

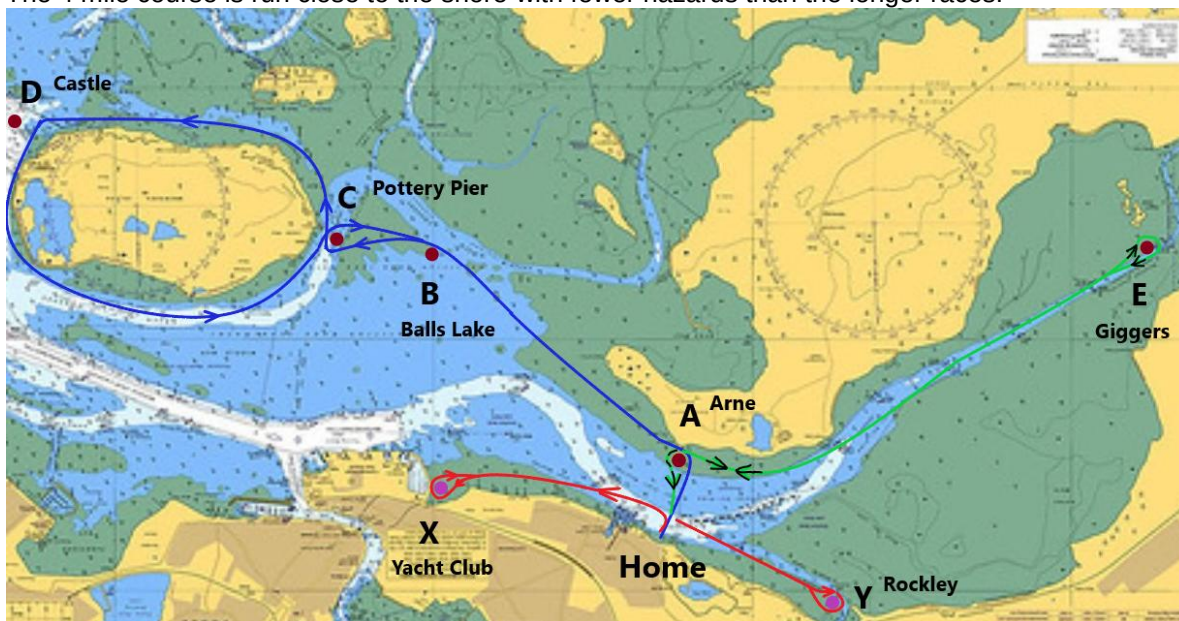
PHCC – Poole Harbour Race - 19th Sept 2026



The Poole Harbour race is a challenging event open to all classes of boats. It is a non-standard, non-ranking race over three distances with exposed choppy open water conditions, a Le Mans style beach start and a sprint from water to finish desk on the beach. Trackers for all competitors are provided.

Venue Lake Pier, Lake Drive, BH15 4LR. Use satellite view to spot the large waterside car park with a T shaped pier.

The 15 mile and 8 mile courses circumnavigate Brownsea Island and involve large stretches of exposed open water. The 4 mile course is run close to the shore with fewer hazards than the longer races.



Race Routes 15 mile (blue&green to A to D to E to A), 8 mile (blue to A to D to A), 4 mile (to X to Y)

A 15 mile (Ski, K1, WWR, Sea kayak).

B 15 mile (Double Ski, K2, Double Sea Kayak)

S 15 mile (OC6)

Cut-off time limit of 90 minutes to reach half way imposed for the 15 mile course. Usual Finish Time is between 1hr45 and 2hr40min

E 8 mile (Ski, K1, WWR).

F 8 mile (Double Ski, K2, Double Sea Kayak)

G 8 mile (Sea kayak)

H 8 miles (OC1, lightweight racing C1). *Standard heavy touring C1 to enter race L.*

J 8 miles (OC2, lightweight racing C2). *Standard heavy touring C2 to enter race M.*

K 8 miles (SUP) experience of open water needed – *we may contact you to ask about your ability level.*

Usual Finish Time is between 1hr10 and 1hr45min.

Races for novices and slower boats, General purpose, Sit on tops, touring C1 or touring C2. If not a novice please enter the longer races.

L 4 miles (Single)

M 4 miles (Doubles)

Usual Finish Time is between 35 min and 1hr10min

Junior policy

Solo juniors and junior pairs in addition to parental consent need to be 13 as of 1st Jan to compete. No age restriction on mixed adult with junior boats. Exceptions, for younger juniors of proven ability, to compete in the 4 mile shoreline race may be made in consultation with the organiser.

Schedule

Check in opens	9:30	Upstairs in Club house – pre-race bacon rolls available downstairs
Check in closes	10:45	
Briefing	11:00	Over-looking the beach
Race starts	15 mile 11:30	Race order S A B
-	8 mile 11:40	Race order K H J G E F
-	4 mile 11:50	Race order L M
Finish		Desk on beach
Refreshments and Results		Burgers, Cakes, Drinks at the finish.

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Car parking

Pay and Display car parking at reasonable prices is available at Lake Pier. Club marshals will work to squeeze most competitors in, latecomers will need to drop off boats and carry to the beach. Over flow parking on Napier Road or Normandy Way are possibilities.

Race Rules and Guidance

This is a non-ranking race. These rules additional to Paddle UK marathon racing apply.

1. **Buoyancy aids** are compulsory for all competitors including SUP and Ski. Waist Belt BAs are acceptable for SUP. You must be able to swim to shore. Please bring your BA to boat check to have tracker fitted.
2. **Leashes** for Skis, OC1 and 2 and SUPs are compulsory and attached before start.
3. All boats not inherently sealed must have sufficient secured buoyancy to be unsinkable and easily emptied by patrol boats. A centre foam pillar is not enough, **airbags** are required too.
4. **Spray decks** are recommended and experience of wind and waves, even the shoreline course is **choppy**.
5. **Foot wear** is recommended for the beach start and finish.
6. You may have to wait for rescue in the event of capsizes, swamping, failed rolls or remounts from the patrolling RIBs. **Dress for immersion**.
7. All competitors must **check back in** to race control if you retire from the race.
8. If not a PHCC member then **proof of insurance** is required e.g. Paddle UK/ Single Event Membership.
9. **Mobile phones/VHF** are recommended on island races and **whistles** are required to get help from the safety boats patrolling the course. Race organiser number during race **07923 890441** which can be relayed to safety boats by VHF.
10. Boats with under-stern rudders will need to get in from knee high water.
11. Competitors with mobility issues please advise and negotiate mitigation with the starter.
11. Hazards within the harbour include Racing Yachts, Foiling dinghies, Jet skiers, Water skiers, Mooring Lines, Buoys and Deep Soft Mud beneath the shallow water if trying to empty your boat.

Weather Notes.

At the discretion of the race safety officer winds above Force 3 Gusting 4 will result in a changed course (except Sea kayaks, WWR, Skis and Outriggers).

Winds of Force 5 Gusting 6, as seen within the harbour, are the race maximum. Skis, Outriggers and Sea kayaks and WWR who declare their ability to remount or roll in those conditions may still take the decision to race the island courses.

Alternative shoreline course

If the race safety officer believes the weather is likely to cause the capsizes or swamping of unstable or open boat classes or they are unlikely to meet the cut-off times, the affected classes of boats including K, L and M, will be switched to an alternative and safer shoreline course, (a number of laps to Y) where rescue resources can be concentrated and self-rescue on the shore is possible.

It is planned that any change of plan due to rough weather will be available on the club website or on Facebook. The decision on switching to an alternative shoreline course will normally be made before the closure of the entry window to allow competitors to decide if they wish to withdraw or change race category; distance or boat. If the decision needs to be made the day before or on race day, switching of entries will not be possible and existing entries will stand. Refunds will be made for withdrawal in this case.

Cancellation

The race takes place on open water and in the event of severe weather the race will be cancelled if in the opinion of the race safety officer it is unsafe to continue. Competitors will be refunded or offered a fee waiver for next year's race.

A decision on cancellation will normally be made before the closure of the entry window but the decision may need to be made on race day.

Refunds

In addition to the cancellation or altered course situations quoted above, entrants who withdraw by contacting the organisers before the closure of the entry window will be refunded. Competitors who are DNS (Did Not Start) won't be refunded unless extenuating circumstances apply, and the Club agrees to a refund.

Disclaimer

You participate at your own risk. Poole Harbour Canoe Club and its nominated officials, whilst having a duty of care to prevent harm to others and believing reasonable steps to minimise harm have been taken, cannot be held responsible for reasonably unforeseeable loss of life, injury or damage to equipment. The duty of care of participants to prevent harm to others remains. A race risk assessment is available to download on the entry page.

You agree that we may publish your personal information and photos as part of the event results and publicity and pass to the governing body or any affiliated organisation for the purpose of insurance or for publishing combined or comparative results. Results may include (but not be limited to) name, club affiliation, race times and age category. Contact information will be retained on WhatsApp and webcollect club database only to supply current and forthcoming race information to you.