

CLUB SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Rules

1.1. Club racing will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), RYA prescriptions, and any appropriate Class Rules, except as any of these are changed by these sailing instructions. Any class rule that may give any class an unfair advantage by, for example, altering the penalty system or permitting the touching of marks, shall not apply in Club races. However, all Class Rules relating to construction, buoyancy and manner in which the boat is sailed shall apply.

1.2. All sailing is controlled by Draycote Water Sailing Club and may only take place when the Club Burgee is flying on the flagstaff in front of the Clubhouse.

2. Eligibility

2.1. All craft shall comply with and hold a valid class certificate where appropriate.

2.2. Competitors must be members or temporary members of the Club or signed-in guests of a member.

2.3. Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £2,000,000 per incident or the equivalent.

2.4. All boats shall compete under their registered numbers to comply with Rule 77. Under exceptional circumstances a boat may be permitted to carry sail numbers or letters in contravention of Rule 77 or her class rules provided that written application, stating the circumstances, is made to the Race Committee prior to the race.

2.5. All competitors shall show their intention to race by signing on to the appropriate race sheet.

3. Safety

3.1. Adequate personal buoyancy shall be worn at all times whilst on the water unless specifically agreed in writing by the Committee. Wet suits and dry suits are not adequate personal buoyancy. This changes Rule 40.

3.2. During the months of November, December, January, February and March, all persons on the water shall wear exposure proof clothing. For the purpose of this instruction 'Exposure proof clothing' shall mean an adequate expanded neoprene wet suit providing protection from neck to ankle or a dry suit providing watertight cover from neck to ankle.

3.3. The safety of a boat and her entire management, including insurance, shall be the sole responsibility of the owner/person in charge who must ensure that the boat and crew are adequate to face the conditions that may arise in the course of the regatta. Neither these sailing instructions nor any inspection of the boat limits or reduces the absolute responsibility of the owner/person in charge for the boat, the crew, and her management. Neither the race organisers nor Draycote Water Sailing Club shall accept any liability for any loss, material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the race or races. Moreover, every owner/person in charge warrants the suitability of the boat for the race or races.

3.4. A black cone (Triangle) may be flown from the Club flagstaff if the wind strength exceeds 11 knots (Force 4 plus). This is to act as a warning to inexperienced sailors that they should seriously consider staying ashore. If the Bosun feels that sailors are not coping adequately with the conditions, he may instruct them to return to the shore.

3.5. A black ball flown from the Club flagstaff signifies adverse conditions both on and off the water. All those intending to go afloat must report to the bosun before doing so. If the Bosun, at this, or any other later stage, feels that conditions are not suitable, he may instruct any water users to remain on or return to the shore.

4. Notices to Competitors

4.1. Notices to competitors shall be posted on the Official Noticeboard outside the wet bar, adjacent to the Club flagstaff.

5. Changes to Sailing Instructions

5.1. Any change to the sailing instructions shall be posted at least 30 minutes before race time on the day it will take effect and shall be valid for all subsequent races in the series unless indicated to the contrary. The posting of such notice shall be signalled using a halyard on the Club flagstaff.

6. Signals Made Ashore

6.1. Signals made ashore will be displayed on the club flagstaff.

6.2. When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 30 minutes' in the race signals AP.

7. Schedule of Races

7.1. The timing of races shall be displayed on the Official Noticeboard and on the Club's website.

7.2. The schedule of races will be determined by the individual fleets.

8. Class Flags

8.1. Class flag(s) shall be the numerical pennant equivalent to the start number.

9. The Course

9.1. The course(s) shall be displayed on the Clubhouse and / or the Committee Boat.

9.2. If, having displayed the course, it is changed before the start of the starting sequence, this shall be signified by the raising of Flag L with one sound signal. Flag L shall remain hoisted for the race.

10. Marks

10.1. The marks shall be the lettered Club marks, the yellow moveable mark and any other additional marks signified on the course board. A map of the position of the Club marks may be purchased from the Club.

11. Areas That Are Obstructions

11.1. Fishing boats, whether engaged in fishing or not, shall rank as obstructions. For this purpose, the area within which a fishing line extends from, or is being cast from a fishing boat, shall form a part of the fishing boat.

11.2. Rescue boats and Committee Boats, when not displaying definitive start or finish flags, shall similarly rank as obstructions.

11.3. 30 metres from the shore except at the Club compound.

12. Exclusion Areas

12.1. Boats shall not sail at any time within 30 metres of the shore except at the Club compound.

12.2. Landing in an exclusion area is allowed only in an emergency.

12.3. The pontoon and moorings in front of the Clubhouse are for use only by official boats.

13. The Start

13.1. The starting line shall be between a staff displaying a green flag on the Committee Boat and the start mark indicated on the course board. Alternatively, if a Club line start is used, the line will be between mark OL and the transit line on the front of the OOD box.

13.2. Club races (with the exception of Pursuit Races) shall be started as follows. This changes Rule 26.

	Time	Flags	Sound signal	Start number displayed on course board
Warning	0 minutes	Yellow flag hoisted	Sound signal	
Preparatory	+1 minutes	Yellow flag lowered Blue flag hoisted	Sound signal	Number 1
	+3 minutes	Blue flag lowered		
Fleet 1 start	+4 minutes	Red flag hoisted	Sound signal	Number 2
	+6 minutes	Red flag lowered		
Fleet 2 start	+7 minutes	Red flag hoisted	Sound signal	Number 3
	+9 minutes	Red flag lowered		
Fleet 3 start	+10 minutes	Red flag hoisted	Sound signal	Number 4

The sequence is continued until all races are started.

13.3. The preparatory signal for the second and subsequent starts is indicated by the hoisting of the red flag for the previous start. Boats whose preparatory signal has not been made shall keep clear of the starting area and of all boats whose preparatory signal has been made.

13.4. In the case of a General Recall, the recall start shall start 3 minutes after all other starts and previously recalled starts. This alters Rule 29.2.

13.5. Pursuit Races shall be started as follows:

- Classes start according to start times allocated to each class which indicate the minutes from datum that they start. If negative, the start number indicates that the class starts that many minutes before datum. If positive, the start number indicates that the class starts that many minutes after datum. The start numbers allocated to classes will be displayed on the official notice board.
- Red flag hoisted, with sound signal, 27 min before datum (6 min before Oppie start).
- Flag P hoisted, with sound signal, 24 min before datum (3 min before Oppie start).
- Flag P lowered (no sound signal), 22 min before datum (1 min before Oppie start).
- Red flag lowered, with sound signal, 21 min before datum (Optimist start).
- Red flag hoisted, with sound signal at datum.
- A sound signal will be made for each allocated start time when the clock display on the Committee Boat reaches that start time. The starting signal for each class shall be that sound signal.
- If the clock display breaks down, it will be replaced by an Emergency Number Board which will show the minutes to datum with every sound signal before datum and will count up each minute after datum.

13.6. A race may not be started if, in the opinion of the Race Officer, the wind is so light that there is a risk that a significant number of boats may not complete the course before the expiration of the Time Limit set.

14. Shortening or Abandoning After the Start

14.1. Racing for any or all classes may be abandoned, or shortened, in accordance with Rule 32. If the shorten course or abandonment flags are displayed with one or more numerical pennants, then the shortened course or abandonment only apply to those starts indicated by the numerical pennants. **The changes Rule 32.**

15. The Finish

15.1. For all races except Pursuit Races, the finish line shall either be the original start line, or from the OOD box to the OL mark, or between a staff displaying a green flag on a race Committee Boat and a mark of the course.

15.2. At the discretion of the race officer, in exceptional circumstances (like the wind dying completely), a competitor in a single fleet race may be finished on the course by a committee boat or safety boat displaying International Code Flag W. Any competitor so finished will score the number of points in accordance to their finishing position in that race. **This changes RRS 28.1.**

15.3. For Pursuit Races, the finish line shall be a rolling line formed by two power boats which will work their way back through the fleet from the first boat at the end of the race to the last competitor. There may also be fixed finish points at marks of the course, as decided by the Race Officer.

16. Time Limit

16.1. For all races except Pursuit Races, the Time Limit shall be two hours from the start for that class. Boats failing to finish within 30 minutes after the first boat of her class finishes or within the Time Limit, whichever is later, shall be scored "Did not finish". This changes Rule 35.

17. Declarations

17.1. Competitors shall declare that they have completed the race correctly by signing the relevant column of the signing-on sheets.

17.2. For competitors retiring from or not starting a race, the standard codes of RRS Appendix A11 Scoring Abbreviations should be used.

18. Exoneration Penalty, Advisory Hearing and RYA Arbitration

18.1. The Exoneration Penalty and the Advisory Hearing and RYA Arbitration procedures of the RYA Rules Disputes Procedures may be available. Decisions from RYA Arbitration can be referred to a protest committee but cannot be reopened or appealed. See the Protest Kit for details.

19. Protests

19.1. Protests shall be written on forms available at the Race Office and delivered there within 60 minutes after the time of the last boat's finish, except when races have been notified to competitors as being run contiguously ('back-to-back'). In this case protests for all 'back-to-back' races must be made within 60 minutes of the time the last boat finishes for the last of them. The Race Committee may extend this time limit in exceptional circumstances.

19.2. The Protest Committee shall hear protests in approximately the order of receipt as soon as possible.

19.3. Rule 66 is changed by adding this sentence: "On the last day of racing, a party to a hearing may ask for a reopening no later than 30 minutes after being informed of the decision".

19.4. If a Protest Committee awards average points for a series, it should be for races sailed in the whole series, not races so far.

20. Scoring

20.1. The scoring system and discards will be determined by the individual fleets for their own series.

20.2. In the case of a handicap race where for some reason finishing times are not available, a boat shall be scored as per RRS A10(a) or the number of boats finishing that race, whichever is the lower.

20.3. For Pursuit Races, the Great Lakes handicaps will be used. For the Pursuit Race Series, which will run each year from Easter to New Year's Day, the low point scoring system Rule A4 will apply, modified so that the series score of each helm, sailing the same class of boat with the same handicap, will be the total of her race scores with her worst score discarded if 3 or 4 races are completed and the total of her race scores with her worst two scores discarded if 5 or more races are completed.

21. Results

21.1. As part of entering a race your results will be published in the public domain and may be given to the RYA for their Portsmouth Yardstick scheme. While your results contain personal data, it is normal practice to expect that, when entering a race, your results will be published, and this is a condition of entry. It is therefore part of the contract to provide you with race entry and administration that we will publish the results, which may include such information such as sail number, age and gender (if there are age and gender related results).

22. Support Boats

22.1. No support boats are permitted on the water.

23. Radio Communications

23.1. Except in an emergency, a boat that is racing shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats.

24. Local Rules

24.1. All entrants and authorised guests shall also comply with the Club and Water Authority Regulations. DWSC reserves the right to disqualify, without a hearing, any competitor who does not comply with these local rules (this changes RRS 63.1 and A5) and particularly:-

a) No parking of vehicles on any roadways, slipways or grass areas, or blocking roadways or slipways.

b) All motor vehicles shall be parked in accordance with the Club Regulations and any instructions given by the Committee.

c) No motor vehicle shall be used on the Club slipways.

d) No boat trailer or launching trolley shall be left on any boat slipway or where it could be a hazard to others.

e) All craft arriving at the Club must have followed the Check, Clean, Dry programme before arriving at Draycote and commit to following it when they leave Draycote before their next launch. All visitors will be required to sign a disclaimer to this effect.

25. Shallows

25.1. Competitors are advised to check the Notice Board for notification of shallows.

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