

NZ's Iconic Auckland to Russell Coastal Yacht Race

Friday 23th October 2026

The Organising Authority (OA) is:

The NZ Multihull Yacht Club

www.coastalclassic.co.nz

NOTICE OF RACE

1.0 RULES

1.1 The race will be governed by the rules as defined in the latest edition of *The Racing Rules of Sailing*.

1.2 The Yachting New Zealand Safety Regulations 2025 - 2028, Part 2, Category 3 OR the Prescriptions and Special Regulations of Australian Sailing (SR) Part 1 – Category 1, shall apply with the following modifications:

- a. Yachts are not required to carry a Life raft or dinghy, If a yacht does not have a life raft or dinghy onboard the crew **SHALL wear lifejackets at all times, unless** the designated skipper (Master) / person in charge of the yacht considers that conditions are such that there is no significant increase in the risk to safety to any person through not wearing a lifejacket, and expressly gives permission for lifejackets or tethers not to be worn. The OA **strongly recommend** that above 15 Knots and during the hours of darkness lifejackets are worn above deck **at all times**.
- b. Multihulls are to pay attention to ensuring they comply with SR APPENDIX 2: Life rafts and grab bags; YNZ Safety Regulations 2025/2028, as they pertain to grab bags.
- c. Notwithstanding 1.2 a) above solo entrants must wear a lifejacket at all times.
- d. All yachts are reminded to continuously monitor CH16 on a Marine VHF radio as other yachts in the race will likely be first respondents in the case of an emergency.
- e. Yachts shall have on board a registered 406 EPIRB or PLB. Failure to do so automatically renders their existing safety certificate invalid;
- f. The wearing of lifejackets at all times and the carrying of a personal locator beacon by all crew is recommended.

- 1.3 The International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea replaces RRS Part 2 between the hours of Official Sunset and Sunrise.
- 1.4 Self-steering devices are permitted for two-handed and solo division entrants only.
- 1.5 Rule 41. Competitors may communicate with the race publicity team and to pre-agreed media. Competitors are reminded of their obligations under RRS 41.
- 1.6 RRS 52 shall not apply.
- 1.7 A yacht shall not discharge trash in the water.
- 1.8 All forms of navigational aids, GPS, Sat-Nav, weather facsimiles, radar etc are permitted. GPS and Sat-Nav should be regarded as navigational aids not navigational systems.

2.0 ADVERTISING

Advertising material, including flags, may be supplied to all competitors, and shall be applied in a location stipulated by the OA.

3.0 ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

- 3.1 The race is open to all sailing yachts 6.5 metres and over.
- 3.2 All entries must be made online at the PIC Coastal Classic 2026 website.
- 3.3 Eligible yachts must enter by completing the online entry form found on the PIC Coastal Classic website (www.coastalclassic.co.nz) meeting the criteria and paying the entry fee outlined below by Monday 12th October 2026.

Entry Fees All Divisions \$295.00

If you have completed your entry payment and are subsequently moved between divisions due to a change in PHRF handicap, you will be contacted separately by the OA to arrange for the appropriate fee adjustment to be applied.

Multihull Yacht Club Members entering a multihull will be eligible for a \$50 entry fee rebate.

- 3.4 Entries remain provisional until all required documentation is provided as follows:

- Details of the YNZ Cat 3 or Australian Sailing Category 1 safety certificate must be satisfied. You must upload your Cat 3 or Cat 1 safety certificate prior to entries closing. The certificate must remain current for the duration of the race. Your attention is drawn to the need to ensure that YNZ Cat 3 certificates are obtained in good time. A number of the YNZ inspectors may not be available in the two weeks prior to the race. Accordingly, you will appreciate that YNZ cannot guarantee that you will be able to obtain an inspection at short notice in that period.

- Correct crew lists must be provided. In particular, it is the skipper's responsibility to ensure that the crew list furnished online is correct at the time of commencing the race.
- Valid PHRF certificates. These are issued by Yachting New Zealand. You do NOT need to upload when you enter as our system automatically refers to Yachting NZ.

- 3.5 Late entries may be accepted online at the OA's discretion until Monday 19th October 2026 and shall be accompanied by a late entry fee of \$100.00 in addition to the standard entry fee set out above.
- 3.6 To be eligible to compete in this event the Skipper of each yacht shall be a Financial Member of a club recognised by that Skipper's National Authority. The Skipper of each yacht expressly permits the OA to contact the designated club to for the purposes of confirming membership and eligibility to enter the race, if required.
- 3.7 Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a recommended cover of NZD \$5,000,000 per incident or the equivalent.

4.0 SCHEDULE

- 4.1 The Skippers Briefing will be held on Thursday 22nd October 2026 at 1830 hrs. Full details to be advised in sailing instructions.
- 4.2 The race starts on Friday 23rd October 2026.
- 4.3 The scheduled time of the warning/start signal for:
- Divisions 1, 6 and 7: warning 0955 hrs – start 1000 hrs
 - Divisions 2 and 3: warning 0940 hrs – start 0945 hrs
 - Divisions 4, 5, 8 and Solo: warning 0925 hrs – 0930 hrs

5.0 FINISH TIME

- 5.1 The time limit: 1400 hrs, 24th October 2026.
- 5.2 Any yacht not reaching the finishing line by this time will be entitled to send in a photo of their GPS position to the Finish Boat (number TBA in the Sailing Instructions) and will be awarded a finish place. Any yacht finishing in this manner will not be eligible for handicap prizes but will be eligible for separate prizes if finishing in this manner.

6.0 MEASUREMENTS / HANDICAPS

Each yacht shall provide a current valid rating certificate with her entry as follows:

- 6.1 Monohull racing handicaps will be based on the Current Passage PHRF TCF handicap racing system and is designated automatically from the Yachting New Zealand database. All Monohull entries shall hold a current valid PHRF handicap certificate issued by Yachting New Zealand. Yachts with water/movable ballast shall have a PHRF handicap on the basis of the ballast.

- 6.2 Two handed and Solo Divisions shall be based on the Current Short Handed PHRF TCF handicap rating system and is designated automatically from the Yachting New Zealand database.
- 6.3 IRC Division
Monohulls with a current valid IRC handicap will also be able to enter this division. Handicaps can be obtained from Yachting New Zealand. Application forms for these certificates are obtainable on www.yachtingnz.org.nz.
- 6.4 The NZ Multihull Yacht Club will handicap all racing multihull entrants based on a local variation of MYCQ's OMR rating rule. For a Handicap Application form please email info@multihull.org.nz.

7.0 DIVISIONS

- 7.1 The following divisions comprise the eight primary divisions. The OA reserves the right to alter the division PHRF or length overall (LOA) splits to ensure balanced divisions.

Division One A

Monohull 0.9600 and above, but must be greater than 12.5 m LOA

Division One B

Monohull between 0.80 and 0.9599; and additionally

Monohull 0.9600 and above but must be no greater than 12.5 m LOA

Division Two

Monohull between 0.8120 and 0.8699

Division Three

Monohull - 0.8119 and lower, but must also be greater than 10.5 m LOA

Division Four

Monohull - 0.8119 and lower and no greater than 10.5 m LOA but excluding the following Division Five boats;

Division Five

Monohull - 0.7599 and lower, but must be no greater than 10.0 m LOA

Division Six

Multihull 10.66m LOA and over

Division Seven

Multihull Under 10.66m LOA

Division Eight

Monohull No Extras

- 7.2 **IRC Division**

IRC rated yachts only. A minimum of 7 entries will be needed to constitute a Division.

- 7.3 **Classic Yacht Division**

"Classics" Division The "Classics" Division is open to both types of classic vessels as defined by the Classic Yacht Association and set out below. A classic yacht is one that was constructed before 31st December 1949 or is a yacht whose original design parameter were set before 1950 and constructed before 31st December 1959 (to allow the K class to comply). The yacht must be of traditional materials.

Modern Classic Yacht: Designed and built between 1950 - 1970 of traditional materials. Yachts launched after December 1970 may be eligible to enter if they are approved by the CYANZ committee as of the style and spirit of this era as outlined in the Classic Yacht Policy.

7.4 **Women's Division**

A yacht sailed by a crew of women only is eligible for this division. No males are to be on board for the duration of the race.

7.5 **Two Handed Division**

A yacht sailed by two people. In the division, the use of self-steering devices whether mechanical, electrical or otherwise is permitted.

7.6 **No Extras Division**

A yacht entering this division shall sail with a mainsail and headsail only, to be carried on a permanent load bearing forestay with one headsail only per forestay. Headsails may be poled out. Sails, typically described as "extras" including spinnakers, gennakers, MPS, code zeros, loose luffed or any sail not carried on the permanent forestay shall not be used.

7.7 **Solo Division**

One person is permitted onboard while racing. Skipper must carry on their persons the means to self-initiate a rescue in the event they fall overboard while underway and must wear an approved lifejacket while racing. Skippers will be required to complete and return to the OA a safety declaration in respect of these requirements (**Appendix A**).

7.8 **Individual Classes (e.g. Farr 1020, Young 88, 8.5 Multihull)**

Five or more yachts of one class may apply to race as a class within the division as specified in 7.1 above regardless of handicap. To race in a Class a yacht shall comply with the Class Association Rules.

Note: A minimum of five entries are required to form a Classic, Women's, No Extras, Two Handed, Solo, or Individual Class division. 8.5 Multihull is a permanent class and has no minimum requirement. The OA reserves the right to delete any division not attaining the required entries. The OA will, at its discretion, open a new division if requested to do so by 11 October 2026, provided a minimum of five entries have been confirmed and entry fees paid.

8.0 **TEAM COMPETITION**

The competition is to be run according to the following rules.

- 8.1 A team entry shall be associated with a Yachting New Zealand affiliated yacht club and consist of a minimum of three and a maximum of four yachts. A team *may* include one or more multihulls.
- 8.2 A minimum of three of a team's yachts shall be entered in the race under the "flag" of the yacht club that the team is associated with.
- 8.3 The team competition will use the "Racetrack" handicap system (<http://www.racetrack.org.nz/>) to calculate handicap corrected times for each

yacht. If a Racetrack handicap is not available for a yacht, a handicap shall be allocated based on the yachts design.

- 8.4 Each yacht shall then be awarded points equal to their place within the fleet of team competition yachts (i.e. 1pt for 1st, 3 pts for 3rd etc.). The best three scores (fourth yacht score is "dropped") shall be added and the team with the lowest overall score shall be declared the winner.
- 8.5 A DNS shall score "number of Team Competition yachts" +1. A DNF shall score "number of Team Competition yachts"

9.0 SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

The sailing instructions will be available on-line from 12th October 2026.

10.0 THE COURSE

From the start in the vicinity of Devonport Wharf and Orakei, leave Little Barrier and The Poor Knights, including the Sugar Loaf Group, to Starboard, to the finish off Russell Wharf in the Bay of Islands.

10.1 Bay of Islands Marine Mammal Sanctuary

No yacht will race with in the Marine Mammal Safe zones as prescribed in the Bay of Islands Marine Mammal Sanctuary regulations. A full map of these zones will be provided in the Sailing Instructions. <https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/northland/places/bay-of-islands-mms/?tab-id=Boating>

11.0 THE START

All signals will be made from the start boat positioned approximately 1000m from the south-east corner of Devonport Wharf.

12.0 PREDICTWIND RACE TRACKER

- 12.1 For safety reasons, increased interest in online viewing of the race and developing race organisation practice, **each entrant is required to use the PredictWind Race Tracker service.** To use the service, you will need two smartphones (one as a back-up) that use either iOS16.0 and above or Android 8.0 and above operating system. The PredictWind Race Tracker service is being made available at no cost to each competitor.
- 12.2 Full instructions on how to install and use the app are found at <https://www.predictwind.com/apps/race-tracker>. Select yacht club: NZMYC; Race: Coastal Classic 2026. Select your division and manually enter your yacht name. It is recommended that all competitors test the tracking functionality at least one month before the event and view the data at <http://forecast.predictwind.com/tracking/race/nzmyc> to ensure that the service is working on their phone. Any technical enquiries or issues, please email PredictWind at support@predictwind.com.
- 12.3 It is the entrants' responsibility to test that the system works on their phone prior to the race. Each competitor is expected to check their tracker is turned on and check battery levels are satisfactory at the start and each radio

schedule. Only one phone should be used to send tracking data at any time. Failure to use the tracker for the entire race may result, at the sole discretion of the race committee, **a 20-minute time penalty** for the yacht not sending the tracking data and also render an entry ineligible for the spot prizes.

13.0 PRIZEGIVING

13.1 Details of the race prize giving will be published on www.coastalclassic.co.nz as soon as possible.

13.2 Trophies and awards will be presented to:

First Yacht to Russell:

Overall line honours

First Monohull PHRF:

Overall Current Passage PHRF winner (all divisions combined)

First Multihull Handicap:

Overall (both Multihull divisions combined)

Divisions 1-5:

Line honours

1st, 2nd & 3rd on Current Passage PHRF handicap

Divisions 6-7:

Line honours

1st, 2nd & 3rd on NZMYC handicap in each division

Division 8:

1st, 2nd & 3rd on Current Passage PHRF handicap

IRC:

1st, 2nd & 3rd on IRC handicap, subject to number of entries

Classic, Women's, Two Handed and Solo:

1st, 2nd & 3rd on Current Passage PHRF handicap in Classics and Womens Division, subject to number of entries in each Division

1st, 2nd, and 3rd on Current Short Handed PHRF in Two Handed and Solo Divisions, subject to number of entries in each Division

Classes:

First on line

Smallest boat to finish

13.3 The OA reserves the right to delete or combine any division not attaining the required entries as required by NOR. 6.8 (note).

13.4 Should a new division be approved; it should be noted that the OA may not be in a position to offer prizes to that division.

14.0 SAFETY

14.1 Safety Inspections

Every entry has the responsibility to ensure it is fully compliant with its safety Category 3 certificate. Spot safety inspections may be carried out on yachts in the lead up to the race, the day of the race before starting and/or following the

completion of the race. Any yacht found to be in contravention of YNZ Safety Regulations Part II Category 3 shall be subject to protest from the Race Committee or Yachting New Zealand.

14.2 Responsibility of Person in Charge

The safety of a yacht and her crew is the sole and inescapable responsibility of the Skipper who must do their best to ensure that the yacht is fully found, thoroughly seaworthy and manned by an experienced crew who have undergone appropriate training and are physically fit to face bad weather. The Skipper must be satisfied as to the soundness of hull, spars, rigging, sails and all gear. The Skipper must ensure that all safety equipment is properly maintained and stowed and that the crew knows where it is kept and how it is to be used.

Decision to race – The responsibility for a yacht's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone – RRS Fundamental Rule 3.

All those taking part in the races do so entirely at their own risk and their own responsibility.

15.0 DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

- 15.1 The OA and sponsors are not responsible for the seaworthiness of a yacht whose entry is accepted or the sufficiency or adequacy of its equipment or crew, or for any other matter, however arising from this race.
- 15.2 The OA and its officers, members and servants, sponsors or other persons assisting with the conduct of the event will not be responsible or liable for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with, prior to, during or after the race.
- 15.3 RRS 3 states: 'The responsibility for a yacht'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.**

16.0 POSTPONEMENT

The organisers reserve the right to postpone the start due to adverse conditions. In the event they do so, notice will be posted via the official Coastal Classic app and on line at www.coastalclassic.co.nz, anytime from 1700hrs on 22nd October 2026, together with the expected time to restart.

17.0 ANCHORAGES IN THE VICINITY OF RUSSELL

Charts NZ 5122 and NZ 5123 apply. Suitable anchorages will be subject to wind direction and strength. Suggestions are as follows:

RUSSELL / MATAUWHI BAY are both suitable in winds from North through to South East, with Matauwhi Bay having the better holding.

OPUA for marina berth bookings contact Bay of Islands Marina phone 09 402 7124

ONEROA / LONG BEACH if the weather has been settled from the westerly quarter eliminating any easterly swell, this anchorage has good holding in 4 metres of water close to shore. It is an easy 1.25 km walk to Russell.

18.0 RACE HEADQUARTERS:

Race headquarters will be located beside the Nauti Penguin, 19 York Street, Russell from 1300 hrs Friday 23rd October until prizegiving on Saturday 24th -October 2026. Race results may be posted inside race headquarters along with photographs. All information can be found at race headquarters.

19.0 EVENTS

Thursday 22nd October 2026:

Event briefing 1830 hours – full details to be notified in Sailing Instructions

20.0 WATER TAXI

A water taxi service to take all competitors from their yachts to Russell Wharf will operate from the first yacht's arrival in Russell until 1000 hrs Sunday 25th October 2026. The water taxi cost is \$15 per person for the weekend and can be purchased at the briefing or online,

21.0 RUSSELL INFORMATION

For bookings and enquiries for moorings, transport, accommodation, sightseeing, etc. contact: 09 403 8020.

22.0 RUSSELL PUBLIC PLACES LIQUOR BAN

The Far North District Council Public Places Liquor Control Bylaw 2003 prohibits the consumption or possession of liquor in all public places at all times. This means you may not consume or carry alcohol through Russell's public places at any time. Please respect the Russell community by complying with this ban.

RACE & EVENT MANAGEMENT

Event Management: Fran Holland
Race Director: Megan Kensington
Race Entry: Ed Ayre
Media: Fran Holland

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