



# Planning your Honda RYA Youth Rib Club Heat



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## 1. Getting Started....

### 1.1. Introduction

Thank you for volunteering your time and effort as a club lead for the Honda RYA Youth RIB Championships.

Below is some general information, FAQ's and requirements for your club heat to aid the planning process. Please do not be offended if many of these pointers seem obvious, but with such a variety of locations and experience in organising racing or working with the HRVRC we must cover as many points as possible.

### 1.2. What is the Honda RYA Youth Rib Championships?

The Honda RYA Youth RIB Championship, sponsored by Honda and Highfield, is a National Championship in which 8 - 16-year-old Rigid Inflatable Boat (RIB) drivers can demonstrate their skills with the goal of winning a Highfield 460 or a Honwave T40 for their club.

#### 1.2.1. The Concept

The RYA (Royal Yachting Association), through its affiliated clubs, organisations and training centres will again run a National Championship in Rigid Inflatable Boats (RIBs) for juniors/youths. Clubs, organisations and training centres wishing to participate hold local heats, at their premises, to determine who they put forward to their Area Finals. There are 13 Area Finals and the winner in each age group (8-12 years and 13-16 years) takes part in the National Final held at the Southampton Boat Show in September.

#### 1.2.2. The Competition

The competition takes the form of a time trial around a set of marks - the fastest time wins. The slalom buoys are set 12.5m apart so that skill and control, and not necessarily speed, are the most important factors. Each competitor has two runs, one as a practice and one as a 'hot lap'. Both runs are timed and the fastest time put forward. Please see the diagram in the resource section showing the overall structure of the competition.



### 1.2.3. The Classes

There are two classes: 8-12 years and 13-16 years. This is the age of the entrant at the time of the National Final i.e. for the 8-12 year olds the competitor should not have had their 13th birthday before the National Final and similarly in the 13-16-year-old section they should not have had their 17th birthday before the National Final.

### 1.2.4. Club/Local Heats

Any RYA (Royal Yachting Association) affiliated club, organisation or training centre that wishes to participate can hold a club/local heat. The club, organisation or training centre runs a competition at their premises, using their own boats, from which they put forward their winners to the Area Final, in one or both of the age categories.

***If running a club heat, please email us to request your information pack [youthrib@rya.org.uk](mailto:youthrib@rya.org.uk)***

Please include your name, club and the address to which the pack should be sent.

### 1.2.5. Area Finals

The Area Finals, 13 in all, are held at clubs, organisations or training centres with suitable facilities. The RYA helps the club organise the event and attends to the logistics and administration needed to run the Area Final. Where possible the RYA will attend and support the event with promotional materials and two Honda powered Highfields to be used by the competitors.

### 1.2.6. National Final

The National Final will be held at the Southampton Boat Show in September 2018. The RYA will organise and co-ordinate all aspects of this final stage of the competition.

Area Champions will compete to become National Champion and win a boat for their Club. After the prize-giving on the day of the National Final, the 2018 National Champions will then compete 'head to head' against representatives from the 2017 Winning Clubs. Please see the document named 2018 Championship Structure available in the Resources section.

**The National Final will be held at the Southampton Boat Show in September.**

**The RYA will organise and co-ordinate all aspects of this final stage of the competition.**

**WINNING COMPETITORS MUST BE AVAILABLE FOR THE FINAL**

**COMPETITORS FAMILIES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR TRAVEL TO/FROM FINAL**



## 2. Considerations for Your Club Heat

### 2.1.1. The Competition

The competition takes the form of a time trial around a set of marks - the fastest time wins! A schematic drawing of the course can be found in the Resources section. The slalom buoys are set 12.5m apart for 4.6m Ribs. If using larger boats the buoys would have to be set accordingly. Skill and control, and not necessarily speed, are the most important factors. Each competitor has two runs, one as a practice and one as a 'hot lap'. Both runs are timed and the fastest time put forward.

### 2.1.2. Classes

There are two classes: 8-12 years and 13-16 years. This is the age of the entrant at the time of the National Final, i.e. for the 8-12 year olds the competitor should not have had their 13th birthday before 17th September 2017 and similarly in the 13-16-year-old section they should not have had their 17th birthday before 17th September 2017.

## 2.2. Safety

### **Safety is paramount...**

An RYA Powerboat instructor, or competent adult with minimum Powerboat Level 2, should be in the boat at all times attached to the safety lanyard. An instructor is preferred. If at any point during a run the instructor/competent adult considers that the competitor is driving in a dangerous or unsafe manner the run should be aborted immediately either by asking the competitor to throttle back or by operating the safety lanyard (if possible, a second safety lanyard should be attached to the instructor/competent adult at all times) See the Resources section for guidance on how to do this. All competitors and the accompanying instructor/competent adult should wear lifejackets or buoyancy aids at all times when on the water. An additional safety boat should be made available. Only the instructor/competent adult and competitor should be in the competing boat during the run. Any other boat, whether practising or acting as a safety boat, should keep well clear of the course.

The course should be set in sufficient water for the draft of the competing boats and should be well clear of any land, jetty, wall or any other object that could cause damage to boats or competitors.

### 2.3. Spectators

Do you chosen AO have a spectator's area?

- If your spectator area on the water, please keep this away from course operations. Steps should be taken both to enforce the exclusion zone as well as stop unfair course contamination (wash / competitor distraction ...)
- If your spectator area is shoreside, please ensure this area is safe and free from hazards. This, if possible, would be a good area to concentrate your events stands or other activities.

### 2.4. Exclusion Zones

At some locations, especially coastal, you may need to seek permission for a temporary exclusion zone. If so, please make available continual and appropriate support to enforce this. The course itself uses an interconnected line that sits only 1m below the water line. Though suitable for our small ribs, anything larger will foul the course. This may cause the event to have to be cancelled or postponed depending on the damage this causes.

### 2.5. Personnel

You will need, as a minimum:

- Shore-side person to brief each competitor and answer queries
- Start/Finish judge
- Timekeepers X 2
- Instructor/competent adult with minimum Powerboat Level 2. An instructor is preferred. X 2
- Marshals/instructors to ensure running order is adhered to
- Safety boat / Taxi Boat with competent personnel
- First Aider on site
- Nominated Child Protection Officer
- Each should have sufficient equipment for their role.

## 2.6. Penalties

- Touching a buoy - 5 seconds (the STOP exercise buoy can be touched without penalty)
- Missing a buoy - 5 seconds
- Failing to come to a complete stop at the STOP exercise - 10 seconds
- Failing to complete the STOP exercise - 10 seconds
- Flooding in reverse - 5 seconds
- Failing to complete reverse exercise - 5 seconds
- Instructor/competent adult discretion +/- 10 seconds (i.e. crashing through gear changes or any other misdemeanours the instructor/competent adult deems necessary)



### 3. Extra Considerations for running an Area Final

#### 3.1. Volunteering to run an Area Final

If you and your club wish to volunteer to run an Area Final please email [youthrib@rya.org.uk](mailto:youthrib@rya.org.uk) and your Regional Development Officer to express an interest for the coming season or season after. Please note you may be required to supply a volunteer area coordination to help organise the day.

#### 3.2. Competitor Transfers

Is a Taxi Boat available? This can be a good idea to keep the event running smoothly.

Note: Where a taxi boat is not available/used, **only the Instructor may bring the event rib alongside the pontoon/jetty.**

The boats must not be damaged during the day.

#### 3.3. Spectators

Do you chosen AO have a spectator's area?

- If your spectator area on the water, please keep this away from course operations. Steps should be taken both to enforce the exclusion zone as well as stop unfair course contamination (wash / competitor distraction ...)
- If your spectator area is shoreside, please ensure this area is safe and free from hazards. This, if possible, would be a good area to concentrate your events stands or other activities.

#### 3.4. Photographs

2 prime locations for good photographs:

- Buoy 1 (off course)
- Buoy 5 (inside course)

The camera boat should be stationary (anchored if possible) and be clear of competing boats. See Course Diagram for Buoy numbers.

### 3.5. Exclusion Zones

At some locations, especially coastal, you may need to seek permission for a temporary exclusion zone. If so, please make available continual and appropriate support to enforce this. The course itself uses an interconnected line that sits only 1m below the water line. Though suitable for our small ribs, anything larger will foul the course. This may cause the event to have to be cancelled or postponed depending on the damage this causes.

### 3.6. Personnel

You will need, as a minimum:

- Shore-side person to brief each competitor and answer queries
- Start/Finish judge
- Timekeepers X 2
- Instructor/competent adult with minimum Powerboat Level 2. An instructor is preferred. X 2
- Marshals/instructors to ensure running order is adhered to
- Safety boat / Taxi Boat with competent personnel
- First Aider on site
- Nominated Child Protection Officer
- Area Coordinator
- Each should have sufficient equipment for their role.

### 3.7. Equipment for Area Finals

At the Area Finals the RYA, where possible, will provide:

- One or Two Highfield 460 RIBS with 50hp Honda outboards
- Buoys and ground tackle for the course
- Stopwatches and shore equipment
- Medals and certificates for 1st, 2nd and 3rd in each class
- At least one person to help and advise
- Six VHF/UHF radios



## 4. Entering an Area Final

### 4.1. Area Final Date

To find details of your 2018 Area Final please visit <http://www.rya.org.uk/programmes/honda-rya-youth-rib/Pages/2016-area-finals-schedule.aspx>

### 4.2. Entry Form

Please complete and send an entry form for each competitor to your regional coordinator.

Forms can be found here:

<http://www.rya.org.uk/SiteCollectionDocuments/cruising/Web%20Documents/Events/Honda%20RYA%20Youth%20Rib/Honda%20Youth%20Rib/Area%20Final%20Entry%20Form%202018.pdf>

### 4.3. Eligibility for Area Final

- Clubs may only enter the final of the region to which the Club belongs.
- The region is defined as that where the Club house is situated or, where there is no fixed Club house, it is where the Club's main contact for the purpose of this Championship resides, according to the RYA's database.
- Competitors are only permitted to compete within their own region. If a competitor belongs to more than one Club he/she can only represent one Club in any given year.
- Please Check with the Area Coordinator as to how many participants a club can enter for the Area Final.
- It is up to the individual Club to decide if they want to put forward a competitor in each class.
- If the date for the Club heat is after the date for the Area Final, the Club can put forward a competitor who is acknowledged to be a skilled boat handler. The heat should still be run and the winner put forward as your Club's 'reigning champion' for 2018.
- The reigning Winning Club (i.e. the winner of the 2017 National Final) is not permitted to enter their Area Final in the age category of which they are champions. Please see the document named 2018 Championship Structure available in the download area.



- The reigning Winning Club (i.e. the winner of the 2017 National Final) puts forward a suitable competitor to the 2018 'head to head' in the age category of which the Club is champion. Please see the document named 2018 Championship Structure available in the download area. The competitor put forward must be within the correct age range i.e. for the 8-12 year olds the competitor should not have had their 13th birthday before the National Final in September 2018 and similarly in the 13-16-year-old section they should not have had their 17th birthday before the National Final in September 2018.
- If representing a reigning Winning Club (i.e. the winner of the 2017 National Final) in the 2018 'head to head', the competitor will not have competed for another Club in any 2018 Area Final.
- Reigning National Champions are not permitted to represent any Club at a Area Final during the 2018 championship but may compete in the 'head to head' if selected by their reigning Winning Club and are within the correct age range for the category.

## 5. Myth Busting

### 5.1. Youths driving Powerboats

It may sound like a crazy idea giving the controls of 50hp Rib to a 8-16 year old, however new skills are picked up easier at a younger age and these club members will one day be the life blood of your club.

### 5.2. Insurance

Many people wonder how Honda Youth Rib Championship training affects their insurance, in the majority of cases there is no affect as long as all training is carried out to the standards laid out in the RYA Training Centre Recognition Guidance Notes. With the uses of dual kill cords and competent adults/instructors on board at all times. **However please do check with your insurance provider.**

### 5.3. Speed Limits/Operating Areas

Due to the nature of water access in some cases there are restrictions on the uses of water due to rules set by Harbour Masters or water Owners. The best way to try to overcome these issues is to have open conversations with the Harbour Master/Owners to agree on restrictions for training. Many Harbour Masters/Owners are happy to accommodate the Honda Youth Rib Championship with restrictions when they understand it is not powerboat racing and it is a way to introduce safe powerboat driving to the next generation. Some examples have been that training can take place at certain times of the week in certain locations.



#### 5.4. Powerboat racing & “Razing Around”

The Youth RIB Championship is not Powerboat Racing, it is a timed competition with one boat at a time on a small laid course which incorporates manoeuvres that are contained in the RYA's Powerboat Level 2 course to encourage youngsters to learn powerboat skills safely and in a fun way at a young age. Each entrant has two laps to set a time. Skill and control will result in the best times. Many go on to become Club safety boat drivers, become Instructors, lifeboat personnel, Commercial operators or Superyacht crew. Many clubs worry about 8-16 year olds “razing round” however keep strict rules within your club that they can only drive with a responsible adult in the boat both inside and outside of training and from day one only to drive at the speed which is necessary. Teach basic skills such as coming along side first.

#### 5.5. Will this severally damage our powerboat gearboxes?

With correct training and supervision no extra sever damage should occur one of the first lessons taught should be how to change gear safely it should also be reiterated at every briefing session that participants should not crash through the gears. Many clubs have used the same boats for teaching competitors for a number of years without gearing issues on regularly serviced engines.

## 6. Help and Ideas

### 6.1. Run Club Training

To give your entrants the best possible chance run club training. This is a good way to retain youth members over the winter who may not want to sail due to the cold weather.

Sessions can be informal or formal and do not have to focus on running the whole course all the time remember you can get around the course in a shorter time with slower more skilful driving.

### 6.2. Our Powerboats do not have two Kill Cord points

If your club powerboats do not have two separate Kill Cord points like the competition boats do not despair please see the dual kill cord article in the Resources section.

### 6.3. We do not have a powerboat instructor or suitable powerboat

Pair up with a local club, maybe run sessions at both clubs for participants from both clubs with the same instructor leading sessions or alternatively you provide fuel and an Instructor but the other club provide the powerboat.

### 6.4. Focus on basic boat handling the rest will come

Focus on basic controls to start off with then build in aspects of the course. In 2016 and 2017 the national champions were crowned with quicker times by driving slightly slower but in more control than those who went full throttle.



## 7. What Happens Now?

Advertise the championship in your club and run training where possible. Also keep an eye on [www.rya.org.uk/go/hondayouthrib](http://www.rya.org.uk/go/hondayouthrib) for further information.

If you have any questions, please contact us without delay.

### **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

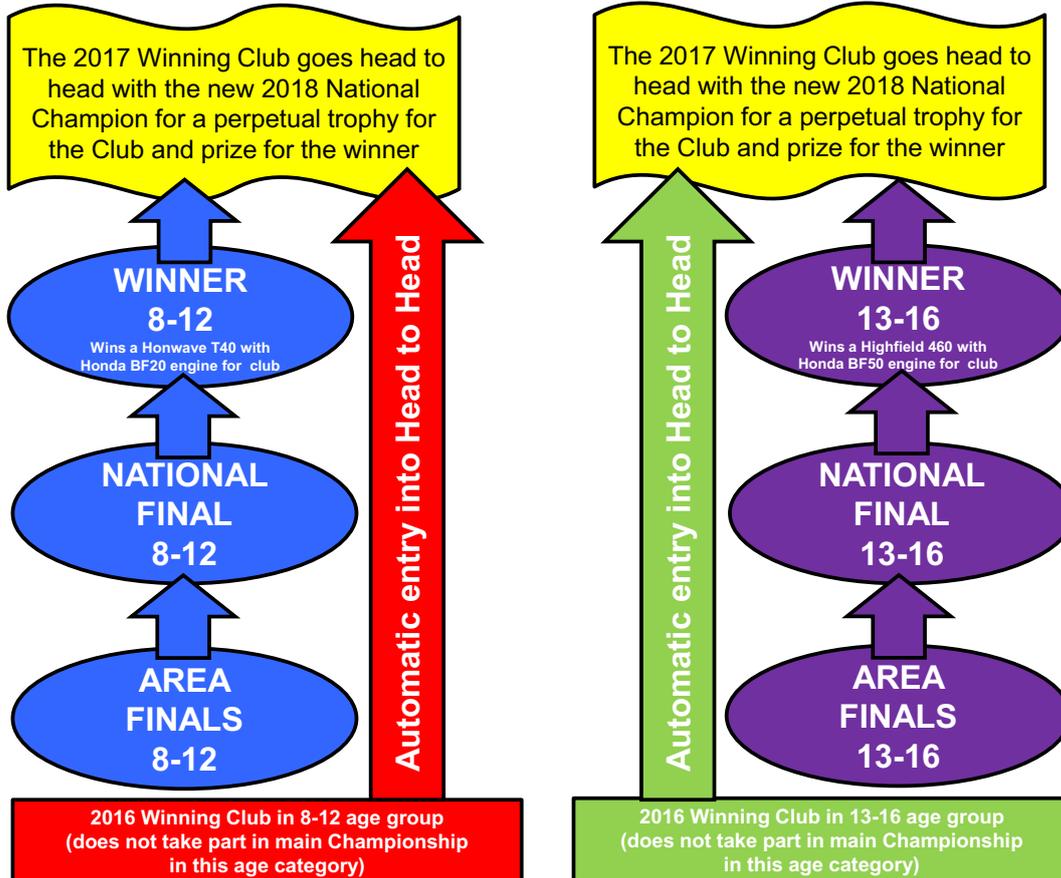
**Email:** [youthrib@rya.org.uk](mailto:youthrib@rya.org.uk)

**Phone:** 02380 604224

## 8. Resources

### 8.1. Championship Structure

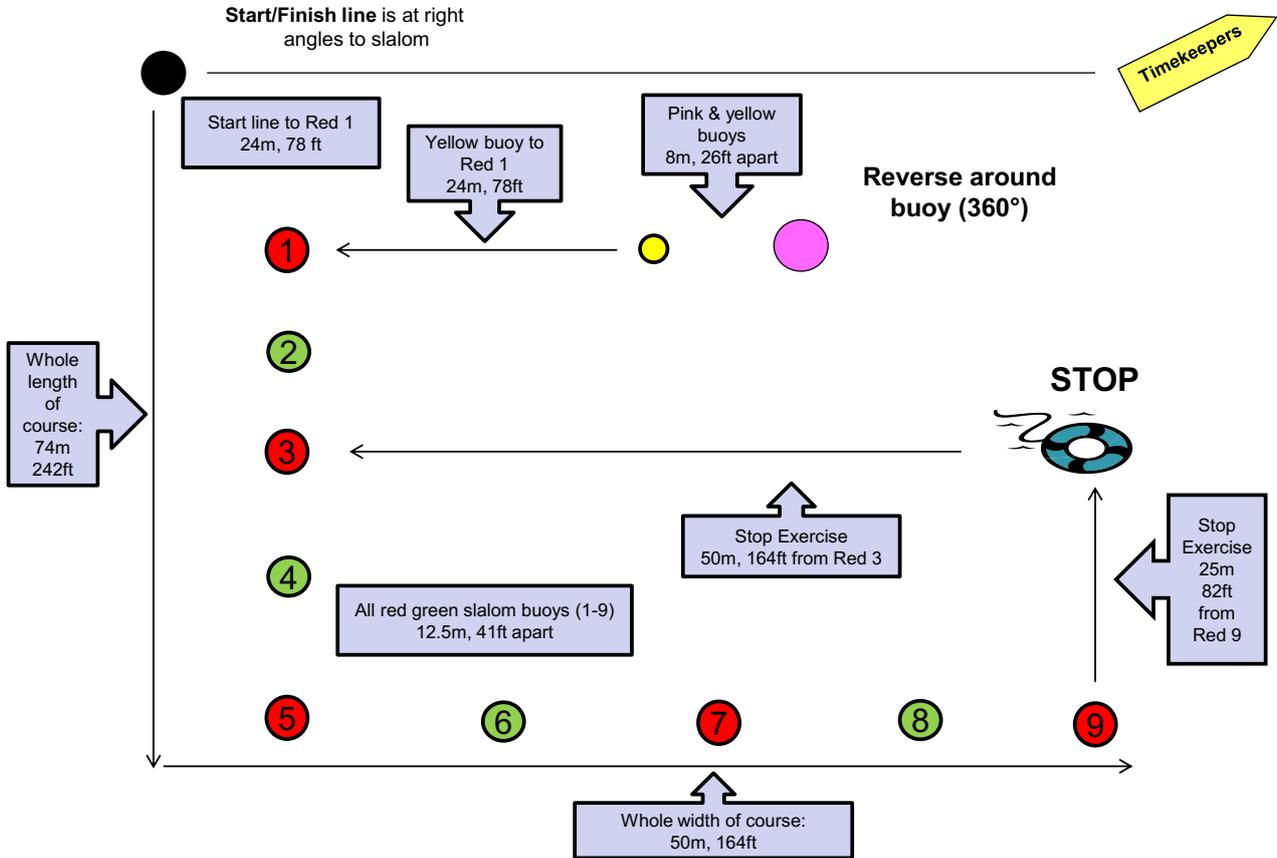
#### 2018 Honda RYA Youth Rib Championship



## 8.2. Course Diagram

### 2018 Honda RYA Youth Rib Championship Course

(Not to scale)



### 8.3. Double Kill Cord

# Kill cords on children's courses

When teaching 8 to 11 year olds, both the instructor and the student must wear a kill cord. The following series of pictures deals with the two common types of kill switch encountered on powerboats and how to attach two separate kill cords in each instance.

If you have the toggle switch system it is possible to place two loops over the toggle and then push the toggle to the run position.



If you operate the other type of switch which uses the prong type connector, the following series of pictures shows an effective method of attachment:



**Add a key ring loop to one of the lanyards**



**Place the ring over one of the prongs of the other lanyard**



**Locate the kill switch and attach the two lanyards as above**

The key point to remember is that the two lanyards will separate should either be used to stop the engine. Above all, avoid directly connecting the two lanyards together as this could cause injury.