

Sailing Instructions 2009

1. The Racing Rules of Sailing, RYA Prescriptions, Class Rules and these Sailing Instructions will apply to all boats, whether racing or not, except that boats competing in open meetings will be subject to special Open Meeting Sailing Instructions.
2. Notwithstanding any of the provisions of these Sailing Instructions, the buoyancy, the safety and management of a boat shall be the sole responsibility of the person in charge of her.
3. Every boat shall hold a valid measurement certificate in accordance with her class rules.
4. Every boat shall be insured with a Third Party Indemnity of at least £2,000,000
5. **All persons shall wear an approved buoyancy aid whilst afloat.** Wet suits or dry suits do not constitute adequate personal buoyancy.
6. The Sailing Committee may inspect the buoyancy arrangements of boats and if considered inadequate, a boat will not be allowed afloat.
7. The Club and Watersports Centre are only able to provide safety facilities during the hours of Club racing and certain other specified times. When safety facilities are provided, the Club burgee will be flown at the safety boat hut. Safety cover is only provided in the area visible from the Safety Boat Garage, as shown on the back cover of this Programme.
8. It is the responsibility of Members, Parents and Guardians to dress or ensure that children or wards dress to suit the conditions.
9. It is always the sole responsibility of the crews to decide if it is safe for them to go afloat, bearing in mind the state of their craft, their own sailing experience and ability, and the weather conditions during the time they are afloat.
10. Sailing is not permitted between dusk and dawn.
11. Race entries shall be made before the warning signal on the sheets provided in the Clubhouse. If only one entry is received, the race shall be declared void.
12. In a handicap series, a member may sail any boat with a recognised PY in any race in the series. If more than one class of boat is sailed, each will be treated as separate entries for the series. Except in a class with different PY's according to the rig used, in which case all results will be scored as if the largest rig used in the series had been used throughout the entire series. However the member may elect, before a race, to be handicapped as though a rig with a lower PY is being used.
13. The Flags and Numeral Pennants will be used as class signals as follows:-

Solo Fleet	Numeral Pennant 1
Handicap Fleet	IC Flag 'R'
JAYS	IC Flag 'J'
Handicap Races	IC Flag 'R'

Boards depicting these flags will be used to distinguish between courses intended for different classes.

14. Starts will be from a committee boat. The start line will be between a mast flying an orange flag on the committee boat and an outer limit mark flying an orange flag.
15. Courses will be displayed on the committee boat forming the starting line at the warning signal by letters that correspond to marks of the course and numerals indicating the number of laps to be sailed. Red backgrounds indicate marks to be rounded to port and green backgrounds marks to be rounded to starboard. The first lap of the course will generally be deemed to be completed when the first (windward) mark is passed for the second time.
16. The starting procedure for Fleet Racing will be in accordance with RRS 26. The warning signal will be made 3 minutes before the start i.e. 3, 2, 1, Go. The start signal for the 1st start will be the 3 minute warning signal for the 2nd start etc.

17. In the event of a General Recall, the fleet concerned will start at the end of the fleet start sequence or 3 minutes after the last start. The General Recall signal will be lowered at the 1-minute signal for the following class start. This will also apply for lowering the Individual Recall signal.
18. When a Pursuit Race is shown on the programme, the datum boat will start at the advertised time. The starting times for the other classes will be based on the Club's Handicap system and will be displayed at the Clubhouse before the race. Warning and preparatory signals will not be made for these other classes, but elapsed minutes after the first start will be indicated on the committee boat. Boats will be regarded as racing from 4 minutes before their starting time, and will be recorded DSQ if more than 4 minutes late for their own start. If more than one class of boat is sailed, each will be treated as separate entries for the series. For this purpose a class with different PY's according to the rig used will be regarded as different classes.
19. The starting procedure for Club Handicap Racing will be in accordance with RRS 26. The warning signal will be made 5 minutes before the start i.e. 5, 4, 1, Go. (Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Holcot Handicap series)
20. The finish line will be between a mast flying a Blue flag on the committee boat and an outer limit mark flying an orange flag.
21. The time limit for each race other than a Pursuit race shall be 90 minutes. A boat failing to finish within 20 minutes after the first boat finishes or within the time limit, whichever is later shall be scored 'did not finish'. This replaces RRS 35.
22. When a boat wishes to protest another boat it shall hail the word "PROTEST". Boats, whatever their length, need not display a red flag when protesting. This changes RRS 61.
23. Protests shall be written on forms available from the Race Officer and delivered to him within 45 minutes of the protesting boat finishing the race.
24. Helms need only sign a declaration that the rules were observed within 30 minutes of finishing the race when they have infringed a rule and done the appropriate penalty, or have retired.
25. Points will be awarded as follows: 1st place - 1 point, 2nd place - 2 points, 3rd place - 3 points etc. Boats retiring score number of starters plus 1. Boats disqualified score number of starters plus 2. Non-starters score number of competitors for the series. A competitor is an entrant who ranks as a starter in a race of the series. The lowest total score denotes the winner of the series. This rule replaces RRS appendix section 1 A.
26. If there is a series tie, each boat's race scores shall be listed in order of best to worst (including any discarded races), and at the first point where there is a difference the tie shall be broken in favour of the boat with the best score.
27. A race declared void or not sailed shall be deemed cancelled unless the Sailing Committee orders a re-sail. When one or more races in a series is cancelled, the number of races to count shall be reduced if necessary to keep the proportion of races to count as nearly as possible constant, except that if less than three valid races are sailed, all results shall count for points.
28. The member who is Club Race Officer and the member who is Assistant Race Officer may claim 'average points' for the races they run. A maximum of two OOD average points scores per member may count for each series, with the exception of the Holcot Handicap Series where three scores may be counted. Average points are based on the member's 'non DNC' results.
29. The Race Officer will disqualify boats seen by the race team to have sailed the wrong course, including missing the line when set as part of the course.
30. The Sailing Committee will, in the normal course of events, disqualify from the series concerned any member(s) not fulfilling their duties.