WHITSTABLE YACHT CLUB

Founded 1902 Affiliated RYA

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS FOR DART TT AND B14 OPEN MEETING – SEPT 26/27 2026

Updated 23 September 2026

1. RULES

1.1. The racing shall be governed by *The Racing Rules of Sailing* (RRS) 2025-2028, 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.

1.2. Advertising on the boat chosen by the owner or person in charge is permitted.

2. LIABILITY EXCLUSION

2.1. A boat is entirely responsible for her own safety, whether afloat or ashore, and nothing, whether in the Notice of Race or Sailing Instructions or anywhere else, reduces this responsibility.

2.2. The boat is required to hold insurance against third party claims in the sum of at least £3,000,000.

3. CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

3.1. Boats must have current measurement certificates as required by her class rules or for the B14s comply with 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”.

4. SAFETY

4.1. Adequate personal floatation devices (PDF) for all crew members shall be worn at all times whilst racing. Neither a wetsuit nor drysuit constitute adequate personal buoyancy. Flag Y will not be displayed. This alters RRS 40.

4.2. A tally system shall be in use. A tally number will be allocated to each boat at registration. All competitors shall tally out on 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. This procedure is for the

safety of competitors, so that the organisers know who is afloat and ashore if an emergency arises.

The penalty for failing 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 64.1 (Penalties and exoneration).

5. COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

5.1. Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board in the Sea Room.

5.2. 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 hrs on the day before it will take effect. Changes in Sailing Instructions will be indicated by Flag “L” flown from the WYC flagstaff until such time as deemed reasonable.

5.3. 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’.

5.4. There will be a mandatory briefing for all competitors on WYC deck at 11.15am

6. SCHEDULE OF RACES

The schedule of races for the Dart 18 Fleet is:

Date	Race	Time of Warning signal	HW
Saturday 26 Sept	Race 1	12.25 hrs	13.14
	Race 2	Back to back after Race 1	
	Race 3	Back to back after Race 2	
Sunday 27 Sept	Race 4	10.55 hrs	13:48
	Race 5	Back to back after Race 4	
	Race 6	Back to back after Race 5	

The schedule of races for the B14 Fleet is:

Saturday 26 Sept	Race 1	12.31 hrs	13.14
	Race 2	Back to back after Race 1	
	Race 3	Back to back after Race 2	
Sunday 27 Sept	Race 4	11.01 hrs	13:48
	Race 5	Back to back after Race 4	
	Race 6	Back to back after Race 5	

7, CLASS WARNING SIGNAL

7.1. The Dart 18 class warning signal will be: International Code Flag C

7.2. The B14 class warning signal will be: International Code Flag G

8. COURSE INSTRUCTIONS

8.1. The course will be a windward/leeward course, but with a start and finish line a short distance to leeward of the leeward gate.

8.3. The course configuration and order of rounding marks is shown on the diagram in appendix 1. The diagram indicates the number of legs required to complete particular rounds.

8.4. 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.

8.5. The approximate magnetic bearing of Mark 1 from the committee boat may be displayed on the committee boat before the warning signal.

8.6. 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 - See SI.10. (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.

9. STARTS

9.1. An orange flag will be displayed on the committee boat. The starting 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.

9.2. 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.

9.3. A boat shall not start later than 5 minutes after her starting signal at which time the orange flag will be dropped.

9.4. Black Flag Rule - rule 30.4 will apply to all B14 starts.

9.5.The starting procedure will be in accordance with Rule 26 with warning signals 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.

9.6. Dart 18s will start 1st in all races.

9.7. There will be minimum 1 minute gap between the start signal for the Dart 18s and the warning signal for the B14s.

9.8. In any race in the event of a general recall for the Dart 18s they will start under Black Flag AFTER the B14s have started, a minimum 1minute gap between the start signal for the B14s and the warning signal for the Dart18s.

10. CHANGE OF COURSE AFTER THE START

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

10.2. 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.

10.3. When, in any subsequent change of course, a new mark is replaced, it will be replaced with an original mark. SI.10 alters Rule 33.

11. FINISHING

11.1. 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.

11.2. The target time for lead boats in each class is 40 mins. The time limit for each race will be 60 minutes from the starting signal. The race will be valid for all boats finishing within this limit.

11.3. At the discretion of the Race Officer, boats at the back of the fleet, and whose finishing positions are unlikely to change, may be given their observed position on the course and instructed to return to the starting area for the start of the next race. Any such boat will be signalled with a ‘W’ flag.

12. PENALTY SYSTEM

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

12.2. B14s, when an incident occurs where a penalty applies while the head of the spinnaker is above the main-boom gooseneck, the penalty may be taken immediately after the next time the head of the spinnaker is lowered below the main-boom gooseneck but shall always be taken prior to rounding the next mark or crossing the finishing line. This changes Rule 44.2.

12.3. Touching a mark (other than a starting or finishing line mark) with any part of the boat or crew shall not constitute an infringement of the Rules. Manhandling a mark which results in an advantage is not allowed and a boat so doing shall promptly retire. If a boat touches a start or finish mark they shall complete a one-turn penalty as described in RRS 44.2. This changes RRS 31.

13. PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

13.1. Protest forms are available at the race office, located in the clubhouse. Protests and requests for redress or reopening shall be delivered there within 1 hour after the last boat has finished the last race of the day.

14. SCORING:

14.1. The low point system of appendix A (Scoring) will apply, with 6 races scheduled, with the following discards.

4 - 6 races sailed	1 race to be discarded
1 or 3 races sailed	All races to count

15. PRIZES

15.1. **Dart 18:** Prizes will be awarded for the first 3 boats overall. There may be additional prizes.

15.2. **B14:** A prize will be awarded for the first boat overall. There may be additional prizes.

APPENDIX 1: COURSE DIAGRAM

MARKS & COURSE

Mark 1 will be an orange cylindrical pillar buoy.

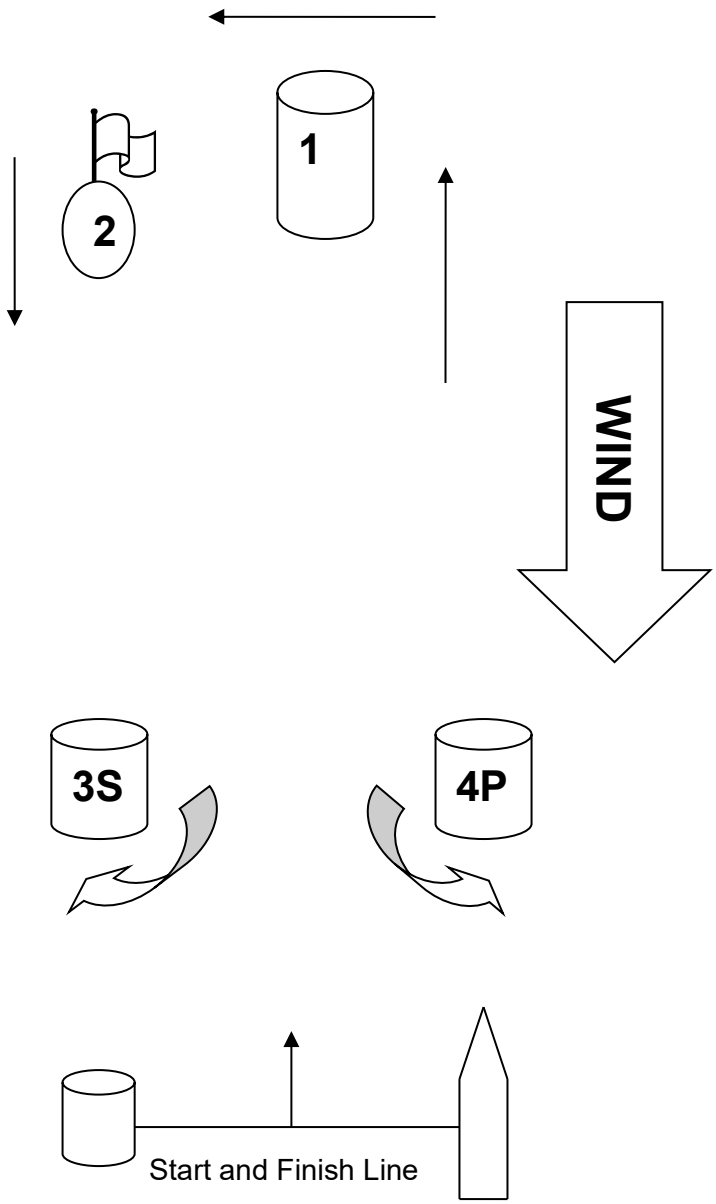
Mark 2 will be an orange cylindrical pillar buoy on all laps.

Marks 3s and 4p will be orange cylindrical pillar buoys.

Order of rounding:

Start: CB-B Line

Lap 1: 1, 2, 3s or 4p

Lap 2: 1, 2, 3s or 4p

Lap 3: 1, 2, 3s or 4p, CB-B finish