



NOTICE OF RACE

Tideway Dinghy Derby

Saturday 20th June 2026

1. Organisation

- 1.1. The organising authority is Ranelagh Sailing Club (RSC)
- 1.2. The race will start from RSC on Saturday 20th June, on a course on the tidal River Thames (the Tideway) from the RSC starting line in Putney to a turning mark in the vicinity of the Houses of Parliament returning to finish at RSC. The race will start on the ebb tide. The laying of the turning mark at Westminster will be arranged to facilitate the fleet returning upriver on the flood tide. The start will be no earlier than 1100. A briefing will be provided to competitors at RSC at least thirty minutes before the start.
- 1.3. Competitors should be aware that sailing on the Tideway is inherently dangerous and requires experience of sailing in currents, variable winds and busy waterways. They should have the adequate experience, skill and capability to take part in the event and be excluded by the organising authority or its representatives from competing or be disqualified if they fail to comply with regulations applying to vessels using the Tideway or do not appear to be capable of safely navigating the course.
- 1.4. Boats should be aware that in adverse weather conditions the race may be cancelled. In the event that the race is cancelled, it will not be re-sailed and entry fees will not be refunded.
- 1.5. The fleet will be divided into flights of between 15 and 20 boats, starting at 5 minute intervals. The flights will consist of separate flights for Merlin Rockets, Fireflies, and 3 other classes racing on handicap under the Portsmouth Yardstick system.

2. Rules

The Ranelagh Sailing Club Limited (registered in England No. 454371)
The Embankment, Putney, London SW15 1LB

- 2.1. The event is governed by the Racing Rules of Sailing 2025-2028 (RRS) subject to amendment by the Sailing Instructions for the event; the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREGS); the Port of Thames Byelaws 2012 (Thames Byelaws); and the Port of London Authority General Directions (PLA Regulations).
- 2.2. COLREGS, Thames Byelaws and PLA Regulations take precedence over RRS.
- 2.3. Sailing Instructions for the event will be published on the event website <https://www.ranelaghsc.co.uk/tideway-2026/> no later than 12:00 on 6 June.

3. Conditions of Entry

- 3.1. Entries will only be accepted from boats in classes with a Portsmouth Number between 983 (Merlin Rocket) and 1174 (Firefly).
- 3.2. RSC reserves the right to refuse entry to any competitor for safety reasons.
- 3.3. Competitors will be required to make a declaration that they are aware of the potential hazards on the Tideway and are sufficiently experienced, skilled and capable skipper to navigate them.
- 3.4. Competitors will be required to make a declaration confirming that they are in good health and unlikely to require medical assistance in the normal course of the race (which is estimated to last approximately 3 hours and could be longer depending on conditions).
- 3.5. Competitors must be at least 15 years old. Competitors between 15 and 18 years will be required to be registered for the event by their registered adult.
- 3.6. Each boat will be required to carry the following equipment:
 - a personal flotation device of appropriate size with a whistle, to be worn while afloat
 - two handed boats must carry a paddle
 - a 250ml bottle of water for each crew member
 - a closable pocket to collect any rubbish (or a bag which is secured to the hull) so that litter is not lost overboard
 - sunscreen
 - a rope that can be used as a towing line

Boats may be subject to scrutineering prior to launching and be subject to disqualification for failure to carry this equipment.

- 3.7. Each boat shall be insured with valid third-party insurance with a minimum cover of £5 million per incident.

4. Risk statement

- 4.1.1. RRS 3 states: "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or 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 or risk involved in the sport and accept responsibility for the exposure of themselves, their crew and their boat to such inherent risk while taking part in the event;
- B. They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and 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 boats and other officials and volunteers by the event organiser and partner organisations including the Port of London Authority does not relieve them of their own responsibilities;
- F. The provision of patrol boat cover is limited to such as assistance as can be practically provided in the circumstances;
- G. It is their responsibility to familiarise themselves with any risks related to sailing on the Tideway drawn to their attention in any rules and information produced for this event and to the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREGS); the Port of Thames Byelaws 2012 (Thames Byelaws); and the Port of London Authority General Directions (PLA Regulations).

5. Entries

- 5.1. The number of entries is limited to 80.
 - 5.1.1. Allocation of places will be undertaken at the discretion of the organising authority following the closing date for entries.
 - 5.1.2. 15 places each are reserved for entries from the Merlin Rocket and Firefly classes, reflecting the major anniversaries for these classes in 2026. These numbers may vary if other entries decide to change class.
 - 5.1.3. A limited number of places are reserved for allocation by sponsoring organisations and the Greig City Academy/Scaramouche Sailing Trust.
 - 5.1.4. A number of places will be reserved for clubs providing safety boats and members of Tideway sailing clubs with remaining places allocated according to order of response to the Declaration of Interest.
- 5.2. Entries will be online only via event website.
- 5.3. The closing date for entries is noon on 23 May.
- 5.4. The entry fee is £60 inc. VAT. Fees are non-refundable. It is possible due to absence or excess of wind the race may be cancelled and not rerun.

- 5.5. In the event that the entry limit has not been reached by 23 May, the organising authority may accept further entries on payment of a late entry fee of £65.

6. Prizes

- 6.1. Prizes will be awarded to:
- the 5 highest placed finishers on handicap
 - the top 3 finishers in each flight on handicap
 - the first finisher overall in a flight of a different gender to the winner of that flight
 - the top 3 youth sailors
- Additional prizes may well be awarded subject to sponsorship.

7. Membership and Liability

- 7.1. All visiting competitors will be deemed to be temporary members of Ranelagh Sailing Club during the event and as such shall abide by all the Club's rules and bye-laws.
- 7.2. Any person using Club premises and any other facilities of the Club do so entirely at their own risk and by doing so accept that:
- a) The Club will not accept any liability for any damage to or loss of property belonging to them;
 - b) The Club will not accept any liability for personal injury arising out of use of the Club premises or any other facilities of the Club, or out of participation in any race organised by the Club, by whosoever sustained or caused, whether or not such damage or injury could have been attributed to, or contributed to or was occasioned by the neglect, default or negligence of any of the officers, committees, members or servants of the Club.