Race Information

We are pleased to invite you to join us at for our first ever Celtic Regatta to be held at **Emsworth Sailing Club (ESC)** on Saturday 14th November 2026. This will be the 2nd round of the 3 Harbours Celtic Winter League, open to all participating 3 Harbours Rowing clubs.

Emsworth Sailing Club:
55 Bath Road Emsworth PO10 7ES

Race Entry and Registration

The Club lead must complete the Lead Rower Declaration by 17:00 on Friday 16th October 2026. The club Declaration also confirms acceptance of the rowing rules and rower's fitness to participate and the boat seaworthiness.

Each club lead must complete a Rowing Declaration and email scanned image of it to rowing@emsworthsc.org.uk, no later than 17:00 on 2nd November 2026 to identify which races you will be entering, I.e. Ladies, Mens/Open, Mixed and a non-scoring Ladies B.

The cost of entry is £10/rower (coxes free). Each participant will need to register, but it would help where possible if one member of each crew could pay for their crew (£40).

Race Categories

Open race (for CWS) league points
Ladies A race (for CWS) league points
Mixed race (for CWS) league points (for CWS) league points
Ladies B, non-scoring,

Event timings (subject to refinement)
Tidal height & times (Northney Marina) LW - 1.4M @ 07:09, HW - 4.1M @ 14:12, LW 1.3 @ 19:28

Outline timings (subject to refinement)

10:00	ESC open for registration and breakfast.
10:00 - 11:00	Boats arriving by road
10:45 - 11:15	Boats arriving by sea (to Emsworth Conservancy Pontoon)
10:00 - 12:00	Registration
11:30 - 1200	Welcome brief
	Plan for the day
	Race pairing draw & Cox's brief
12:00 – 12:30	Boat launching to pontoons (bring fenders)
12:45	Open (subject to sufficient water)
13:35	Ladies A
14:25	Mixed
15:00	Ladies B
16:00	Latest pontoon departure time for those rowing back
17:00	Prize giving

Arrivals and Facilities
Bath Road by the club house is narrow with no turning space for trailers.
PLEASE UNHITCH ROAD TRAILERS, unloading to launching trollies in the car park, wheeling boats down to the lane and onto the club terrace. Towing cars may park, along with road bases in the coned off area of the car park.

Car parking will be limited at ESC's members car park, in addition to the regatta we also have the regular dinghy racing taking place and cruiser ashore for winter layup.

Please car share where possible, alternative car parking for crews is available at; Bridge Road (Opposite Bath Road), South Street car park (town centre) and Palmers Road car park (behind Tesco's), all within a 10-12 minute walk of the club, there is a local map showing these locations on the General Information document.

For boats arriving by sea; the Emsworth Conservancy Pontoon will be available for those wishing to berth and be at the regatta brief at 1130. The ESC pontoons will be available from 1200.

Catering
There is complimentary tea and coffee available from the urns in the club house. Your entry also includes lunch of pie (meat or vegan option) and chips. The galley will be open from 10:00 for breakfast baps and a short snack menu from 1200. The bar will be open from 11:00.
Please note that our catering franchise allows only food brought from the galley may be consumed within the club house, harbour side terrace and top deck. Food/picnics brought by competitors may be consumed at the picnic tables at the end of the club terrace. Please enjoy the excellent food provided by our franchisee.

Safety
ESC will complete a risk assessment and will share this with participating clubs before the day of the event.

Life jackets or buoyancy aids must be worn by coxes at all times. Life jackets or buoyancy aids should be brought by crews in case they are required to be worn on the day by the Safety officer and will be advised at the race briefing.

Coxes must carry a working VHF radio, set on channel 37, M or M1, depending on handset. Please test your radio before you depart the pontoon.

Weather forecast - ESC will monitor the weather forecast in the week leading up to the event and liaise with clubs as appropriate.

Both the Harbour Master and Emsworth Yacht Haven have been advised of the event.

Boat launching
With our location at the top of the harbour we are limited in launch time. Boats will be held on the club terrace until there is sufficient water to launch, boats will then be moored alongside the club pontoons. Please bring sufficient fenders to protect your boat.

The Pontoon Marshall's will monitor and assist / adjust mooring lines as appropriate.
Launching trollies to be stored on the terrace as directed by the Pontoon/Terrace Marshalls.

Crew changeovers
We will be challenged by tide and time and space, please can all crews muster at the pontoon areas 10 minutes prior to your race start time, or as called by the Pontoon Marshall's.
Change overs must be swift and efficient to ensure we can get all races in before we lose the tide.

Please be aware, the club does not permit wet gear in the lounge area, please make use of the 'Wet Team' assistance provided to launch your boat to help keep your crews dry and minimise wet kit and footfall within the club lounge area. Wet gear is only permitted in the small wet bar area.

Hazards

Fisherman's Walk - a shallow narrow bank which separates the club waterfront area from the Emsworth channel. You will cross this as part of the racecourse; there will be sufficient water depth when keeping to the racing line between start/finish and marks of the course.

Emsworth Channel - The course will cross the main navigable channel to/from Emsworth Yacht Haven, whilst not a busy channel keep a good lookout. Patrol boats will be posted to warn and vessels transiting the channel. Emsworth Yacht Haven have been requested to warn departing and arriving boats of regatta traffic.

Dinghy racing - Coxes please be aware, there will be dinghy racing taking place at the same time as the rowing regatta is taking place, whilst we have taken measures to mitigate the impact of large numbers of sailing dinghies on the racecourse at the same time you may encounter the occasional sailing dinghy in the race area or whilst transiting to/from the start/finish area. Please keep a good lookout, make your intensions clear and if required take avoiding action to avoid any collision.

Race Instructions

ESC Regatta Officers:

Regatta Umpire	Brian Beavis
Regatta Officer	Bill Chalker

List of clubs registered

1.	Bosham	Confirmed
2.	Chichester Yacht Club	Confirmed
3.	Coastal Rowing Academy	tbc
4.	Dell Quay Sailing Club.	tbc
5.	Emsworth Sailing Club	Confirmed
6.	Emsworth Slipper Sailing Club	tbc
7.	Hayling Island Sailing Club.	tbc
8.	Itchenor Sailing Club	tbc
9.	Langstone Cutters	Confirmed
10.	Tudor Sailing Club	tbc
11.	Witterings Rowing Club	Confirmed

Racing Rules

Provided below are the Welsh Sea Rowing rules that have been adapted / edited by ESC, that coxes and crews must follow to compete fairly in this regatta.

Before Racing

Crews and Coxes all be registered before the start of the event on the Emsworth Sailing Club web site. Unregistered crews shall not take to the water during the event.

All boats must display their correct number, or name on the hull in a legible size, see list of boats.
All boats must be seaworthy to race, the competitor declaration covers this requirement, please ensure this is returned to ESC Office.

All crews must send a representative cox, coxes, or crews to the briefing. All rules explained in this meeting and in these notes, must be abided by,

Marshall boats

There will be Marshall boats located at navigable channel crossings and at buoy turns.

Timing sequence and Start line

The first race is scheduled for 12:45 , the 2-minute warning will therefore be at 12:43. Boats will race in the pairs as drawn at 2-minute intervals, the start of the first pair will be the 2 minute warning for next pair.

The Regatta Umpire will be responsible for the starts; 90 seconds before a planned start a VHF call will be made to call the boats forward, by name, to line up at the start.
The starter will call 90 seconds, 30 seconds, 10 seconds, 5,4,3,2,1 GO. There will be no audible sound signal for a race start.
Boats that are over the start line before their allocated start time will be requested to back down, no request will be made with less than 10 seconds to go, should a boat remain over, or cross over within the last 10 seconds and not recover to the correct course side at their starting signal will be deemed over the line. Any boat deemed over the line at their race start will be advised by VHF and must complete a 360 penalty turn on the first leg of the course, keeping clear of other boats. Should a penalty turn not be completed the boat will be disqualified.

The start line will use the **bow** of the boat; boats may choose either a rolling or static start.

Coxes shall listen out on VHF channel 37/M/M1 for instructions from Race Regatta Team during start sequence and whilst on the racecourse. A radio check will be requested when on the water.

The start line and finish line will be an imaginary line between the red Triangle Post on the corner of the terrace, and large orange inflatable inner distance mark, the outer distance mark will be the Triangle post 160m to the south, be aware the outer distance mark will not be on the actual start line.
Boats must start and finish between the orange inflatable and outer triangle post mark.

All crews to take to the water promptly when requested, ESC has issued a race schedule, there will be no delays to start times should individual boats not be in position at their allocated start time.

Boats should wait in the area to the west of the start line, coming forward when requested by the Race officer.

There is a transit lane for sailing dinghies to pass close inshore between the main Emsworth channel and the beach area to the west of the pontoons. Coxes only enter this transit lane to go to/from the start and finish areas.

The Course
The races will be held over approx 3km laid course signified by large orange inflatable buoys, in an anti-clockwise 'L' shaped course. Crews will run in pairs (drawn at crew briefing) at 2-minute intervals. Crews and Coxes will be provided copies of the planned course race on the day. Additional race marks / gates may be set on the morning of the regatta is required. New Charts / instructions will be provided.

During the race
The race will take the course outlined in the coxes briefing.
Monitoring RIBs will be stationed at Emsworth Channel crossing point to advise/slow/stop Emsworth Yacht Haven boat traffic.
Additional marker buoys may be laid on the day if conditions make this necessary. Coxes will be provided with any details as required.

Any change to the course, or halt to racing will be communicated via VHF by the Regatta Umpire.

Any boat over the start line at their allocated start must take a 360-degree penalty turn before the first mark of the course, which must be taken in clear water without obstructing any other boats.

Overtaking boat crews must yield to the boat crew being overtaken. The leading boat has priority except under certain circumstances - see buoy turns. An overtaking crew becomes the leading crew once overtaking has been complete and clear water is obtained.

Oar overlap is permissible, but the crew being overtaken has priority and should not be obstructed by closing oars.

Ramming from any direction is prohibited.

Weaving and other unsportsmanlike behaviour is prohibited.

Time penalties will be issued by the regatta umpire for breaking any rules.

Buoy Turns
Priority at any turn is determined at 3 boat lengths from the turn.

At 3 boat lengths, if there is any overlap between 2 crews, the inside crew (i.e. crew closest to the buoy when turning) has priority. The outside crew must yield to the inner crew and not impede their progress.

At 3 boat lengths to a turn, if there is clear water (i.e. no overlap) between the 2 crews, the leading crew has priority. The chasing crew must yield to the leading crew and not impede their progress.

As the distance to the buoy decreases, it is likely any gap will shorten or disappear due to the lead crew slowing for the turn. If the chasing crew catches the lead crew and gains inside overlap inside 3 boat lengths, the chasing crew must still yield at the turn.

The crew with priority may take any course around the buoy unimpeded.

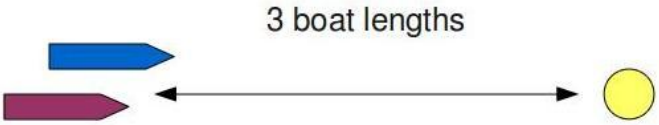
The above rules will cascade through the field. It is possible that a leading crew may have to yield to the crew in lower positions under some circumstances.

The regatta umpire or monitor boat may be stationed on buoy turns to ensure correct procedures are followed. Crews found to obstruct other crews holding priority may have penalty time added or be disqualified entirely. This is at the discretion of the regatta umpire or safety boat official at the race.



Buoy turn

Crews are overlapping. Inside boat (purple) has priority at the turn



Buoy turn

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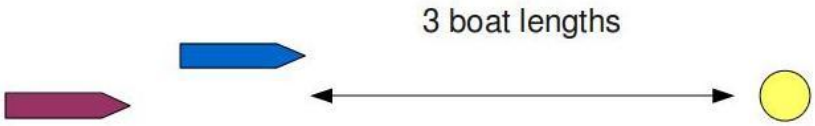


Buoy turn

No overlap as first boat reaches 3 boat lengths from the turn.
Leading boat (blue) has priority.

Finish line

The finish line will be when the bow of the boat passes the finish line. The finish line is as described for the Start Line. A sound signal will be given.

Once boats have finished clear the finish line area and **immediately proceed** back to the pontoon for crew changeover, Pontoon Marshall's will advise which pontoon/berth to come alongside.

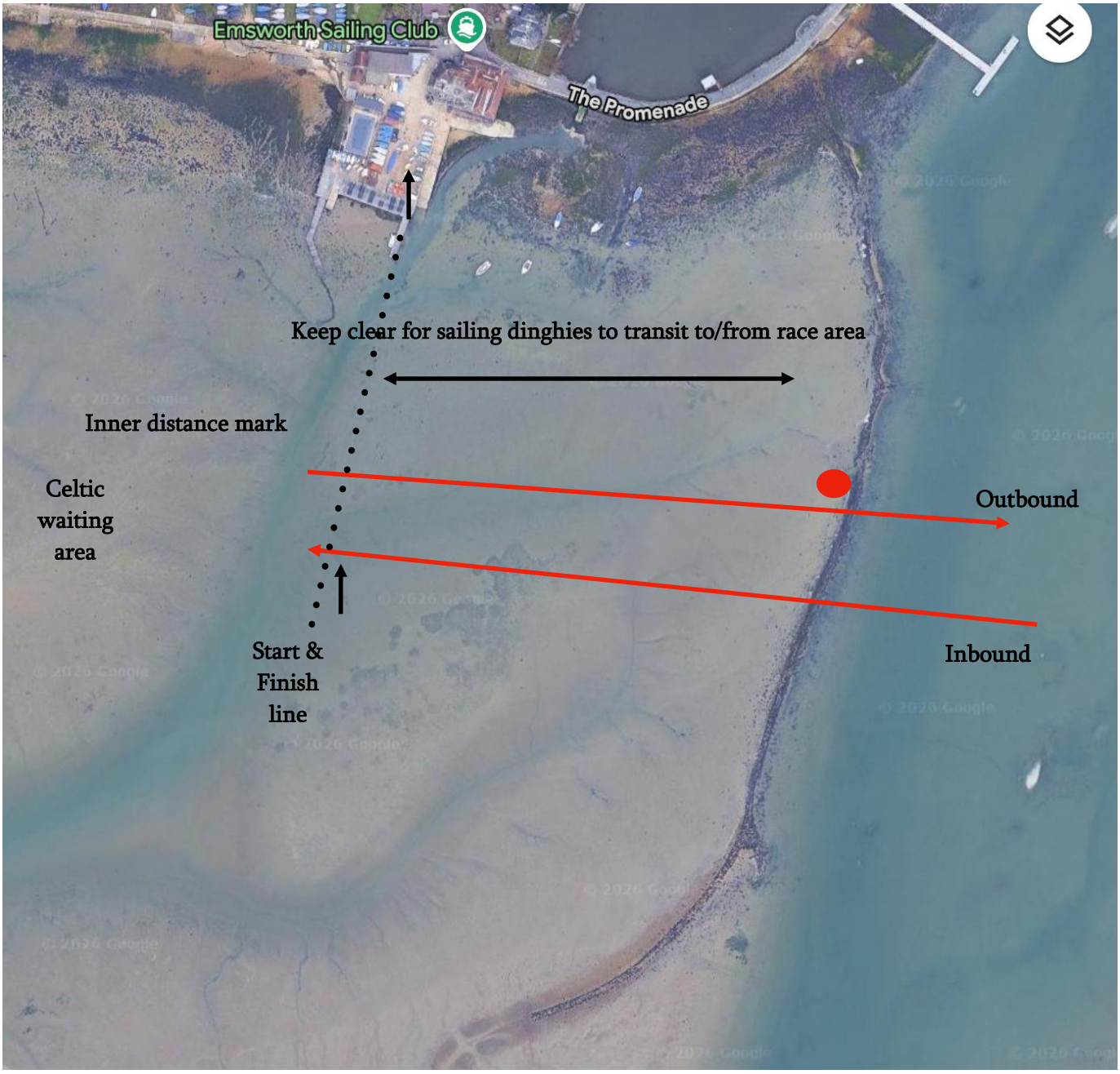
Appeals and objections

Appeals and objections should be addressed to the ESC Regatta Umpire immediately after the race.

Race Officers / Umpire may add time penalty time to a boats elapsed time for any unsportsmanlike like behaviour or disqualified for breaking the rules as specified in these instructions or missing a mark.

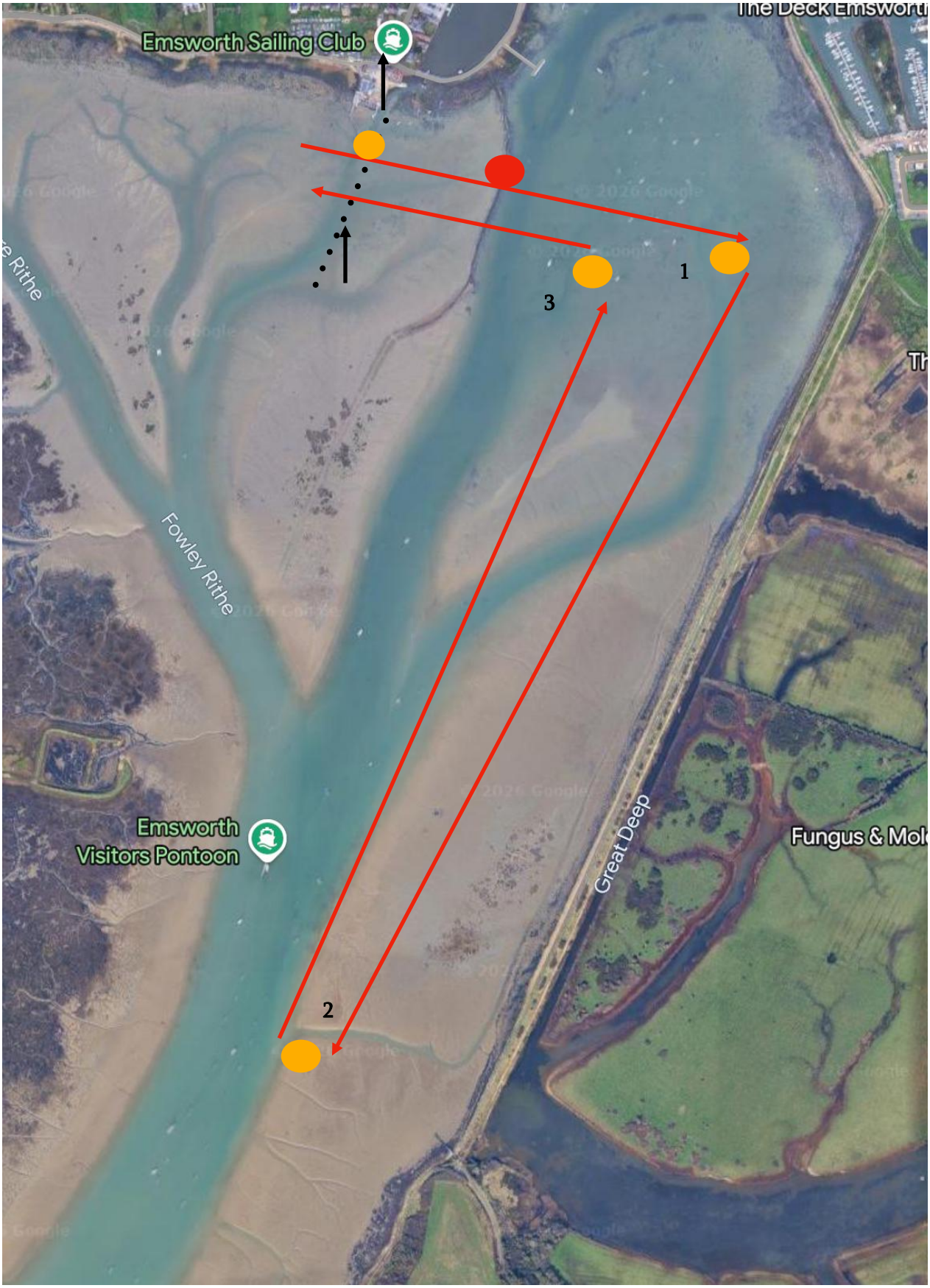
Course for all races (not to scale).

May be subject to change on the day if conditions dictate.



Club Waterfront area

The course


Emsworth Sailing Club
1
3
2
Fowley Rithe
Great Deep
Emsworth
Visitors Pontoon