

Sailing Instructions for Club Racing 2026

1. RULES

Racing will be governed by the rules as defined in the ISAF Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) 2025-2028.

2. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any changes to the Sailing Instructions, or to the Sailing Programme, will be posted on the Official Notice Board, located in the clubhouse foyer, at least one hour prior to the race or races concerned.

3. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

Signals made ashore will be displayed on the flagpole between the clubhouse and the Race Office.

4. STARTING

- i. Starting times will be as indicated in the Sailing Programme.
- ii. In Fleet Racing, fleets will start at three-minute intervals in the following order:

Flying Fifteen

Handicap combined or Handicap Asymmetric then Handicap Conventional (PY<1244)

GP 14

Mirror, Tera & Slow Handicap (PY ≥1244)

- iii. The warning signal for each fleet shall be displayed six minutes before that fleet's start.
- iv. When there is only one fleet start the preparatory signal shall be displayed three minutes before that start.
- v. When there are starts for more than one fleet, the preparatory signal shall be displayed three minutes before the first start and left flying until the last start. This changes RRS 26
- vi. The warning signals for each fleet shall be:

Flying Fifteen - Naval Numeral 6

Handicap Asymmetric - Code Numeral 5

Handicap Conventional – Code Numeral 7

GP 14 International - Code Flag A

Mirror, Tera & Slow Hcp International - Code Numeral 6

All Classes - Code Numeral 7

- vii. Races will normally be started from the Committee Boat, stationed at the starboard end of the starting line. Starting signals shall be displayed from the mast of the Committee Boat.
- viii. If a race is to be started from the shore, starting signals shall be displayed from the club flagpole. The Race Officer will inform competitors before they launch that the race will be started from the shore.
- ix. When races are to be started from the Committee Boat, the starting line shall be formed by bringing the mast of the Committee Boat into line with an outer limit mark, displaying an orange flag.
- x. An inner limit mark displaying a white flag will also be laid and boats passing between it and the Committee Boat at any time will be liable to disqualification, at the discretion of the Race Committee.
- xi. If a race is to be started from the shore the starting line shall be formed by bringing the black pole on the shore in to line with Mark '0'
- xii. A minimum of two boats, which are eligible to enter the race, must come to the starting area to constitute a race.

5. COURSES

- i. The course to be sailed shall be displayed on the course board attached to the gunwale of the Committee Boat approximately six minutes before the start of a race.
- ii. The marks of the course, the order in which they are to be rounded, their required side and the number of laps shall be shown on the course board.
- iii. The numbers of marks to be rounded to port shall be displayed on a red background and the numbers to be rounded to starboard shall be displayed on a green background. The number of laps shall be displayed on a black background.
- iv. Separate courses for different fleets may be displayed on the upper and lower sections of the course board.
- v. When the NOR requires a race to be sailed on a Windward/Leeward course (e.g. the Asymmetric Cup) a discrete Windward/Leeward course shall be displayed on one section of the course board. A different course for all other fleets shall be displayed on the other section of the course board.
- vi. A black square shall be taken to mean the word, 'then'.
- vii. The letters, 'Yz' on a black background indicate that the start/finish line is part of the course, and that boats must sail through the start/finish line on each lap.
- viii. If the race is to be started from the shore the Race Officer will post the course on the notice board in the clubhouse foyer and advise all competitors of the course before they launch.

6. MOVING MARKS

- i. Marks of the course may be moved before or during a race at the discretion of the Race Officer.
- ii. The Race Officer shall attempt to indicate the new position of the mark to boats before they round the previous mark. This changes RRS 33.

7. SHORTENED COURSES

- i. If the course is shortened International Code Flag 'S' shall be displayed, accompanied by two sounds.
- ii. If the course is shortened for specific fleets, the Fleet Flags (warning signal flags) for those fleets to be shortened shall also be displayed.
- iii. If the course is to be shortened for all fleets, no Fleet Flags shall be displayed. This adds to RRS 32.
- iv. When the course has been shortened at the start/finish line, boats in the Handicap, Mirror/Tera/Slow Handicap fleets, or in races in which all classes participate, will finish when they next pass through the start/finish line, irrespective of the number of laps they have sailed.
- v. When finishing other than at start/finish line, all boats will complete the same number of laps as the leader in their fleet.
- vi. At the discretion of the Race Officer, International Code Flag 'Q' may be flown, accompanied by two sounds, at any time after the start. Junior helms and junior crews competing in boats eligible for the Mirror/Tera/Slow fleet are eligible to elect to finish when they next pass through the start/finish line, irrespective of the number of laps they have sailed. No other signals will be made. Junior helms are defined as under 12 and of low competence, Junior crews are defined as under 7 at the date of the relevant race. The eligibility for Junior status shall be at the discretion of the Sailing Secretary in accordance with the spirit under which this rule was introduced with a priority placed on maintaining fairness of the competition. Any disputes shall be determined by the Sailing Committee.

8. FINISHING

The finishing line shall be either:

- i. A line that has been used as a Start Line between the mast of the Committee Boat displaying a blue flag and the outer limit mark displaying an orange flag.
- ii. Between the mast of the Committee/Rescue Boat displaying a blue flag and the mark next to which it is stationed.
- iii. Between the black pole on the lakeshore and Mark '0'.
- iv. A line that has been used as a Start Line between the mast of the Committee Boat displaying International Code Flag Q in accordance with SI 7.vi. and the outer limit mark displaying an orange flag.

9. **RECALLS**

- i. If a General Recall is signalled the First Substitute flag shall be displayed, accompanied by two sounds.
- ii. The preparatory signal for a new start for the recalled fleet shall be displayed one minute after the First Substitute flag is removed (one sound). This changes RRS 29.2
- iii. Starts for any succeeding fleets shall follow the new start at three-minute intervals.

10. **TIME LIMIT**

- I. The Race Officer may terminate a race, for any fleet, at any time after thirty minutes have elapsed from the finishing time of the leading boat in that fleet.
- II. All boats in that fleet still racing will be scored as DNF.

11. **SERIES SCORING**

- i. The low point scoring system defined in RRS Appendix A will apply.
- ii. Any series sailed over a period of time longer than one weekend shall be designated a 'series longer than a regatta' and will be scored in accordance with RRS A8.
- iii. Club Championship Weekend Series and Fleet Challenges when 3 races or more are sailed the worst score will be excluded; if fewer than 3 races are sailed all scores will count.
- iv. All other Series Helms shall count $(n/2) + 1$ races towards their series score, where 'n' = the number of races sailed.
- v. Helms who perform Race Officer or Rescue duty during a series will be awarded a 3rd place position for one race if 2 races are sailed, and for two races when 3 or more races are sailed on the same day.

12. **CHAMPIONSHIP SCORING**

- i. The low point scoring system defined in RRS Appendix A will apply.
- ii. The seven Championship Weekend Series will count towards the Club Championship.
- iii. If 7 or 6 series are sailed, count 5.
If 5 series are sailed, count 4.
If less than 5 series are sailed, count all.

13. **PERSONAL HANDICAPS**

- i. Personal Handicaps shall only be used for the night jar series.
- ii. Personal handicaps will be set by analysing the first 6 series races and setting and average handicap over the first seven races analysed. This shall be used for the series. Sailors must have completed 3 of the first 6 races to be provided with a

personal handicap and be eligible for personal handicap series trophy's. Analysis is carried out by the sailing secretary.

- iii. The personal handicap of any sailor may be adjusted at any time.

14. **PURSUIT RACING**

- i. Pursuit race start times shall be posted on the club notice board.
- ii. If any boats are on the course side of the starting line at their starting signal the Race Committee shall promptly display International Code Flag X accompanied by one sound. The flag shall be displayed until all such boats are completely on the pre-start side of the starting line or one of its extensions. This changes RRS 29.1
- iii. If a General Recall is signalled (First Substitute flag displayed accompanied by two sounds) all Classes will be recalled and the complete starting sequence shall begin again.

15. **PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS**

- i. The Exoneration Penalty (and the Advisory Hearing and RYA Arbitration Procedures) of the RYA Rules Disputes Procedures will be available. See Official Notice Board for details.
- ii. The Exoneration Penalty will be a 20% Scoring Penalty as stated in RRS 44.3 (c) except that the minimum penalty shall be two places, unless that would result in a score worse than a retired place.
- iii. Protest Forms are available from the Race Officer.
- iv. Protests must be handed to the Race Officer within 60 minutes of the last boat finishing the last race prior to coming ashore, or the Race Committee signals no more racing today, whichever is the later.

16. **SAFETY**

- i. The safety of a boat, her decision to race and her entire management, including insurance, shall be the sole responsibility of the owner/competitor racing the boat.
- ii. A valid Certificate of Insurance of not less than £5,000,000 must be held by all boats.
- iii. All sailors must wear a Personal Flotation Device of at least CE50 Newtons, or equivalent, at all times. International Code Flag 'Y' will not be flown. This changes RRS 40.

17. **MEASUREMENT**

- i. All boats racing must hold a valid Class Measurement Certificate, if applicable, subject to inspection by the Sailing Committee upon request.
- ii. A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules and Sailing Instructions.

- iii. All boats must be sailed in a configuration recognised by the appropriate Class Association and for which a valid Portsmouth Handicap Number is available.