



WHITSTABLE YACHT CLUB

Laserfest Sprints

June 27/28 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, 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 or sail 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 CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

- 2.1 Measurement: Boats must be bona fide Laser/ILCA dinghies with Standard, Radial or 4.7 rigs. Replica sails and spars are permitted.
- 2.2 Rig Choice: Sailors must declare on registration whether the maximum sized sail they use will be a Standard, Radial or 4.7. Those who declare as a Standard sail can use any sail during the event. Sailors declaring as a Radial must not sail with a Standard sail but may sail with a 4.7. Sailors declaring as a 4.7 must retain that sail throughout.

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 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 Sat June 27 at 10.45.

5 PROGRAMME

Date	Race	Start	Time of first Warning signal	HW
Saturday 27th June	Race 1	12:00 hrs.	11.55 hrs.	11:51 hrs.
	Race 2		Back-to-back after Race 1	
	Race 3			
	Race 4			
	Race 5			
Sunday 28 th June	Race 6	12:00 hrs.	11.55 hrs.	12:35 hrs.
	Race 7		Back-to-back after Race 6	
	Race 8			
	Race 9			
	Race 10			

At the discretion of the Race Officer, additional races may be sailed on Sunday if any races on Saturday are cancelled.

6 CLASS WARNING SIGNAL

- 6.1 The class warning signal will be: Laser class flag.

7 COURSE INSTRUCTIONS

- 7.1 Course: The course will be a windward/leeward course, but with a fixed start and finish line a short distance to windward of the leeward mark to facilitate quick starts for back-to-back races. The course configuration and order of rounding marks is shown on the attached diagram.
- 7.2 The number of laps for each race will normally be 2. Any variation to this will be shown on the Committee Boat before the Warning signal.
- 7.3 Competitors shall not pass through the start/finish downwind.
- 7.4 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.

- 7.5 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 the start. The race officer may alert competitors that he is about to make the warning signal by sounding a number of short blasts.
- 8.2 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 cylindrical buoy. The committee boat at the starting line may hold station using engines.
- 8.3.1 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.
- 8.4 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.
- 8.5 Black Flag: After a general recall, Rule 30.4 shall apply to all subsequent starts of that race.

9 FINISHING

- 9.1 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.
- 9.2 Time Limit: The race will only be valid only for those boats which finish within 5 minutes of the first boat. This alters Rule 35
- 9.3 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.

10 PROTESTS

- 10.1 As this is a friendly event we do not wish to see any protests.
- 10.2 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.

10.3 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.

11 PENALTY SYSTEM

11.1 Rule 44.1 is changed so that the Two-Turns Penalty is replaced by the One-Turn Penalty.

12 SCORING

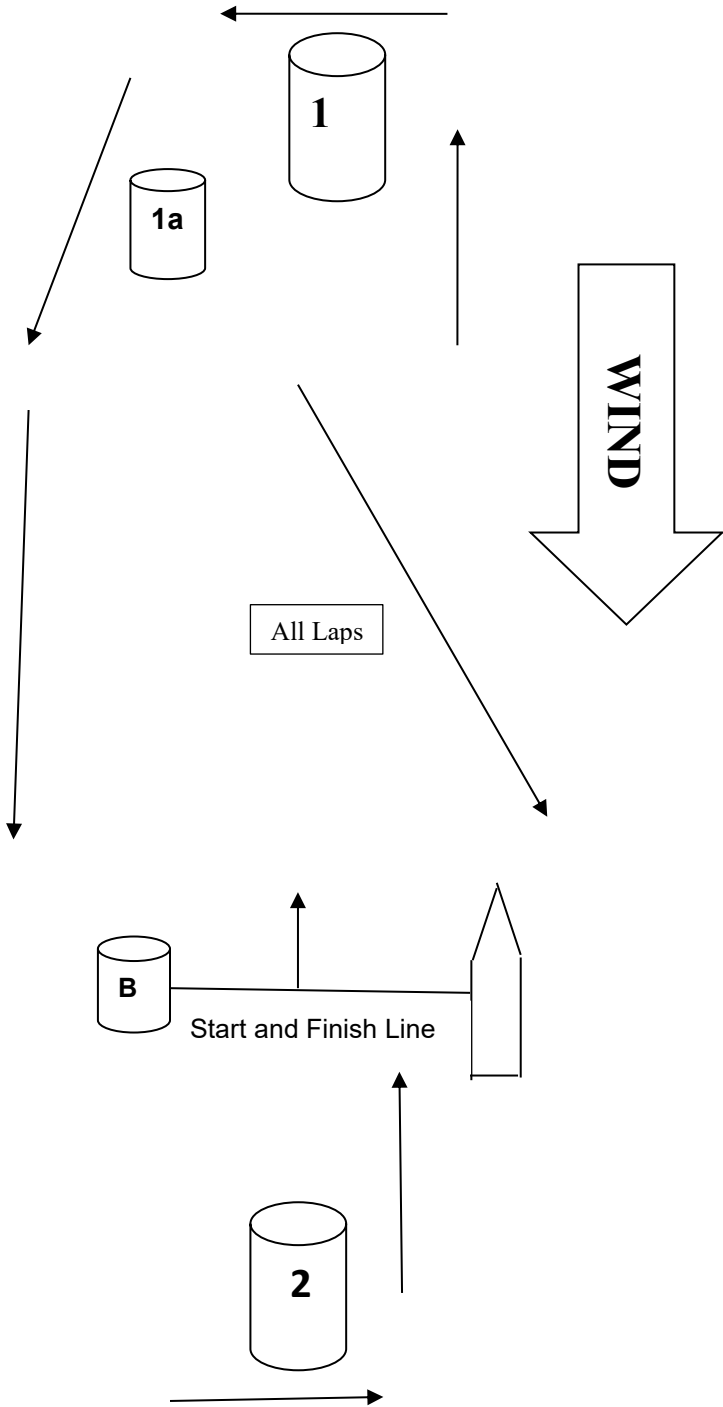
12.1 There are 10 races scheduled, if 5 or fewer are competed all races will count, if 6 or 7 are completed there will be one discard, if 8 or more races are completed there will be 2 discards.

13 PRIZES

13.1 Prizes will be awarded as the Laser Fest committee sees fit – their decisions are final. Prizes will be awarded to the top entrants declared at registration as Standard and the top entrants declared as Radial.
The Peter Raymer Trophy will be awarded to the first WYC boat.

APPENDIX 1: COURSE DIAGRAM

A) Windward/Leeward



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

SPG/TJB 08/07/25