MIDDLE HARBOUR 16FT SKIFF CLUB

JUNIOR DIVISION SAILING INSTRUCTIONS SEASON 2026/27

1. RULES

Races will be governed by the most current Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), the Prescriptions of Australian Sailing and by part 2 of the Australian Sailing Special Regulations and the relevant Class rules, except as any of these are altered by the Notice of Race and the Sailing Instructions. Where there is a conflict the Sailing Instructions shall prevail.

2. ELIGIBILITY

2.1 Only boats registered with the Middle Harbour 16ft Skiff Sailing Club will be eligible for the Point Score and Club Championship and Series.

2.2 All boats shall have adequate third party public liability insurance covering the use of the boat while racing.

2.3 Participation in Club races requires that annual sailing fees are paid prior to the commencement of the season.

3. SAILING SEASON and RACE SCHEDULE

3.1 The sailing season shall commence on 13th September 2026 and will conclude no later than 3rd April 2027. Briefings may be held at 10:00hrs on race days for Manly Juniors and approximately 13:00hrs on race days for Flying 11s.

3.2 The schedule of races is set out in the Junior Sailing Calendar. The Calendar is available at http://middleharbourskiffs.com.au/club-sailing/juniors/.

4. CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP – Manly Juniors and Flying 11's

4.1 A maximum of 10 races are scheduled for the Club Championship for Manly Juniors and 10 races for Flying 11's. 5 Races are required to constitute a series.

4.2 Points will be awarded to the skipper on the basis of scratch (uncorrected time) results.

4.3 If 6 or more races are sailed then a boat can drop its worst result. If 5 or less races are sailed, then all results will count.

4.4 To be eligible for the Club Championship, the boat must sail in 75% of any scheduled point score races.

5. POINT SCORE SERIES – Manly Juniors and Flying 11's

5.1 A maximum of 15 Races are scheduled for the Point Score Series. 7 Races are required to constitute a series.

5.2 Points will be awarded to a boat on the basis of handicap results. Where conditions or circumstances dictate that the number of races sailed on a day is different to the Race Schedule, the handicapper may adjust a boat's score to more accurately represent its performance compared to the other boats racing in the results for that day.

5.3 If 11 or more races are sailed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst 2 scores. If 9 or 10 races are sailed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score. If 8 or less races are sailed, all race scores will count.

6. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located within the southern shed door at the Club.

7. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted before 09:00hrs on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 20:00hrs on the day prior to the race or races affected. They shall also be communicated via the Junior sailors' WhatsApp group.

8. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

8.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed from the flag mast of the Club at the northeast corner of the upper deck.

9. CLASS FLAG

The Class flag for the Manly Juniors is the MJ class flag. The Class flag for the Flying 11s is the F11 class flag.

10. STARTING TIMES

10.1 The Warning Signal for Manly Junior races will not be before 11:00 hours. The Warning Signal for Flying 11 races will not be before 14:00 hours.

11. MINIMUM STARTERS FOR RACING

There shall be at least three boats coming to the starting area to constitute a race.

12. COURSES

12.1 Courses for Manly Juniors shall be consistent with courses sailed by the Manly Junior Sailing Association of NSW. Courses for Flying 11's shall be consistent with courses sailed by the Flying 11 Association of Australia. A windward/leeward course may also be considered for the Flying 11's dependant on breeze direction and strength on any given race day. From time to time the course may be varied by the Race Committee.

12.2 The course to be sailed shall be advised at the briefing on any given day. Any changes to courses, including shortening of courses, after the briefing, will be notified to competitors on the water by the start boat.

12.3 Courses for special races, such as “Sprint Series” shall be determined at the discretion of the Race Committee and advised on the day.

12.4 For safety, boats must remain outside all of the “Bombora” marks.

13. MARKS

13.1 Rounding marks are shall be “yellow conical inflatable” marks with the lettering MH16SC printed in black.

14. THE START

14.1 The starting line will be between the flag mast on the race committee vessel flying an orange flag and the flag buoy at the port end of the line flying an orange flag.

14.2 A boat starting later than 5 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start.

15. STARTING PROCEDURE

15.1. Races will be started in accordance with RRS 26.

15.2 The start of a race will be signalled by the dropping of the relevant Class flag.

15.3 A sound signal may be used to attract attention of the flags.

15.4 A three minute starting sequence may be used for special races, such as “Sprint Series”, and shall be determined at the discretion of the Race Committee and advised at the briefing on the day.

15.5 Boats whose Warning Signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area.

16. CHANGE OF THE POSITION OF THE NEXT MARK

16.1 To change the position of the next mark, the race committee will move the original mark (or the finishing line) to a new position. The change will be signalled before the leading boat has begun the leg, although the mark may not yet be in the new position. Any mark to be rounded after rounding the moved mark may be relocated without further signalling to maintain the course configuration.

17. THE FINISH

17.1 The finishing line will be between the flag staff on the committee boat flying a blue flag and the flag buoy at the other end of the finish line flying an orange flag or a course mark as determined on the day.

18. TIME LIMITS

18.1 The time limit for each race shall be 2 hours for Manly Juniors and 2 hours for Flying 11's.

18.2 Manly Juniors failing to finish within 30 minutes after the first boat sails the course and finishes, or within the time limit, whichever is the later, will be scored Did Not Finish.

Flying 11's failing to finish within 30 minutes after the first boat sails the course and finishes, or within the time limit, whichever is the later, will be scored Did Not Finish.

19. HANDICAPS

19.1 The handicap system adopted at the commencement of a season shall not be altered during the season.

19.2 Handicaps will be reviewed weekly and may be adjusted where necessary.

19.3 In the event of a change of boat or crew, the handicappers may amend or set the boat's handicap at their discretion.

19.4 Any new skipper to register during the summer sailing season must sail 3 races before a handicap will be assigned.

20. PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

20.1 RRS Rule 60.2(a)(1) is amended by deleting "if her hull length is longer than 6 metres".

20.2 Protest forms will be available at the race office. Protests shall be delivered there within the protest time limit.

20.3 The protest time limit is 60 minutes after the last boat has finished the last race of the day. The same protest time limit applies to requests for redress.

20.4 Notices will be posted within 30 minutes of the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses.

20.5 Note it is encouraged that all competitors complete the necessary penalty turns whilst on the race course to nullify the necessity for protests.

21. SCORING

21.1 The Low Point System and other relevant provisions of the RRS Appendix A shall apply, except that a boat that scores DNC will be awarded points equal to the number of boats that are registered with the Club on the date of the race plus two (2) places. This amends RRS A9.

21.2 Notwithstanding 21.1 above, for the purposes of these Sailing Instructions with respect to a boat that comes to the starting area but did not start, did not sail the course, did not finish, retired or was disqualified then Rule A5.3 shall apply.

22. SAFETY REGULATIONS

22.1 The helmsperson of each boat shall "sign on" on the sheets provided for the purpose prior to the first race each day and "sign off" on the same sheet after the last race each day. Any helmsperson of a boat that does not sign on or sign off as required will have that boat disqualified from that race or races on that day.

22.2 A boat that retires from a race shall "sign off" as soon as possible.

22.3 It is highly recommended that all competitors and officials wear sunscreen on exposed skin and/or other suitable protective clothing whilst sailing (e.g. cap, full length wetsuit or pants and sun shirt) to protect themselves against the sun's ultra violet rays. Current medical evidence suggests that these rays can cause skin cancer and other skin problems such as dermatitis. Such protection is recommended even on cloudy days. Sunscreen is available free of charge at the Club's office.

22.4 Manly Juniors and Flying 11's must have a 38mm diameter metal tow ring at the bow.

22.5 No boat shall leave the beach or club area to commence sailing until such time as advised by the race committee that it is safe to do so. In the interests of safety it is required that sufficient rescue craft be on station prior to boats leaving the beach or club area.

23. EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

23.1 A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules, the AS Special Regulations, Part 2 and the sailing instructions.

24. OFFICIAL BOATS

24.1 Official boats will be flying the burgee of the Middle Harbour 16' Skiff Club.

25. PRIZES

25.1 Prizes may be awarded to the skipper and crew. All Division prizes will be awarded based on the ranking of competitors in the overall results.

26. ABANDONED or POSTPONED RACES

26.1 Any programmed race, which is abandoned or postponed, may be sailed at a later date at the discretion of the Sailing Committee. Any trophies for the abandoned or postponed race may be reallocated.

27. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

27.1 Competitors participate in sailing entirely at their own risk. Attention is drawn to the RRS Fundamental Rule 4 which states: "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone". The Middle Harbour 16' Skiff Club or its officers, will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after sailing, nor for the seaworthiness of a boat whose entry is accepted or for the sufficiency or adequacy of its equipment or for damage which might result from participating in any sailing.