

Sailing Instructions for WYC club races

(not to be used for open meetings or championships)

1. RULES

- 1.1. The racing shall be governed by *The Racing Rules of Sailing* (RRS) 2005-2008, the prescriptions of the Royal Yachting Association (RYA), the appropriate class rules, Canterbury City Council Water Safety Rules and these Sailing Instructions. In the event of conflict these Sailing Instructions shall prevail.

2. ENTRIES

- 2.1. **Eligibility and entry:** Members of Whitstable Yacht Club may take part in club races and series of races organised by the club. Visitors who are members of an RYA recognised sailing club and are signed in to the WYC visitors book may take part but will not be scored in club series. Entrants shall complete the Declaration (signing on) sheet at the WYC course board on the veranda railing before going afloat to race.
- 2.2. **Entry fees:** There are no fees for racing in club series. Entry fees will be charged for the RNLI pursuit race, all open meetings and Whitstable Week.
- 2.3. **Insurance cover: WYC Club Rules state: All craft under the aegis of the club must bear and maintain third party insurance to the minimum of £2,000,000.00**

3. SAFETY

- 3.1. **Personal responsibility:** Neither the provision of support boats and crews nor the decision of a Race Officer to start or continue a race shall absolve a boat of the personal responsibilities defined in RRS Fundamental Rules 1 and 4.
- 3.2. **Personal buoyancy:** Personal buoyancy jackets must be worn by competitors at all times afloat. Wet suits and dry suits are not personal buoyancy and will not satisfy this instruction.
- 3.3. **Shipping:** Boats shall keep well clear of shipping at all times, wherever it may be.

4. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

- 4.1. Notices to competitors will be posted on the Sailing Notice Board in the Sea Room at least one hour before the start of the first race affected and remain there as long as they are in effect.
- 4.2. Temporary notices relating to one day will be posted on the Course Board on the veranda railings at least thirty minutes before the first Class Warning Signal of the day.

5. CHANGES IN SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 5.1. Permanent changes to the Sailing Instructions will be posted on the Sailing Notice Board at least one hour before the start of the first race affected and remain there as long as they are in effect.
- 5.2. Temporary changes to the Sailing Instructions relating to one day will be posted on the Course Board on the veranda railings at least thirty minutes before the first Class Warning Signal of the day.

6. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 6.1. Signals made ashore will be displayed at the clubhouse mast.

7. SCHEDULE OF RACES

- 7.1. **Series racing:** The schedule of races is shown in the Whitstable Yacht Club Sailing Programme, which is issued to all members before the start of the season, and is shown on the club website at www.wyc.org.uk. Extra programme booklets are available from the club office or bar.
- 7.2. **Special events:** The schedule of races in special events will be displayed on the Sailing Notice Board and the club website.

8. CLASS FLAGS

- 8.1. The warning signal / Class flags or lights will be:
 - 8.1.1. Asymmetric Skiffs Flag A/slow flashing RED light
 - 8.1.2. General Handicap **AND** Merlins/Tasars Flags G **over** O/slow flashing YELLOW light
 - 8.1.3. Lasers Flag LASER/slow flashing GREEN light
 - 8.1.4. Slow Handicap Flag E/slow flashing BLUE light
 - 8.1.5. Big Cats **AND** Dart 18s (See 13.6.1) Flag C/slow flashing VIOLET light

9. GENERAL RECALLS

- 9.1. In the event of a General Recall the recalled classes will be restarted 3 minutes after the last scheduled class start.

- 9.2. When 2 classes start at the same time (see 13.6.1) BOTH classes shall be recalled by one signal.
- 9.3. If there are multiple recalls the recalled classes will be restarted in the sequence of their scheduled starts.
- 9.4. A recalled Class Preparatory signal will be displayed 3 minutes before the class restart.
- 9.5. Recalled restarts will not be given Class Warning signals.

10. RACING AREA

- 10.1. The racing area is in the Thames Estuary to the northwest of Whitstable Yacht Club.

11. THE COURSE

- 11.1. **Course diagram:** The course diagram will be displayed on the Course Board on the veranda railings no later than thirty minutes before the first class warning signal. The order of mark rounding will also be written out in full. Classes may be given different distance marks for their start, for rounding at end of laps and finish of race. (Also see 13.6.1 and 14.1 below)

11.2 Changing the course

- 11.2.1. After the start, should the course be changed, a new mark (a yellow or black inflatable ball) will be used. Any change of course will be signalled before the leading boat has begun the leg to the new mark, although the new mark may not then be in position. The new mark will be in position before the leading boat is adversely affected. The original mark will be lifted as soon as is practicable.
- 11.2.2. To signal a change of course, a Race Committee vessel near the mark preceding the new mark will display a red or green flag to indicate whether the new compass bearing is to port or starboard respectively of its previous bearing, and will make repetitive sound signals. Any mark to be rounded after the new mark may be re-located, without additional signals, in order to maintain the original course configuration.

12. **MARKS:** The marks of the course will be described on the Course Board on the veranda railings.

13. THE START

- 13.1. **Starting intervals:** Class races will be started at three minute intervals.
- 13.2. **Class Warning signals** (*Class flag or a flashing coloured light*) will be displayed with one sound 6 minutes before Class starts.
- 13.3. **Class Preparatory signals** (*Flag P or a fixed coloured light*) will be displayed with one sound 3 minutes before Class starts.
- 13.4. **The normal class starting sequence** will be as shown in 8.1 above, with the first class starting at the time shown in the programme.
- 13.5. **Notwithstanding 13.4 above** the class starting times and sequence may be varied by instructions on the course board, excepting that no start shall be before the published time of the scheduled first start.
- 13.6. **Starting line**
 - 13.6.1. **Club starting line:** The starting line will be a line projected seawards from the clubhouse mast through the inner transit pole or mark (IDM) and limited to seaward by the Outer Distance Mark (ODM). There will also be an Extended Outer Distance Mark (EDM). The ODM and EDM are not necessarily on the transit line. For single class starts, boats shall start between the IDM and the ODM. When two classes start at the same time, as with Big Catamarans and Dart 18s and with General Handicap Dinghies and Merlins/Tasars, Dart 18s and General Handicap boats shall start between the IDM and the ODM and the Big Catamarans and Merlins/Tasars shall start between the ODM and the EDM. The line definition may be varied by temporary instructions (see 4 above)
 - 13.6.2. **Committee boat starting line:** The starting line will be between a mast displaying an orange flag on the committee boat at the starboard end and a port-end starting mark **OR** between a mast displaying an orange flag on the committee boat at the port end and a starboard-end mark. The starting mark will be described in temporary instructions (see 4 above). Classes scheduled to start together on a committee boat start line will all use the one defined start line
- 13.7. **Keeping clear:** Boats whose preparatory signal has not been made shall keep clear of the starting area and shall keep clear of boats whose preparatory signal has been made.
- 13.8. **Starting Time limitation:** A boat shall not start later than 4 minutes after her class starting signal.

14. THE FINISH

- 14.1. **Club finishing line:** The finishing line will be the same definition as the start line for the class concerned **but courses may be defined which finish across the line in the opposite**

direction to the start.

14.2. **Committee boat finishing line:** The finishing line will be between a mast displaying an orange flag on a race committee boat and the nearby mark.

15. TIME LIMIT

15.1. The time limit for all club races will be two hours from the last class start. Boats failing to finish within the time limit will be scored as 'Did Not Finish'. This changes Rule 35. In order to encourage inexperienced sailors to race and achieve a result, the Race Officer may award such competitors their positions when they last rounded an observed mark, rather than scoring them DNF under this rule.

15.2. At the discretion of the Race Officer, when a race has to be stopped due to lack of wind, positions and times taken on an earlier lap may be used.

16. PROTESTS

16.1. **Lodging of protests:** Protests and claims for redress shall be written on RYA Protest Forms available from the Race Hut, and shall be delivered there within 45 minutes of the time of the last boat finishing the last race of the day.

16.2. **Protest hearings:** Protest hearings will be arranged by a member of the Sailing Committee and protests will be heard in the order of receipt as soon as possible. The hearings may be held at a later date.

16.3. **Reopening a hearing:** Rule 66 is changed by adding 'A party to the hearing may ask for a reopening no later than one hour after being informed of the decision made.'

16.4. **The Exoneration Penalty** and the Advisory Hearing procedure of the RYA Rules Disputes Procedures will be available as follows:

16.4.1. A boat that may have broken a rule of Part 2, or rule 31.1 or 42, may, after finishing the race concerned and before the start of a related protest hearing, notify the race committee that she accepts a 20% scoring penalty as stated in rule 44.3(c), (except that the minimum penalty is two places if that does not result in a score worse than DNF). This penalty does not reverse an OCS score, a disqualification under rule 30.3 or a penalty under Appendix P. It is not available for a breach of rule 2 or of class rules or for gross misconduct under rule 69. Nor is it available to a boat that caused injury or serious damage, or gained a significant advantage by her breach: in these circumstances, her penalty is to retire.

16.4.2. When an Exoneration Penalty is accepted,
(a) neither the boat nor a protest committee may then revoke or remove the penalty.
(b) the boat shall not be penalized further in a protest hearing when the protest committee decides that it was appropriate to the facts found and the applicable rules.

16.5. **Advisory Hearing:** When there is an incident that will not result in the lodging of a protest or a request for redress, a boat may, within the protest time limit, lodge a request for an advisory hearing with the race office, and notify any other boat involved in the incident. An advisor will then call a hearing to learn what may have happened and will state whether any rule appears to have been broken, and by which boat. A boat may as a result notify the race office that she accepts an Exoneration Penalty when it applies to the incident, or choose to retire.

17. SCORING SYSTEM

17.1. The Low Point scoring system, RRS Appendix A4.1, will apply. Scoring for all club races will be in accordance with RRS A9, i.e. a boat that did not start, did not finish, retired after finishing or was disqualified shall be scored points for the finishing place one more than the number of boats entered in that race. Any boat not competing in a race will score the number of entries in the series plus one. The number of races to count for series racing shall be half the number of races sailed plus one, rounded down.

18. COLOURED LIGHTS IN PLACE OF STANDARD ISAF CODE FLAGS

18.1. The following standard ISAF signals may be made by coloured lights in place of code flags. Sound signals will remain ISAF standard.

18.1.1. **Individual recall** - class/start coloured light flashing rapidly

18.1.2. **General recall** - class/start coloured light flashing very slowly

18.1.3. **Shorten course** - relevant classes' coloured lights fixed ON

18.2. **Any other ISAF standard signal, which may be made using a code flag together with one or more class flags,** may be made using the code flag together with one or more class coloured lights in place of class flags.

19. LOCAL VARIATIONS

19.1. **Canterbury City Council Water Safety Rules:** Attention is drawn to the CCC Byelaws and Rules displayed at the public slipway or available from Canterbury City Council offices by post.

- 19.2. **Car Parking:** No car shall park on the beach, or in any area designated for use by the RNLI.
- 19.3. **Lifeboat obstruction:** No boat, trailer or any other obstruction shall be placed so as to impede the route from the RNLI Lifeboat Station to the water at any time.

JAC – 027/12/07