VEE ESS 15' SKIFF
81ST AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIP
2025-2026
24 to 26 January 2026

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

ORGANISING AUTHORITY:

VEE ESS SAILING ASSOCIATION INC.

HOSTED BY TERALBA AMATEUR SAILING CLUB

81st VEE ESS 15' SKIFF AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIP
24 to 26 January 2026

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

The Organising Authority for this Series is the Vee Ess Sailing Association Inc (VSSA).
The Host club is Teralba Amateur Sailing Club.

1 RULES

1.1 The Championship will be governed by the rules as defined in the 2025 – 2028 Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS).

1.2 Australian Sailing Special Regulations, Part 2 Off the Beach Boats, will apply. It is the responsibility of all competitors to ensure that life jackets comply with a standard equivalent to those listed in the regulations.

1.3 The rules and by-laws of the Vee Ess Sailing Association shall apply except as altered by the Notice of Race or these Sailing Instructions.

1.4 Competitors and support persons shall comply with any reasonable request from an event official. Failure to comply may be considered as misconduct.

1.5 Appendix T will apply.

4.1 [DP] denotes a rule for which the penalty is at the discretion of the Protest Committee. This changes RRS 64.

4.2 [NP] denotes a rule that shall not be grounds for protests by a boat. This changes RRS 60.1(a).

4.3 If there is conflict between any of the rules or regulations, other than RRS, the Sailing Instructions will prevail.

2 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

Notices to competitors will be posted on the Official Notice Board located in the clubhouse of the Teralba Amateur Sailing Club.

3 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any change to the Sailing Instructions will be posted no less than 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start time of the racing day it will affect.

4 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

4.4 Signals made ashore shall be made on the flag mast located at TASC.

4.5 When Flag AP is displayed ashore "1 minute" is replaced with "not less than 30 minutes" in the Race Signal AP. This changes Race Signal AP.

4.6 When Flag AP over H is displayed ashore: boats shall not leave the club to go sailing and shall wait for further instructions. This adds to Race Signals.

5 RACING SCHEDULE

5.1 The regatta schedule is as shown in Table 1 of Addendum A.

5.2 Nine (9) races are scheduled for the Championships. Races may be sailed back to back. Where required, flag signal AP over A, with the respective class flag, shall be flown from the Committee Vessel when the day's racing session is complete.

5.3 The RO may alter the schedule of each days' racing but will not increase the number of races per day.

6 CLASS FLAG

The Vee Ess Class Flag shall be a black VS on a white background.

7 RACING AREA

The racing area is the Northern end of Lake Macquarie including Cockle Bay, Warners Bay, Marmong Point and Eleebana.

Note: The regatta does not have exclusive use of the waterway and land area. All competitors are required to have due regard to all members of the public that may be using the same area. In particular, when special events are held at Speers Point Park, competitors are advised that there could be increased traffic on the waterway, including vessels that may choose to anchor in the course area. Whilst the RO will attempt to set courses that will avoid interactions with these vessels, it is the responsibility of the competitors to remain vigilant and abide by general rules of the waterway (i.e. not necessarily the same as RRS). Affectations to results caused by interactions with recreational vessels shall generally not be grounds for redress, except in the case where the other vessel is proven to be in breach of the general rules of the waterway.

8 COURSES

Addendum 2 shows the course layouts, the order in which the marks are to be passed and the side on which each mark is to be left.

9 MARKS

9.1 Marks 1, 2S and 2P will be yellow inflatable buoys. Marks may be displayed at the Competitors meeting.

9.2 The Start and Finish Marks will be black & white chequered inflatable buoys. Marks may be displayed at the Competitors meeting.

9.3 A replacement mark will be an orange inflatable buoy. This mark may be displayed at the Competitors meeting.

9.4 In the event that a mark is lost or has drifted a support boat from TASC flying Code Flag "M" may anchor and act as the mark.

10 THE START

10.1 Races will be started by using RRS 26 with the warning signal made three (3) minutes before the starting signal.

10.2 The start line will be between the flagstaff displaying an orange flag on the Committee Vessel at the starboard end of the line and the Start Mark at the port end.

10.3 A boat starting later than five minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start. This changes rules A5.1 & A5.2.

10.4 For the purpose of RRS 29 & RRS 30, the "hull" is defined between the stern and the bow (stem) of the boat where the stem includes the solid bumpkin that receives the bow pole.

11 MARK ROOM

For the purpose of defining the zone, the "hull" is defined from the stern to the end of the spinnaker pole, provided the pole is in its normal position for that leg of the course. This changes the definition for the term zone in the RRS Definitions and is commonly referred to in RRS 18.

12 THE FINISH

12.1 The finishing line will be between the flagstaff displaying a blue flag on the Committee Vessel and the Finish Mark.

13 PENALTY SYSTEM

RRS 44.1 is changed so that the Two-Turns Penalty is replaced by the One-Turn Penalty.

14 TIME LIMITS AND TARGET TIMES

4.7 [NP] The target time for each race is 40 minutes.

14.1 The Finish Time Limit for the first boat to finish each race is 60 minutes after the starting signal.

14.2 If no boat has sailed the course and finished within the Finish Time Limit the race shall be abandoned.

14.3 The Finish Window is the time limit for boats to finish after the first boat sails the course and finishes. The Finish Window time is 20 minutes.

14.4 A boat failing to finish within the Finish Window will be shown Code Flag "F" by a TASC support boat and shall be directed to proceed to the start of the next race if they wish to compete in it. Their position in the race at that time will be determined by the Race Officer which will then be recorded as her score for that race. The Race Officers determination of the position recorded shall be final and not be grounds for Protest.

15 PROTESTS

15.1 Rule 60.2 is amended in that the Race Officer or their nominated representative shall represent the Race Committee.

15.2 Protest forms are available at the race office. Protests are to be delivered there within the protest time limit.

15.3 The protest time limit is 60 minutes after the last boat has finished the last race of the day. The same time limit applies to protests by the race committee and protest committee about incidents they observe in the racing area, and to requests for redress. This changes rules 61.3 and 62.2.

15.4 Notices shall be posted within 15 minutes of the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses, the order of hearings and the time of the first hearing.

15.5 Notices of protest by the race committee or protest committee will be posted to inform boats under rule 61.1 (b).

15.6 The Protest Committee may make any determination in respect of penalties for a breach of a rule other than in Part 2.

15.7 On the last day of the Championship a request for reopening of a hearing shall be delivered: within the protest time limit if the party requesting reopening was informed of the decision on the previous day; or no later than 30 minutes after the party requesting the reopening was informed of the decision on that day. This changes Rule 66.

16 ARBITRATION

16.1 An arbitration hearing may be conducted for all protests lodged in accordance with RRS 61 and Instruction 16, which allege an infringement of a rule of Part 2 or Part 4 or Rule 31. Such hearings will be held subsequent to the protest being lodged and prior to the protest hearing.

16.2 The arbitrator will decide the time and place of the arbitration hearing and such advice may be given verbally. One representative of each boat shall attend the arbitration hearing. The arbitrator shall decide the manner in which testimony is given.

16.3 After taking testimony at the arbitration hearing the arbitrator shall make one of the following conclusions:

a. The protest does not comply with Rule 61 and the protestor may withdraw the protest.

b. The matter shall proceed to a protest hearing. This may be because the rules other than Part 2 or Part 4 or Rule 31 are involved or may be involved, or because the evidence is too complex or divergent to reach a reasonable and timely conclusion,

or due to the apparent severity of the alleged infringement, or for any other reason as decided by the arbitrator.

c. No rule was broken and the protestor may withdraw the protest.

d. A rule was broken by one or more of the boats involved, the infringing boat(s) may accept scoring points equal to a finishing place mid-way between the boat's actual finish and a disqualification, and if so accepted the protestor shall withdraw the protest. Half points shall be disregarded and the points of other boats shall not be adjusted. If not accepted the protest shall proceed to a hearing of the Jury. This changes RRS 63.1.

16.4 An arbitration hearing shall not be re-opened. No conclusion of an arbitrator shall be subject to appeal or be grounds for redress.

16.5 Should the protest proceed to a protest hearing then the arbitrator may be a member of the Protest Committee. Any evidence given by an arbitrator during a protest hearing shall be given only in the presence of the parties to the hearing.

17 SCORING

17.1 Nine (9) races are scheduled of which five (5) races are required to constitute the Championship.

17.2 Each boat's score will be the total of her race scores with the following discards applied depending on the number of races completed.

17.3 When fewer than six (6) races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores.

17.4 When from six (6) to eight (8) races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.

17.5 When nine (9) races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her two worst scores.

17.6 For Vee Ess's the VSSA handicap system will apply for handicap results and scoring. The VSSA handicap committee reserves the right to change a boat's handicap at any time and without notice.

18 SAFETY REGULATIONS

18.1 Competitors shall wear Life Jackets devices in accordance with NOR 1.2 at all times while afloat, except briefly while adjusting clothing or personal equipment.

18.2 The maximum wind speed limit for starting a race shall be gusts of 22 knots for sustained for 30 seconds, assessed by the race control officer in the course area, or such lesser wind strength if, in the opinion of the race control officer, conditions are unsafe for racing.

18.3 Where a race has started and the wind strength increases beyond the limit of rule 19.2 the race control officer may allow racing to continue, with consideration of the impact the conditions on the fleet and the likely duration of exposure to the conditions.

18.4 The Race Control Officer may also postpone or abandon racing if there is, in his opinion, insufficient or erratic wind conditions that are unsuitable for fair racing.

18.5 All skippers are required to sign on prior to starting the first race of each sailing session. The sign on/off desk will be located at TASC.

18.6 Each skipper shall sign off within the protest time limit and all are encouraged to sign off promptly.

18.7 Boats failing to sign on before leaving shore will be scored DNS without a hearing for the first race for which they should have signed on. Boats failing to sign off before the end of protest time will be scored DNF for the last race for which they should have signed off.

18.8 A boat that retires shall notify the Race Committee as soon as practicable and sign off, noting DNF on the sign off document

19 REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT

19.1 Attention is drawn to the NoR Clause 3.3, which relates to crew changes for Vee Ess boats.

19.2 Attention is drawn to the VS class rules that stipulate that only one of each type of sail, first

measured in season 2022/23 and any number of sails measured in previous seasons, may be used throughout the regatta.

19.3 Attention is drawn to the VS class rules that stipulate that only one centreboard may be used throughout the regatta.

19.4 Substitution of equipment other than the above is allowed, provided it has been approved through the usual association measurement process.

19.5 Attention is drawn to NOR clauses 4.2 & 4.3, which govern changes to crews or equipment for the F15 class during the series.

20 EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

To the extent required by class rules each boat and all equipment shall have been measured by a Measurer approved by the Association prior to being used in a race of this Championship. The Race Committee reserves the right to inspect any boat or equipment at any time for compliance with the class rules and sailing instructions.

21 SUPPORT BOATS

Team leaders, coaches and other support personnel shall stay a minimum of 50m outside areas where boats are racing from the time of the Preparatory Signal for the first start until all boats have finished or retired or the Race Committee signals a postponement, general recall or abandonment. This will apply at all times except when asked to assist by the Race Committee.

22 RADIO COMMUNICATION

Except in an emergency, a boat shall neither make radio transmissions while racing nor receive radio communications not available to all boats. This restriction also applies to mobile telephones. This does not apply to GPS devices.

23 PRIZES

23.1 Vee Ess Prizes and Trophies will include:

23.2 Perpetual trophies will be presented to the overall winners of the National Scratch Title and the National Handicap Title.
The Coal Board Shield will be presented to the scratch winner of the last race of the series.

23.3 Prizes for the handicap winners of each race will be awarded in the club house at the conclusion of each day's racing. Other trophies and awards may be presented at the discretion of the Oversight Committee

24 RUBBISH

No rubbish is to be dumped into the water. All rubbish is to be handed to official boats or taken ashore.

25 DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY AND RISK WARNING

Competitors participate in the Regatta entirely at their own risk. See rule 3, Decision to Race. The Organising Authority will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the Regatta. Attention is drawn to Clauses 15 and 17 of the Notice of Race.

26 INSURANCE

All competing boats shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum value of AUS$10,000,000 or the equivalent.

27 RIGHTS TO USE NAME AND LIKENESS

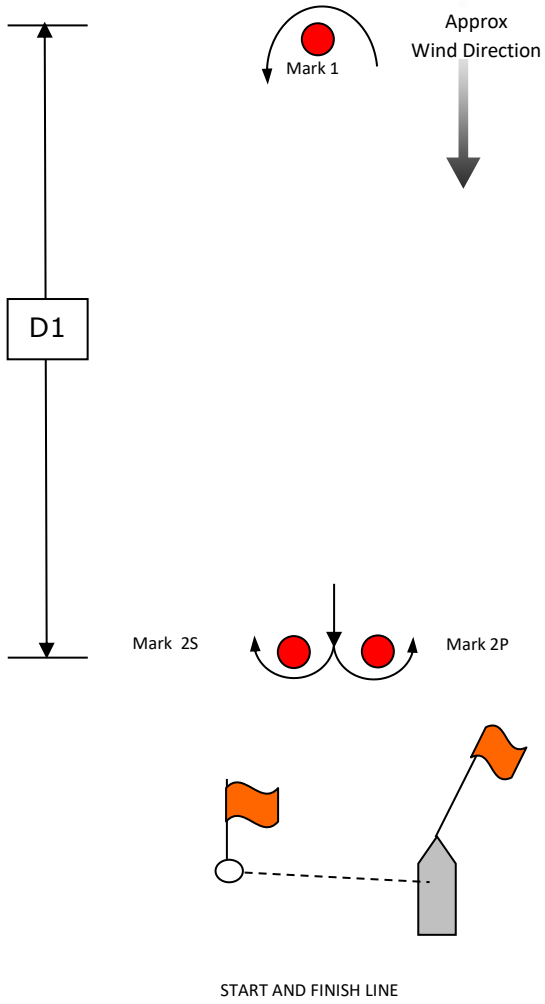
In participating in this Event, a competitor automatically grants to the Organising Authority and the sponsors of this Event, the right in perpetuity to make, use and show, from time to time and at their discretion, any motion pictures, still pictures and live,

taped or film television and other reproductions of him/her during the period of the competition for the Event in which the competitor participates and in all material related to the said Event without compensation.

SI Addendum "A" – Regatta Schedule

Date	Day	Time	Event
24th January	Saturday	1030	TASC opens
		1130 - 1150	Measurement and Registration
		1230	Competitor meeting
		No earlier than 1400	Warning signal race 1- **Sponsored by SFC Computers**
		ASAP after race 1	Race 2-**Sponsored by Mitchell Sails and Rigging**
		ASAP after race 2	Race 3-**Sponsored by Caddy Storage**
		Approx 1800	Daily results & presentation and **sausage sizzle**
25th January	Sunday	No earlier than 1400	First warning signal race 4- **Sponsored by Empire Marina Lake Macquarie**
		ASAP after race 4	Race 5-**Sponsored by Six String Brewing**
		ASAP after Race 5	Race 6-**Sponsored by Newcastle Yacht Rigging and Sails**
		Approx 1800	Daily results & presentation
		From approx. 1830	**Regatta Dinner at TASC**
		No Earlier than 1400	Warning signal race 7-**Sponsored by Good Folk Brewing**
26th January	Monday	ASAP after race 7	Race 8- **Sponsored by MEB Sail Design**
		ASAP after race 8	Race 9-**Sponsord by On Point Shipwright Group**
		ASAP after racing	**Presentation of Prizes**

SI Addendum B- Courses



Course: Start – 1 – 2S/2P – 1 – Finish

1. Mark 1 to port.
2. In the event Mark 2p or 2S is missing, the remaining mark shall be left to port.
3. [NP] Where possible the approximate course length (D1) will be:

Wind Range	**Course Length D1 (~)**
2 to 5 knots	1400 metres
6 to 10 knots	1600 metres
11+ knots	1800 metres