

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS - 2011

CONDITIONS OF RACING

All races are to be sailed under ISAF rules and subject to special RYA provisions and local rules below.

Members enter all races and cruises at their own risk. Please see safety policy statement on page 21 and in Clubhouse.

A Safety Boat will be provided whenever possible for races, with priority for Junior races, but it is emphasised that the primary duty of the Safety Boat crew is to assist people in trouble and not to salvage boats or equipment.

Attention is drawn to the following International Sailing Federation Rules:

Rule 1.1 A boat or competitor shall give all possible help to any person or vessel in danger.

Rule 4 The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone.

CONDUCT OF RACES

The appointed Officer of the Day shall have the power to postpone, shorten or abandon any race, and may give special sailing instructions for any race on the entry form.

A minimum of two boats is necessary for a race to be sailed.

If a Safety Boat is unavailable the OD will only take the decision to start a race if in his opinion the conditions are safe, and will inform all competitors of the fact. However the final responsibility lies with the competitor

Race Entry and Declaration:

Forms will be posted in the Clubhouse. Helmsmen are responsible for signing on before starting the race, entering details of their boat with name & number, and for signing off within 20 minutes of coming ashore. Failure to do so means that the boat has not participated or finished. If a competitor retires from the race or does not finish it the Declaration should be marked 'RTD'.

START, FINISH AND COURSE

There are 2 starting and finishing lines The usual line is the transit of the black and white poles on the balcony of the Clubhouse Bridge and on the waterfront with black and white poles on the opposite bank with orange opposite triangles. There is a similarly marked line to the East of this just upstream of the slip on the opposite bank. The use of this line will be indicated by a board marked 'E' in front of the course boards

The course is defined by indicator boards fixed to the balcony rails of the Clubhouse. Locations of marks are illustrated on the chart in the Clubhouse

Race flags are flown from the yard on the Bridge. Unless otherwise indicated all races are Handicap races:

Starting Procedure: The ISAF starting procedure will be used as follows:-

Warning Signal	5 minutes before start signal	Class Flag up: 1 sound
Prep Signal 1	4 minutes before start signal	Flag 'P' up, 1 sound
Prep Signal 2	1 minute before start signal	Flat 'P' down, 1 sound
Start Signal	At Start	Class flag down, 1 sound

Individual Recall: If one or more boats are over the line

- 1 sound; Class Flag lowered to half mast

When boat(s) clear line - Class Flag lowered

It is the responsibility of the boat concerned to re-cross the line within 4 minutes of the start

General Recall: All boats return to re-start:- 2 sounds. First substitute flag hoisted.

New preparatory signal 1 minute after first substitute flag lowered

Shortening Course:

If the length of the course must be reduced during the race the 'S' Flag will be broken out and accompanied by two sound signals before the leading boat crosses the finishing line. Occasionally the OD may send instructions via the safety boat to finish on a mark, buoy or the Safety Boat itself.

Abandonment of Races:

If a race is abandoned after the preparatory signal the flag 'N' will be broken out. Abandonment of a race by the OOD may be carried out if no boat has finished within 2 hours (unless otherwise specified) of the start, or if after 1 ½ no boat is unlikely to finish in that time, or if the race conditions are such that the safety of the competitors is at risk. When the abandon signal is given all competitors should return immediately to the Clubhouse and sign the declaration as SAFE to indicate their return.

Committee boat starts and finishes,

In this case the committee boat shall be anchored in an appropriate position to start the race. An outer mark to demark the line will be notified which may be a temporary buoy, mooring buoy or a conspicuous mark on the shore. The committee boat will show the signal flags and sound the horn, but the course will be displayed on the club in the usual way.

Unless otherwise notified the finish will be on the same line.

Protests & Penalties – generally in accordance with ISAF rules and Dispute Procedures excepting that **all Club races will be decided by the RYA Rules Disputes procedure using an Advisory hearing or Arbitration.** There will not be further appeal to a Protest Committee.

Notice of a dispute shall be handed to the Race Officer (OD) within ½ hour of finishing the course. The Arbitrator/Advisor will hear the dispute at the earliest opportunity.

Junior races will generally have an Advisory Hearing. Competitors should be advised before the start of the race by the OD. Unless stated otherwise Arbitration will be used and the Boat found in the wrong will accept a 20% exoneration penalty. (20% of number of entries, no other boats place affected). The Advisor or Arbitrator may be a racing coach, the OD or an experienced racer. For details see the OD information on the Bridge

LOCAL RULES & SIGNALS

Marks & Mark Room:

- Withies are not marks of the course
- Competitors are not permitted to pass between the shore of Havergate Island and Dove Point cardinal mark.
- Mark Room shall be 2 boats lengths unless otherwise stated by the OD

Penalties:

(a) All turning penalties shall be 1 turn comprising a tack and gybe as described in the ISAF rules.

(b) After completing the course to the next leg, or after the race, or after an advisory hearing a competitor may accept an **exoneration penalty** of 20% of the entries to the race, minimum 2 places.

Touching Moored Boats:

A boat (including crew and equipment) which, while racing, touches any moored craft shall immediately retire from the race unless she considers that she was forced on to that craft by another boat, in which case she shall protest against that boat. A boat is racing from her Preparatory Signal 4 minutes before the start until she has either finished or retired. This rule shall not apply to touching moored buoys and ropes.

Buoyancy Aids: It is obligatory that dinghy crews wear buoyancy aids. Dayboat crews are recommended to wear lifejackets especially in strong weather.

Boat Buoyancy: Owners must ensure that their boats are seaworthy before going afloat. Dinghies must conform to class buoyancy requirements, which should be regularly tested. Bungs and hatches to buoyancy tanks must be checked and secure.

Dayboats without built-in buoyancy should carry appropriate flares at all times.

JUNIOR RACING

Junior Races are open to helmsmen under the age of 17 yrs on 1st September.

Responsibility for allowing Juniors to race lies solely with their parents or guardians.

Adults in Junior Races : Adults may crew for junior helmsmen but boats raced in this way are not eligible for any trophy awarded on the result of a single race, and are awarded a 2 point penalty when racing in a series.

CODE FLAGS FOR RACE SIGNALS

Club Handicap Class	Numeral Pennant 3
Wayfarer	Flag I
Mirrors,	Flag M
Laser	Flag V
BombayTomtit	Flag B
Toppers	Flag T
Feva	Flag F
DayBoats	Numeral Pennant 7
Cruisers	Numeral Pennant 3
Postponement	Answering Pennant
Individual Recall	Class flag half mast
General Recall	Flag 1 st Substitute
Shortened Course	Flag S
Race Abandoned	Flag N
Pursuit Race Finish	Flag S
Safety Boat Recall	Flag Q

SCORING SYSTEM FOR RACE SERIES

The "Low point system" (see ISAF rule A4) will be used for series races.

Races not started or abandoned shall not be counted as part of the series and discards made according to reduced number.

Finishing Boats First place 1 point, second place 2 points, etc

Retiring boats The same points as the number of boats entering

Disqualified Boats 1 point more than the number of boats entering

Exoneration Penalty 20% of boats entered, minimum 2 places. Other places are unaffected

Boats not Competing The same points as the score of the last finishing boat in the race of the series having the largest number of boats starting, discounting boats which have not sailed in at least half the sailed races.

Where no boat competes in every race of the series, the number of races to count shall be the largest number sailed by any one boat less the appropriate discard.

Boats Unable to Compete because a member of the normal crew is committed to OOD, Safety Boat, instructing or, at the Commodore's discretion other club duties, shall score the average of all scores for races in which they entered

Discards The score for one or more races may be discarded as allowed for the particular series after all scores have been decided as above. The number of discards allowed is as follows:-

Number of Races sailed	1-2	3-5	6-10
Number of Discards	Nil	1	2

Should there be a tie on total points between two or more boats, the tie shall be broken in favour of the boat or boats with the most first places and, should any such boats remain tied, the most second places and so on. Should this method fail to resolve the tie the process outlined in ISAF A8 should be followed .

CLASS HANDICAPS

* 10 Footer	154
29er	84
* Bombay Tomtit	100
Drascombe Lugger	120
Hawk 20	100.5
Laser 1	98
Laser 2	94
Laser 3000	94
Laser 4000	82
Laser Pico	115
Laser Pico (Race Sail)	114
Laser Radial	100
Laser Stratos	
- Plate	98
- Keel	100
* Mirror	126
RS Feva:	
- S version	115
- XL version	109
RS 200	96.5
Seabird Half Rater	112
Thames Tideway	132
Topaz Omega	98
Topaz Tres	107
Topaz Uno Race	109
Uno (no	114
Spinnaker)	
Topper	117
Wayfarer (reference class)	100

Handicaps are derived from the RYA Portsmouth rating by dividing the class PY number by 1103 (Wayfarer PY). Hence Wayfarer =100
Rounded to nearest 0.5 point

If you sail a boat not listed, the OD can usually help with the PY number (Sheets in the Bridge drawer and RYA online).

* Local experience exists for these classes to calculate local handicaps which differ from their Portsmouth Number and these will be used in all races.