

SYC - Yacht of the Year Trophy, Race Officer Duties, Race Fees & Rebate scheme – 2026

DRAFT V1.2

Yacht of the Year Trophy

The SYC Yacht of the Year trophy is designed to find the top Yacht at SYC. It will be awarded to the best performing boat across a combination of the Inshore, Long Inshore and Offshore series, based upon the results calculated under SYC's IRC handicap system.

To ensure that any yacht in the fleet has the opportunity to win this prestigious award, only the best two series will count for each yacht. This means, that a yacht which opts not to compete in the Offshore series, for example, will count its series scores from the Inshore and Long Inshore series. A yacht that competes in all three series will discard the series in which it performs worst. For the Long Inshore and Offshore series, where a yacht does not compete in a race, their score to count for that race will be the total number of entrants in that series plus one. For the Inshore series (as there will likely be different numbers of entrants in each of the individual Inshore series) where a boat does not compete in a race, their score to count for that race will be the total number of entrants plus one across all three of the Inshore series.

Because there are a different number of races in each series, an adjustment will be made to the Long Inshore and Offshore series race points. The adjustment will ensure that the same number of points are awarded for each series. To achieve this a multiplying factor of 2 will apply to the Long Inshore series and a factor of 5 to the Offshore series. The number of races to count from each series is roughly half of the races scheduled, and a boat's best results will be used towards the Yacht of the Year trophy. In the event that races are cancelled, and less than the number of races to count from a series are actually raced, the points will be adjusted accordingly to ensure equal weighting for each series. The usual rule in respect of series validity will apply.

Inshore Series

Races designated as Inshore series to count towards the Yacht of the Year trophy are:

Spring Series

Summer Regattas

Autumn Series

Because of the new Regattas, there are likely to be significantly more races than there were in 2025. Revised scoring will take the best 6 from Spring/Autumn Series and the best 4 from the Summer Regattas.

Long Inshore Series

Races designated as Long Inshore series to count towards the Yacht of the Year trophy are:

Ferguson

Solent

Black Rock

Tala Hinna

Double Diamond

Round Rampion

Eastbourne

Eastbourne Return

Littlehampton

There are a total of 9 races in this series, of which 5 will count.

Offshore Series

Races designated as Offshore series to count towards the Yacht of the Year trophy are:

Royal Escape

Nab Tower

Pactolus

Seaway Trophy

There are a total of 4 races in this series, of which 2 will count.

The **Royal Escape Race** will only be included as an Offshore Result for the purposes of YOTY for those Yachts which compete further in the Series, see the Racing Overview Section.

Race Officer Duties

Such a comprehensive sailing program could not be achieved without the support of Skippers undertaking Race Officer duties. You will be allotted your duty date before the Keelboat Briefing meeting on 28th February 2026; these being allocated to boats that have taken part in SYC racing last year or have stated that they intend joining in SYC racing in the future. If the allocated dates don't suit your circumstances, then the Keelboat Briefing meeting will be an ideal opportunity for you to organise a swop with other skippers. The Race Officer will receive a reminder email the week before their duty, if you are unable to undertake your duty then it is your responsibility to make alternative arrangements. Please also inform the Keelboat Section via the WhatsApp group "SYC Race Management".

Boats that support the racing program by performing Race Officer duties will be scored OOD in the results for IRC and will be exempt from fees for that race. A boat will receive an average of their valid series results for that race if applicable.

Race Officers will be supported by the Series Officer. The Series Officer will make sure that the Race Officer has all that they need to perform the duty and may assist with course setting on or before the race day.

The names and dates for these duties will be shown in the Keelboat Summary Calendar on the website.

Race Fees and rebate scheme

Race fees are a fundamental part of ensuring the success of the racing season. The race fees help provide the funding for our annual prizegiving retention awards, care of our historical and important trophies and other essential matters during the year, including upkeep of essential race equipment.

All races, including the Pursuit series, throughout the 2026 season will be charged at £7 per race, except for the following: - Christmas Cracker series £11 for the 5-race series, SYC regattas £11 per one-day event, and £22 for two-day events. "Open" events will be charged separately as part of the entry process.

Invoices will be issued to competitors from the SYC Office, usually after the Spring and Summer series and again at the end of the year and should be paid promptly.

Our IRC certificate fee rebate scheme will be in its 7th and final year in 2026. If a boat has applied for and obtained (through the Keelboat Section) a current IRC certificate, then it will be exempt from all SYC race fees (including Pursuits but with the exception of the RER and Regattas) up to the full cost of the IRC certificate or £100, whichever figure is the lowest. These credits will be deducted as the invoices are raised.