

## Solent Forts Weekend – July 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> 2026

### Race and Venue Information

The Solent Forts Weekend has received a major facelift for 2026 including the introduction of a new race (the Three Forts Challenge) as an alternative to the Solent Forts Race, plus 'round-the-cans' racing on the first day. The Solent Forts Weekend will now be a biennial event.

#### Windward-Leeward Racing

This is planned for Saturday afternoon around a course laid in the Club racing area off Southsea beach.

#### Solent Forts Race

Now in its twelfth year, the Solent Forts Race ('SFR') is a long-distance open-water event set in the Eastern Solent, with Hayling Island and Portsmouth to the north and the Isle of Wight to the west, and will take place on Sunday. It is open to monohulls and multihulls meeting the entry criteria.

The event comprises a number of legs radiating out from a gate (like a star) to predefined marks which include the historic channel forts. This format is very flexible and allows the Race Officer to set a course according to the conditions prevailing on the day to give a range of points of sail and a race duration of approximately 5 hours. More details of the event are provided in the attached Notice of Race, and a graphical guide to the marks is available from [www.hfsc.org.uk/solent-ports-race/course-details](http://www.hfsc.org.uk/solent-ports-race/course-details)

#### The Three Forts Challenge

The Three Forts Challenge ('3FC') is an exciting addition designed for boats outside the SFR rating criteria, or for crews looking for a high-intensity, shorter distance format. The 3FC offers a spectacular course taking competitors from the start line at Hayling Ferry SC out around three of the Solent's historic sea forts.

Spanning over 10NM along the vibrant Portsmouth and Southsea seafront, the 3FC is a genuine open-water test of skill and tactics. It is open to both monohulls and multihulls meeting the entry criteria

#### The Venue

The venue is Hayling Ferry Sailing Club ([www.hfsc.org.uk](http://www.hfsc.org.uk)), beautifully situated among the sand dunes at the entrance to Langstone Harbour on the south-western tip of Hayling Island. Positioned within a Site of Special Scientific Interest, our small and friendly club boasts one of the premier launching locations and sailing areas on the south coast. A Google Map with instructions on how to find the Club is available at [www.hfsc.org.uk/solent-ports-race/arrival](http://www.hfsc.org.uk/solent-ports-race/arrival)

#### Entry, Fees and Inclusive Meal

Entry and payment will be online at [www.hfsc.org.uk/solent-ports-race/register](http://www.hfsc.org.uk/solent-ports-race/register) You will be sent a confirmatory email; if you do not receive an email please contact the Club. **Please note the increased entry fee applicable after 09:00 on Monday 13/7/26.**

There will be a lower price for boats arriving on Sunday (this is intended for local boats sailing around for the event and crews must still attend the race briefing on Sunday).

The entry fee includes ticket(s) to the Club's Band-on-the-Beach event on Saturday night with a live band, a bar and a BBQ<sup>1</sup> (one ticket for single-handed entries, 2 tickets for double-handed entries).

Additional tickets will be available for purchase from the Club on a first-come-first-served basis at a cost of £20.00 each.

Multihulls longer than 21' may be required to stay on a mooring overnight. Please contact the Club for details.

### **Registration**

All competitors arriving on Saturday must register at the Sailing Club on Saturday afternoon.

Please note the requirements for safety equipment (particularly a mobile phone ***which you will need to have with you during registration at the Club***).

### **Camping, Accommodation and the Local Area**

Tents and camper vans are welcome. Please remember to state your camping preference on the entry form so that we can manage this effectively.

Hayling Island is a well-known holiday destination with a beach and various eateries and coffee shops. Portsmouth is a 30 minute drive away and features a wider range of restaurants, outlet shopping (Gunwharf Quays) and lots to see and do including the Spinnaker Tower with stunning views of the area, and Portsmouth Historic Dockyard (home of HMS Victory, HMS Warrior and the Mary Rose). The beautiful Cathedral City of Chichester is half an hour away to the east.

Hayling Island has a large and varied selection of accommodation available including campsites, guest houses and hotels.

### **General Catering**

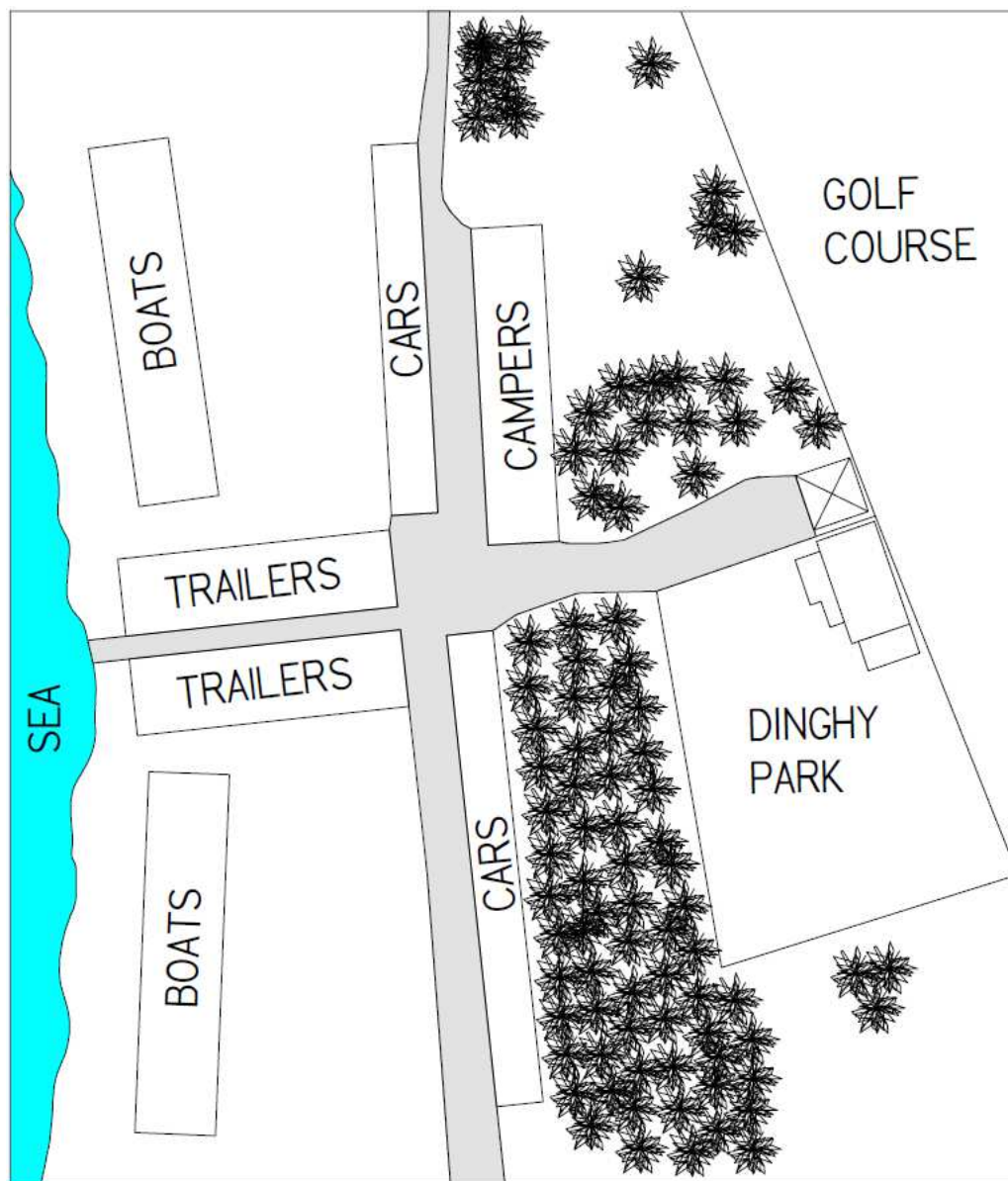
Sandwiches and refreshments will be available for purchase on Saturday afternoon, as will breakfast on Sunday morning. Packed lunches will be available to order on Sunday, ready for when you come off the water.

### **Chase Boats and RIBs**

These are only permitted by prior arrangement due to slipway constraints and trailer parking space.

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<sup>1</sup> Catering facilities are limited at HFSC and meals may not be available for late entries; availability will be confirmed during race registration on Saturday



### Arrival and Parking

All vehicles and trailers must pass through a gate to gain access to the Sailing Club (gate width 3.03m clear, slightly more above the hinges); if this is a problem for you please contact us. The gate code will be emailed to competitors in the week before the event.

On arrival, please comply with the directions given by HFSC representatives, unload your boat as quickly as possible and relocate trailers, cars/vans to the locations /indicated. Please keep access routes and the slipway clear.

We anticipate most arrivals on Saturday, however if you wish to arrive earlier please contact the Club ([solentfortsrace@hfsc.org.uk](mailto:solentfortsrace@hfsc.org.uk), or call 07887 804291).





Solent Forts Race, Three Forts Challenge and Course Racing  
July 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> 2026  
Hayling Ferry Sailing Club  
Hayling Island

## NOTICE OF RACE

### 1 RULES

Races will be governed by the rules as defined in the current version of *The Racing Rules of Sailing*, and event-specific Sailing Instructions for:

- The Solent Forts Race ('SFR') designated as *Orange Fleet*.
- The 3 Forts Challenge ('3FC') designated as *Blue Fleet*.
- Course Racing (multi-lap racing around laid marks).

### 2 ADVERTISING

Boats may be required to display advertising chosen and supplied by the organising authority.

### 3 ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

- 3.1 Boats shall have a designated handicap under the Small Catamaran Handicap Rating System ('SCHRS') or the Portsmouth Yardstick system ('PY').
- 3.2 A boat shall have a handicap less than or equal to that shown in the table below for the event indicated:

Event	Boat type	Highest allowable handicap
Solent Forts Race	Multihulls	1.150 (SCHRS)
	Monohulls	780 (PY)
3 Forts Challenge	Multihulls	1.693 (SCHRS)
	Monohulls	1148 (PY)
Course Racing	Multihulls	1.693 (SCHRS)
	Monohulls	1148 (PY)

- 3.3 The SCHRS handicap will be established from [www.schrs.com](http://www.schrs.com).
- 3.4 The PY number will be taken from the latest RYA listing.
- 3.5 The conversion factor used to equate catamarans and monohulls for scoring purposes will be  $SCHRS \times 666 = PY$ .
- 3.6 Boats may be single-handed or multi-handed.
- 3.7 Boats that do not have a designated handicap under either system may be

accepted providing an 'equivalent' rating can be established. Acceptance of such entries is at the discretion of the organising authority.

- 3.8 All boats shall be designed to be righted from capsized without outside assistance.
- 3.9 All competitors must be aged 16 or over on the date of the race. Any competitor under the age of 16 must sail with someone aged 18 or over on the date of the race.
- 3.10 A boat will be eligible to start the race after the following have been completed:
- The correct entry fee has been paid and the entry has been accepted.
  - The registration process has been completed correctly at the Sailing Club, including completion of a valid entry form and registration of a mobile phone.
- 3.11 Boats may be required to carry an electronic tracker provided by the organising authority.
- 3.12 There is a limit on the number of boats that can be accepted for these events.

#### **4 FEES**

- 4.1 Entry and payment will be online at [www.hfsc.org.uk/solent-forts-race/register](http://www.hfsc.org.uk/solent-forts-race/register).
- 4.2 The entry fee for the SFR and the 3FC will be:
- Single-handed - £70 per boat (increasing to £98 from 09:00 on 13/7/26).
  - Double-handed - £105 per boat (increasing to £147 from 09:00 on 13/7/26).
- 4.3 The entry fee for boats arriving on Sunday morning (for the SFR or 3FC) will be £40 per boat (single or double-handed).
- 4.4 Fees include course racing on Saturday. There is no discount or refund for boats that do not take part in course racing.
- 4.5 The Pricing and Cancellation Policy for the event is available from [www.hfsc.org.uk/solent-forts-race/register](http://www.hfsc.org.uk/solent-forts-race/register).
- 4.6 A discount applies for HFSC members.

#### **5 SCHEDULE**

- 5.1 Competitor Registration for all events will be on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July from 11:00 until 13:00.
- 5.2 Boats arriving on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July will be able to register between 09:00 and 09:45. This is intended for those arriving on Sunday morning only and all other competitors are expected to have registered before this.
- 5.3 There will be a competitor's briefing for course racing on 18<sup>th</sup> July at 13:30.
- 5.4 The warning signal for course racing will not be before 14:25 on 18<sup>th</sup> July.
- 5.5 There will be a competitor's briefing for the SFR and 3FC at 08:30 on 19<sup>th</sup> July. Attendance at the briefing is mandatory for all helms; crews are recommended to attend also.
- 5.6 The warning signal for the SFR and 3FC will not be before 10:25 on 19<sup>th</sup> July.

#### **6 MEASUREMENTS**

Each boat shall comply with its class rules.

## **7 SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

The sailing instructions for each event will be available from the Solent Forts Weekend website ([www.hfsc.org.uk/solent-forts-race](http://www.hfsc.org.uk/solent-forts-race)) approximately 2 weeks before the event. A printed copy of the sailing instructions and a waterproof course diagram will be provided to entrants at registration.

## **8 THE COURSE – COURSE RACING**

8.1 A windward-leeward course will be sailed. The course will be set in the sailing areas for Course Racing – see Figure 2.

## **9 THE COURSE – SOLENT FORTS RACE (Orange Fleet)**

9.1 The race will take place in the Eastern Solent around predefined marks as shown in Figure 1. Boats will pass through the Start/Finish Line after rounding every Mark; the course will therefore form a ‘star’ with the legs of the course radiating out from the Start/Finish Line to the Marks.

9.2 The course will be set depending on the prevailing wind and sea state, with the intention of providing a variety of sailing conditions and a race of approximately 5 hours duration.

## **10 THE COURSE – THREE FORTS CHALLENGE (Blue Fleet)**

- 10.1 The course will be:
- Start from Club line
  - Horse Sands Fort (S)
  - Spit Sand Fort (P)
  - No Mans Land Fort (P)
  - Finish at Club line

## **10 PENALTY SYSTEM**

For all classes rule 44.1 is changed so that the Two-Turns Penalty is replaced by the One-Turn Penalty.

## **11 DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY**

Competitors participate in a race entirely at their own risk. See RRS rule 3, Decision to Race. The organizing authority will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after a race.

## **12 SAFETY EQUIPMENT – ALL RACES**

- 12.1 Competitors will be required to wear a wet suit or dry suit plus personal buoyancy at all times when afloat.
- 12.2 The weight of the helm and crew shall be adequate to right the boat from capsize without outside assistance.
- 12.3 All single-handed competitors shall carry a 'rescue' knife on their person whilst afloat.

## **13 SAFETY EQUIPMENT – SFR and 3FC**

- 13.1 At least one mobile phone shall be taken per boat and shall be carried on the

person (it may be carried by either the helm or crew). The mobile phone shall comply with the following requirements:

- Waterproof (marked or certified as IP 67 or equivalent) OR kept in a waterproof bag from which it can be operated without being removed from the bag.
- Connected to a network that has good coverage in the Eastern Solent (such as EE or Vodafone).

13.2 Every Competitor shall carry at least one distress signal of a type suitable for locating a person in the water. This shall be carried on their person whilst afloat. Types of distress signal suitable for this purpose include daytime handheld red, handheld orange smoke or multiple-shot aerial type (e.g. Pains Wessex Personal Distress Signal 9 Shot Flare Gun).

13.3 All boats shall carry the following:

- A righting line.
- A line of minimum length 10m, and minimum diameter 6mm, suitable for towing the boat. Sheets or other ropes are acceptable for this purpose providing they can be removed easily from the boat (i.e. no spliced attachments or stopper knots that cannot easily be undone).

13.4 The following are strongly recommended:

- A second mobile phone for double-handed boats, carried on the person.
- A paddle.
- A compass.
- A VHF Radio
- A rescue knife per person for double-handed boats (mandatory for single handed boats).

## 14 INSURANCE

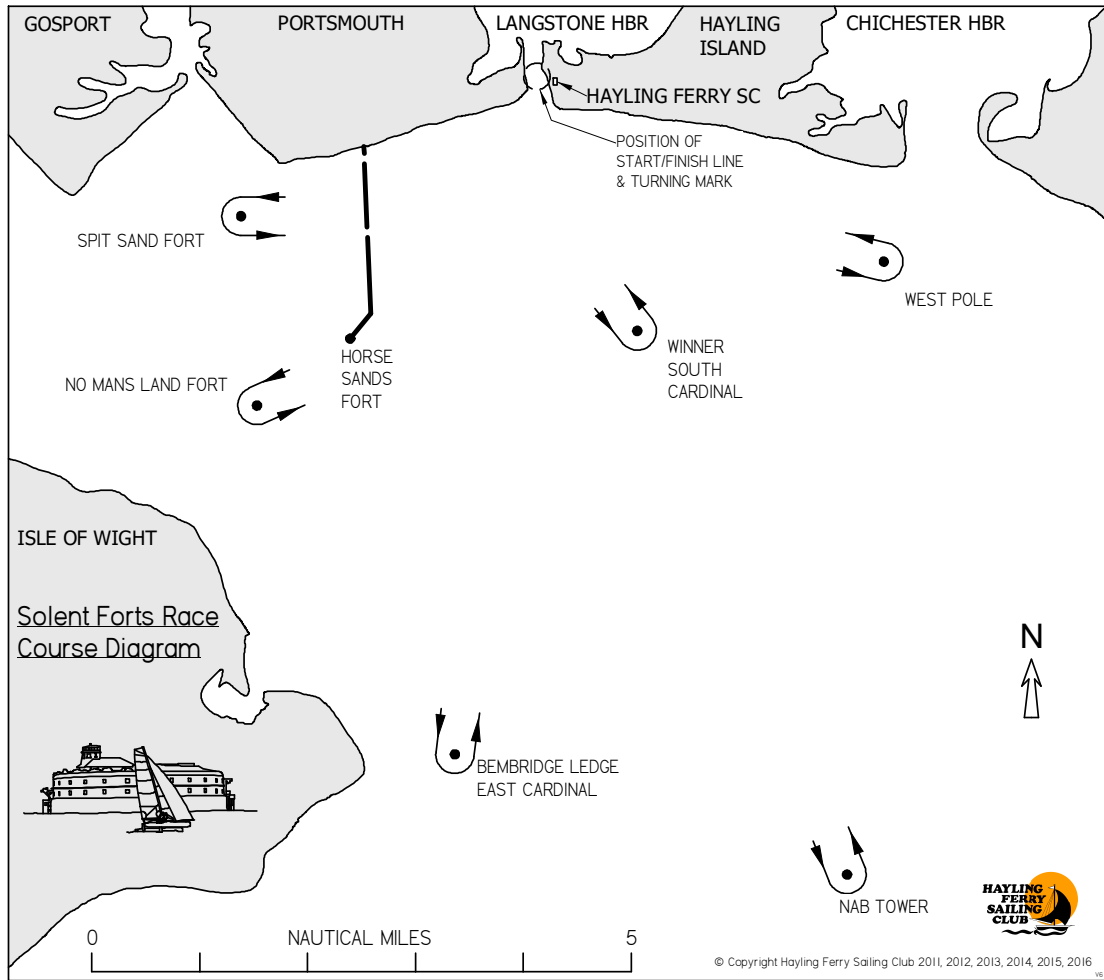
Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £2,000,000 per event or the equivalent.

## 15 FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information please contact [SolentFortsRace@hfsc.org.uk](mailto:SolentFortsRace@hfsc.org.uk)

Contact telephone number (prior to the event) 07887 804291

Figure 1, Marks of the Course (SFR and 3FC)



**Figure 2, Sailing Area for Course Racing**

