


Wind direction
Start
1
2
Finish

Course 5 (Development only):



Start – M1 (starboard) – M2 (port) – M1 (starboard) - Finish