

Mersea Cadet Week 2026

27th – 31st July 2026

NOTICE OF RACE

Mersea Cadet Week will be held at Dabchicks Sailing Club and West Mersea Yacht Club from 27th – 31st JULY 2026. The Organising Authority is the Mersea Cadet Week Committee, a joint committee appointed to run the event on behalf of the Dabchicks Sailing Club and the West Mersea Yacht Club.

1. RULES

- 1.1. The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS).
- 1.2. The Royal Yachting Association (RYA) Exoneration Penalty and Arbitration will be available. Full details will be available in the sailing instructions.
- 1.3. The notation '[NP]' in a rule means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS60.1(a).
- 1.4. The relevant rules and byelaws of Dabchicks Sailing Club and the West Mersea Yacht Club will apply.
- 1.5. RRS 40.1 applies at all times while afloat. [DP]
- 1.6. RRS 63.7 is changed so that in the event of a conflict between the Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions, the Sailing Instructions shall prevail.

2. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1. The sailing instructions will be available on the event website at least three days prior to the event.
- 2.2. Sailing instructions will be posted on the official notice board. Individual printed copies will not be distributed on the day, please print your own if required or view electronically to save paper.
- 2.3. Questions on the Notice of Race or Sailing Instructions may be addressed in writing to the Organising Authority via West Mersea Yacht Club.
- 2.4. There will be separate Sailing Instructions for the Outside Fleets and the Inside Fleets.

3. COMMUNICATION

- 3.1. The official notice board will be described in the Sailing Instructions.
- 3.2. At any time whilst afloat, 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. [DP]

4. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

- 4.1. Participants shall be members of either the Dabchicks Sailing Club or the West Mersea Yacht Club or an invited club as decided by the Organising Authority who fulfil the age requirements. Non member crews sailing with DSC, WMYC, or invited club members will also be permitted to participate.
- 4.2. Cadet Members must be a minimum of 8 years old by 31st August 2026 and not have reached the age of 19 years by 31st August 2026.
- 4.3. Racing shall be run in two race groups known as Inside Fleets and Outside Fleets.
- 4.4. The Inside Fleets will be exclusively Optimists, comprise of individual fleets based on sailor ability, and will include Gold Fleet when conditions are considered suitable by the Race Committee.
- 4.5. The Outside Fleets will comprise of individual fleets known as Slow Handicap (menagerie fleet with classes), Medium Handicap (menagerie fleet with classes), and Fast Handicap (menagerie fleet with classes).
- 4.6. Optimist Gold Fleet may race with Inside or Outside Fleets, subject to the decision of the Race Committee.
- 4.7. Note that separate fleets may be combined for the purposes of race starting.
- 4.8. The number of entered boats will be limited to an overall number of 120 boats (70 Inside Fleets and 50 Outside Fleets) except where approval is agreed by the organizing authority to extend this number.
- 4.9. All vessels should be recognised dinghy classes (with PY number). Once confirmed entry limits are reached any subsequent entries will be placed on a waiting list. As more resources become available the entry limit may be raised.



- 4.10 No Inside Fleets sailor, with the exception of Gold Fleet sailors, who has finished in the top three places of a fleet at the preceding Cadet Week may compete again in that same fleet for the current Cadet Week.
- 4.11 The fleet break down will be made using the Portsmouth Yardstick number as defined for the year of the event, modified for local conditions. Details of the split will be given in the Sailing Instructions, as will the details of the classes and prizes being competed for.
- 4.12 Entries will be via an on-line registration system. The link for the on-line registration can be found on the Cadet Week website at www.cadetweek.co.uk. Entries will open on 3rd June 2026.
- 4.13 All promotions from waiting list to confirmed entries will depend on payment of entry fees and available space at the sole discretion of the Organising Authority.
- 4.14 Registration requirements are:
- Adequate third-party insurance of at least £3,000,000 per event.
 - All helms and crews are required to supply an electronically signed Entry and Parent/Guardian Declaration on the entry form.
 - Medical forms as part of the entry form are required to be completed for all competitors.

5. FEES

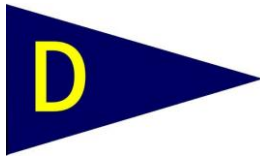
- 5.1. The entry fees are as follows:
Single Handers: £ 85.00; Double Handers: £ 170.00; Social only: £75.00
Entries will only be confirmed once the entry fee has been paid. While the entry fee remains unpaid that entry will remain on the waiting list.
- 5.2 Social members and specialist fees for evening events will be charged. This will be detailed on the entry forms.
- 5.3 Fully completed entries shall be received, together with the entry fees, before 23.59 hrs 30th June 2026.
- 5.4. The fees and refund policy are as follows: The Organizing Authority retains the right to refund entry fees in exceptional circumstances only, at their sole discretion and their decision is final. A request for refund should in the first instance be made in writing to the Organising Authority via the West Mersea Yacht Club.

6. CREW LIMITATIONS & PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

6.1 PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY AND COACHING

- 6.1.1 Every sailor must have a parent or other designated adult at the venue at all times, either on the water or on-shore performing the Cadet Week duty that has been assigned to them. Parents are required to provide appropriate contact details (name and mobile number) at registration to enable ready contact with them at all times during the event.
- 6.1.2 Sailors remain the responsibility of that parent/adult at all times while the sailor is not on the water, up until their boat is launched, and as soon as it returns to land. This does not include during official onshore activities arranged due to adverse weather conditions.
- 6.2. It is the responsibility of the parent to make their own arrangements with other parents/adults for the supervision of their child when the child is off the water. The Cadet Week Committee is not responsible for the supervision of children who are ashore before they are tallied-on or once they have tallied off.
- 6.3. Sailing is a weather dependent sport, and sessions may not finish at the pre-designated time. Individual sailors may return to shore at any time. Therefore, parents should be aware that their child may arrive ashore before them when they are performing their Cadet Week duties on the water or elsewhere ashore. [DP][NP]
- 6.4. Inside Fleet only: Sailors should note that coaching during racing will only be permitted by the agreed Inside Fleet coaches. Any coaching during a race must only be provided with the intention to support those sailors at the back of the Diamond, Emerald and Bronze fleets to encourage them to get effectively around the course. Parents are asked not to attempt to coach their own sailors while they are racing and to avoid the race-course and coaching areas while activity is taking place. [DP]
- 6.5. Other than as set out in 6.4 Parents of sailors who have volunteered as part of the safety team or race management team are not allowed to coach any sailors during racing or during pre-starting procedures (i.e. after the 5min warning signal).

7. ADVERTISING



- 7.1. Boats may be required to display advertising chosen and supplied by the organising authority. [DP]

8. FORMAT OF RACING

8.1 Inside fleets

- 8.1.1 The Inside Racing fleet is intended to be for sailors to gain experience of regatta racing who can race all day but who are not yet confident to join the Outside fleets. The emphasis will be on racing and developing racing skills. There may be some training races and the sailors may return to the shore for lunch.
- 8.1.2. Generally, the fleet will be coached from the back when racing.
- 8.1.3 The sailors will be allocated to the fleets based upon knowledge gained from Sunset Series. The decision of the Organising Authority is final.
- 8.1.4 Over the event the Organising Authority will run races in a variety of wind strengths. The decision to participate in a race or races is the decision of the sailor and/or the responsible adult.
- 8.1.5 The race officer together with the safety officer exclusively will decide whether a race will take place.

8.2 Outside Fleets

- 8.2.1 Outside Fleets will race in the vicinity of the Nass Beacon and the inside creeks decided upon by the Race Committee based on prevailing and forecast conditions. Competitors (and their parents) must satisfy themselves that their sailing ability and the condition of their equipment is of a suitable standard to sail safely in this environment. See Section 22.

9. SCHEDULE

9.1 Registration and Competitor briefing

Competitors shall be available to attend and register at a competitor briefing on Sunday 26th July. It is intended that briefing for the Inside Fleets (exclusively Optimists) will be at the Dabchicks Sailing Club at 18:00hrs and the Outside fleets at West Mersea Yacht Club at 18:30 hrs. A safety briefing will be held for all safety boat helms and crews at 19:15 hrs at West Mersea Yacht Club.

9.2 Racing Programme

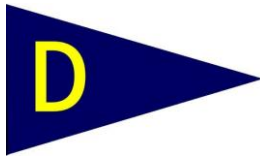
- 9.2.1 Morning racing is scheduled to take place for all fleets for all or any of Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.
- 9.2.2 Afternoon racing is scheduled for Outside fleets for all or any of Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. A sail-off is planned for Friday afternoon.
- 9.2.3 Afternoon racing is scheduled for Inside fleets for all or any of Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. Special events may take place on Wednesday and Friday afternoon.
- 9.2.4 In order to reach the scheduled number of races, the Race Committee reserves the right to run racing for Inside Fleets on Wednesday and/or Friday afternoon if necessary.
- 9.2.5 There will be no restriction on the number of races on each day. Races may be sailed back to back. The following race will start asap after the previous race. The event may consist of any number of races.

- 9.3 The warning signal for the first race of the regatta will not be before 09:55 hrs.

- 9.4 No warning signal will be made after 15:00 hrs on the final day of Cadet Week.

10 EQUIPMENT INSPECTION

- 10.1 Boats sailing in Inside fleet do not have to comply fully with their class rules. Any measurement check for Inside Fleet relates to items of safety and seaworthiness.
- 10.2 Each sailor shall have tested the buoyancy of the boat within the previous 6 months and it shall be functioning correctly.
- 10.3 All boats must have a painter that is at least 8 metres long.
- 10.4 All Optimists shall have a removable device to attach the boom strop to the mainsheet that has a positive means of locking.
- 10.5 Boats will be monitored for continuing seaworthiness during the event and may be prevented from going afloat if basic safety (including the condition of buoyancy bags and having adequate equipment such as bailers, paddles, etc.) is compromised. Competitors are not relieved of their responsibilities detailed in Section 22.



11. VENUE

- 11.1. The venue is West Mersea YC/Dabchicks SC.
- 11.2. The racing area(s) will be in the River Blackwater.

12. THE COURSES

- 12.1. Shall be defined in the Sailing Instructions.

13. PENALTIES

- 13.1. All rules disputes will be dealt with using the RYA arbitration process unless serious damage or injury has resulted.

14. SCORING

- 14.1 The scoring system for the Inside fleet may differ from the outside fleet and will be detailed in their Sailing Instructions.

15. SUPPORT PERSON VESSELS

- 15.1. Support vessels who are not an official vessel must register with the safety officer. [DP] [NP]
- 15.2. Owners of all safety and support boats must sign a declaration of insurance and hand this to the event Safety Officer prior to or at the time of registration.
- 15.3. Support person vessels may be required to carry identifying flags issued by the organisers and shall comply with the directions from Safety Control. A deposit of £40 may be required and will be refunded when the identifying flag is returned.
- 15.4. All Support person vessel crews, safety crews and coaches will attend briefings by the race committee and organising authority as published in the event schedule.
- 15.5. Attention is drawn to NOR 6.3, 6.4, 6.5

16. CHARTERED OR LOANED BOATS

- 16.1. A loaned boat must comply with NOR 10 and NOR 20 before the first race.

17. BERTHING

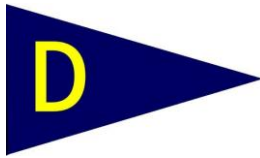
- 17.1. Boats shall be kept in their assigned places while they are in the boat park. [DP] [NP]
- 17.2. Boats and crews will follow the instructions of the Beach Master at all times. [DP] [NP]

18. DATA PROTECTION

- 18.1. The personal information you provide to the organizing authority will be used to facilitate your participation in the event. If you have agreed to be bound by the Racing Rules of Sailing and the other rules that govern the event (the rules), the legal basis for processing that personal information is contract. If you are not bound by the rules, the legal basis for processing that personal information is legitimate interest. Your personal information will be stored and used in accordance with the organizing authority's privacy policy. When required by the rules, personal information may be shared with the RYA, your national authority and/or World Sailing. The results of the event and the outcome of any hearing or appeal may be published.
- 18.2. Details of what information we collect and how we use it is set out in our Privacy Policy.
- 21.3. Competitors automatically grant to the organising authority without payment the right in perpetuity to make, use and show any motion pictures, still pictures and live, taped or filmed television of or relating to the event.
- 21.4. Still or video photography may be used as part of the Race Management processes for the event. These images will only be used for Race Management and limited training purposes and will not be widely published without the express permission of all sailors who are identifiable in the images.

19. RISK STATEMENT

- 19.1. RRS 3 states: "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone." Sailing is by its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event, each competitor agrees and acknowledges that:



- a) They are aware of the inherent element of risk involved in the sport and accept responsibility for the exposure of themselves, their crew and their boat to such inherent risk whilst taking part in the event.
- b) They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore.
- c) They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions.
- d) Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate.
- e) The provision of a race management team, patrol vessels, umpires and other officials and volunteers by the organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities.
- f) The provision of patrol vessel cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances.
- g) It is their responsibility to familiarise themselves with any risks specific to this venue or this event drawn to their attention in any rules and information produced for the venue or event and to attend any competitors briefing held at the venue.

20. INSURANCE

- 20.1. Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £3,000,000 per incident or the equivalent.

21. PRIZES

- 21.1. Prize details will be given in the Sailing Instructions.

22. FURTHER INFORMATION

- 22.1. For further information please contact the Organising Authority via committee@cadetweek.co.uk