

# Northampton Sailing Club

## 2009 RS Racing Circuit Sailing Instructions (excluding RS Fevas)

Vareo Open Meeting Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July and Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2009

Please note all Event Appendix amendments (E.A.) appear under lined in ***bold italics***

### 1.0 **RULES**

- 1.1 The regatta will be governed by the 'rules' as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing. The regatta is designated category C. There will be no restriction on the number or coverage of advertisers logos or slogans except for the front 25% of the hull, and bottom 500mm of the mainsail, which are reserved for RS Association event sponsors.
- 1.2 The owner of the boat shall be a member of the RS Class Association.
- 1.3 In addition either the helm or crew shall be a member of the RS Class Association. Anyone not complying with this will be disqualified without a hearing. This changes RRS 63.1. This SI cannot be amended by the Event Appendix, the RS Class Association and its designated representative at each event is the sole arbiter of this rule.
- 1.4 Competitors shall complete the entry form and pay the necessary dues in order to be eligible to race.
- 1.5 Any competitors who are aged under 18, shall complete a Parental Disclosure Form, Photography Consent Form and a Medical Consent Form. These can be downloaded from the RS Association website and should be handed in at the event.

### *E.A. Rights to use Names & Likenesses*

*Competitors and / or their Guardians automatically grant to the organising Authority (and any party to which they may delegate this right), without payment the right in perpetuity to make, use and show (including via the internet), any motion pictures, still pictures and live, taped or filmed television, or any other form of media, of or relating to the event.*

- 1.6 When provided at registration, competitors shall make every reasonable effort to display event sponsors promotional items on their boat and sails as directed. If sponsor promotional items come off whilst racing, competitors must obtain replacement items from the RS Association before the start of racing the following day, if the Association has sufficient stocks available.
- 1.7 Any individual caught stealing sponsor promotional items, e.g. flags, banners, prizes, shall be deemed to have committed a gross breach of good manners, and will be reported to the Protest Committee who may call a hearing under RRS 69.
- 1.8 In accordance with RRS 43.1 and ISAF Case 89, no clothing or equipment may be worn on the body of helm or crew to carry liquid of any description, even if for the purpose of re-hydration; this includes camelbacks, water bottles and cans of drink.

### 2.0 **NOTICES TO COMPETITORS**

- 2.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the Official Notice Board as defined in the Event Appendix. *E.A. Located in the Galley*

### 3.0 **CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

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3.1 Any changes to the Sailing Instructions will be posted on the Official Notice Board and signalled to competitors by the flying of code flag L for at least two hours before the advertised start time of the race or races concerned; except that any change to the schedule of races shall be posted by 1900 hours on the day before it will take effect.

## 4.0 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

4.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed at the location described in Event Appendix . .  
*E.A. signals will be hoisted on the flagpole located on the Veranda at the North East corner of the Clubhouse.*

4.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore (with two sound signals; one sound signal when lowered) ‘1 minute’, in ‘Race Signals’ is replaced with ‘not less than 30 minutes’. This changes the meaning of AP in RRS Race Signals.

## 5.0 SCHEDULE OF RACES

5.1 RS Racing Circuit events will comprise of a maximum of 6 races for a two-day event and a maximum of 9 races for a three-day event. The schedule of races will be specified in the 2009 Class Association Yearbook or its replacement on the RS Association website and on the official notice board. No more than 5 races will be sailed in any one day. At the discretion of the Class Representative and the Official Race Officer the following days races may be brought forward to allow for any inclement weather forecasts and this will be signalled in accordance with SI 3.1.

In the event of a race being recalled, restarted, re-sailed or abandoned the next race sailed will be that race with subsequent races being sailed thereafter in their scheduled order.

*E.A. The race times are scheduled to be as follows:-*

<u><i>Saturday</i></u>	<u><i>Briefing @</i></u>	<u><i>12.15</i></u>	<u><i>Sunday</i></u>		
<u><i>18<sup>th</sup> July</i></u>	<u><i>Race 1 @</i></u>	<u><i>13.00</i></u>	<u><i>19<sup>th</sup> July</i></u>	<u><i>Race 5 @</i></u>	<u><i>10.00</i></u>
	<u><i>Race 2</i></u>	<u><i>To follow back to back</i></u>		<u><i>Race 6</i></u>	<u><i>To follow back to back</i></u>
	<u><i>Lunch</i></u>			<u><i>Lunch</i></u>	
	<u><i>Race 3</i></u>	<u><i>To follow</i></u>		<u><i>Race 7</i></u>	<u><i>To follow</i></u>
	<u><i>Race 4</i></u>	<u><i>To follow back to back</i></u>		<u><i>Prize giving</i></u>	<u><i>15.00 (approx.)</i></u>

## 6.0 CLASS FLAGS

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6.1 The class flags will be as follows:

RS Vario      White Flag with pink RS VO

## 7.0 RACING AREA

7.1 The racing area will be as shown on the official notice board

***E.A. Attachment B (available at registration) shows the location of the racing area***

## 8.0 THE COURSES

8.1 The diagram(s) in Event Appendix A show the courses, the order in which marks are to be passed and the side on which each mark is to be left. Courses will also be defined on the official event notice board.

8.2 The number of laps to be sailed will be indicated on the Committee Boat for each course either written on a notice board or by flying the appropriate pennant from numeral pennant 2 to 8 at least five minutes before the warning signal. This changes RRS 27.1

## 9.0 MARKS

9.1 The course marks will be described in Event Appendix A. ***E.A. The course marks will be 1 metre Orange Spherical Buoys,***

## 10.0 THE START

10.1 Races will be started by using RRS 26. Multiple classes sharing a starting line may be started in any order.

10.2 The starting line will be between a mast bearing an orange flag on the Committee Boat at the starboard end and the port-end starting mark.

10.3 Limit marks may be laid adjacent to the Committee Boat. These will rank as starting marks and boats must leave these marks to starboard when starting.

10.4 Boats whose preparatory signal has not been made are reminded of their obligations not to interfere with boats that are racing as set out in RRS 23.1. Any boat observed breaking this rule by the Race Officer may be disqualified without a hearing. This changes RRS 63.1

10.5 A boat starting later than 4 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start. This changes RRS A4.1.

10.6 When there are more than 50 entries in one class two alternative start procedures may be used. The race committee may choose to use a gate start for this class. If so flag G will be flown from the committee boat and Event Appendix C will apply. This changes RRS 26. At the discretion of that class's Owners Club Committee competitors in that class may be split into flights and racing will be organised as per Event Appendix D. Competitors will be advised at the briefing if flights are to be used and a notice to this effect posted on the official notice board.

10.7 Black Flag Rule

10.7.1 At the discretion of the Race Officer the Black Flag Rule as per RRS 30.3 can be used.

10.7.2 If a start using a black flag is subject to a general recall, the sail numbers of the boats identified as infringing this instruction will be displayed on the Committee Boat no later

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than 3 minutes before the preparatory signal of the next start. A long sound signal will be made when the numbers are displayed. This changes RRS 30.3

**10.7.3** Boats so identified shall immediately retire and remain well clear of all boats racing. A boat that fails to comply with this instruction may be disqualified from all races in the series without a hearing. This changes RRS 30.3 & 63.

**10.7.4** It is the sole responsibility of each competitor to find out if their sail number is or is not displayed and then to act in accordance with this instruction.

**10.8** When, after a race has started there is a substantial wind shift during the first leg, the Race Committee in accordance with RRS 32 may abandon the race and restart it.

## **10.9 Minimum Wind Strength**

Races will not be started unless the Race Committee is satisfied that the wind strength in the starting area, and to the best of its belief on the rest of the course, is in excess of an average of four knots for a reasonable period before the start.

## **11.0 CHANGE OF COURSE AFTER THE START**

**11.1** When after a race has started there is a substantial wind shift; the Race Committee may move one or more marks.

**11.2** When the course to be made good is significantly changed by such an alteration, a boat will be stationed near the mark at the start of the leg affected, and will fly code flag "C" over a green or red flag indicating that the direction of that leg lies either to starboard or port respectively of its previous bearing. She will draw attention to this signal by making intermittent sound signals. When the leg affected is to windward, the approximate magnetic bearing of the new direction to the next mark will, when possible, be displayed near the start of that leg. This changes RRS 33.  
***E.A. Any mark to be rounded after rounding the moved mark may be relocated without further signalling to maintain course configuration.***

**11.3** Notwithstanding Sailing Instruction 11.1 a mark will not be moved if it affects the point of sailing of any competitor during the time it is being moved.

## **12.0 THE FINISH**

**12.1** The finish line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the committee boat and the nearby mark, or the finishing mark described in Event Appendix A. ***E.A. The finish line will be between the mast displaying a blue flag on the committee boat or a RIB, and the end of line marker or other mark of the course***

**12.2** A boat that has finished shall then pass completely through the finishing line, and no part of her shall thereafter again cross the finishing line from either direction while the finishing vessel is on station. This changes RRS 28.1. A boat that infringes this Sailing Instruction will be scored DSQ in the race she has just finished; this changes RRS 63.1 & RRS A11

**12.3** For courses that are shortened when the committee boat is in its normal position and flying flag S alongside the class flag, the leading boat shall round the leeward mark and proceed to the normal finish line. All competitors shall complete the number of rounds equal to the leading boat before proceeding to the finish. Where multi classes are racing using the outer loop on a trapezoid course then these classes will be advised of shorten course by having a rescue boat positioned at

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their leeward mark flying code flag S and making repeated sound signals. The leading boat shall round the leeward mark and proceed to the normal finish line. All competitors shall complete the number of rounds equal to the leading boat before proceeding to the finish.

## 13.0 PENALTY SYSTEM

13.1 The two-turn penalty as described in RRS 44.1 & RRS 44.2 shall apply, except for RS600, RS700 and RS800 fleets where a one-turn penalty will apply.

13.2 Touching a mark (other than a starting or finishing line mark) with any part of the boat or crew shall not constitute an infringement of the Rules ; Manhandling a mark which results in an advantage is not allowed and a boat so doing shall promptly retire. If a boat touches a start or finish mark they shall complete a one-turn penalty as described in RRS 44.2. This changes RRS 31.

## 14.0 TIME LIMITS

14.1 The time limit shall be 75 minutes from the starting signal for the first boat. Boats that fail to finish within 20 minutes of the first boat will be scored with their observed position on the course at that time. This changes RRS 35. At the discretion of the Race Officer positions when the boats last rounded the mark nearest the Committee Boat may be awarded. At the discretion of the Race Officer, boats that he expects to finish outside of the time limit may be given their observed position on the course and instructed by rescue boats to return to the starting area for start of the next race. If competitors are finished in this way, they must return immediately to the starting area. There will be no redress if they delay and miss their start.

## 15.0 PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

15.1 Protest forms will be available from the Race Office. They must be delivered there within the protest time limit.

15.2 For each class, the protest time limit is one hour after the last boat finishes, or where two or more races are to be sailed without coming ashore between them, within one hour of the last boat finishing the last race. ***E.A. The protest time limit. In 15.2 "one hour is replaced by 30 minutes"***

15.3 Notices will be posted no later than 30 minutes after the expiry of the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties to a hearing or named as witnesses. It shall be the responsibility of competitors to check the notice board for such notices, obtain their copy of the protest form and make sure that they and their witnesses attend the hearing.

15.4 On the last day of racing a competitor's request for reopening a hearing shall be delivered:

- (a) Within the protest time limit if the party requesting reopening was informed of the protest committee's decision on the previous day;
- (b) No later than half an hour after the party requesting reopening was informed of the protest committee's decision on that day.

This changes RRS 66.

15.5 Where an appropriate judge is appointed to an event the three stage hearing process (advisory, mediation, protest) will apply. Where a competitor accepts a penalty after mediation they will have points equal to 20% of the total entry for their class for the event added to their finishing position. For such events Event Appendix B will be posted on the official notice board.

## 16.0 SCORING SYSTEM

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**16.1** The Low Points scoring system of RRS Appendix A will apply.

**16.2 Discards** Boats will exclude their “worst” results as follows:

1 - 3 races sailed                      no excluded score

4 - 7 races sailed                      1 excluded score

8 - 10 races sailed                    2 excluded scores

Two races are required to be completed to constitute the event.

**16.3 Series/event tie** If, after discard, two or more boats have the same points total the tie will be broken in accordance with RRS Appendix A8.1. If there is still a tie this will be broken in favour of the boat with the best excluded result. This changes RRS A 8. If a tie still exists then the tie will be broken in accordance with RRS Appendix A8.2. For the purpose of this rule the last race will be taken to mean the last race actually completed on the water.

## **17.0 SAFETY REGULATIONS**

**17.1** Adequate personal buoyancy for crewmembers shall be worn at all times whilst racing. Neither a wetsuit nor a drysuit constitute adequate personal buoyancy. This changes RRS 40.

**17.2** Wetsuits or drysuits shall be worn by all crewmembers between 1st November and 30th April inclusive. This changes RRS 40

**17.3** A boat that retires from a race shall indicate this fact accordingly upon the retirement sheet or on the declaration sheet if applicable. The event appendix may require additional actions to be taken by competitors retiring.

**E.A. A declaration sheet will be displayed near the official notice board which must be signed within 30 minutes of the last boat finishing in each race ONLY by competitors who have retired.**

**E.A. It is not permitted to land outside the club enclosure except in an emergency.**

## **18.0 REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT**

**18.1** For the series of races comprising an event only the helm named on the entry form will be eligible. If a different helm completes a race in the same boat then they will be considered a separate entry and their results cannot be combined with another helm’s results. In two person boats, however, the registered crew for a specific event may swap with the helm as desired. Crews may only be changed during the event from the person named on entry form with written permission in advance from the Race Committee or Class Representative. If it is known at start of the event that you will have to change crew during the event then both crews should be registered on entry form along with which day(s) they will be sailing. Permission will only be given to change crew as long as there is no performance gain from change of crew.

**18.2** Where event results are combined to form a circuit then only results scored by the same helm will count, results from a different helm shall not be combined, even when helming the same boat.

## **18.3 Distinguishing Numbers**

Under exceptional circumstances, the Race Committee may permit a boat to use sails carrying a distinguishing number other than that required by RRS 77 and RRS Appendix G.

**18.3.1** Such permission is only valid if sought in writing before use.

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**18.3.2** Where a hull, spars or sails are damaged to such an extent that they cannot be used in the next race after all reasonable steps are taken to carry out repairs then competitors may change equipment with the prior agreement of the RS Events Committee.

## **19.0 EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS**

### **19.1 Measurement / Checking**

A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules and sailing instructions. On the water, a boat can be instructed by a race committee measurer to proceed immediately to a designated area for inspection.

### **19.2 Class Conformity**

Every boat shall comply with the current relevant class rules. Failure to do so may result in disqualification without a hearing. This changes RRS 63.1.

**19.3** RS200 only - The use of a pole to control the clew of the spinnaker is not permitted and the spinnaker may not be flown in a goose-winged fashion on the opposite side to the mainsail. The pole may be carried but not used.

**19.4** Velocitec units specifically supplied by the RS Association may be used during racing. The display must be covered and may only be used for training purposes.

## **20.0 DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY**

### **20.1 General**

The race organisers shall not be responsible for any loss, damage, death or personal injury howsoever caused to the owner/competitor, his skipper or crew as a result of their taking part in the race or races. Moreover, every owner/competitor warrants the suitability of his boat for the race or races.

**20.2** The safety of a boat and her entire management including insurance shall be the sole responsibility of the owner/competitor racing the boat, who shall ensure that the boat is fully found, thoroughly seaworthy and manned by a crew sufficient in number and experience who are physically fit to face bad weather. The owner/competitor shall be satisfied as to the soundness of the hull, spars, rigging, sails and all gear. He shall ensure that all safety equipment is properly maintained, stowed and in date and that all crew know where it is kept and how it is to be used.

**20.3** Neither the establishment of these Sailing Instructions nor any inspection of the boat under these conditions in any way limits or reduces the absolute responsibility of the owner/competitor for his crew, the boat and the management thereof. The crews are nonetheless advised to satisfy themselves as to the experience of the skipper and the adequacy of all safety equipment and insurance arrangements.