



SAILING INSTRUCTIONS for Club Racing (Amended May 2023)

1. Racing Rules

- 1.1.** Racing will be governed by the Racing Rules of Sailing 2021-2024 (RRS) and the prescriptions of the RYA, except where any such rules are changed by these Sailing Instructions.

2. Entries

- 2.1.** All current club members are eligible to race. In order to sign on for a race using the eRace system (see 5.1) members should ensure that the boat to be sailed is registered with the club. Visitors are welcome to compete for a maximum of three times in any one membership year and must be signed in by a current member.
- 2.2.** An efficient buoyancy aid shall be worn both when afloat and on the club pontoon.
- 2.3.** It's a helms absolute responsibility to ensure their own, and their crews, safety when deciding to sail/ race.

3. Changes to these instructions

- 3.1.** Changes will be notified via the club web email system and these Sailing Instructions amended accordingly.

4. Schedule of Series races and Eligibility

- 4.1.** All Sunday series- Two races back to back with first start at 10:30 hrs. Fleet starting sequence- first start Handicap fleet, second start Laser fleet. NOTE- Fleet starts may be combined if only a few boats are racing.
- 4.2.** Wednesday evening series- Combined fleets with the start time as stated in the Summer Race Programme.
- 4.3.** Members may sail any registered boat in a long Series. In a short series only one Class of boat may be sailed.

5. Signing On and Scoring

- 5.1.** Competitors must sign on by entering their sail number into the race computer. It is a member's responsibility to ensure the Membership or Racing Secretary has been advised of their sail number.
- 5.2.** In the event of sailing with an unregistered sail number, or a borrowed sail/dinghy, the helm must sign on manually on the sheet provided.
- 5.3.** If a competitor retires after the race start the race team must be informed., or be scored 'Did not compete'
- 5.4.** There is no requirement to Sign Off after a race.

6. Racing area

- 6.1.** A reminder from the general club rules:- boats must keep at least 50 metres clear of any fishermen on the banks of the reservoir. (This rule also applies to boats not racing).

Courses

- 6.2.** Race Box start- Courses will be displayed on the course board at the side of the race box and on individual numbered boards on the front of the race box.. Competitors must sail between the shore and the Finish Line Buoy (Orange marked 'F')- positioned in front of the race box- on EVERY lap.
- 6.3.** Committee Boat start- The course will be displayed on the committee boat. Competitors must cross the Start/Finish line on EVERY lap when sailing the leg from the final mark to the first mark of the course.
- 6.4.** The primary club marks are orange spherical buoys which are numbered with odd numbers from 1 to 7 along the southern shore and with even numbers from 2 to 8 along the northern shore. Other marks such as orange pillar buoys with alphabetical letters may be used at the Race Teams discretion.
- 6.5.** Race Teams may set any course format they feel best suited to the prevailing conditions.
- 6.6.** A 360 degree turn will need to be made by any boat that touches a mark of the course.

7. Starting Line

- 7.1.** Race Box start- The start line is a transit between the fixed pole on the front of the race box and a moveable red/white pole on the shore. The outer distance mark (ODM) is a white unmarked buoy. NOTE-due to drift the ODM may not be exactly on the transit of the poles.
- 7.2.** Committee boat start- The start line (which is also the finish line) will be between the signal mast on the committee boat flying an orange or Class flag (See 7.4 below) and an outer distance mark (ODM) . The ODM will be a yellow spherical Dan Buoy flying code flag 'O' (Red and Yellow diagonal)
- 7.3.** An orange flag on the committee boat flagstaff indicates that the line is set, the flag will be lowered if the line has to be re-set and hoisted again after re-setting. No sound signals given.
- 7.4.** The Orange flag will be lowered as the Class flag for the first start is raised. (The Class Warning Signal)

8. Class Flags

8.1. The Class flags are Handicap- Yellow with a Black 'H', Laser White with a Red Laser logo.

8.2. The flag signalling a combined fleet start (both Classes start together) will be Code flag 'U' (Red and White).

9. Starting Procedure

9.1. Races will be started using RRS rule 26 amended to a 3 minute start sequence. The sequence will be continuous until all fleets have started.

9.2. The duration or failure of any sound signal will bear no significance.

Race Signals

Min's BEFORE Start Signal	Visual Signal	Raised or Lowered	Sound Signal	Signal Means
3 minutes	Class Flag	Raised	1 hoot	Warning
2 minutes	Flag 'P' or Black flag	Raised	1 hoot	Preparatory
1 minutes	All flags except Class flag	Lowered	1 hoot	1 Minute to start
0 minutes	Class flag	Lowered	1 hoot	Start

Flag meanings-

Flag 'P'- Preparatory signal (Racing rules apply)

Black Flag –Rule 30.3 in force (DSQ if in the prohibited zone bounded by the start line and 1st mark in the minute before the start.

Flags 'I' and :Z' As designated by the RRS may be used at the Race Teams discretion

9.3. Individual recalls will be indicated by a second sound signal accompanied by Flag X, every effort will be made to hail the boat(s) concerned. However it is the responsibility of each helm to ascertain whether they have started correctly.

9.4. A General Recall will follow the standard format of RRS rule 29.2. It will be indicated by two further sound signals and raising of the First Substitute flag. The Warning Signal for the new start will be made one minute after lowering the First Substitute (one sound signal). The Race Team has the option to use the Black flag on any start. On a Sunday, if there is a General Recall of the Handicap Fleet the new fleet Warning Signal will be made following the Laser Start Signal, and will follow the procedure as in 9.2 above.

10. Ending a race or shortening course

10.1. The Race Team will raise a Blue flag indicating 'on station for the finish'. To end a race the standard RRS shortened course procedure will be made at any time after the raising the Blue flag. i.e. before the finishing boat rounds the leeward mark, code flag 'S' will be displayed with two sound signals.

NOTE- Average lap time does NOT apply if the course is shortened part way through a lap. The TOTAL race elapsed time is used to calculate the result. ie. The number of laps is entered as '1' irrespective of the number of laps actually sailed.

10.2. Competitors who have finished a race and are waiting to start another race must keep clear of the finish line and competitors who are still racing.

11.Length of Race

11.1. Corrected times will be calculated using average lap times, the length of the race will be determined by the Race Team dependent upon the prevailing conditions.

11.2. On a long course if a fleet becomes widely spread the Race Team may decide to shorten the race for the slower boats and allow the faster boats to complete another lap.

12.Protests

12.1. Race Box start- The helm of a protesting yacht shall inform the Race Team within 15 minutes of the finish of the last race that day, a protest cannot be lodged later.

12.2. Committee Boat start- The helm of a protesting yacht must inform the Race Officer immediately after crossing the finish line, a protest cannot be lodged later.

12.3. Protest Forms will not be used. Protests will be heard and determined by an ad hoc protest committee.

13.Scoring System

13.1. The Low Point scoring system, RRS Appendix A, will apply.