

Sussex Yacht Club

Sailing Instructions

1. Rules

- 1.1. All Club racing will be governed by:-
 - 1.1(a) The Racing Rules of Sailing 2017 - 2020 ("RRS") and any revisions thereto, except as changed by these Sailing Instructions.
 - 1.1(b) The prescriptions of the Royal Yachting Association.
 - 1.1(c) The rules of competing classes except as changed by these Sailing Instructions.
 - 1.1(d) Any notice of race issued by the Club, except as changed by these Sailing Instructions.
 - 1.1(e) These Sailing Instructions, including changes made in compliance with Instructions 2 and 3.
 - 1.1(f) Competitors undertake to sail in accordance with the RYA Racing Charter, which can be found at the front of the RYA rule book (Racing Rules of Sailing 2017-2020).

1.2. Special Rules

- 1.2(a) Competitors participate in Club racing entirely at their own risk (See RRS 4, Decision to Race). The Club will not accept any liability for material damage, personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with, prior to, during or after any Club event.
- 1.2(b) Each participating boat must be insured with valid third party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £2,000,000 for each and every claim and shall, upon request, produce evidence of such cover to a member of the Sailing Committee.
- 1.2(c) For certain sponsored races competitors may be required to carry and display promotional material.

2. Notices to Competitors

International Code Flag L will be flown from the start/finish mast when a notice has been posted.

- 2(a) Notices to competitors will be posted on notice board by capstan for river and sea race,
- 2(b) Notice to competitors on notice board by undercroft for canal race.

3. Changes to the Sailing Instructions

- 3(a) Any changes to these Sailing Instructions will be posted at least one hour before the scheduled start time of the first race to which the change will apply.

4. Eligibility of Competitors

- 4(a) To qualify for racing entry forms must be completed and entry fee paid 1 hour before race,
- 4(b) Helmsman and crew may interchange during a series provided that at least one of them shall be consistently on board throughout the series.

5. Eligibility of Boats

- 5(a) All competing boats shall, where such rules exist, conform to their class rules at all times whilst racing. The Sailing Committee reserves the right, at any time, to request the presentation of a valid certificate of measurement where applicable and further reserves the right to measure any boat and/or her equipment. Such certificate or boat or equipment shall be produced at a time and place nominated by the Sailing Committee and failure to comply with this request may result in summary disqualification from the event or series then current.
- 5(b) Safety checks may be imposed on boats racing from the Club. Boats found to be defective in any way will not be permitted to race until such notified faults have been rectified and, upon written notice from the member, been inspected and approved to the satisfaction of a member of the Sailing Committee.
- 5(c) RRS 77, Identification on sails, will apply unless specific permission is obtained from the Race Officer permitting the boat to use an alternative sail number. A boat may not be permitted to use any sail with the same number as another competitor.

6. Scoring

- 6(a) The low point scoring system of Appendix A of the RRS will apply.
Ties will be broken in accordance with Rules A8.1 and A8.2.
- 6(b) Two races are required to be completed to constitute a series.
- 6(c) When fewer than 3 races have been completed a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores.
- 6(d) When from 3 to 5 races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.
- 6(e) When from 6 to 8 races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her two worst scores.
- 6(f) When more than 8 races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst scores from one third of the races completed, rounded down.
- 6(g) If a boat competes in at least half the number of races completed in a dinghy racing series and is prevented from competing in one or more races as a result of one of its crew undertaking a duty roster on behalf of the Club, the boat will be awarded points for such race(s) equal to the average of the points scored by her in all those races in the series which she has completed, rounded to the nearest one decimal place.

- 6(h) Where a boat owner permanently changes their boat part-way through a series, points for each boat may be aggregated at the discretion of the Sailing Committee upon the written application of the owner.

7. Schedule of Races

- 7(a) Racing is scheduled as per the Club's official programme, or any written variation thereof.
- 7(b) The scheduled time of the warning signal for the first race will be five minutes before the published start time.
- 7(c) Races to be sailed "back to back", races following the first race will be started as soon as practicable after the last boat has finished the preceding race or, if earlier, the time limit has expired.

8. Class Flags

- 8(a) Class Flags may be used for Club racing

Dinghy Handicap



Topper Class



Laser Class



9. Signals Ashore

- 9(a) Signals made ashore or from the committee boat will be displayed from the start/finish mast.
- 9(b) Answering Pennant over International Code Flag G will indicate that there is imminent movement of commercial shipping and no boat shall leave the mooring until the signal is lowered with one sound signal (see SI 14(a) below). Boats launching or leaving their mooring in contravention of this signal will be penalised by having their lowest score of the day increased by two points. Boats impeding commercial shipping in contravention of this signal will be disqualified from all races.

10. Safety

- 10(a) Adequate personal floatation devices to 50N must be worn at all times by all members of the crew of dinghies. Wet suits and dry suits do not constitute adequate personal floatation devices.
- 10(b) All dinghies shall carry a towing line of not less than 4 metres in length and not less than 6 mm in diameter.
- 10(c) Safetyboat intervention will not disqualify a competitor from the race provided there is no advantageous gain from the situation.

11. Signing on, Declarations, Retirements and Infringements

- 11(a) Competitors must sign on for all races with the OOD, boats not signing on will be scored DNC.
- 11(b) All boats are required to acknowledge the finishing horn to indicate that they have completed the course, have complied with the RRS and these Sailing Instructions. In the alternative, boats which have retired from a race should indicate the fact with the OOD.

12. Protests (and alternatives)

- 12(a) Protests shall comply strictly with the requirements of RRS 60 and 61.
- 12(b) Protests shall be lodged with the Race Officer within 30 minutes of the last boat finishing the last race of the day.
- 12(c) Protests must be lodged on the prescribed form. The time and place of the protest hearing will be displayed on the notice board not later than 30 minutes after the time specified in Instruction 12(b) above.
- 12(d) No flag will be flown to indicate the protest time.
- 12(e) As an alternative to the formal protest procedure, the Exoneration Penalty and the Advisory Hearing and RYA Arbitration procedures of the RYA Rules Disputes Procedures will be available. See the official notice board for details.

13. Starting of all races

- 13(a) A minimum of three boats will be required to constitute a valid race. Races where insufficient boats sign on to constitute a race may be cancelled at the sole discretion of the Race Officer.
- 13(b) All dinghy races will be started using RRS 26 without modification.
- 13(c) Dinghies starting later than 5 minutes after their starting signal will be scored DNS.

14. Postponements

- 14(a) The wording of RRS Postponement Signal shall be changed whereby indefinite postponements, or a signal made in accordance with 9(b) above, signalled ashore prior to the first race of the day, will be removed with one sound signal not less than 10 minutes before the starting signal when racing to be held. This change will not apply to a postponement for a fixed duration.

15. Prizes

- 15(a) Prizes will be awarded at the discretion of the Sailing Committee at a time and place notified to competitors through the Club's group email system, newsletter and/or by a notice to competitors on the notice board in the Clubhouse.

16. Time Limits (These instructions change RRS 35)

- 16(a) Racing will take place as Average Lap Races, and the approximate duration of the race will be specified on the notice board. All boats finishing within 15 minutes of the first boat to finish shall be classed as finishers. All other boats will be scored DNF save that the Race Officer may, at their sole discretion, record the time of any boat at the conclusion of its previous lap and calculate a result based upon that time. (Note: - the Race Officer is likely to exercise this discretion unless they consider that this may produce an unfair result).
- 16(b) The end of the race will be indicated by the display of International Code Flag S with two sound signals from the flag pole;
- 16(c) All boats will then finish at the conclusion of their current lap, regardless of the number of laps completed. The adjusted times using the PY number will be used as the boats elapsed time.

17. Finishing

- 17(a) The finishing line will be between, or an extension of a line between the flag mast on which a blue flag is displayed, and a feature that will be indicated on the notice board.
- 17(b) When the committee boat is on station at the finishing line she shall fly a blue flag. The finishing line shall be between a staff or mast on the committee boat and the adjacent mark.

18. Change of Course for First or Subsequent Races

- 18(a) Should it become necessary to change the course within half an hour of the starting signal of the first race, or for any subsequent race, International Code Flag C will be displayed with a long sound signal before the warning signal and boats should come within hail distance to be advised of the changed course.

19. Shortened Course

- 19(a) International Code Flag S will be displayed from a committee boat on station or at the finishing line.

20. Radio Communication

- 20(a) A boat shall neither make nor receive radio transmissions whilst racing which are not freely available to all other competing boats, other than in relation to matters of safety.
- 20(b) No boat shall transmit on Channel "M2" (P4) during the starting procedure unless in response to a call by the Race Officer.
- 20(c) Senior Safetyboat, whatever its normal callsign, will be in constant radio watch on VHF channel 14 with Shoreham Harbour Radio and her callsign will be Syco Safety. Communication will be established before any vessel leaves the pontoon, this will include any shipping movements expected during the racing and the requested area for holding the race. Syco Safety will remain on the water until last vessel (which is herself) is safely alongside and then will sign off with Shoreham Harbour Radio.

21. Running of Engine During Racing

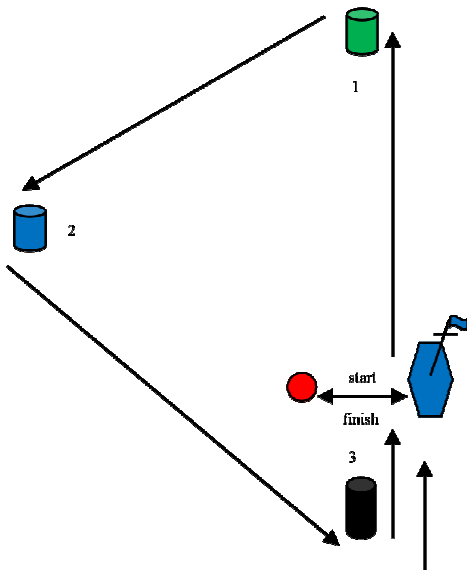
- 21(a) No boat shall run its engine for any purpose after the preparatory signal (start minus 4 minutes) until she has finished other than in an emergency or to help a person or another vessel in danger as permitted in RRS 42.3(f).

22. Courses

- 22(a) Courses for races within the 1/river or 2/canal will be displayed on the 1/black board or 2/notice board not less than half an hour before the starting signal of the first race.
- 22(b) The starting line will be between, or an extension of a line between the flag mast on which an orange flag is displayed, and a feature that will be indicated on the notice board.
- 22(c) Unless otherwise indicated on the notice board, when the Race Officer chooses to use a committee boat start instead of a flag pole start, then the starting line will be between a staff or mast on the committee boat on which an orange flag is being displayed and the centre of an adjacent mark and the race will be started using RRS 26 without modification.
- 22(d) All boats must pass through the finishing line at the completion of each lap.

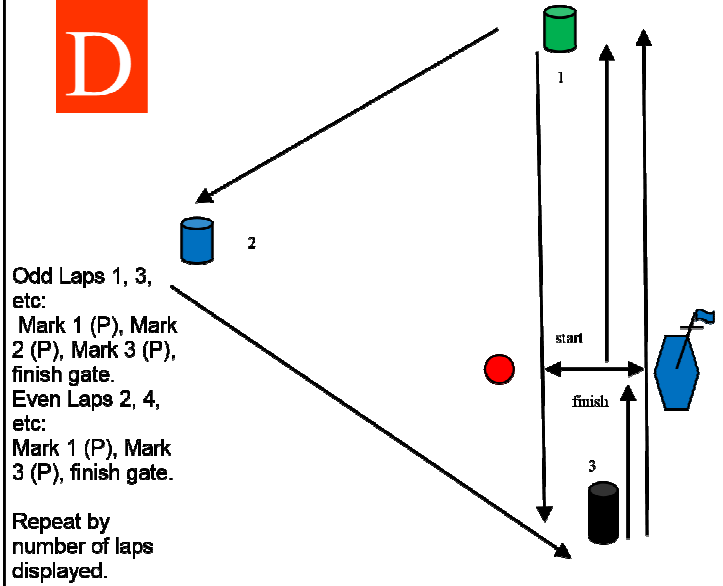
23. DINGHY COURSES AND CODE LETTERS

A



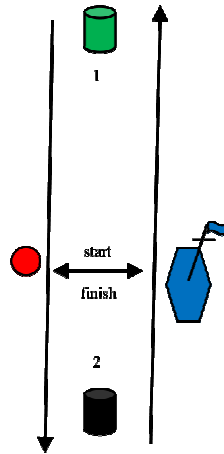
Start
1 (P)
2 (P)
3 (P)
Finish Gate
x no of laps

D



Odd Laps 1, 3,
etc:
Mark 1 (P), Mark
2 (P), Mark 3 (P),
finish gate.
Even Laps 2, 4,
etc:
Mark 1 (P), Mark
3 (P), finish gate.
Repeat by
number of laps
displayed.

B

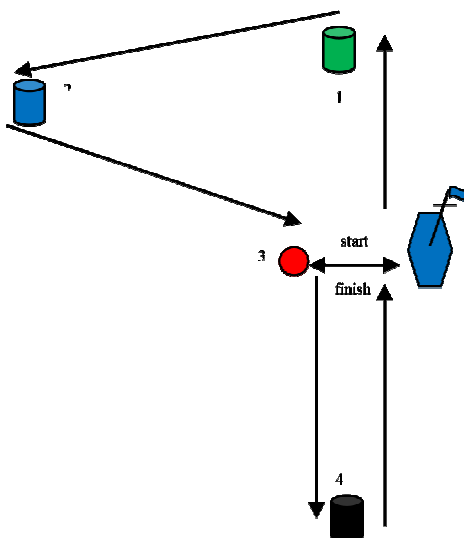


Start
1 (P)
2 (P)
Finish Gate
x no of laps

NOTES

1. When the course letter is shown on a green background, the course direction will be reversed and sailed starboard-hand.
2. "D" or "X" courses will only apply for fixed length courses to which average lap racing will not apply.

C



Start
1 (P)
2 (P)
3 (S)
4 (P)
Finish Gate
x no of laps

X

An "X" course displayed on the committee boat indicates that the Race Officer is going to use a non-standard course and all competitors must come within hailing distance to receive notification of the course to be sailed. The course so notified will be sailed in its entirety by all competitors unless shortened.

24. Flags used

A		Course flag	AP		Indefinite postponement When with G no leaving
B		Course flag	Black		OCS<1min disqualified
C		Course flag Also change of course when used with 1 long blast	Red		Marks to port
D		Course flag	Orange		Start line
G		Used with AP to indicate "No dinghy leaves shore"	Green		Marks to starboard
H		Further signals ashore (course posted)	Blue		Finish line
I		OCS<1min round the end	1		Fast fleet start flag
K		Laser class start flag	2		Slow fleet start flag
L		Note to competitors been posted on notice board	4		All fleet start flag
N		Race abandoned	1st Sub		General recall
P		Preparatory flag			
S		End of race flag			
T		Topper class start flag			
X		Individual recall			
Y		Personal buoyancy must be worn			
Z		OCS<1min 20% penalty			