

Sail Racing

MARINERS ARE ADVISED that the yacht clubs of Poole Harbour enjoy a busy programme of routine yacht and dinghy racing throughout the summer season. Whilst much is on weekends, this does also routinely occur throughout the week including evenings with thousands of races planned for 2026.

A proportion of racing occurs in the “Top Triangle” (the area south of the Turning Basin) and racing also frequently occurs in other areas including, where unavoidable, across or along navigation channels. This is particularly prevalent in the vicinity of the Parkstone Yacht Club Race Platform (immediately northeast of Diver Buoy where the Middle Ship and North Channels meet) where fleets are likely to cross one or both channels in large groups following race starts. Other mariners are reminded that sailing vessels often need to zig zag when travelling upwind or downwind so sudden course corrections of 90 degrees should be expected. There are racemarks located throughout the harbour as set out in the current [Racemarks LNTM](#). Temporary racemarks may also be laid from time to time outside of navigation channels.

Skippers of other vessels must remain vigilant and take particular note of the major race events listed below which will include larger fleets, more races and visitors with less local knowledge. At these times, skippers should be particularly vigilant, take advice from safety boats and consider avoiding the North Channel altogether where possible. The period of greatest uncertainty occurs during or immediately after the start of races from the Parkstone Race Platform so vessels are asked to remain alert to gathering fleets and sound signals in this area.

Racing within the harbour is robustly governed by the [Poole Harbour Sail Racing Procedures](#) which sets out guidelines for racers, Race Officers, Poole VTS and other vessels. Race Officers hold a duty to cancel or extend a race start sequence if unacceptable navigational risk is emerging on their course route. Nothing in these guidelines exonerates each skipper from their obligation to fully comply with IRPCS or Harbour Byelaws and otherwise be considerate of other harbour users.

Periods of major sail racing in 2026 currently include (but are not necessarily limited to):

- **Poole Regatta – 22nd to 25th May**– racing takes place outside of channels, however large numbers of larger yachts will be transiting the harbour to arrive at race areas
- **ILCA (Lasers) Masters – 3rd to 5th July** – racing takes place outside of channels, however a large amount of dinghies will be transiting the harbour to arrive at race areas
- **Parkstone YC Youth Week – 2nd to 7th August** - racing takes place outside of channels, however a large amount of dinghies will be transiting the harbour to arrive at race areas
- **Poole Week – 23rd to 28th August** – many boats will be racing from the Parkstone Race Platform
- **WASZP GP – 28th to 29th November**– racing takes place outside of the Channels, however a large number of high speed foiling dinghies will be transiting the harbour to arrive at race areas

Harbour users are reminded that CCTV, radar, telephone and VHF Channels are recorded 24-7.

Owners, Agents, Charterers, Marinas, Yacht Clubs and Recreational Watersport Organisations should ensure that the contents of this Notice are made known to the masters or persons in charge of their vessels or craft.

**HARRY GREGORY
HARBOUR MASTER**

All Local Notices are available on the PHC website: www.phc.co.uk/safety/local-notice-to-mariners