

2017-2018 SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

16ft SKIFF CLASS

1.0 RULES

- 1.1 All races will be governed by the rules as defined in the *Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS)*.
- 1.2 All prescriptions of Australian Sailing will apply.

2.0 ELIGIBILITY & ENTRY

- 2.1 Racing is open to all boats of the 16ft Skiff class.
- 2.2 Eligible Boats may enter for the seasons racing program by the Boat Owner completing a *Boat Registration*.
- 2.3 All competitors (the Registered Crew of a Registered Boat) must also be *Registered Sailors* with Belmont 16ft Sailing Club. This may be done by completing a *Sailor Registration* accompanied by the required *Sailor Registration Fee*.
- 2.4 All Boat Owners and Registered Sailors (helmsperson and all crew members) must be current Full Members or Junior Members of Belmont 16ft Sailing Club.
- 2.5 All competitors must have attained their 12th birthday.

3.0 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

Notices to competitors will be posted on the official Notice Board located in the Brian Ellis Boat Shed.

4.0 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted on the official Notice Board before 1100 hours on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the racing program will be posted by 2000 hours the day before it will take effect.

5.0 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 5.1 Signals made ashore may be displayed from the Race Committee Boat while stationed 100 m from the shore.
- 5.2 If flag AP is displayed ashore, the Race Committee must not give a warning signal until 30 minutes after flag AP is lowered.
- 5.3 RRS 40 applies at all times while afloat. This changes the Part 4 preamble.
- 5.4 When flag K is displayed ashore, all boats shall remain ashore and no boats shall go afloat. Flag K displayed on a Race Committee Boat shall mean all boats must immediately return to shore.

6.0 SCHEDULE OF RACES

- 6.1 The schedule of races shall be in accordance with the published Racing Program that forms part of these Sailing Instructions.
- 6.2 The scheduled time of the Warning Signal for Point Score races or for the first race on days designated "Short Course Racing" that do not occur during Daylight Saving Time is 1355 hours Eastern Standard Time.
- 6.3 The scheduled time of the Warning Signal for Point Score races or for the first race on days designated "Short Course Racing" that occur during Daylight Saving Time is 1425 hours Eastern Summer Time.
- 6.4 The scheduled time of the Warning Signal for Morning races that do not occur during Daylight Saving Time is 1055 hours Eastern Standard Time.
- 6.5 The scheduled time of the Warning Signal for Morning races that occur during Daylight Saving Time is 1125 hours Eastern Summer time.
- 6.6 In the event that a race is not commenced within 95 minutes of the scheduled time of the Warning Signal on that day then that race shall be abandoned.
- 6.7 Abandoned Club Championship races shall be re-sailed on the Sunday of the next available Point Score race on which there is no:
 - 6.7.1 NSW or Australian Association event.
 - 6.7.2 Club Championship.
 - 6.7.3 Scheduled morning race.
- 6.8 The Club Championship heat shall be sailed in the afternoon in conjunction with the scheduled Point Score race for that day. In the event that there is no Point Score race that meets the criteria set out above before the end of the current sailing season, then the abandoned Club Championship heat shall not be re-sailed.
- 6.9 Abandoned Point Score races shall not be re-sailed.

7.0 CLASS FLAG

The class flag of the 16ft Skiff class is a white flag with a black number 16.

8.0 RACING AREAS

The racing area will be on the waters of Lake Macquarie, the area known as Belmont Bay.

9.0 COURSES

- 9.1 The diagrams in Appendix A to these Sailing Instruction titled "16ft Skiff Courses" show the course designations, the order in which marks are to be passed, and the side on which each mark is to be left.

- 9.2 No later than the warning signal, the Race Committee boat will display a flag that is to indicate the course.
 - 9.2.1 Code Flag W will be flown to indicate Windward Finish Courses.
 - 9.2.2 Code Flag L will be flown to indicate Leeward Finish Courses.
 - 9.2.3 Numeral Pennant will be flown to indicate the number of times a boat is required to pass Mark 1.
 - 9.2.4 Purple Flag with black "P" will be flown to indicate the Pulbah.
- 9.3 The target time for each short course race will be 50 minutes and each long course race will be 100 minutes.

10.0 MARKS

The Marks will be:

START MARK	COURSE MARKS	CHANGE MARKS	FINISH MARK
Orange buoy	Yellow inflatable cylinder	Pink buoy	Orange buoy

11.0 THE START

- 11.1 The starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag with a black S on the Race Committee boat and the start mark.
- 11.2 A buoy may be streamed from the starting boat. For the purposes of the application of RRS the buoy is deemed to be part of the Race Committee boat and any boat touching the buoy or passing between it and the starting boat shall be deemed to have touched the starting boat.
- 11.3 Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area.
- 11.4 A boat starting later than ten minutes after her starting signal will be scored *Did Not Start*. This changes RRS A4.1.

12.0 STARTING PROCEDURE

- 12.1 Races will be started using RRS 26.
- 12.2 When handicap starts apply:
 - 12.2.1 The countdown will commence from one minute before the greatest allocated handicap.
 - 12.2.2 A boat's visual signal will be numbered boards displayed on the race committee signal boat.
 - 12.2.3 A boat's starting signal is deemed to have been made when the numbered board, with the number corresponding to the boat's handicap, is lowered.
- 12.3 In addition to RRS 29.1, the Race Committee may verbally notify a boat deemed to be On Course Side as soon as practicable after the start. Failure to verbally notify a boat deemed On Course Side shall not be grounds for redress. This alters RRS 60.1(b) and 62.

13.0 CHANGE OF POSITION OF THE NEXT MARK

To change the next leg of the course, the Race Committee will lay a new mark and remove the original mark as soon as practicable. The change will be signaled before the leading boat has begun the leg, although the new mark may not yet be in position. Any mark to be rounded after rounding the new mark may be relocated without further signaling to maintain the course configuration. When in a subsequent change a new mark is replaced, it will be replaced by an original mark.

14.0 THE FINISH

- 14.1 The finishing line will be between a staff displaying a blue flag on a Race Committee boat and the Finish Mark.
- 14.2 If a Race Committee boat is not on station, the race will be abandoned.

15.0 TIME LIMITS

- 15.1 The time limit for a race other than a Short Course race is 3 hours or 60 minutes after the first boat finishes whichever comes first.
- 15.2 For handicap start races the time limit is the time from the start time of the last boat to start.
- 15.3 For Short Course races, the time limit is 15 minutes after the first boat finishes.

16.0 ARBITRATION

- 16.1 Rule 44.1 is changed to permit a boat that has broken a rule of Part 2, Part 4 or Rule 31 to take a penalty after racing but prior to any protest hearing. Her penalty shall be a scoring penalty equal to a finishing place mid-way between the boat's actual finishing place and the score for a disqualification. Half points shall be disregarded and the points of other boats shall not be adjusted.
- 16.2 An arbitration hearing will be conducted for all protests lodged in accordance with Rule 61 which allege an infringement of a rule of Part 2, Part 4 or Rule 31. Such hearings will be held subsequent to the protest being lodged and prior to the protest hearing.
- 16.3 The time and place of the arbitration hearing will be decided by the arbitrator and such advice may be given verbally. One representative of each boat will attend the arbitration hearing and no witnesses will be allowed. The arbitrator will decide the manner in which testimony is given.
- 16.4 After taking testimony, the arbitrator will make one of the following conclusions:
 - (a) The protest does not comply with Rule 61 and the protestor should withdraw the protest.
 - (b) The matter shall proceed to a protest hearing. This may be because rules not suited to arbitration may be

involved or because evidence is too complex or divergent or because injury, serious damage or a significant advantage may have occurred or because of the apparent severity of the alleged infringement or for any other reason decided by the arbitrator.

- (c) No rule was broken and the protestor should withdraw the protest.
- (d) A rule was broken by one or more of the boats involved. The infringing boat(s) may accept a scoring penalty as detailed above and if so accepted, the protestor should withdraw the protest.

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

16.6 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.

17.0 PROTESTS & REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

17.1 Protest forms are available from the sign on desk in the Brian Ellis Boat Shed. Protests must be delivered to a class Race Official within the protest time limit.

17.2 The protest time limit is 60 minutes after the last boat has finished the last race of the day.

17.3 Notices will be posted to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Hearing will be held in the Club Boardroom or as notified on the protest schedule.

17.4 Notices of protests by the Race Committee will be posted to inform boats under rule 61.1(b).

17.5 For the purposes of rule 64.3(b) the "authority responsible" is the measurement committee elected at the Sailing AGM.

17.6 Breaches of instructions 21 or 25 will not be grounds for protest by competitors, but may result in action by the Race Committee. This alters RRS 60 and 61. Penalties for these breaches may be less than disqualification if the protest committee so decides.

18.0 SCORING

18.1 The Low Point scoring system of *Appendix A* will apply.

18.2 The Club Championship series will be based on scratch scores and the Point Score series will be based on handicap scores.

18.3 At least 50% of the scheduled races are required to be completed to constitute a series.

18.4 For the First Quarterly Point Score series, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores for the races designated First Quarterly Point Score in the Racing Program.

18.5 For the Second Quarterly Point Score series, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores for the races designated Second Quarterly Point Score in the Racing Program.

18.6 For the Third Quarterly Point Score series, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores for the races designated Third Quarterly Point Score in the Racing Program.

18.7 For the Fourth Quarterly Point Score series, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores for the races designated Fourth Quarterly Point Score in the Racing Program.

18.8 For the First Half Yearly Point Score series, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores from the First and Second Quarterly Point Score series excluding her worst score.

18.9 For the Second Half Yearly Point Score series, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores from the Third and Fourth Quarterly Point Score series excluding her worst score.

18.10 For the Yearly Point Score series, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores in all Point Score races excluding her three worst scores.

18.11 For the Club Championship series:

18.11.1 When fewer than 5 races have been completed, a boat's score will be the total of her race scores;

18.11.2 When from 5 to 7 races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.

18.12 Six boats coming to the starting area are required to constitute a race.

18.13 Average points may be awarded by the Sailing Committee in its absolute discretion to boats that compete in recognised class association events or on written application.

18.14 Boats registered with a Club that is a member of the Australian 16ft Skiff Association may compete in Club races as visitors on a maximum of three race days during the season. Visitors shall not receive points for the Point Score or Club Championship Series.

18.15 In order to be eligible for points in the Club Championship, boats that are dual registered with Belmont 16ft Sailing Club and another Club must:

18.15.1 Compete in at least 6 heats of the Club Championship; and

18.15.2 Have started in not less than 50% of the Point Score races conducted prior to the commencement of each heat of the Club Championship.

19.0 PRIZES

In order to be eligible to score points in the Junior Club Championship and Junior Yearly Point Score two of the registered crew members must not have attained their 25th birthday on or before the 1st September of the current season.

20.0 SAFETY REGULATIONS

- 20.1 When signal “Y” is displayed ashore Rule 40 applies.
- 20.2 Flag K displayed on a Race Committee boat shall mean all boats shall immediately return to shore.
- 20.3 Boats individually directed by the Race Committee to return to shore shall do so immediately.

21.0 REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT

- 21.2 A change of helmsperson or crew must be notified to the Race Officer in writing a minimum of 90 minutes prior to the warning signal.
- 21.2 A change in mainsail that is not bearing the boat's registered ensign or sail number must be notified to the Race Officer in writing a minimum of 90 minutes prior to the warning signal.

22.0 EQUIPMENT & MEASUREMENT CHECKS

- 22.1 All boats must comply with class equipment and measurement rules.
- 22.2 A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules and sailing instructions. On the water, a boat may be instructed by the Race Committee to proceed immediately to a designated area for inspection.
- 22.3 When flag W is displayed on a Race Committee boat, the Race Committee will carry out boat weight checks on a random selection of boats. The race committee will notify boats on the water and helmspersons shall present their boat, unrigged and stripped of all equipment except that required in accordance with class rules. Boat weighing will be conducted in the Brian Ellis Boat Shed.

23.0 OFFICIAL BOATS

Official boats will bear the blue and yellow triangular Belmont 16ft Sailing Club burgee.

24.0 SUPPORT BOATS

Support personnel shall stay outside areas where boats are racing from the time of the preparatory signal until all boats have finished or the Race Committee signals a postponement, general recall or abandonment or when asked to assist the Race Committee.

25.0 RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

A boat shall neither make radio transmissions while racing nor receive radio communications not available to all boats. The restriction also applies to mobile telephones.

26.0 RISK WARNING

This Risk Warning is issued jointly by Belmont 16ft Sailing Club and NSW Maritime, pursuant to the Civil Liability Act 2002 to all persons wishing to participate in the sailing activities conducted by Belmont 16ft Sailing Club.

Participants are warned that, regardless of the precautions, which might be taken by reasonable and experienced persons, sailing can be a dangerous pursuit and participants are exposed to significant risk of property damage, physical harm and possibly death.

As an indication, these risks may include, but are not limited to:

- The extremes of weather and sea conditions.
- The potential that control of vessels may be lost, resulting in collision with objects and other vessels.
- The sudden movement of the vessel at any time and the possibility that participants may fall or be thrown overboard, resulting in drowning.
- The possibility that participants may be injured by equipment on the vessel.
- The absence of immediate medical care and the likelihood that significant delays may occur before medical care is available.
- Exposure to the elements for extended periods.
- The possible presence of dangerous marine life.

Participants are advised that Lake Macquarie is a salt water coastal lake with deep water access to the open ocean. Sharks, dolphins and other marine animals are present in the Lake. Participants should make their own assessment of any risks.

Belmont 16ft Sailing Club and NSW Maritime also warn participants that regardless of their best intentions, they may be unable to render assistance to participants who are in distress. Participants are warned to consider the above risks and all other risks before deciding to participate in any sailing event with Belmont 16ft Sailing Club.

Participants are also advised that although Belmont 16ft Sailing Club is covered by third party liability insurance, this cover DOES NOT extend to participants. Any participant who considers they have a need for insurance must make their own private arrangements with an insurer.

27.0 DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

- 27.1 Competitors participate in races entirely at their own risk.
- 27.2 Attention is drawn to rule 4 “Decision to Race” which states “The responsibility for a boat’s decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone.”
- 27.3 All those taking part in the races are solely responsible for the seaworthiness of a boat whose registration is accepted by the Club and for the sufficiency and adequacy of its equipment.
- 27.4 The Club or the Race Committee will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during or after the races.
- 27.5 Competitors confirm that there is a valid and current certificate of insurance in accordance with SI 29.

28.0 INSURANCE

Each competing boat shall be covered by third party liability insurance with a minimum cover of \$10,000,000 for any one accident. By registering a boat with the Club, the Boat Owner acknowledges that such insurance is in place and will remain in place for the duration of the season.

29.0 SHORT COURSE RACING

- 29.1 On any day that is designated Short Course racing in the program, 2 races are scheduled.
- 29.2 Each race is treated and scored as a separate Point Score Race.
- 29.3 Any boat or boats that do not complete a Short Course race within the time provided for in Sailing Instruction 16.3 and that are, at the absolute discretion of the Race Committee, still attempting to compete when time expires, will be scored as though they finished immediately after the last boat to finish the race within the time limit.

16FT SKIFF COURSES

A red flag will indicate “marks are to be rounded to Port”.

A green flag will indicate “marks are to be rounded to Starboard”.

Code Flag W will be flown to indicate Windward Finish Courses.

Code Flag L will be flown to indicate Leeward Finish Courses.

Numeral Pennant will be flown to indicate individual numerical courses.

The marks shall be rounded in the following order:

Windward Finish Courses

W 2

(Numeral Pennant 2)

W 3

(Numeral Pennant 3)

W 4

(Numeral Pennant 4)

W 5

(Numeral Pennant 5)

W 6

(Numeral Pennant 6)

Course

Start – 1 – 2 – 1 – 2 – Finish in the vicinity of the Club

Start – 1 – 2 – 1 – 2 – 1 – 2 - Finish in the vicinity of the Club

Start – 1 – 2 – 1 – 2 – 1 – 2 – 1 – 2 – Finish in the vicinity of the Club

Start – 1 – 2 – 1 – 2 – 1 – 2 – 1 – 2 – 1 – 2 – Finish in the vicinity of the Club

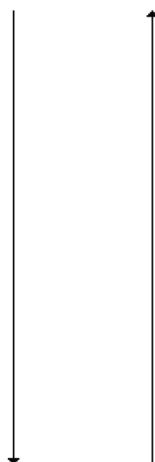
Start – 1 – 2 – 1 – 2 – 1 – 2 – 1 – 2 – 1 – 2 – 1 – 2 Finish in the vicinity of the Club

Approx. Wind Direction



• ————— • **Finish Near Club**

• **1**



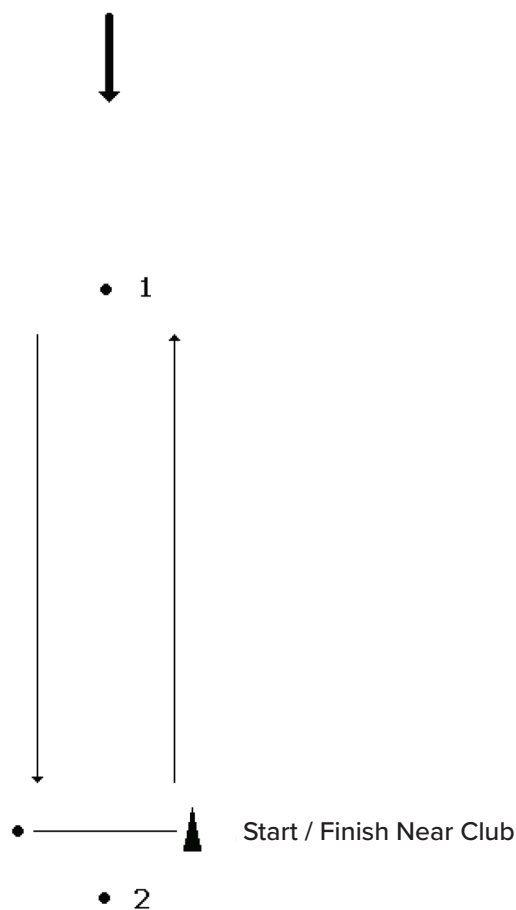
• ————— • **Start**

• **2**

Leeward Finish Courses

Course	
L 2 (Numeral Pennant 2)	Start – 1 – 2 – 1 – Finish in the vicinity of the Club
L 3 (Numeral Pennant 3)	Start – 1 – 2 – 1 – 2 – 1 - Finish in the vicinity of the Club
L 4 (Numeral Pennant 4)	Start – 1 – 2 – 1 – 2 – 1 – 2 – 1 - Finish in the vicinity of the Club
L 5 (Numeral Pennant 5)	Start – 1 – 2 – 1 – 2 – 1 – 2 – 1 – 2 – 1 – Finish in the vicinity of the Club
L 6 (Numeral Pennant 6)	Start – 1 – 2 – 1 – 2 – 1 – 2 – 1 – 2 – 1 – 2 – 1 – Finish in the vicinity of the Club

Approx. Wind Direction



COURSE NOTES

NOTE 1:

Position of the Start line relative to Mark 2 or the Finish line relative to Club is approximate and indicates the general vicinity. The actual position of the line may be to windward, to leeward or offset to port or starboard.

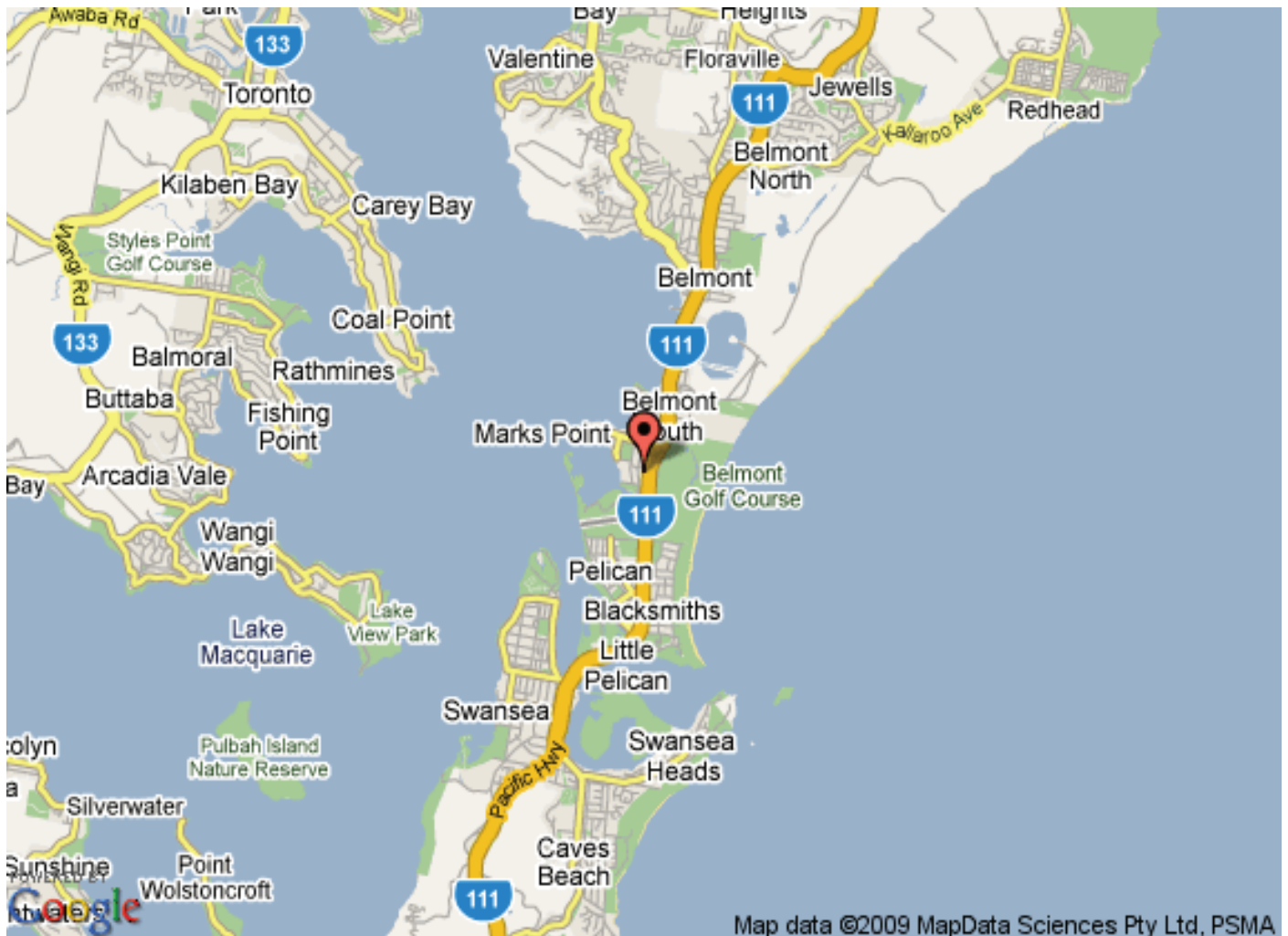
NOTE 2:

On race days designated "Short Course" the first race of the day will be a leeward finish course and the finish will be in the vicinity of mark 2.

NOTE 3:

On races scheduled for Saturdays, the windward finish courses will finish in the vicinity of Mark 1 and the leeward finish courses will finish in the vicinity of mark 2.

PULBAH COURSE



16ft Skiff, Pulbah Island Race

START - 1 (as per flag) – Pulbah Island (S) – 2 (S) – Pulbah Island (S) – 3 (S) – FINISH near Belmont 16s clubhouse.

16FT SKIFF CLUB RULES

1.0 SAILING MEETINGS

- 1.1 Ordinary sailing meetings are held at the Club during the Sailing Season, on days on which a Club Championship heat is scheduled to be sailed. Meetings commence at midday.
- 1.2 Extraordinary sailing meetings are held as required.
- 1.3 Any boat that fails to be represented at 4 ordinary sailing meetings during the season will forfeit 10% of any prize money awarded by the Club.
- 1.4 Any boat that fails to be represented at 2 ordinary sailing meetings during the season will forfeit 20% of any prize money awarded by the Club.

2.0 VOTING AT SAILING MEETINGS

- 2.1 Only one representative of each boat that is represented at a sailing meeting is entitled to cast a vote on any motion to amend the Class Rules of the 16ft Skiff.
- 2.2 Any member who attends a sailing meeting shall be entitled to vote in relation to any other motion put to the meeting.

3.0 CERTAIN AMENDMENTS TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED AT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS OR SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS ONLY

- 3.1 A motion to amend the Sailing Instructions, including a motion to amend the Courses may only be considered at the Annual General Meeting or a Special General meeting.
- 3.2 Any proposed amendment to the courses must be submitted in writing prior to the meeting at which it is to be considered.

4.0 HANDICAPS

- 4.1 A Time Correction Factor (TCF) system be used for handicaps.
- 4.2 Each boat's adjusted time will be calculated using the following formula:
$$\text{Adjusted time} = \frac{(100 - \text{TCF})}{\text{Actual time} \times 100}$$
- 4.3 For Races that are Handicap starts, each boat's TCF will rounded to a whole number.

5.0 HANDICAP ADJUSTMENTS

- 5.1 Except in exceptional circumstances, failure to comply with Sailing Instruction 20 will result an automatic penalty to the boat's handicap:
 - 5.1.1 In the case of a change in helmsperson, by reducing the handicap to one third of the boat's normal handicap.
 - 5.1.2 In the case of a change in crew or mainsail, by reducing the handicap to two-thirds of the boat's normal handicap.
- 5.2 Where a boat notifies the Race Officer of a change of helmsperson or crew in accordance with Instruction 20 the Handicap Committee may at its absolute discretion adjust the boat's handicap provided that the handicap committee cannot impose a penalty of more than one (1) whole number minute if to do so would exceed the penalty that would have applied pursuant to 5.1 had the boat not notified the Race Officer.
- 5.3 For the purpose of this Rule, "exceptional circumstances" will be determined by the Race Committee in its absolute discretion. Exceptional circumstances DO NOT exist where a boat fails to notify the Race Officer within the time required by Sailing Instruction 20 of a change of helmsmen, crew or mainsail that was known at the expiry of the time required by Sailing Instruction 20 and then subsequently notifying the Race Officer before the commencement of the race.
- 5.4 Where a boat has a change of crew and the substitute crew member is currently an active sailor in a junior class at the Club, provided that substitute crew meets the following criteria, the boat shall be eligible for a 2 minute / point handicap increase irrespective of where the boat sits in any point-score or other event, or the boat's ordinary handicap:
 - 5.4.1 The substitute crew must have sailed in 50% of the races conducted during the season to date in the junior class in which the substitute crew ordinarily sails; and
 - 5.4.2 The substitute crew must not have filled in as a substitute on that boat on more than one other occasion during the current season.
 - 5.4.3 The substitute crew must be under 21 years of age and not have been a previously registered crew member of a Skiff that sailed 75% or more of races in the season that they were registered.

6.0 RIGGING AREA AND CAR PARK

- 6.1 No boat is to rig on the boat ramp.
- 6.2 No Skiff trailer shall be left in the Club car park for a period exceeding 72 hours.