

OPEN MASTERS GAMES

ABU DHABI 2026

DHOW SPORT



Updated: February 6, 2026

1. General Information

Traditional Dhow Sailing is a heritage maritime sport in the United Arab Emirates that dates back to when dhows were used for pearl diving, fishing, and transporting goods. In these races, wooden sailing dhows compete using wind power and seamanship skills to reach the finish line first.

1.1. Categories & Boats

- 22-foot dhows – Youth and beginner category.
- 43-foot dhows – Intermediate category.
- 60-foot dhows – Premier and long-distance racing category.

All dhows are traditional wooden boats built according to Emirati heritage standards, and sailors depend on wind and skill to control them.

2. Participation & Rules

- **Registration:** Competitors register through the official marine sports club organizing the race (e.g., Abu Dhabi Marine Sports Club or Dubai International Marine Club).
- **Crew:** Each dhow must have a full crew appropriate for its category.
- **Wind-Powered Only:** Engines are not allowed — only the power of wind and skilled crew.
- **Course:** The racing committee sets the course distance and direction based on weather conditions and safe sailing practices.

3. Winning the Race

Winners are determined by the first dhow to cross the finish line after navigating the course.

4. Safety & Organization

The organizing committee ensures that safety equipment and technical standards are met to make each race competitive and secure.

5. Heritage & Culture

Dhow sailing races are more than competitive events, they celebrate UAE maritime heritage and preserve traditional skills passed down through generations.

6.Date and Venue

6.1. Dates

February 8
Sunday

Date		4:00:00 PM - 4:30:00 PM		

6.2. Venue

[AL MIRFA - Al Mugheirah Beach](#)

