

**2025**



HOBART CITY HS (NEW TOWN CAMPUS)

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**TASMANIAN MODEL  
SOLAR CHALLENGE  
BOAT EVENT GUIDE**

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NOVEMBER • 25TH • 10:00AM-1:00PM

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## EVENT DATE AND LOCATION

Race day for the **2025 Tasmanian Model Solar Boat Challenge** is being held on Tuesday **November 25th** at Hobart City HS (New Town Campus). Bus drop-offs and pickups will be available in the bus turning circle out the front of the school. There may be some car parks available on campus but Mercer and Bromby St are otherwise a nearby option (enter on foot from the the end of Bromby St and across the cycleway).

All racing will take place around the back of the school on the northern sports ground. For a basic layout of the event please see the attached map at the end of this guide. Parents/guardians are welcome to attend and everyone is asked to head directly around to the boat pools on arrival.

This is only for the solar boat competition. The solar car event was held on Nov 9.

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## ENTRY FORMS AND MEDIA POLICY

The solar boat challenge is open to all school and home-schooled children studying up to Yr12 in the state. Entry is free and the entry form can be downloaded at:

[www.tassolarchallenge.org/register/](http://www.tassolarchallenge.org/register/)

Please complete and return by email asap if you haven't already. The cutoff date is Friday November 21st.

Persons choosing to attend the event acknowledge and give consent to the possibility of being photographed or filmed by the TMSC or other individuals for news, marketing or promotional purposes.

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## TIMETABLE

Teams are asked to arrive before 10:00am. The day begins with teams signing in to collect their race numbers. Official racing will commence following a short pre-race briefing at 10:00am. Only boats that have had their number sticker attached will be allowed to use the pool for testing. An approximate schedule for the day can be found below:

9:00-10:00am - Sign-in and scrutineering for early arrivals

10:00am - Pre-race briefing and round robins begin

12:00pm - Lunch break

12:15pm - Knockout rounds begin

1:00pm - Award presentations

Times may vary somewhat depending on final entry numbers, weather conditions and the race format. Racing and presentations will however be finished by no later than 2:00pm so teams can be back before the end of school.

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## BOAT NUMBERS AND CHECKS

Teams will need to collect their number stickers when first arriving at the event. These are to be attached to the boat and usually wrapped around the rear guide pole.

Boats will be checked throughout the event to ensure they meet the 2025 design regulations. Early arrivals can have their entries checked prior to racing.

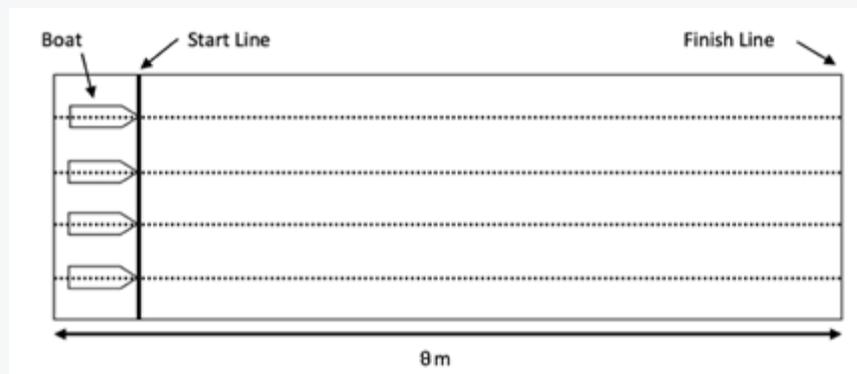
Non-complying boats will still be allowed to race but ineligible to participate in finals unless the appropriate modifications have been made before the knockout competition.

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## POOL DETAILS AND RACING FORMAT

The competition will be held in a shallow 4-lane pool of approximately 8m long x 2m wide. Boats will race side by side with the winner being the first to reach the end of the pool. Boats must follow their lane guide wire suspended at 200mm above the water surface

All boats will initially participate in a series of round robin races against different opponents and have points awarded according to their finish position. The total points accumulated from these heats will then be used to seed boats for the final knockout competition.



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## SOLAR PANELS

Boat panels must have a solar cell area of no greater than 350 sq cm. Teams are free to use their own or borrow one provided by the TMSC.

Those without their own panel will be supplied with either a 7V SOLAR26 (approx 270mm x 170mm, 50g) or a 6V aliexpress (approx 270mm x 130mm, 80g) option and both come with a set of spade connectors for attaching to the TMSC kit motors. All SOLAR26 panels will also include a SERIES-PARALLEL switch and it will be up to teams to work out which configuration is best for their boat at different sun levels.

All TMSC panels will come with strips of velcro loop (the fluffy side) under the outer edges and there will be plenty of spare hook (the rough side) available for teams to stick to their boat on the day.

Students being supplied with a panel must be very careful not to bend and break the solar cells or the team may be at risk of being disqualified from the event.

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## **RACE SCHEDULE AND FORFEITS**

Earlier rounds will run according to a printed race schedule. Schools will be given hardcopies to follow and there may also be a large copy pinned to a noticeboard at the event. Teams will be responsible for keeping track of their own races and will need to have checked in at the starting area 2-3 races ahead of time. Final PA reminders will be made for any boats that haven't shown up in a timely manner.

Each team will initially have approximately 15-20 minutes between races. This time is for making modifications or boat repairs and getting ready for the next race. Students are free to take this opportunity to observe the outcome of other races and support their fellow teams.

Plenty of time is given to prepare between races so those not ready without notifying officials of a valid reason will automatically forfeit that particular race.

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## **AWARDS**

Awards will be presented to the top 4 placegetters in both the primary and secondary boat divisions as well as some other discretionary category winners on the day. Major awards go to the winner of the two final knockout competitions with awards also going to the fastest time of the day, best engineered boat, best use of recycled materials, etc.

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## **LUNCH**

A short intermission from racing will take place between the end of the round robins and the start of the knockout competition. This has been scheduled for approximately 12:00pm and we'll do our best to continue on with the knockout draw as quickly as possible.

The pool/s will be open for testing during lunch with the permission of TMSC officials.

There will be no food available at the event and participants asked to bring along their own lunch as per a regular school day.

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## **AMENITIES AND APPROPRIATE CLOTHING**

School toilets can be accessed by heading west along the main building (please see the attached map at the end of this guide).

There will be a number of marquees and trestle tables set up to help provide some shaded work areas but these will likely not be enough for everyone attending the event.

It's an outdoor event and recommended that participants bring along their own drink bottle, hat, sunscreen and some appropriate clothing to cater for Tasmania's variable weather.

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## SCHOOL MARQUEES AND TOOLS

Schools with their own marquees (used for sports carnivals, outdoor events, etc) may bring these along to provide some extra shelter for their teams. Please come and see us on the day to find out where these can be set up.

Teams are expected to bring along their own basic hand tools and spare parts for making boat adjustments or repairs. There will be no access to mains power but battery operated equipment will be permitted provided adequate eye and ear protection is used when necessary.

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## ADVERSE WEATHER

Model solar boats will run in virtually any weather, even in very overcast conditions, so don't bank on a perfectly clear and sunny day of racing. This being said, the event may need to be cancelled if the weather forecast predicts heavy rain or strong winds. Teams are advised to closely monitor their emails as well as the TMSC website/facebook pages for any news of a cancellation. A decision regarding this will be made no later than the day prior to the event, on Monday Nov 24th.

At this stage there's no backup planned but we'll open up a discussion to see if the event can still be run on an alternate day. This may need to be on a weekend if no other weekday can be made to work.

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## SOME OTHER EVENT INFORMATION

Finish times will vary according to how far teams progress through the final knockout competition. Those eliminated in an earlier round may be done by 12:30pm while finalists will race through to the very end. Schools will be free to leave once all their boats have been knocked out or they may like stick around for the presentations.

Hazardous substances, cooling sprays or dry ice (solidified CO<sub>2</sub>) are prohibited in any shape or form. Teams are only permitted to cool their solar panels with water ice.

Pool officials will determine the final positions of each race. If a team believes they've lost due to an unfair incident then this must be raised immediately after the race. TMSC personnel will work together to resolve the issue and return a decision promptly. That decision will then be final and cannot be appealed.

Remember that this is a student competition. Some teacher and parent assistance is permitted but please encourage the students to make any decisions or solve any problems for themselves.

For further information of any kind please contact the TMSC with your questions at [tassolarchallenge@gmail.com](mailto:tassolarchallenge@gmail.com) or see the Challenge website or facebook page at [www.tassolarchallenge.org](http://www.tassolarchallenge.org) and [www.facebook.com/tassolarchallenge](https://www.facebook.com/tassolarchallenge)



Emergency evacuation point

Toilets  
(enter here)

Race pools and  
marquees

Kintora Shotokan Karate

Parking

New Town Rivulet

New

gle

Intercity Cycleway

Intercity Cycleway

Midwood St