

DRAYCOTE WATER SAILING CLUB

CLUB RACING SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

EFFECTIVE 27 OCTOBER 2024

The notation '[DP]' in a rule means that the penalty for a breach of that rule may, at the discretion of the Protest Committee, be less than a disqualification.

1. Rules

- 1.1.** Club racing will be governed by the rules as defined in [The Racing Rules of Sailing](#) (RRS), RYA prescriptions.
- 1.2.** Competitors shall sail in accordance with the [RYA Racing Charter](#).
- 1.3.** Appropriate Class Rules shall apply as standard EXCEPT, any rules that gives an unfair class advantage, e.g. Changing the penalty system or allowing contact with marks.
- 1.4.** [DP] RRS 40.1 applies at all times when afloat.
- 1.5.** [DP] Club [Rules and Regulations](#) apply at all times.

2. Communication

- 2.1.** The official series noticeboard will be [online](#).
- 2.2.** The official notice board for races will be adjacent to the Club flagstaff.

3. Eligibility & Entry

- 3.1.** Entry is open to all boats Permitted under [DWSC Regulation: 16](#).
- 3.2.** All competitors must be current or temporary members of the Club or signed-in guests of a member.
- 3.3.** Entry is free for all current Club Members. Guests and temporary members will be charged a fee of £10 for entering a race in the Pursuit Race series.
- 3.4.** All craft shall comply with and hold a valid class certificate where appropriate.
- 3.5.** Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £3,000,000 per incident or the equivalent.
- 3.6.** Competitors must enter each race by signing on the specific race sheets by the official notice board.
- 3.7.** [DP] A disclaimer must be signed by visiting boats before launching for each visiting boat to state that the Check, Clean, Dry programme has been observed prior to arriving at Draycote Water and will be observed afterwards.
- 3.8.** [DP] All boats shall sail 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 the sail number in use is recorded on the signing on sheets and is not duplicated in that Class.

4. Safety

- 4.1.** 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.

4.2. 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. **This amends RRS 3.**

4.3. 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. **This amends RRS 3.**

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 just that day unless indicated to the contrary. The posting of such notice shall be signalled using Flag L hoisted 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, the warning signal will be made no less than 30 minutes' after removal. **This changes RRS Race Signals.**

7. Schedule of Races

7.1. The timing of races shall be displayed on the official noticeboard.

7.2. The schedule of races shall be displayed in the appropriate Notice of Series.

8. The Course

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

8.2. 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.

9. Marks

9.1. 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.

10. Areas That Are Obstructions

10.1. 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.

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

10.3. 30 metres from the shore except at the Club compound.

10.4. The buoyed-off section around the drainage pipes in the vicinity of marks A and M.

11. Exclusion Areas

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

11.2. Boats shall not sail at any time within the buoyed-off section around the drainage pipes in the vicinity of marks A and M.

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

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

12. The Start

12.1. 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.

12.2. Club races (with the exception of Pursuit Races) shall be started as follows.

This changes RRS 26.

	Time	Lights	Sound signal	Start number displayed on course board
Warning	-4 minutes	Orange light	Sound signal	
Preparatory	-3 minutes	Blue light	Sound signal	Number 1
	-2 minutes	Yellow light	Sound signal	
	-1 minutes	Green light	Long sound signal	
Fleet 1 start	0 minutes	Blue Light	Sound signal	Number 2
	+1 minutes	Yellow light	Sound signal	
	+2 minutes	Green light	Sound signal	
Fleet 2 start	+3 minutes	Blue Light	Long sound signal	Number 3

The sequence is continued until all fleets are started.

12.3. The preparatory signal for the second and subsequent starts is indicated by the blue light replacing the green light 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.

12.4. In the case of a General Recall, the recalled start shall start 3 minutes after all other starts and previously recalled starts. **This changes RRS 29.2.**

12.5. 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 noticeboard.
- Red flag hoisted, with sound signal, 25 min before datum (6 min before Oppie start).
- Flag P hoisted, with sound signal, 22 min before datum (3 min before Oppie start).
- Flag P lowered (no sound signal), 20 min before datum (1 min before Oppie start).
- Red flag lowered, with sound signal, 19 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.

12.6. 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.

13. Shortening or Abandoning After the Start

13.1. Racing may be abandoned, or shortened, in accordance with Rule 32. If the light system is in use then the shorten course signal will be indicated by a solid blue light and flashing yellow light with the letter S being displayed on the digital display below the course board. **This changes RRS 32.**

14. The Finish

14.1. For all races except Pursuit Races, the finish line shall be the original start line.

14.2. At the discretion of the race officer, in exceptional circumstances (like the wind dying completely and a competitor being unable to complete the course):

14.2.1. 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.**

14.2.2. A competitor on Wednesday evening or another multi-fleet race who has completed at least one lap may be finished on the course by a committee boat or safety boat displaying International Code Flag W. Any competitor so finished will have an hour added to the time they last crossed the start / finish line and be counted as having completed the lap they were on for average lap purposes. **This changes RRS 28.1.**

14.2.3. If all competitors are unable to complete the course but have completed at least one lap they may be finished on the course by a committee boat or safety boat displaying International Code Flag W. Any competitor so finished will have their average lap calculated from the last time they crossed the start / finish line. **This changes RRS 28.1.**

14.3. At the discretion of the race officer, they may finish boats with a Great Lakes Handicap of 1244 or higher as they cross the finishing line before other boats without following the shortening course procedure (SI 13.1) if, in the opinion of the race officer, it is not appropriate to start the shortening course procedure for the majority of boats but requiring the slower boats to complete another lap will take too long. **This changes RRS 28.1.**

14.4. Boats which have finished shall not re-cross the finish line in either direction and shall remain clear of the finishing line. Boats re-crossing may be scored at the lowest position. This shall not be grounds for redress. **This changes RRS 62.1(a).**

14.5. For Pursuit Races, the finish line shall be either a rolling line of two RIBs displaying blue flags and / or a single moving RIB displaying a blue flag.

14.5.1. The finish period will start at 100 minutes after datum and will be signalled by one loud sound signal from one of the rolling RIBs.

14.5.2. In order to be awarded a finishing place, boats must cross a finish line after the start of the finish period and should continue racing until they have crossed a finish line.

15. Time Limit

15.1. 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, or at least 15 minutes before water closure, shall be scored “Did not finish”. **This changes RRS 35.**

16. Declarations

16.1. There is no requirement to sign off unless declaring penalties or retirement.

16.2. Signing off shall be completed by writing DNF across the “No.of Laps” and “Stopwatch Time” boxes on the RH side of the signing on sheet on the line used to sign on for that race.

17. Post-Race Penalty, Advisory Hearing and RYA Arbitration

17.1. The Post-Race 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. The Post-Race penalty will be 30%.

18. Protests

18.1. 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 race. The Race Committee may extend this time limit in exceptional circumstances.

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

18.3. On the last day of racing, a party to a hearing may request a reopening no later than 30 minutes after being informed of the decision. **This changes RRS 66.2.**

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

19. Scoring

19.1. The scoring system and discards for each fleet shall be described in the appropriate Notice of Series.

19.2. Where the specific class of boat or helm changes between races within a series they will be classed as a new entry for that series.

19.3. Boats failing to compete in a race (DNC) will be scored for the number of unique entries in the series +1.

19.4. In the case of a handicap race where for some reason finishing times are not available, a boat shall be scored as per RRS A9(a) or the number of boats finishing that race, whichever is the lower.

19.5. For handicap racing, the Great Lakes handicaps will be used.

20. Data Protection

20.1. Results: As part of entering a race your results will be published in the public domain and may be given to the RYA or Great Lakes organisation for their Portsmouth Yardstick schemes. 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 as sail number, age and gender (if there are age and gender related results).

20.2. Photography: By competing in this event, competitors grant to the organisers without payment the right in perpetuity to make, use and show any non-identifiable motion pictures, still pictures and live, taped or filmed television of or relating to the event and consent to these being published in class, club, sponsor and other publications and / or the class, club, sponsor or other websites.

21. Risk Statement

21.1. Rule 3 of the RRS states: "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone." Sailing is by its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore inherently involves an element of risk.

21.2. By taking part in the event, each competitor agrees and acknowledges that:

21.2.1. They are aware of the inherent element of risk involved in the sport and accept responsibility for the exposure of themselves, their crew and their boat to such inherent risk whilst taking part in the event;

21.2.2. They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their property whether afloat or ashore;

21.2.3. They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions;

21.2.4. Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate;

21.2.5. The provision of a race management team, patrol boats and other officials and volunteers by the event organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities;

21.2.6. The provision of patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances;

21.2.7. It is their responsibility to familiarise themselves with any risks specific to this venue or this event drawn to their attention in any rules and information produced for the venue or event and to attend any competitors briefing held for the event.

21.2.8. The organising authority will not accept any liability for loss, material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the regatta.

22. Support Boats

22.1. No support boats are permitted on the water.

23. Radio Communications / Electronic Equipment

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.

23.2 The use of devices to view tracking, distances, angles or positioning during a race are not permitted.

23.3. Electronic timing devices are permitted

23.4. A timing device and electronic compass may be integrated in the same device.

23.5. An electronic device must not be capable of displaying, delivering, transmitting, receiving, calculating, correlating or storing information about wind speed, wind direction, boat speed or boat position.

24. Shallows

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

25. Waste Materials

25.1 No litter or waste materials may be knowingly discharged into the water. Litter may not be placed on official boats and must be returned to shore.

26. Prizes

26.1. The Club only awards prizes for Pursuit Races.

26.2. Prizes for all other races will be determined by the individual fleets.