44th Grafham Grand Prix
Sunday 3 January 2027
Notice of Race

The organising authority is Grafham Water Sailing Club.

The notation '[NP]' in a rule means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1

1 RULES

1.1. The event will be governed by rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing 2025 - 2028. Appendix T (arbitration) will apply

1.2 Competitors should note that Grafham Water Sailing Club implements the RYA Racing Charter and that they will be expected to sail in compliance with it. The Charter can be found at the front of the RYA edition of the Racing Rules of Sailing (the yellow pages after the definitions), or on the RYA website at www.rya.org.uk/racingrules.

1.3 [DP, NP] Competitors and support persons shall comply with any reasonable request from an event official. Failure to comply may be construed as misconduct.

1.4 Entrants and authorised guests are temporary members of Grafham Water Sailing Club during the period of the event and shall comply with Club Rules and Regulations. Failure to observe these may result in exclusion from the club premises.

1.5 Results will be calculated using the Great Lakes Handicap System

1.5 If there is conflict between the NoR and SI, then the SI shall prevail. This changes RRS 63.5(c).

2 SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

2.1 The Sailing Instructions with final fleet compositions will be published on the official notice board (see 3.1 below) by 1400 on Friday 1 January 2027.

3 COMMUNICATION

3.1 The online official notice board is located at https://www.grafham.org/online-noticeboard.html

3.2 [DP, NP] From the first warning signal until the end of the last race of the day, except in an emergency, a boat shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats.

3.3 Briefing: any relevant notices will be posted on the GWSC on-line Notice Board (see 3.1 above). There will be a competitor briefing at 0945 on the day in the café on the ground floor of the clubhouse

4 ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

4.1 The event is open to all boats with Great Lakes Event Handicaps as listed in the Great Lakes Handicap List 2026 Autumn Edition: Great Lakes Handicaps 2026-27 Oct 2.xlsx with certain exclusions. Exclusions are listed in APPENDIX 2. This may be varied at the discretion of the organising authority and any variation, or addition of boats will be detailed in the Sailing Instructions.

4.2 We cannot accept entries from Sailboards.

4.2 Entry is limited to 100 boats.

4.3 Entries can be made on the Grafham Water Sailing Club event entry page at Grafham Water Sailing Club: Grafham Grand Prix 2027

4.4 Entries will close at midnight on Wednesday 30 December 2026 (the Event Closing Time). Thereafter late entries will be at the absolute discretion of GWSC and if accepted will be subject to an additional late entry fee of £10:

4.5 To be considered an entry in the event, a boat shall complete all registration requirements and pay all fees.

4.6 Entries may be substituted or amended up to the Event Closing Time. Thereafter only the following changes will be permitted:

Change of helm or crew (but not both) for a double hander

Change of sail number (but not in conjunction with change of helm)

Any such changes must be notified to the Grafham Club Office (email office@grafham.org) by 0930 on Sunday 3 January 2027.

More substantive changes e.g. change to a different class, substitution of helm for a single hander, substitution of both helm and crew, or substitution of helm and change of sail number may be permitted but only at the absolute discretion of the Club and if permitted will be subject to a £10 administration fee.

5 FEES

5.1 The entry fee includes a pasta dish to be served after sailing is completed.

5.2 Entry fees for boats sailed by visitors will be £29 for single handed boats and £39 for double handed boats.

5.3 Entry fees for boats helmed or crewed by a Grafham Water Sailing Club sailing member who has a registered boat at Grafham will be £8 for single handed boats and £15 for double handed boats.

6 CREW LIMITATIONS

6.1 Class rules apply

7 ADVERTISING – does not apply

8 QUALIFYING SERIES AND FINAL SERIES – does not apply

9 SCHEDULE

9.1 There is no requirement for registration. If you wish to amend your entry details see 4.6 above

9.2 Three back-to-back races are scheduled.

9.3 The scheduled time of the warning signal for the first race is 1057.

9.4 No warning signal will be made after 1430.

10 EQUIPMENT INSPECTION

10.1 Each boat may be required to produce or verify the existence of a valid measurement certificate.

11 CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

11.1 RRS40.1 shall apply at all times when afloat.

11.2 GWSC Local Rule - Wet or dry suits must be worn whilst afloat.

12 VENUE

12.1 Appendix 1 gives the Club address and a site plan showing parking and slipways

13 COURSES

13.1 Fleets: there will be three fleets as follows:

Fast – for fast CATS and fast asymmetrics

Medium
Slow

13.2 Each fleet will have a separate start

13.3 The Fast fleet will sail a windward/leeward course on a separate race track.

13.4 The Medium and Slow fleets will sail a trapezoid course. They may have separate tracks or be combined on the same track, depending on entry numbers.

13.5 Final Fleet compositions and the disposition of race tracks will be detailed in the Sailing Instructions

14 PENALTY SYSTEM

14.1. RRS 44.1 is changed for all multihulls and monohulls in the Fast Fleet so that the Two-Turns Penalty is replaced by the One-Turn Penalty. This change also applies to Challengers racing in the Slow fleet. Rule 44.1 is not changed for all other boats in the Medium and Slow fleets.

15 SCORING

15.1 One race is required to be completed to constitute a series.

15.2 When fewer than three races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores.
When three races have been completed, a boats series score will be the total of her race score excluding her worst score.

15.3 RRS 90.3e shall apply.

16 SUPPORT PERSON VESSELS

16.1 Support vessels shall not be allowed.

17 CHARTERED OR LOAN BOATS-does not apply

18 BERTHING

18.1 Equipment and kit must not be placed on club members' boats

19 HAUL OUT RESTRICTIONS-does not apply

20 DIVING EQUIPMENT AND PLASTIC POOLS-does not apply

21 DATA PROTECTION

21.1 The GWSC data protection policy can be found at https://www.grafham.org/wpcontent/uploads/_pdfs/Club%20Documents/Privacy-Notice.pdf

21.2 By competing in this event, competitors grant to the organisers without payment the right in perpetuity to make, use and show any non-identifiable motion pictures, still pictures and live, taped or filmed television of or relating to the event and consent to these being published in class, club, sponsor and other publications and / or the class, club, sponsor or other websites.

22 RISK STATEMENT

Rule 3 of the Racing Rules of Sailing states: "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or continue racing is hers alone."

Sailing is by nature an unpredictable sport and therefore inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event each competitor agrees and acknowledges that:
(a) They are aware of the inherent element of risk involved in the sport and accept responsibility for the exposure to themselves, their crew, their boat to such inherent risk whilst taking part;
(b) They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their property whether afloat or ashore;
(c) They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions;
(d) Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate(e) The provision of a race management team, patrol boats and other officials and volunteers by the event organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities;
(f) The provision of a patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances

(g) It is their responsibility to familiarise themselves with any risks specific to this venue or this event drawn to their attention in any rules and information produced for the venue or event and to attend any safety briefing held for the event.

23 INSURANCE

23.1 Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £3,000,000 per incident or the equivalent.

24 PRIZES

24.1 Prizes will be given to each of the fleets according to entry numbers.

25. FURTHER INFORMATION

25.1 CANCELLATION

By 1200 on Friday 1 January 2027 a final decision will be made on whether the event can proceed based on the forecast wind strength, weather conditions generally and any other external factors. In the event of cancellation at this time a notice will be posted on the GWSC website by 1400 and full refunds of the entry fees will be given.

25.2 CAMPING: Camping will not be permitted prior to or after the event.

25.3 Directions to Grafham Water Sailing Club, details of local accommodation, and other information are available on the Club website - http://www.grafham.org

25.4 MOVEMENT OF BOATS TO GRAFHAM WATER

In order to prevent the spread of non-native species there is a requirement to ensure that boats are clean before they visit the site using the principle of Check Clean Dry.
http://www.nonnativespecies.org/checkcleandry/index.cfm
This includes:
CHECK your equipment and clothing for live organisms – particularly in areas that are damp or hard to inspect.
CLEAN and wash equipment, footwear and clothing thoroughly. If you do come across any organisms, leave them at the water body where you found them.
DRY all equipment and clothing – some species can live for many days in moist conditions. Make sure you don't transfer water elsewhere.
Anglian Water ask for boats and equipment, arriving at Grafham Water that are from the following locations, to have been clean and dry for at least two days prior to arrival – if not, then they must not be launched at the Club:
Wraysbury Reservoir and Wraysbury River near to Staines
The Queen Mother Reservoir
Queen Elizabeth II/Bessborough
Queen Mary Reservoir
Warwick East Reservoir, Warwick Reservoir and William Girling Reservoir all located in the Lee Valley

25.5. MOVEMENT OF BOATS FROM GRAFHAM WATER

A non-native species of fresh-water shrimp (commonly known as killer shrimps) have been found in Grafham Water and certain restrictions on boat movement have been imposed by AW, DEFRA or other bodies to prevent the spread of these to other locations in the UK. These requirements are prominently displayed on the club premises and will include washing boats and equipment before removal from the Club premises.
Failure to comply with the requirements of these restrictions may lead to expulsion from the event.

APPENDIX 1 – SITE PLAN



Grafham Water Sailing Club Perry, Huntingdon, Cambs, PE28 0BU.
Tel: 01480 810478 or 07943 196522
Email office@grafham.org
Website www.grafham.org

GGP 44 Exclusions

Appendix 2

Excluded classes

18ft Skiff	M
Thames A Rater	M
Topper Breeze	K
SB20	K
Sonar	K
Skud 18	K
Yeoman	K
Devon Yawl	M
Topper 4.2	M
RS Tera Sport	M
Cadet	M
Optimist	M

Monohull	**M**
Keelboat	**K**