

WHITSTABLE YACHT CLUB
Merlin Rocket silver tiller and
Tasar open meeting.
May 30-31 2026
SAILING INSTRUCTIONS



1 RULES AND ELIGIBILITY

- 1.1 The event will be governed by The Racing Rules of Sailing 2025-2029, the prescriptions of the RYA, the rules of the Merlin Rocket and Tasar Class Associations, Canterbury City Council Water Safety Rules and these Sailing Instructions. In cases of conflict, these Sailing Instructions will prevail.
- 1.2 Advertising on the boat chosen by the owner or person in charge is permitted.
- 1.3 Insurance cover: each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £3,000,000 per incident or the equivalent

2 MEASUREMENT

- 2.1 Boats must have current measurement certificates and buoyancy endorsements as required by the class rules. Protests and disputes on measurement or other class rules will be referred to the class association and results will be announced "subject to protest".

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 3
- 3.2 Personal buoyancy: Personal Floatation Devices (PFD) must be worn by competitors at all times when afloat. Wet suits and dry suits are not personal buoyancy and will not satisfy this instruction. Flag Y will not be displayed. This alters RRS 40.
- 3.3 Shipping: Boats shall always keep well clear of shipping wherever it may be.
- 3.4 Tallies: A tally system shall be in use where a tally number will be allocated to each boat at registration. All competitors shall tally out of the box provided before launching and shall tally back in the appropriate box immediately after coming ashore, and certainly WITHIN 30 MINUTES OF THE FINISH OF THE LAST BOAT IN THE LAST RACE OF THE DAY.

Failure to comply with this sailing instruction may be disqualification or a contribution of £10 to the RNLI made before the end of the protest time, as provided for in Rule 64.

4 COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

- 4.1 **Notice to Competitors:** Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board in the Sea Room.
- 4.2 **Changes in Sailing Instructions:** Any changes in the Sailing Instructions will be posted at least 1 hour before the advertised starting time of the race concerned, except for a change to the starting time of the first race of the following day, which will be posted by 20.00 on the day before it will take effect.
- 4.3 Competitors must NOT go afloat until the 'D' flag is flown from the club mast. The warning signal will not be made less than 45 minutes after flag D is displayed'.
- 4.4 **Briefing.** There will be a briefing for competitors on Saturday May 29 at 10.45.

5 PROGRAMME

- 5.1 The schedule of races for the Merlin Fleet is:

Date	Race	Time of Warning signal	HW
Saturday 30 May	Race 1	11.55 hrs	13.01
	Race 2	Back to back after Race 1	
	Race 3	Back to back after Race 2	
Sunday 31 May	Race 4	10.25 hrs	13.33
	Race 5	Back to back after Race 4	
	Race 6	Back to back after Race 5	

The schedule of races for the Tasar Fleet is:

Saturday 30 May	Race 1	12.01 hrs	13.01
	Race 2	Back to back after Race 1	
	Race 3	Back to back after Race 2	
Sunday 31 May	Race 4	10.31 hrs	13.33
	Race 5	Back to back after Race 4	
	Race 6	Back to back after Race 5	

6 CLASS WARNING SIGNAL

- 6.1 The Merlin Rocket class warning signal will be: International Code Flag O.
- 6.2 The Tasar class warning signal will be: International Code Flag T.

7 COURSE INSTRUCTIONS

- 7.1 **Course:** The course configuration and order of rounding marks is shown on the attached diagram (Appendix 1).
- 7.2 The number of laps for each race will normally be 3. Any variation to this will be shown on the committee boat before the warning signal.
- 7.3 **Magnetic bearing of Mark 1:** The approximate magnetic bearing of Mark 1 from the committee boat may be displayed on the committee boat before the warning signal.
- 7.4 **Description of course marks:** Course marks will be orange inflatable buoys; a new mark used in the event of a course change will be a large inflatable black ball - See SI: 9 (Change of course after the start). 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.

8 STARTS

- 8.1 **Starting Procedures:** will be in accordance with Rule 26 with warning signal 5 minutes before starts. The race officer may alert competitors that he is about to make the warning signal by sounding a number of short blasts.
- 8.2 The Merlin fleet will start first, except in the event of a general recall when they will start after the Tasars. Should the Tasars be recalled also they will start after the Merlins and so on.
- 8.3 **Start Line:** is defined as the line between the mast displaying an orange flag on the committee boat, and the centre of the port end starting mark which is a black spherical buoy. The committee boat at the starting line may hold station using engines.
- 8.4 **An Inner Distance Mark (IDM):** may be laid to mark the starboard end of the line. The IDM may not be on the line. 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.
- 8.5 A boat shall not start later than 5 minutes after her starting signal. An orange flag will be dropped without an audible signal at 5 minutes after the start.
- 8.6 **Black Flag:** rule 30.4 will apply to all starts.

9 CHANGE OF COURSE AFTER THE START

- 9.1 After the start, should the course be changed, a new mark (a black inflatable ball) will be used. Any change of course will be signaled 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.
- 9.2 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.

- 9.3 When, in any subsequent change of course, a new mark is replaced, it will be replaced with an original mark. SI: 9 alters Rule 33.

10 FINISHING

- 10.1 **Finishing Line:** The finishing line will be between the mast displaying a blue flag, aboard a committee boat and the finishing mark, which will be a black spherical buoy or, for a shortened course, the nearby course mark. The committee boat at the finishing line may hold station using engines.

10.2 Time Limit:

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

<i>Time limit</i>	<i>Target time</i>	<i>Finishing window</i>
60	45	15

- 10.2.2 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.
- 10.2.3 Failure to meet the Target Time will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 62.1(a).
- 10.2.4 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.

11 PROTESTS

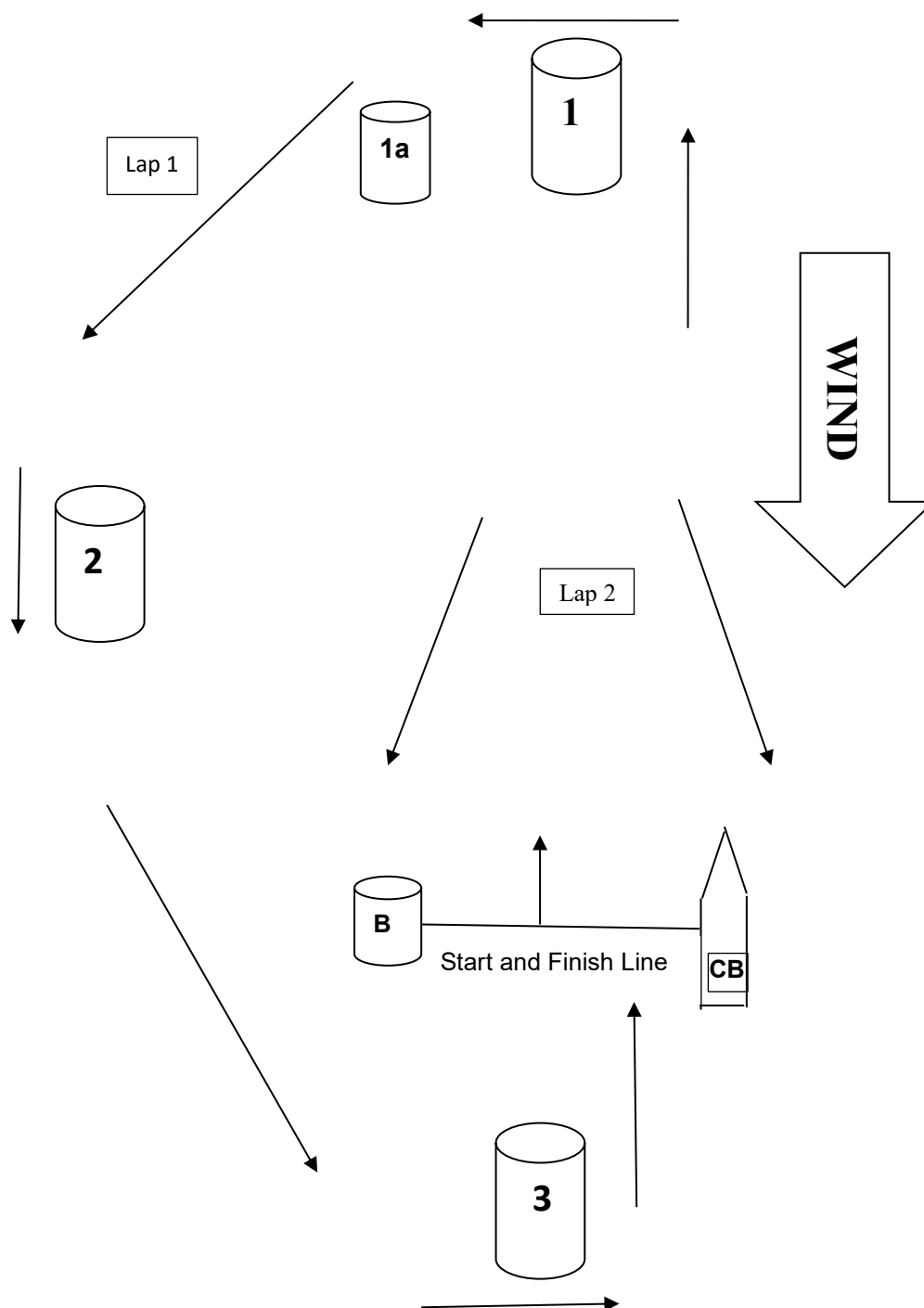
- 11.1 A protesting boat shall inform the race committee on the committee boat as soon as possible after finishing, but without interfering with other boats finishing.
- 11.2 **Protest time limit:** The protest time limit will end 1 hour after the last boat has finished the last race of the day, unless the protest or race committee extend this time limit.

12 SCORING

- 12.1 1 race is required to be completed to constitute a series.
- 12.2 When 1-2 races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores.
- 12.3 When 3-6 races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.

APPENDIX 1: COURSE DIAGRAMS

A) Triangle/sausage



START : CB – B line

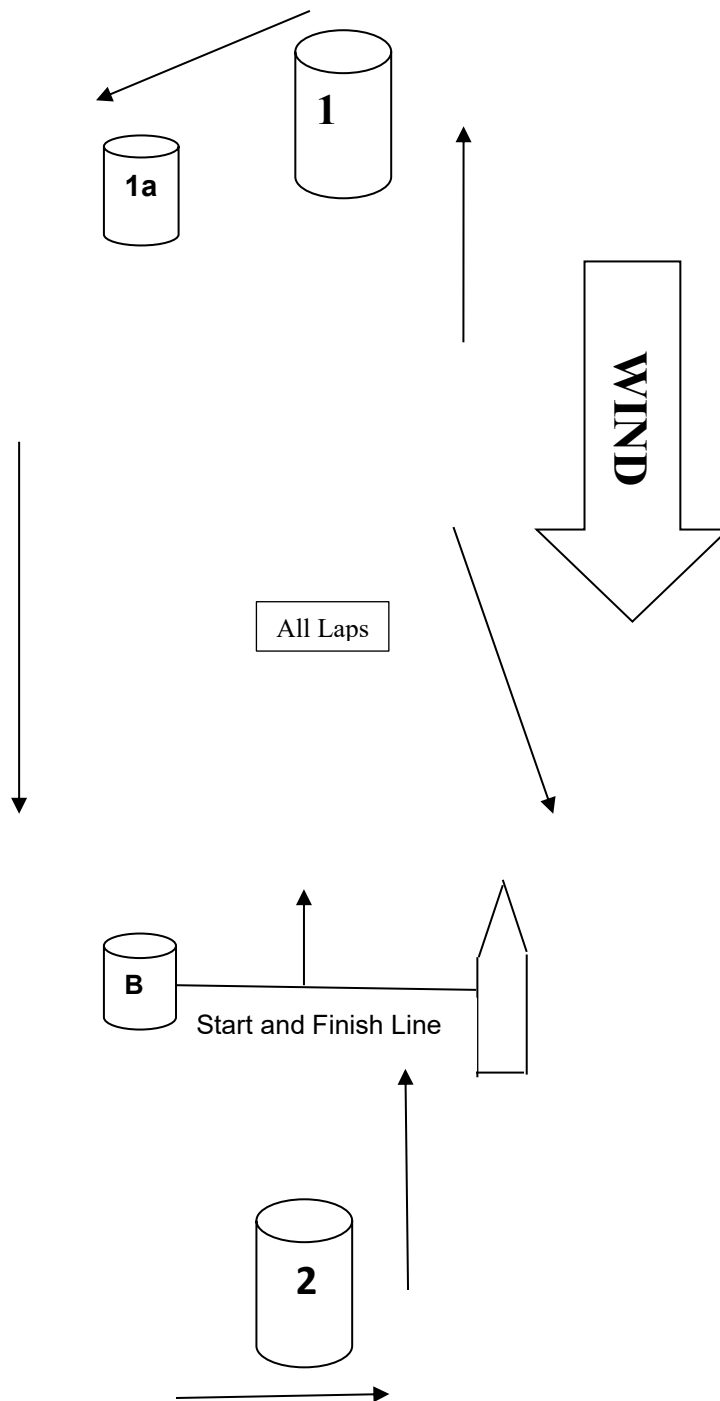
LAP 1: 1P, 1aP, 2P, 3P, CB-B gate

LAP 2: 1P, 1aP, BP (or CB S), 3P, CB-B gate

LAP 3; as LAP 1

Please note the requirement in the course description for competitors to pass through the START/FINISH gate on ALL windward legs and NOT to pass through the START/FINISH gate on the run – boats may either round B to port or CB to Starboard.

B) Windward/Leeward



START : CB – B line
ALL LAPS: 1P, 1aP, 2P, CB-B gate

SPG/TJB 01/04/26