2026 OYC 50-Miler Yacht race
Notice of Race & Sailing Instructions
Saturday 7th November 2026

The Organising Authority is Onerahi Yacht Club
PO Box 1131, Whangarei

Rules

The race will be governed by the ISAF Racing Rules of Sailing 2025-2028.
Yachting NZ safety regulations Part 2 Category 4 to apply to keel boats
Yachting NZ safety regulations Part 2 Category B to apply to trailer yachts except where modified by their individual class rules

Eligibility and Entry

This race is open to all keelers and trailer yachts. Entry is free however the necessary entry form must be registered with the race officer by 1400 Friday 6th November. Entry will be accepted at the offices of Hawthorn Geddes or by email by completing the official entry form.

Summer Series

This is the second race in the 2026-27 Summer Race Series for the Bluewater Cup (line honours cumulative) and HA Roberts Memorial Cup (handicap cumulative).

Racing Area

The racing area is Bream Bay. Course length is approx. 50 nm.

Handicaps

Yachts participating in the Race will scored results using a Time Correction Factor under a PHRF-type handicap system, using the current OYC Club handicaps. Where no rating for a yacht is known one will be assigned by the race officer using information known about the vessel, including reference to Racetrack.org for background information. Refer Appendix 1 for the assigned TCF's for the known fleet.

Schedule

The 2026 50-miler will be held on *Saturday 7th November* 2026 starting at Whangarei *Harbour No.9 Buoy (Urquharts Bay) at **1000 Hrs***. All competitors will race as one division.
High Tide at Marsden Point is approximately 0647hrs 2.5m and 1900hrs, 2.5m.

Course

Cross the start line between No.9 Buoy and the start boat in a southerly direction followed by:

Maro Tiri Islands (*Chickens*)	**To Port**
Bream Islands (*Guano*)	**To Port**
Sail Rock	**To Port**
Taranga Island (*Hen*)	**To Port**
No: 6 Bouy	**To Starboard**

And finally pass through the Start/finish line in a northerly direction.

The race control officer has the right to modify the course at his discretion, and any changes will be advised to the fleet on VHF radio (Channel 77) or individually by mobile telephone (a contact number from each competing vessel should be provided), with an acknowledgement sought from each competing boat. A change of course flag **may** also be flown from the committee boat (noting that the committee boat may be one of the competing yachts).

Known obstacles

a) A 100 metre prohibited area exists around the wave rider buoy, located at 35.53.0 S, 174.32.9 E. This clearance must be observed, and maintained at all times.
b) Copper-mine Reef (Chickens Islands)
c) Bream rock.

Start

Upon arrival at the start area, each yacht shall pass close to the stern of the start boat, or contact the start boat by VHF on ch77, and identify themselves as a starter, and be acknowledged.
Each starter is to forward the following minimum information during identification:
Sail number, and number of crew onboard. This exercise shall be carried out by all participants prior to the 5 minute warning signal.
The start is to be a **gate start** between the transom of the participating start boat and #9 buoy. 2 alternative gates are proposed depending on the wind direction:

East Gate: The start boat will sail away from #9 in approximately an easterly direction (toward the shoreline). Starting boats shall pass between #9 and the stern of the start boat;
South Gate: : The start boat will sail away from #9 in approximately a southerly direction (toward the Ruakaka / Waipu). Starting boats shall pass between #9 and the stern of the start boat;

The start boat will endeavour to pass in the vicinity of #9 as near as possible to the race start time to open the gate. Any vessel passing between the stern of the start boat and #9 prior to the staring signal (K flag withdrawn) will be considered OCS and a 10%time penalty will be applied to the offending competitor(s).

The start boat is the yacht Future Feedback (Y11), flying the orange start flag. The starter will be James Blackburn – 0274 785 033.

Start Sequence

Warning signal 9:55 hrs	Flag K	5 minutes
Preparatory	Flag P	4 minutes
Preparatory remove	Flag P	1 minute
Start remove	Flag K	0 minutes

Cancellation

Race postponement to a later date will be at the discretion of the Race Officer, and indicated by an AP over A Flag, and also advised on VHF channel 77. If the weather is clearly identifiable in advance as being unsuitable for the holding of the race every effort shall be made to contact competitors prior to arriving at the start.

The decision to participate is at the sole discretion of each yacht skipper.

Finish

Yachts shall finish by crossing the start/finish line in a northerly direction.(ie: *leaving No.9 buoy to port*.) It is most likely that there will be **no** finish vessel on station, unless there are adverse conditions, so the fleet will be trusted to take their own finish times. In which case the line is deemed to run in an easterly direction from the #9 buoy and the line shall deemed to

have been crossed when the bow of a competing yacht passes #9 buoy, sighted on a bearing of 270 degrees magnetic. Finish times are to be communicated to the Race control officer (see note 11, Mandatory Radio schedules).

Time limit

Any yachts failing to cross the finish line within **15** hours shall be deemed DNF. (This is an average speed of 3.4 knots.).

Protests

Protest must be lodged with the Race control officer by noon Monday 9th November. Intention to protest shall be notified to the race officer as soon as practicable after the yacht finishes or withdraws from the race as applicable.

Formal protests shall be lodged using the standard YNZ protest form, and may be lodged by email or in person to the race officer.

Mandatory Radio schedules

All radio communication will be *via the dedicated race control vessel who will also be a competing yacht on VHF Channel **77** –* vessel to be advised prior to the starting signal, or by contacting Race control officer James Blackburn by mobile telephone 0274 785 033 (text message is acceptable).
Emergency communications shall be through *Maritime NZ Whangarei via channel 67* or *Whangarei Coastguard via channel 05*

It is mandatory that all participating yachts to call the race control officer (as soon as practical) after going round the following marks;
Maro Tiri islands (Coppermine), Sail rock.
A failure to report may (at the sole discretion of the race control officer) result in a 10% time penalty being allocated to that yacht.
Any yacht withdrawing from the race shall advise the race control officer as soon as practicable.

Safety

There shall be a minimum of one crew, plus the skipper on each yacht. These crew must be aged over twelve years. Persons less than 16 years of age will also require parental consent.
All yachts shall carry sufficient fuel for a minimum of 4 hours motoring after the starting signal.
Trailer yachts shall comply with the requirements of **category A** of part 5 of the YNZ Safety Regulations, and be capable of attaining a Type 1 SRI certificate.
Keel yachts shall comply with the requirements of **category 4** of part 2, of the Yachting New Zealand Safety Regulations.
It is recommended that all competing yachts verify they carry the required equipment of Category 4 using the safety checklist provided.
In additional to the above category requirements, the following safety equipment is required specific to this race;

a) Navigation lights,
b) Inflated Dinghy or Liferaft **recommended**

It is the sole responsibility of each skipper to ensure that they comply with the YNZ safety regulations applicable to this race.

Any emergency communications shall be through Maritime NZ channel 67 or Whangarei Coastguard via channel 05.

Disclaimer of liability

Competitors participate in this yacht race entirely at their own risk. Refer rule 4 of RRS 2025-2028, Decision to race. The organising authority, its members, and sponsors will not accept

any liability for material damage, personal injury, or death sustained in conjunction with, prior to, during, or after this sailing event.

Summer Series

This is the second race in the 2026-27 summer race series.

Appendix 1

Yacht Name	Yacht Type	TCF
Imagine	Farr 920	0.73
Future Feedback	Young 11	0.82
C'est La Vie	Dufour 36P	0.81
Mismatch	Bavaria Match 35	
Mercenary	SR26	0.725
TL	Sawyer 46	0.98
Batifole	Noellex 25	0.7
Provocateur	Mull 31	0.705
Ex-Machina	Elliott 790	0.79
Satisfaction	Senior Reacher	0.727
Strictly Business	SR26 mod	0.77
Titanium	Stomp 38	0.89
Speedwell II	Elliott 1350	0.85
Ingenious	Powersail	0.825
Revs	Ross 12	0.89
High Point	Farr 920	0.72

Appendix 2 – Gate Start Arrangement

