Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race 2026

Media Guide



Photo: ROLEX | Kurt Arrigo

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History of the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race

The Great Race South

The Cruising Yacht Club of Australia (CYCA) began in 1944 when a group of keen sailors started meeting informally at a photographic studio in Sydney. With a boatshed secured in Rushcutters Bay, the yachtsmen set sail on a journey that shaped Australian yachting history.

In 1945, nine yachts gathered on Boxing Day for what was originally planned as a leisurely cruise to Hobart, but the spark of competition ignited amongst them. Storms and un-predicted routes caused the public to fear the yachts had been lost at sea, garnering mass media attention. When the smallest competitor *Rani*, 34.73 feet long, sailed into Constitution Dock on New Year's Day 1946, to a gathering of 300+ people, their journey gave birth to what would become the legendary Sydney Hobart Yacht Race.

Capturing the hearts of Australians and transforming into an international yachting classic, the Race quickly became an icon of Australian summer sport, ranking in interest alongside the Boxing Day Cricket Test and the Australian Open. Year after year, the race grew in stature, drawing competitors from around the globe. In 1995, the 50th edition of the race, a record of 371 yachts started on Sydney Harbour. Rolex joined the blue water classic as title sponsor in 2002.

Over a hundred yachts tackle the maritime challenge year after year, from 100-foot maxi yachts to professionally crewed international TP52s to 30-foot racers. From humble beginnings to global phenomenon, the CYCA and the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race remain synonymous with the spirit of adventure, camaraderie, and the pursuit of excellence on the high seas.



Start of the 1955 Sydney Hobart Yacht Race



Start of the 2023 Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race

The 2026 Rolex Sydney Hobart will be the 81st edition of the race.

The Race will start on Saturday 26 December 2026 at 1300 hours AEDT.



Photo: ROLEX | Andrea Francolini

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Key Dates

Tuesday 26 May 2026 – Entries Open

Friday 23 October 2026 – Entries Close

Thursday 26 November 2026 - Media Launch

Friday 4 December 2026 - ACSBWPS Cabbage Tree Island Race Start

Tuesday 8 December 2026 - SOLAS Big Boat Challenge

Thursdsay 24 December 2026 – Compulsory Race Briefing

Saturday 26 December 2026 – Weather Briefing and Race Start

Sunday 27 December 2026 – Hobart Race Village Opens at Noon

Sunday 27 December/ Monday 28 December 2026 - Estimated Line Honours Finish

Thursday 31 December 2026 – Prizegiving at the Hotel Grand Chancellor Hobart at 1500hrs + New Years Eve in the Hobart Race Village

Photo: ROLEX | Kurt Arrigo.



Photo: ROLEX | Andrea Francolini

The Route

From the breathtaking start in Sydney Harbour, the 628 nautical-mile Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race offers a thrilling journey through some of the world's most stunning and challenging waters.

The race kicks off with a Boxing Day parade: hundreds of spectator boats, buzzing helicopters, and thousands of onlookers lining the shore. The fleet then sails into the vast Tasman Sea, down the southeast coast of Australia, across the notorious Bass Strait, and along the picturesque east coast of Tasmania. Finally, they turn right at Tasman Island, navigate Storm Bay, and head up the River Derwent to Hobart.

Participants often say the first and last days are the most exhilarating. The start is a grand event, while the final day sees crews battling to beat their rivals, eagerly anticipating the traditional Hobart welcome. The middle part of the race is a feast for the eyes, with yachts gliding past sparkling beaches, coastal towns and towering mountains, though often far offshore.

Bass Strait, nicknamed 'the paddock,' is infamous for its treacherous conditions. The east coast of Tasmania offers its own set of challenges, with fickle winds and massive cliffs. Even after rounding Tasman Island, the race is far from over. The final 40 miles to Hobart involve navigating tricky currents and unpredictable winds.

As yachts approach the finish line at Hobart's Battery Point, they receive a hero's welcome, no matter the hour. Crowds gather at Sullivans Cove, cheering the crews who are met with open arms by volunteers from the Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania. The place to be as the fleet makes its way into Constitution Dock is the Hobart Race Village, while the finish coincides with Hobart's Taste of Summer Festival, making it a perfect time for celebration and storytelling at the city's waterfront pubs.



Weather

What makes the Rolex Sydney Hobart race particularly challenging is the unpredictable weather. Sailors face everything from calm seas to powerful storms, requiring constant vigilance and tactical acumen. The winds can shift rapidly in direction and intensity, especially near Tasmania, turning the race into a true test of skill and endurance. The notorious Bass Strait, with its shallow waters and strong winds, as well as its proximity to the Southern Ocean, can whip up steep and difficult seas, adding to the race's formidable challenges.

The weather conditions each year play a major factor in determining the Overall winner of the race. The direction and strength of the wind will determine the yacht's speed and sail set up. Different types of yachts favour different wind conditions based on the yacht's build.



Photo: ROLEX | Kurt Arrigo

The Sydney Race Village

Before the Start of the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race, the Sydney Race Village opens at the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia to welcome competitors and media from around the world.

The Sydney Race Village hosts events each year such as the marquee Crew Party, VIP & Skipper's Launch and the Women in Sailing Night.

2026 Sydney Race Village Events:

Thursday 10 December | Quiet Little Drink

Thursday 17 December | Women in Sailing Night

Sunday 20 December | VIP & Skipper's Launch

Monday 21 December | Long Lunch

Tuesday 22 December | Crew Party

Saturday 26 December | Family Day

The Sydney Race Village is also complete with the Helly Hansen Race Merchandise Shop, Media Centre, and Information Centre.



















Photos: Ashley Par...

The Start



Start: Saturday 26 December 2026 at 1300 hours AEDT

Photo: ROLEX | Carlo Borlenghi

A diverse fleet of yachts line up each year on Boxing Day for the start of the Rolex Sydney Hobart. To accommodate the varied sizes and speeds of the competing yachts, four start lines are set up in Sydney Harbour. Boats are assigned to each line based on their divisions. This strategic arrangement ensures a smooth and competitive start for all entrants.

As the race begins, the yachts charge towards their respective turning marks. There are two inner turning marks and three outer turning marks, each designated according to the starting line of the yacht and ensuring yachts on each start line sail the same distance. This setup adds a layer of strategy, as sailors must navigate these initial course markers before heading out into the open ocean.

The southern most turning marks are assigned to smaller yachts, while the northern turning marks are in place for the larger yachts such as the maxis and mini-maxis.

This structured start not only organises the fleet but also sets the stage for the thrilling journey ahead, ensuring that each yacht, from the smallest cruiser to the fastest maxi, gets a fair and exhilarating send-off as they embark on the epic 628 nautical-mile race to Hobart.

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The Finish

As the yachts approach Tasman Island to round up into the River Derwent, the final 40 nautical miles remain a crucial leg of the race. Cape Raoul marks the turning point as the yachts sail past Tasmania's famous Organ Pipes in Storm Bay. The yachts navigate past the Iron Pot Lighthouse, Australia's second oldest lighthouse, marking the official entrance to the River Derwent. Dropping wind conditions, paired with shifting breeze and river currents, make the final few miles an intense tactical challenge.

About the Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania

The Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania (RYCT) is proud to serve as the Finishing Partner of the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race since the race's inception in 1945. The RYCT has served the yachting and sailing community on the River Derwent for over 135 years. Today, the RYCT has grown to a Club on the international stage, supporting a group of dedicated sailors through racing, cruising, social events, junior sailing, and training and educational opportunities.



Brindabella sails to Line Honours victory in 1991. Photo: NewsCorp



Photo: SallyDingo



Photo: Rolex | Kurt Arrigo



















Photos: SallyDingo

The Hobart Race Village

The Hobart Race Village lines the waterside at Constitution Dock and is open to the public from 27 December to 1 January each year.

Competitors, spectators, and the public can enjoy live music, local food vendors, live Race Updates and Q&As from sailors, face painting and kids' activities, and all your merchandise needs from the Helly Hansen shop.

The Devil's Corner Bar in the Hobart Race Village bar is run by Tasmania's famous bartenders from Dark Lab, and features the best Brown Brothers Family Winemakers and CUB have to offer. Crew Happy Hour is available to all competitors every afternoon.

The public can watch the live finishes right from the Hobart Race Village and can go for a stroll down the dock to check out the spectacular yachts.

Visit the Hobart Race Village on 31 December for the New Years Eve fireworks. With an incredible view over the River Derwent, spectators enjoying a front row seat to a show like no other.



Photo: ROLEX | Carlo Borlenghi

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The John H. Illingworth Challenge Cup

Line Honours is awarded to the fastest yacht to complete the course, a coveted prize pursued by the biggest and fastest yachts.

The John H. Illingworth Challenge Cup is presented to the Line Honours winner, named after the skipper of the inaugural race winner *Rani*. Captain Illingworth is credited with suggesting that the leisurely Christmas cruise to Hobart become a race instead.

In 1982, *Condor of Bermuda* beat the New South Wales yacht *Apollo* by a mere seven seconds for the Illingworth Challenge Cup, marking the closest Line Honours finish in Sydney Hobart history. In 2023, *LawConnect* beat defending champion *Andoo Comanche* by 51 seconds after a race-long fight of cat and mouse.

The Oatley family maxi *Wild Oats XI* holds the record for the number of Line Honours victories with nine wins, including four consecutive victories from 2005 through 2008.



Condor of Bermuda beats Apollo by seven seconds. Photo: The Mercury | CYCA Archives



Wild Oats XI holds the record for number of Line Honours Victories with nine wins. Photo: ROLEX | Kurt Arrigo



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Yacht Racing and the Rating System

Yacht racing is one of those unique sports where professionals and amateurs race on the same playing field. During the Rolex Sydney Hobart, entrants range from 100-foot maxi yachts to 30-foot double handers. To level the playing field, rating systems were created so yachts of different sizes could compete for the same prize. The Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race recognises two rating systems for various prizes to encourage yachts of various sizes and crew skill levels.

The Rolex Sydney Hobart uses the **IRC** rating system for the Overall race winner (The Tattersall Cup). IRC is a measurement-based method that assesses the potential performance of different boats, with divisions based on a yearly IRC rating. IRC enables keelboats of different designs to race in the same division. Unlike a performance handicap, a rating is not altered between races according to the individual boat's performance, but is based on the physical measurements of the yacht and its appendages, including sails. IRC Divisions change from race to race depending on the fleet's makeup.

PHS is a performance handicap system that sits outside of measurement-based rating systems. It recognises a boat's performance and adjusts its handicap based on previous race outcomes.

There are **Corinthian** divisions for both IRC and PHS divisions for fully amateur crews, honouring skilled and passionate sailors.



Photo: ROLEX | Kurt Arrigo

The George Adams Tattersall Cup

The crown jewel of the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race, the Tattersall Cup, embodies the race's rich history and competitive spirit.

First presented to the race winner in 1946 by the estate of George Adams, and later engraved with *Rani* as the inaugural race winner, this trophy has become the ultimate prize in blue water sailing. The silver trophy boasts intricate details: mermaids, grapevines and seahorses, topped with a mermaid summoning the race victor.

For over 80 years, this trophy has been awarded to the yacht with the best-corrected time over the 628 nautical-mile course, now determined by the IRC rating system. The Cruising Yacht Club of Australia proudly displays the Cup, while winners receive a medallion of their triumph.

Only eight yachts have claimed the Tattersall Cup more than once, including legends like *Freya*, *Love & War*, *Ichi Ban* and *Alive*, highlighting the elite calibre of competitors in this iconic race.



Love & War approaches the finish line of the 1978 Race.



Alive flies down the Tasman during the 2019 Rolex Sydney Hobart. Photo: ROLEX | Carlo Borlenghi



2025 Race Victors

John H. Illingworth Challenge Trophy for Line Honours: *Master Lock Comanche*

Master Lock Comanche secured her first Line Honours victory in the 80th edition of the race, although the yacht previously took Line Honours as Andoo Comanche (2023), Comanche (2019 & 2015) and LDV Comanche (2017).

Jointly skippered by Matt Allen and James Mayo, she crossed the finish line at 02:5:03.36 hours on 28 December 2025, finishing 47mins 4secs ahead of Christian Beck's LawConnect. The Seng Huang Lee owned and Hong Kong based SHK Scallywag 100 was third across the line, 1hr 10mins 24secs adrift of the winner.



Photo: ROLEX | Kurt Arrigo



Photo: ROLEX | Kurt Arrigo

George Adams Tattersall Cup for Overall Race Winner: *Min River*

In 2025, CYCA Member Jiang Lin created history by becoming the first female skipper and first double handed crew to claim the famous George Adams Tattersall Cup with Min River. Jiang was joined as co-skipper on board the JPK 10.30 by legendary Frenchman Alexis Loison.

The result was not without drama as Lin and Loison were originally sitting in second place Overall. However, following a protest by the Race Committee against the double handed crew on BNC - my::Net/LEON (Michel Quintin/Yann Rigal) for a rule infringement, the latter was penalised one hour and five minutes by the International Jury. That result delivered the Overall victory to Min River.



Photo: ROLEX | Kurt Arrigo



Photo: SaltyDingo



Photo: ROLEX | Kurt Arrigo

Women in the Rolex Sydney Hobart


Jane Tate



Barbarian


Co-skippers Lin and Loison. Photo: Sally Dingo


Reinhardt trimming on Barbarian

Women have been racing in the Sydney Hobart since 1946. In the second instalment of the race, Jane Tate became the first woman to complete the 628 nautical-mile event on-board the yacht *Active*. In 1976, the first all-women team raced on-board *Barbarian*, led by Vicki Willman. In 1989, the second ever all-women crew competed on *Belles Long Ranger*. One of the crew, Kathy Veel, went on to become the first all-women double handed Rolex Sydney Hobart competitor with Bridget Canham in 2022.

Three women have gone on to earn the prestigious honour of sailing 25 Sydney Hobarts: Adrienne Cahalan in 2016, Felicity Nelson in 2021, and Vanessa Dudley in 2023. In 2018, professional ocean racer Stacey Jackson skippered a crew of all-women on *Wild Oats X* in hopes of capturing the revered Tattersall Cup, sailing home to a close second place, to prove there is no skill difference between men and women sailors.

In 2025 Jiang Lin went one better and became the first female skipper to claim the Tattersall Cup, creating further history by also becoming the first double handed winner of the iconic trophy with her co-skipper Alexis Loison.

The Rolex Sydney Hobart has witnessed a steady rise in women participation over the last decade. The 80th running, in 2025, featured 128 starting yachts. Of the 128 entrants, 14 were owned or skippered by women, a considerable rise from three in 2018.

The 80th edition also featured an all-women crew on First Light, owned and skippered by Elizabeth Tucker.

In 2023, women navigators led the charge, as Adrienne Cahalan navigated *Alive* to victory, her third Overall victory, and Alice Parker navigated *URM Group* to a close second place, culminating in *URM Group* also winning the Audi Centre Sydney Blue Water Pointscore. Women navigators continued to dominate the mini-maxi division in the 2024 race with Cahalan and Parker returning to *Alive* and *URM Group,* and the addition of accomplished local navigator Clare Costanzo on *Whisper*.

Since 1994, the Jane Tate Memorial Trophy has been presented to the first female skipper over the finish line. The Barbarian Trophy is presented to the fastest yacht on corrected time with an all-women crew in the IRC Overall Division.

All-Women Crews

1976 - *Barbarian*, Vicki Willman

1989 - *Belles Long Ranger*, Christine Evans

1992 - *Ella Bache*, Adrienne Cahalan

1992 - *Nadia IV*, Kerry Goudge

1993 - *Telecom Mobilenet*, Kerry Goudge

1994 - *Brightstone*, Teresa Borrell (first all-women New Zealand crew)

1994 - *Telecom Mobilenet*, Kerry Goudge

1994 - *Qantas New Zealand*, Gail Melrose

1995 - *WOW - Nortel*, Kerry Goudge

1995 - *Mortgage Choice*, Amanda Wilmot

2001- *Amer Sports Too*, Lisa McDonald

2017 - *Climate Action Now*, Lisa Blair

2018 - *Wild Oats X*, Stacey Jackson

2022 - *Currawong*, Kathy Veel & Bridget Canham (DH)

2023 - *Currawong*, Kathy Veel & Bridget Canham (DH)

2024 - *Celeste*, Saskia Groen-Int-Woud & Maude Demazure (DH)

2024 - *Fika*, Annette Hesselmans & Sophie Snjiders (DH)

2024 - *Gizmo*, Wendy Tuck & Meg Niblett (DH)

2025 - *First Light*, Elizabeth Tucker



The all-women crew of Wild Oats X. Photo: ROLEX | Carlo Borlenghi



Belles Long Ranger



The Crew of First Light at the Women in Sailing Night in the Sydney Race Village. Photo: Ashley Dart.



Photo: ROLEX | Carlo Borlenghi

Rolex and Yachting


Photo: ROLEX | Kurt Arrigo

A shared horizon

Rolex partners with yacht clubs, renowned sailors, iconic offshore races and some of the most celebrated regattas around the world. For almost 70 years, Rolex has forged strong relationships with the world of yachting. A prominent yacht racing partner, the brand shares the common pursuit of excellence and a passion for premium performance with major custodians of the sport's enduring spirit.

About Rolex

Rolex is an integrated and independent Swiss watch manufacture. Headquartered in Geneva, it is recognized for its expertise and the quality of its products.

Hans Wilsdorf, founder of the company, instilled a notion of perpetual excellence, leading to major watchmaking innovations, such as the Oyster, the first waterproof wristwatch and the Perpetual rotor self-winding mechanism. The brand designs, develops and produces the majority of its watch components in-house. Rolex also supports the arts and culture, sport, exploration, and those who are devising solutions to preserve the planet. It is a committed and responsible company whose products are made to last. In its quest for excellence, Rolex strives each day to improve not only its watches but also its environmental performance and its impact on society.

The brand partners some of the top crewed coastal regattas and offshore races, including SailGP, the 52 SUPER SERIES, the Rolex Fastnet Race, the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race, and the Rolex Middle Sea Race.

Rolex is committed to continuously supporting the most dynamic yacht clubs, institutions essential to the evolution of sailing that help perpetuate and develop the discipline in equal measure. These clubs are a harmonious blend of tradition and progress, organising regattas and offshore races of global importance.

Chronometric precision is a vital part of navigation, essential for determining exact location. Sailors have, therefore, always sought to equip themselves with the most accurate instruments available, a quest that has extended to competitive yachting. Starting strongly, coordinating crews, optimizing boat trajectories; precision is crucial at every stage of the race.

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Race Broadcast Partner

Nine continues its multiyear partnership with the Rolex Sydney Hobart in 2026

The Cruising Yacht Club of Australia (CYCA) announced in 2024 that it has partnered with Nine's multi-platform media network.

It was the first time Nine had become the home to the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race in its then 79-year history. The multi-year deal includes live telecast of the Boxing Day race start on the Nine Network's free-to-air television channel, as well as a dedicated presence on 9Now's live stream and video on demand service - as a repository for the Race's archival materials, pre-race interviews, Live Update shows, live streams, in-race content and race highlights packages.

The relationship was announced at Nine's 'Upfront 2025' industry launch at Carriageworks in Sydney.

Michael Stephenson, then Nine's Chief Sales Officer and Managing Director - Local Markets, noted: "The Rolex Sydney Hobart is Australia's summer sporting icon and we couldn't be more excited to chart a new era for the race and its competitors through Nine's huge storytelling ecosystem. It aligns perfectly with our portfolio of world class sporting events and we look forward to partnering with the CYCA, their team and sponsors to grow the footprint of this extraordinary event across Australia."

After the unprecedented success of Nine's coverage of the 2024 Paris Summer and 2026 Winter Olympics and Paralympics and its expertise in covering sporting events within Australia, the CYCA is excited to continue to partner with Nine to share the many facets of the race and its competitors with audiences in new and innovative ways - across a broad stable of television, digital, press, magazine, radio and podcast assets.



Photo: ROLEX | Kurt Arrigo.

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Pre-Race Events

In the lead up to the Rolex Sydney Hobart, the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia hosts the Audi Centre Sydney Blue Water Pointscore Cabbage Tree Island Race and the Australian Maxi Championship.

The Cabbage Tree Island Race is the fifth race of the Audi Centre Sydney Blue Water Pointscore. The 172 nautical mile race is a season favourite, attracting more than 60 yachts annually. Starting near Point Piper, the fleet heads north to round Cabbage Tree Island outside Port Stephens and returns to finish in Sydney Harbour. Many competitors use this race as a qualifier for the Rolex Sydney Hobart and as overnight crew training, bringing together a diverse fleet. The start of the ACSBWPS Cabbage Tree Island Race is broadcast live on the CYCATV YouTube channel.

The Australian Maxi Championship consists of up to six races and will feature Maxis (80-100 feet) and Mini Maxis (60-79 feet). The 2026 Championship begins with the ACSBWPS Cabbage Tree Island Race on Friday 4 December and ends with the SOLAS Big Boat Challenge on Tuesday 8 December.

The Australian Maxi Championship acts as a thrilling preview for the Rolex Sydney Hobart, with yachts showcasing their skills in a variety of racing conditions in a mix of harbour and offshore racing.

A press conference is held the morning of the SOLAS Big Boat Challenge at the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia. The race is broadcast live on the CYCATV YouTube channel.











Photos: Ashley Dart and Andrea Francolini











Sydney Hobart Classic Yacht Regatta

Each year, to honour the contribution of classic yachts and the history of blue water racing, the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia hosts the Sydney Hobart Classic Yacht Regatta.

The Sydney Hobart Classic Yacht Regatta (SHCYR) is open to yachts that have competed in a Sydney Hobart Yacht Race and is considered either as a Classic, with a launch date before 1976, or a Modern Classic, launched after 1975 and prior to 1996.

A first time competitor in the 2026 SHCYR will be Cadence, celebrating the 60th anniversary of the yacht's overall win in the 1966 Sydney Hobart Yacht Race.

The 2026 Sydney Hobart Classic Yacht Regatta will run from Friday 11 December to Sunday 13 December.



Photo: ROLEX | Kurt Arrigo

Race Records

Open Record
2017
LDV Comanche | James Cooney & Samantha Grant
1 Day 9 Hours 15 Minutes 24 Seconds



Photo: ROLEX | Carlo Borlenghi

Conventially Ballasted Record
2022
URM Group | Anthony Johnston & David Johnston
1 Day 19 Hours 06 Minutes 48 Seconds


Photo: ROLEX | Carlo Borlenghi

Race Facts

Number of Sydney Hobart races conducted by the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia: 80.

Rolex has been Title Sponsor of the Sydney Hobart since 2002.

Race Record: 1 day 9 hours 15 minutes 24 seconds, set in 2017 by *LDV Comanche* after *Wild Oats XI* was penalised one hour in a port/starboard incident.

LOA Restriction: Entered yachts must be no smaller than 9.144 metres (30 ft) and no greater than 30.48 metres (100 ft) in length.

Dual Line Honours and Overall winners:
1945 - Rani (GBR)
1972 - American Eagle (USA)
1977 - Kialoa (USA)
1980 - New Zealand (NZ)
1987 - Sovereign (NSW)
2005, 2012 – Wild Oats XI (NSW/QLD)

Multiple Line Honours winners:
- Wild Oats XI (NSW/QLD) - 9 races (a record) including 4 successive (2005-2008)
- Morna/Kurrewa IV (NSW) - 7 races
- Comanche (USA)/LDV Comanche/ Comanche/Andoo Comanche (AUS) - 5 races
- Astor (NSW) – 3 races
- Bumblebee IV/Ragamuffin (NSW) – 3 races
- Perpetual LOYAL/LawConnect (NSW) – 3 races
- Condor (BER) – 2 races
- Margaret Rintoul (NSW) – 2 races
- Solo (NSW) – 2 races
- Kialoa III (USA) – 2 races
- Sayonara (USA) – 2 races
- Alfa Romeo (NZL)/Black Jack (QLD) – 2 races

Multiple Overall winners:
- Freya (NSW) – 3 successive races from 1963-1965
- Love & War (NSW) – 3 races: 1974, 1978 and 2006
- Ichi Ban (NSW) – 3 races: 2017, 2019, 2021
- Westward (TAS) – 2 successive races 1947 and 1948
- Siandra (NSW) – 2 races: 1958 and 1960
- Solo (NSW) – 2 races: 1956 and 1962
- Ausmaid/SAP Ausmaid (VIC/SA) – 2 races: 1996 and 2000
- Wild Oats XI (NSW/QLD) – 2 races: 2005 and 2012
- Wild Oats/Wild Rose (NSW) – 2 races: 1993 and 2014
- Quest/Balance (NSW) – 2 races: 2008 and 2015
- Alive (TAS) – 2 races: 2018 and 2023

Largest Fleets: 371 starters in the 50th race in 1994 (309 finished); 179 starters in 1985 (145 finished); 173 started in 1983 (128 finished); 159 started in 1981 (143 finished)

Largest fleet post 2000: 157 in 2019 (154 finished); 128 in 2025 (93 finished); 116 in 2004 (59 finished)

Most International Entries since 2002: The 2015 and 2017 races produced 27 international entries.

Total number of yachts to have completed the Sydney Hobart: 6,689 yachts.

Total number of yachts to have entered the Sydney Hobart (includes Retired or Disqualified competitors): 7,678 yachts.

Cancelled races: The only race cancelled to-date was 2020, due to COVID-19.

Record for most races by an individual: Tony Ellis holds the record of 55 races sailed by a single individual after he competed in the 2025 race on board *Midnight Rambler.*

Record for oldest sailor to compete: In 2015, legendary sailor Syd Fischer skippered *Ragamuffin 100* at 88 years of age.

Youngest competitor ever: As a baby, Raud O'Brien did the first of some six Sydney Hobarts on his parents' Wraith of Odin. Record for most consecutive Sydney Hobarts: Lindsay May competed his 50th consecutive Sydney Hobart in 2023.

Record for most consecutive Sydney Hobarts: Lindsay May competed his 50th consecutive Sydney Hobart in 2023.

Record number of Line Honours wins: Steve Jarvin with 14.

Record number of Overall wins: Stan Darling (Dec.), Magnus Halvorsen (Dec.), Trygve Halvorsen (Dec.) and Gordon Maguire with five.

Record number of races competed by a yachtswoman: Adrienne Cahalan was the first female sailor to reach the 25 Hobarts milestone and in 2023 sailed her 31st race aboard overall winner, *Alive*. She has now contested 33 races.

Record number of Line Honours wins by a yachtswoman: Adrienne Cahalan with six Line Honours victories.

Record number of Overall wins by a yachtswoman: Adrienne Cahalan with three Overall victories.

Further statistics can be found in the Media Documents section of the Rolex Sydney Hobart website.



2025 Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race by Numbers:

Starting Yachts: 128 | **Finishing Yachts:** 93

Total Crew: 1281

Fastest Time: 2 days 5 hours 3 minutes 36 seconds by *Master Lock Comanche.*

Slowest Time: 5 days 21 hours 22 minutes 42 seconds by *Millennium Falcon.*

25 x Sydney Hobart Sailors

1975
- Stan Darling
- Peter Green
- Magnus Halvorsen

1979
- Richard Norman

1980
- Richard Hammond
- Max Crafoord

1982
- Alby Burgin
- Alby Mitchell

1984
- Colin Betts
- Alan Butler

1985
- Russ Evans
- John Bennetto
- Don Lang
- Bill Thompson

1987
- Bernie Case
- David Lawson

1988
- Lou Abrahams
- Don Mickleborough
- Bill Ratcliff

1989
- Bruce Gould
- Peter Kurts
- Tony Cable

1990
- Josko Grubic

1991
- Tony Ellis
- Geoff Rouvray

1992
- Colin Wildman

1993
- Syd Fischer
- Des O'Connell
- Fraser Johnston
- Bruce Jackson
- Rolf Mische

1994
- Lester Nibbs

1995
- Peter Shipway
- Richard Bearman

1996
- Peter Joubert
- Roger Howlett

1997
- John Mooney
- Lindsay May
- John Solomon

1998
- Graeme Freeman
- Warren Anderson
- David Kellett
- Simon Firth
- Lou Carter
- Richard Hammond

1999
- Maurie Cameron
- Hugh Treharne
- Peter Duffield

2000
- Geoff Barter
- Rod Jackman

2001
- Roger Hickman
- Toby Richardson
- Michael Spies
- Ian Treharne

2002
- Colin Anderson
- Bill Watson
- Jim Dunstan
- John Harris
- Bob Fraser
- Ian Potter

2003
- Michael Green
- Phil Eadie
- Kim Jaggar

2004
- Robbie Burns
- Ralph Carlier
- Graeme Fraser
- Jack Goluzd
- Michael Hesse
- Tony Poole

2005
- Tony Hearder
- Hugh O'Neill
- Ed Psaltis
- Bruce Taylor

2006
- Bill Riley
- David Ellis

2007
- Kingsley Piesse
- George Snow
- John Williams
- Colin Tipney

2008
- Graeme Ainley
- Robert Green
- John Walker

2009
- Robert Case
- Peter Hopkins
- Anthony Kirby
- Greg Prescott

2010
- Carl Crafoord
- Hugh Brodie
- Larry Jamieson

2011
- Peter Fletcher
- Gavin Gourley
- David Hodgson (incl RRV)
- Peter Inchbold
- Greg Johnston
- Julian Freeman
- Robert Moore
- Damien Parkes
- Ian Walker
- John Woodford

2012
- Jim Holley
- Steve Jarvin
- Bob Thomas

2013
- Erik Adriaanse
- Michael Coxon
- Noel Drennan
- Richard Grimes
- Peter Messenger
- Darren Senogles
- Bill Skyes
- Grant Wharington

2014
- Matt Allen
- Adam Brown
- Steve Grellis
- Colin O'Connor
- Phil Molony
- Sean Langman
- Hugo Van Kretschmar

2015
- Sven Runow

2016
- Michael Bellingham
- Adrienne Cahalan
- Bruce Clark
- Bradshaw Kellett
- Peter Sheldrick
- Andrew Taylor

2017
- David Blanchfield
- Ian Davis
- James Permezel
- Jeremy Rae

2018
- Michael Formosa
- Sam Hunt
- Iain Murray
- Jim Nixon
- John Whitfeld

2019
- Robbie Naismith
- Matt Shillington

2021
- Stephen McCullum
- Felicity Nelson
- David Witt
- Andrew Buckland
- Graeme Taylor
- Gordon Maguire

2022
- Sean Kirkjian
- Michael Bencsik
- Tom Braidwood
- Duncan Macleod
- Peter Merrington
- Andrew Henderson
- Brett Smith

2023
- Alby Pratt
- Geoff Bauchop
- Vanessa Dudley
- Robert Human
- David Watson

2024
- Chris Rockell
- Michael Heenan
- Stephen McConaghy
- Troy Grafton

2025
- Anthony Nossiter

50 x Sydney Hobart Sailors

2015
- Tony Cable

2017
- Tony Ellis

2018
- Bill Ratcliff
- Colin Wildman (incl RRV)

2023
- Lindsay May
- Bruce Gould (incl RRV)

Line Honours Winners

Year	Yacht	Owner/Skipper
1945	*Rani*	Capt. John Illingworth R.N.
1946	*Morna*	Claude Plowman
1947	*Morna*	Claude Plowman
1948	*Morna*	Claude Plowman
1949	*Waltzing Matilda*	Phil Davenport
1950	*Margaret Rintoul*	Austin W. Edwards
1951	*Margaret Rintoul*	Austin W. Edwards
1952	*Nocturne*	J. Robert Bull
1953	*#Solveig*	Trygve & Magnus Halvorsen
1954	*Kurrewa IV*	Frank & John Livingston
1955	*Even*	Frederick J. Palmer
1956	*Kurrewa IV*	Frank & John Livingston
1957	*Kurrewa IV*	Frank & John Livingston
1958	*Solo*	Vic Meyer
1959	*Solo*	Vic Meyer
1960	*Kurrewa IV*	Frank & John Livingston
1961	*Astor*	Peter Warner
1962	*Ondine*	Samer A. Long
1963	*Astor*	Peter Warner
1964	*Astor*	Peter Warner
1965	*Stormvogel*	Cornelius Bruynzeel
1966	*Fidelis*	Jim V. Davern
1967	*Pen Duick III*	Éric Tabarly
1968	*Ondine II*	Samer A. Long
1969	*Crusade*	Sir Max Aitken
1970	*Buccaneer*	Tom Clark
1971	*Kialoa II*	Jim Kilroy
1972	*American Eagle*	Ted Turner
1973	*Helsal*	Tony Fisher
1974	*Ondine III*	Samer A. Long
1975	*Kialoa III*	Jim Kilroy
1976	*Ballyhoo*	Jack Rooklyn
1977	*Kialoa III*	Jim Kilroy
1978	*Apollo*	Jack Rooklyn
1979	*Bumblebee 4*	John Kahlbetzer
1980	*New Zealand*	Peter Blake
1981	*Vengeance*	Bernard Lewis
1982	*Condor of Bermuda*	Bob Bell
1983	*Condor*	Bob Bell
1984	*New Zealand*	Peter Blake
1985	*Apollo*	Warwick Rooklyn
1986	*Condor II*	Bob Bell
1987	*Sovereign*	Bernard Lewis
1988	*Ragamuffin*	Syd Fischer
1989	*Drumbeat*	Alan Bond
1990	*Ragamuffin*	Syd Fischer
1991	*Brindabella*	George Snow
1992	*New Zealand Endeavour*	Grant Dalton
1993	*Ninety Seven*	Andrew Strachan
1994	*Tasmania*	Robert Clifford
1995	*Sayonara*	Larry Ellison
1996	*Morning Glory*	Hasso Plattner
1997	*Brindabella*	George Snow
1998	*Sayonara*	Larry Ellison
1999	*Nokia*	Stefan Myralf/Michael Spies
2000	*Nicorette II*	Ludde Ingvall
2001	*Assa Abloy*	Neal McDonald
2002	*Alfa Romeo I*	Neville Crichton
2003	*Skandia*	Grant Wharington
2004	*Nicorette III*	Ludde Ingvall
2005	*Wild Oats XI*	Bob Oatley & Mark Richards
2006	*Wild Oats XI*	Bob Oatley & Mark Richards
2007	*Wild Oats XI*	Bob Oatley & Mark Richard
2008	*Wild Oats XI*	Bob Oatley & Mark Richards
2009	*Alfa Romeo II*	Neville Crichton
2010	*Wild Oats XI*	Bob Oatley & Mark Richards
2011	*Investec LOYAL*	Anthony Bell
2012	*Wild Oats XI*	Bob Oatley & Mark Richards
2013	*Wild Oats XI*	Bob Oatley & Mark Richards
2014	*Wild Oats XI*	Bob Oatley & Mark Richards
2015	*Comanche*	Ken Read
2016	*Perpetual LOYAL*	Anthony Bell
2017	*LDV Comanche*	Jim Cooney & Samantha Grant
2018	*Wild Oats XI*	The Oatley family & Mark Richards
2019	*Comanche*	Jim Cooney & Samantha Grant
2020	*Not conducted*	
2021	*Black Jack*	Peter Harburg & Mark Bradford
2022	*Andoo Comanche*	John Winning, Jr.
2023	*LawConnect*	Christian Beck
2024	*LawConnect*	Christian Beck
2025	*Master Lock Comanche*	Matt Allen & James Mayo

Overall Winners

The rules did not provide for a first place, following the penalising of Drake's Prayer, which had provisionally been first prior to a protest. Nor did it allow for lower placed yachts to move up a place when other yachts were penalised. Because there was no 1st place, Sagacious officially was recorded as second but as the overall winner.

Year	Yacht	Owner/Skipper
1945	*Rani*	Capt. John Illingworth R.N.
1946	*Christina*	Bob Bull
1947	*Westward*	George Gibson
1948	*Westward*	George Gibson
1949	*Trade Winds*	Mervyn Davey
1950	*Nerida*	Colin Haselgrove
1951	*Struen Marie*	Tom Williamson
1952	*Ingrid*	James Taylor
1953	*Ripple*	Ron Hobson
1954	*Solveig*	Trygve & Magnus Halvorsen
1955	*Moonbi*	Hal Evans
1956	*Solo*	Vic Meyer
1957	*Anitra V*	Trygve & Magnus Halvorsen
1958	*Siandra*	Graham Newland
1959	*Cherana*	Russ Williams
1960	*Siandra*	Graham Newland
1961	*Rival*	Alby Burgin & N. Rundle
1962	*Solo*	Vic Meyer
1963	*Freya*	Trygve & Magnus Halvorsen
1964	*Freya*	Trygve & Magnus Halvorsen
1965	*Freya*	Trygve & Magnus Halvorsen
1966	*Cadence*	Jim Mason
1967	*Rainbow II*	Chris Bouzaid
1968	*Koomooloo*	Denis O'Neil
1969	*Morning Cloud*	Edward Heath
1970	*Pacha*	Robert Crichton-Brown
1971	*Pathfinder*	Brin Wilson
1972	*American Eagle*	Ted Turner
1973	*Ceil III*	Bill Turnbill
1974	*Love & War*	Peter Kurts
1975	*Rampage*	Peter Packer
1976	*Piccolo*	John Pickles
1977	*Kialoa III*	Jim Kilroy
1978	*Love & War*	Peter Kurts
1979	*Screw Loose*	Bob Cumming
1980	*New Zealand*	NZ Round The World Committee
1981	*Zeus II*	Jim Dunstan
1982	*Scallywag*	Ray Johnston
1983	*Challenge*	Lou Abrahams
1984	*Indian Pacific*	John Eyles & Gunter Heuchmer
1985	*#Sagacious*	Gary Appleby
1986	*Extension*	Tony Dunn
1987	*Sovereign*	Bernard Lewis
1988	*Illusion*	Gino Knezic
1989	*Ultimate Challenge*	Lou Abrahams
1990	*Sagacious V*	Gary Appleby
1991	*Atara (IOR)*	John Storey & Harold Cudmore
1991	*She's Apples (IMS)*	David Strong
1992	*Ragamuffin (IOR)*	Syd Fischer
1992	*Assassin (IMS)*	Robin Crawford
1993	*Wild Oats (IOR)*	Bruce Foye/Roger Hickman/Lance Peckman
1993	*Cuckoos Nest (IMS)*	Nigel Holman
1994	*Raptor*	Andreas Eichenauer
1995	*Terra Firma*	Dean Wilson & Scott Carlile
1996	*Ausmaid*	Georgio Gjergja
1997	*Beau Geste*	Karl Kwok
1998	*AFR Midnight Rambler*	Ed Psaltis & Bob Thomas
1999	*Yendys*	Geoff Ross
2000	*SAP Ausmaid*	Kevan Pearce
2001	*Bumblebee 5*	John Kahlbetzer & Iain Murray
2002	*Quest*	Bob Steel
2003	*First National*	Michael Spies & Peter Johnston
2004	*Aera*	Nicholas Lykiadopulo
2005	*Wild Oats XI*	Robert Oatley & Mark Richards
2006	*Love & War*	Simon Kurts & Lindsay May
2007	*Rosebud*	Roger Sturgeon
2008	*Quest*	Bob Steel
2009	*Two True*	Andrew Saies
2010	*Secret Mens Business 3.5*	Geoff Boettcher
2011	*Loki*	Stephen Ainsworth
2012	*Wild Oats XI*	Robert Oatley & Mark Richards
2013	*Victoire*	Darryl Hodgkinson
2014	*Wild Rose*	Roger Hickman
2015	*Balance*	Paul Clitheroe
2016	*Giacomo*	Jim Delegat
2017	*Ichi Ban*	Matt Allen
2018	*Alive*	Philip Turner & Duncan Hine
2019	*Ichi Ban*	Matt Allen
2020	*Not conducted*	
2021	*Ichi Ban*	Matt Allen
2022	*Celestial*	Sam Haynes
2023	*Alive*	Philip Turner & Duncan Hine
2024	*Celestial V70*	Sam Haynes
2025	*Min River*	Jiang Lin & Alexis Loison



Photo: ROLEX | Kurt Arrigo



Photo: ROLEX | Carlo Borlenghi

31 GLOSSARY

BOAT TERMINOLOGY

Aft – towards the stern of the boat

Bow – the front of the boat

Bowsprit – a spar projecting from the bow

Forestay – a long cable reaching from the front of a vessel to the top of the mast, used to support the mast

Keel – the lengthwise structural element protruding down from the middle of yacht. Reinforces stability and forward motion through the water.

Line – the nautical term for the ropes used on a vessel

Mast – the vertical pole on a yacht that supports sails and rigging

Navigator – the crew member responsible for charting a yacht's course for a race

Rigging – the system of lines on a sailing vessel, connected to the mast for support

Skipper – the Captain of a yacht

Spinnaker – a type of sail designed for sailing away from the wind, on a downwind or a reach. Spinnakers are constructed of lightweight fabric. Also referred to as a kite.

Stern – the back of the boat

ABBREVIATIONS

AP – A postponement signalling any races not started are postponed

LOA – Length Overall, refers to the length of a yacht, measured in both metres and feet

RET – a competing yacht has retired from the race

RACING CLARIFICATIONS

Finishing Partner – The Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania is the Finishing Partner of the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race.

Organising Authority – the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia is the Organising Authority of the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race.

Race Committee – any person or committee who oversees race entry and the conduct of the race.

Notice of Race / NOR – The racing contract between the Organising Authority and the entrants. Outlines race information, modifications to Racing Rules, and so forth.

Sailing Instructions / SIs – A document from the Organising Authority that outlines further instructions and rules for the race not previously outlined in the Notice of Race

Racing Rules / RRS – The Racing Rules of Sailing are outlined by World Sailing and governs the sport of sailboat, sailboard, and kite board racing. It is revised and published every four years by World Sailing. The Racing Rules may be adapted for the specifics of the race as outlined in the Notice of Race.

DEFINITIONS

Corrected time – A yacht's corrected time refers to their elapsed time once adjusted for their rating or handicap, used for both IRC and PHS divisions.

Double Handed - Yachts sailed by a crew of two people.

Fully Crewed - Yachts sailed by a crew of five or more people.

Upwind – Sails at an angle from about 60 to 40 degrees off the wind, sailing towards the direction of where the wind is coming from. A sailing vessel cannot travel directly into the wind and thus must sail upwind.

Reach – Sails at an anglel from about 60 degrees to 160 degrees off the wind, moving perpendicularly across the wind.

Downwind – Sails at an angle from about 160 degrees to 180 degrees off the wind, moving away from the direction of the wind, with the wind behind the boat.

Protest – An allegation made by a boat, the Race Committee or the Jury that a boat has broken a rule. A boat makes an allegation by flying a red protest flag.

Start Sequence – The countdown timer to the race start, indicated by a sequence of signals used by the Race Committee. The Rolex Sydney Hobart has a 10-minute start sequence.

Rhumbline – the most-direct line from the start to the finish. The rhumbline is used to calculate the mileage of the race.

Tack, Starboard or Port – A boat is on the tack, starboard or port, corresponding to her windward side. In the Racing Rules of Sailing, sailboats on starboard tack hold right of way over those on port tack.

Starboard - the right-hand side of the vessel when facing the bow

Port – the left-hand side of the vessel when facing the bow

Windward and Leeward – A boat's leeward side is the side that is away from the wind. The other side, closer to the wind, is her windward side. When two boats on the same tack are overlapped, the boat on the leeward side of the other vessel is the leeward boat. The other is the windward boat. In the Racing Rules of Sailing, leeward boats have right of way over the windward boat.



Photo: ROLEX | Kurt Arrigo



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Photo: ROLEX | Andrea Francolini



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