BRITISH OPEN TEAM RACING CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR THE 76th WILSON TROPHY 8, 9 & 10 MAY 2026

NOTICE OF RACE

1. ORGANISING AUTHORITY

The Organising Authority is West Kirby Sailing Club

2. RULES

2.1 The event will be governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing* (RRS) including Appendix D, Team Racing Rules.

2.2 All races will be umpired (rule D2.1).

2.3 Each competitor is individually responsible for providing a personal flotation device adequate for the conditions.

2.4 Right of appeal will be denied under rule 70.3(b).

2.5 Advertising will be restricted according to the World Sailing Advertising Code.

2.6 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.

2.7 Scoring rules under appendix D will be modified by the sailing instructions to accommodate the Swiss League scoring system.

2.8 The course will be a starboard hand 'S' course.

2.9 Accepted entrants shall become temporary members of West Kirby Sailing Club for the duration of the event and will adhere to all House Rules and Regulations.

2.10 Teams shall consist of 6 sailors, racing 3-boat teams in Firefly dinghies.

3. ENTRIES

3.1 Up to 34 teams may be invited to attend the event.

3.2 Team names may reflect the club, locale or sailing organisation which that team represents. The team organiser may be required to change the team name to an acceptable one; failure to do so will result in a team name being imposed by the Organising Authority. There will be no right to request redress concerning such a change, altering rule 61.1(a) (redress).

3.3 Teams may request an invitation by:

(i) Purchase of a ticket online via WKSC website. Please use the following link: https://members.wksc.org.uk//event/1249275. The Team Captain will need to log in using their previous details or create an account and then login to the site and enter the Team details.

(ii) When creating an account, the "First Name" of the account must be 'Wilson77'; the "Surname" must be the Team name the Yacht/ Sailing Club being represented and the "email address" must be for the Team Captain or other person handling correspondence. Any problems please contact kathryn.h.brown@hotmail.co.uk

(iii) Payment of the entry fee of **£1188.00** per team, online by bank card at the time of entry and also by cheque or by credit/debit card over the phone to the Club Office (Tel: ++44(0)151 625 5579). The entry fee includes: -

1) Use of boats and Clubhouse facilities
2) Saturday and Sunday Breakfast and Lunch
3) Friday evening meal and entertainment
4) Saturday Dinner and entertainment

(iv) Provide a list of the team's achievements.

3.4 Accommodation will be voluntarily provided free of charge, by members of WKSC on Friday and Saturday nights. If this is not feasible, teams will be advised to find their own alternative accommodation.

3.5 The closing date for entries, which must be accompanied by a list of the entering team's achievements and the entry fee, is strictly **17:00GMT** on **06 March 2026**.

3.6 Teams who have five members under the age of 21 on the first day of racing shall be eligible for the Eric Twiname Trust Under-21 Wilson Trophy.

3.7 Each team shall lodge a credit card pre-authorisation of £400 sterling (£450 equivalent in another currency) at registration.

a. £400 (£450 for non-Sterling) is the limit of liability for any one incident.
b. Reported attributable damage will be charged to the team responsible. Unreported obvious damage will be charged to the team that last used the boat. Unreported non-attributable damage will be charged equally to all the teams who have used the boat between a known time when the boat was free from damage and before the damage was discovered unless those who caused the damage are identified.
c. If a deduction is made following an incident, a further amount to restore the deposit may be required before a team can continue.
d. The cost of damage to any property on the premises or launching area during the event will be deducted from a team's damage deposit.
e. The cost of banking non-sterling cheques will be added to the cost of damage incurred.

3.8 The event is restricted to a maximum of 34 teams. West Kirby Sailing Club as the Organising Authority will select up to 34 teams. WKSC reserve the right to select teams at its discretion, however it is intended that selection will be based on:

a. Limiting non-GBR teams to approximately 25% of the total entry (with their own reserve list)
b. Teams' achievements at previous Wilson Trophies and since and ensuring, as far as possible, that the following are adequately represented:
    1) UK universities/alumni
    2) Local clubs
    3) Clubs and teams that have supported the event in the past.

3.9 A boat or team may not request redress against the club's selections. This changes rule 61.1(a).

3.10 The selected teams (with the reserve lists) will be published on the website no later than 13 March 2026.

3.11 Teams that subsequently withdraw will be replaced by those on the respective reserve list in order. When a list is exhausted, replacements will be taken from the other list. Withdrawals and their replacements will be posted on the website within 24 hours of a team's withdrawal. A refund of an entry fee will be made when a replacement is found, and a further fee is received.

3.12 Entry fees for teams that are not selected will be refunded in line with the below:

a) Team decides to remain on the Reserve List the refund will be completed within five working days after the event finishes.
b) Team decides to remove themselves from the Reserve List the refund will be completed within five working days of notification.

3.13 Entries shall include an email address that will be used for notices and information. A subsequent change of email address must be acknowledged by WKSC to be effective.

3.14 Team organisers shall ensure the prescribed guardian declaration form (available on the website) is completed, signed and given to the club at registration in respect of any member of their team who was born after 08 May 2008.

3.15 After registration, no team member may be changed without the prior permission of the Race Committee, which will be given only in exceptional circumstances.

4. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS, REGISTRATION AND BRIEFING

4.1 Sailing instructions and, if required, briefing notes will be posted on the website 01 April 2026. Questions on them by email are invited before the event and answers will be posted on the notice board at the event.

4.2 Registration will be between 09:00 and 12:00 on Friday 08 May 2026.

4.3 There will be a verbal briefing at 12:00. Information on its location will be provided at registration.

5. RACING PROGRAMME

5.1 The first warning signal will be at 12:57 on Friday 08 May 2026 and racing will continue all day. The first warning signal will be at 07:57 on Saturday 09 May 2026 and Sunday 10 May 2026.

5.2 A round robin will be sailed until a point determined by the Race Committee; followed, if possible, by final elimination rounds. On Sunday 10 May 2026, a new round in the round robin will not be started after 12:45 and a new round robin race will not be started after 13:45

6. GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION (GDPR)

GDPR requirements are detailed in the Entry Online

7. DECISION TO RACE

Rule 3 of the Racing Rules of Sailing 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 inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event, each competitor agrees to acknowledge 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 property whether afloat or ashore.
c. They accept responsibility for injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions.
d. They are responsible to check, where possible that 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 boats, umpires and other officials and volunteers by the event organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities.
f. The provision of patrol boat 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 safety briefing held at the venue.

8. WORLD SAILING TEAM RACE RANKINGS

The event has been created within the Team-Race Rankings and if you click here, it will explain the process further. You can enter a race ranking for yourself either personally or by team, which is explained in the previous link, but you can also do it via the links below…

a. By sailor (helm or crew) would need to create a world sailing ID https://www.sailing.org/inside-world-sailing/organisation/our-family/world-sailing-profile/ (it is not mandatory for all sailors from the same team to provide an ID)
b. By team. If a club wants to send 2 teams, these 2 teams will have the same ID to score points for the same club. The club ID can be created at https://sailcup.com/ranking/TEAM_login.php
If you're unsure if your club already has an ID, the list of all club IDs already created is shown on this link https://sailcup.com/ranking/TEAM_all.php

Robyn Fitzgerald

Principal Race Officer

DATE: 25th November 2025