



WHITSTABLE YACHT CLUB



Sailing Instructions Topper Traveller Sunday 19th April 2026

The organising authority is Whitstable Yacht Club in association with the Topper Class London and South East Division.

1. RULES

1.1. This meeting will be governed by The Racing Rules of Sailing, the prescriptions of the RYA, the rules of the competing classes, the Notice of Race except as changed by these Sailing Instructions (SI's).

2. ENTRIES

- 2.1. Eligible boats must be entered by registration with the race organisers.
- 2.2. The safety of the boat and its entire management including insurance shall be the sole responsibility of the owner/person in charge who must ensure that the boat and crew are adequate to face the conditions that may arise in the course of a race.
- 2.3. Neither these SI's nor any inspection of the boat limits or reduces the absolute responsibility of the owner/person in charge for the crew, the boat and its management.
- 2.4. The race organisers shall not be responsible for any loss, damage, death or personal injury howsoever caused to the owner/person in charge or crew as a result of taking part in the race or races.
- 2.5. Moreover every owner/person in charge warrants the suitability of the boat for the race or races.
- 2.6. All helms that Retire from a race must complete the Retirement Declaration and must be completed as soon as possible after coming ashore.

3. SAFETY REGULATIONS:

- 3.1. All craft accepting assistance from a patrol boat must obey the instructions of the Coxswain in charge.

4. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

- 4.1. Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board inside the WYC Clubhouse.

5. CHANGES TO THE SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 5.1. Any changes to these SI's will be posted one hour before the start of the race or races concerned.

6. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 6.1. Signals made ashore will be hoisted on the WYC bridge.
- 6.2. When flag AP is displayed ashore, "1 minute" is replaced by "not less than 15 minutes" in Race Signals, AP.



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6.3.No competitor will go afloat until the D flag is signalled on the WYC bridge.

7. CLASS FLAGS

7.1.Class flag 'T' will be used.

8. THE COURSE

8.1. The course configuration, the order in which marks are to be passed, and the side on which each mark is to be left will be displayed on the course board next to the official notice board.

9. MARKS

9.1.Course marks will be orange inflatable buoys, and a new mark used in the event of a course change will be a large inflatable black ball - (Change of course after the start).

9.2.The starting marks and finishing marks will be a race committee boat or an Inner Distance Mark (IDM) at the Starboard end and a black spherical buoy at the port end.

10.SCHEDULE OF RACES

10.1. The schedule of races is:

Date	Race	Time of Warning signal	HW
Sunday 19th April	Race 1	11:25hrs	14.52hrs
	Race 2	Back to back after Race 1	
	Race 3	Back to back after Race 2	
	Race 4	Back to back after Race 3	

11.THE START

11.1. Races will be started using RRS 26 with the warning signal being given 5 minutes before starting signal.

11.2. The race officer may alert competitors that he is about to make the warning signal by sounding a number of short blasts.

11.3. The starting line will be an imaginary line between the orange flag flown on the Committee Boat and a large black spherical buoy, the port end starting mark.

11.4. An Inner Distance Mark (IDM) **may** be laid to mark the starboard end of the line. The IDM may not be on the line.

11.5. When an IDM is laid, boats must start between the IDM and the port end starting mark. The IDM will be described at the briefing.

11.6. A boat shall not start later than 5 minutes after her starting signal.



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12. CHANGE OF COURSE AFTER THE START

- 12.1. A change of course after the start will be signalled before the leading boat has begun the leg, although the new mark may not yet be in position.
- 12.2. Any mark to be rounded after rounding the new mark may be relocated without signalling to maintain the original course configuration.

13. THE FINISH

- 13.1. The finishing line will be between the Blue Flag flown on the Committee Boat and a large black spherical buoy at the port end.

14. TIME LIMIT

- 14.1. The time limit and target time in minutes is as follows:

<i>Time limit</i>	<i>Target time</i>	<i>Finishing window</i>
45	30	15

- 14.2. The Finishing Window is the time for boats to finish after the first boat sails the course and finishes. Boats failing to finish within the Finishing Window, will be scored DNF without a hearing. This changes RRS 35, A5.1 and A5.2.
- 14.3. Failure to meet the Target Time will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 62.1(a).
- 14.4. The race committee may award a finishing place to a boat by flying flag W with a sound signal. The signalled boat shall be deemed to have finished, and the score awarded shall be the position she occupied at the time of the signal. If two or more overlapped boats are signalled, they shall be scored as if they were tied. This changes RRS 28.1 and A3.

15. SHORTEN COURSE

- 15.1. The course may be shortened at any mark of the course.
- 15.2. At this mark and when Flag S is displayed with 2 sound signals for the finishing boat, the meaning of flag S is changed to "The course is changed and this mark is the last mark of the course. Pass the mark to finish"

16. PROTESTS

- 16.1. Protests shall be written on forms available from the race committee and shall be lodged within 60 minutes of the last boat finishing, unless extended at the discretion of the race committee.

17. PERSONAL BUOYANCY AND SAFETY



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- 17.1. The requirements of this SI are specified for the safety of competitors.
- 17.2. A tally number will be allocated to each helm of a boat upon registration.
- 17.3. The tally board will be situated on the WYC deck area..
- 17.4. A competitor intending to race must indicate this by placing their tally in the appropriate box on the tally board.
- 17.5. Immediately on returning to shore after racing, the tallies for the helm of each boat must be placed on the relevant box.
- 17.6. Should the helm fail to tally either before going afloat or after coming ashore, their boat will face possible disqualification.
- 17.7. Personal Buoyancy will be worn at all times when afloat.

18. SCORING

- 18.1. The low point scoring system of RRS Appendix A shall apply.
- 18.2. If four races are completed a boat's score will be her total points excluding her worst score.
- 18.3. If fewer than four races are completed a boat's score will be her total points.
- 18.4. An event winner will be decided providing one race is completed.

APPENDIX 1: COURSE DIAGRAM

MARKS & COURSE

Mark's will be an orange cylindrical pillar buoy or as described at the briefing.

Order of rounding:

Lap 1: 1ap, 2p, 3p, CB-B gate (4.2's 1bp, 2p, 3p, CB-B gate)

Lap 2: 1p, 3p, CB-B gate (4.2's 1bp, 3p, CB-B gate)*

Lap 3: 1p, 2p, 3p, CB-B finish (4.2's 1bp, 2p, 3p, CB-B gate)

*Do not pass through start/finish line downwind



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