

**Warsash Sailing Club**  
**Dinghy Racing - Sailing Instructions – 2018~19**



## 1. GENERAL

Races are governed by the Racing Rules of Sailing, 2016-2020 (RRS), the RYA prescriptions, Class Rules and these sailing instructions. In the event of a conflict these sailing instructions shall apply. All helms and boats shall register before racing for the first time in the season – boats not registered will not be given a result.

## 2. RISK STATEMENT

Rule 4 of the RRS states: 'The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or continue to race is hers alone'. Sailing is by its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event, each competitor agrees and acknowledges that:

- (a) they are aware of the inherent element of risk involved in the sport and accept responsibility for the exposure of themselves, their crew and their boat to such inherent risk whilst taking part in the event;
- (b) they are responsible for the safety of themselves, crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore;
- (c) they accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions;
- (d) their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate;
- (e) the provision of a race management team, patrol boats if any and other officials and volunteers by the event organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities;
- (f) the provision of patrol boat cover if any is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can practically be provided in the circumstances;
- (g) their boat is adequately insured, with cover of at least £3,000,000 against third party claims.

## 3. SIGNING ON & OFF

All boats must be entered and 'signed on' for each days racing. A responsible adult must 'sign on' for boats with helms under the age of 18 yrs. The declaration form for this purpose is available in Lobster clubhouse. After racing the declaration must be signed by the helm to indicate correct completion of the course. All sections of the declaration form must be completed. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in automatic disqualification from all races that day. Boats launching from other clubs shall, before the first warning signal of the day, indicate their participation to the race officer and get positive acknowledgement before racing, crossing the finish line will be understood to mean 'returned safely'. The signing off sheet will be removed a minimum of 30 minutes after the last finish has been recorded and anyone who has not signed off by this time will be declared DNF.

## 4. SAFETY

The provision of 'patrol boat' cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances. Crews cannot expect a 'patrol boat' to 'stand by' for an extended period.

**Personal Buoyancy – Personal buoyancy shall be worn at all times whilst racing.** Failure to comply will result in automatic disqualification from all races that day.

**Navigation** – Southampton port bylaws require boats to keep clear of vessels using the main shipping channel and there is a 'moving zone of concern' around some vessels. The River Hamble bylaws require that boats do not impede larger vessels, including power craft, using the river. Such vessel shall rank as an obstruction and Part 2, Section C applies. Any boat contravening the bylaws may be disqualified.

## 5. NOTICES & CHANGES TO THE SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

These will be posted on the dinghy racing notice board in Lobster Quay club house.

## 6. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE OR ON THE COMMITTEE BOAT

Details of each course to be sailed will be displayed as a letter next to the relevant code flag on the display board at the race box, the number of rounds will be displayed adjacent to the race box. If code flag **L** is displayed at the race box, it denotes a special course has been designated, this will be displayed on a board near the race box on Shore House jetty, the number of rounds will be displayed adjacent to the race box. Abandonment signals will be made at Lobster Quay, or Shore House race box or on the committee boat.

## 7. SCHEDULE OF RACES & START TIMES

The indicative schedule of races and start times are as listed in the WSC sailing calendar 2018. **Wednesday** and **Friday** evening races will start from the Club line and the first start is normally at **1830**, although early and late season races start at **1800**.

Saturday "**Monthly Mayhem**" races are outside starts with two or three races per day. The first start is usually scheduled for **1600**, subsequent races will start as soon as possible after the finish of the previous race.

## 8. STARTING SEQUENCE

The **5, 4, 1, Go**, start sequence as described in Rule 26 shall apply. Starts will be at 5-minute intervals. The faster fleets will normally start first, followed by the slower fleets. **Wednesday evening's** series races will normally have 3 starts. **Any** fleets may be combined at the discretion of the race officer.

<u>Fleet</u>	<u>PY</u>	<u>Class Flag</u>
Superfast	1026 or less	C
Fast	1027 - 1109	D
Medium	1110 - 1209	E
Slow	Over 1210	B

These two fleets generally start together

Start area

Boats must keep clear of the start area until their warning signal. Boats in the start area before their warning signal may be disqualified.

## **9. START/FINISH LINES**

Club Line starts, are marked by the transit of two posts with yellow triangular top marks on, and behind the race box and stretches across the main channel between the Shore House pontoon to the outer pontoon on the Hamble side of the river. Boats must start and finish in the main channel. In the event of a general recall, that fleet will restart 5 minutes after the last scheduled start in the normal starting sequence.

Outside starts, will normally take place in the vicinity of Cat Head. The start line will be between the staff flying an orange flag on the committee boat and the outer distance mark. The finish line will be the same as the start line.

## **10. COURSES**

The courses are as described on the 'Dinghy Racing Start Guide and Courses 2018. Club line starts will use courses A – Z, the fleet, course and number of rounds will be displayed adjacent to the race box. Special courses denoted by code flag **L** will be displayed on a board on the Shore House jetty (SI 6)

Outside starts will use laid mark courses. There will be no set number of laps; the displayed course shall be repeated until flag '**S**' and or '**F**' is flown.

## **11. SHORTENED COURSE**

Affecting Rule 32, code flag **F** flown adjacent to a mark indicates that boats should pass that mark on the required side and proceed to the finish line. If the final mark of the course is in lower case, boats must, from the point where the **F** flag is flown, round the mark in lower case and then proceed to the finish. Code flag **S** indicates finish 'here'.

Flags **F & S** flown simultaneously adjacent to a transit through piles 6 and 7, indicates that all boats will finish when crossing an imaginary line between the motor boat displaying the signal, and the two piles and their extension.

## **12. TIME LIMITS**

The time limit for club line starts is 2hrs or sunset whichever is earlier; for committee boat starts the time limit is 60 minutes.

## **13. PENALTIES**

Rule 44.2, applies.

## **14. PROTESTS**

Protests should be made within 30 minutes of the last boat returning ashore. Boats crossing the start finish line must inform the starter/finisher they intend to protest. The written protest should be handed to the race officer or dinghy chairman. A hearing will be arranged at the earliest opportunity, if not immediately, after racing on the next Wednesday or Friday evening.

## **15. SCORING AND HANDICAPS**

The Portsmouth Yardstick will be used. The Dinghy Committee may use their discretion to allocate adjusted PY numbers. The low point scoring system of Appendix A will apply. The duty team (race officer, starter/recorder and 'patrol boat' drivers & crew) shall score one point. Only a single one point duty score will normally be permitted in a series. Exceptionally, the Dinghy Committee may permit a second duty one point or average points in a series (to cover the circumstance when, immediately prior to a race, a competitor is requested to forego sailing and undertake a duty in order to enable racing to proceed). A second duty in a series will normally score average points for all the races sailed by that competitor in that series after discards have been applied. Where there are two or more races on the same day the duty team shall score the lesser of, average points, or points equal to half the numbers of starters in their fleet for the second and subsequent races unless there are 2 or less starters in their fleet when 1 point shall be scored.

## **16. CHANGING BOATS DURING A SERIES**

An owner changing their boat part way through a series must apply to the dinghy committee to have the results for both boats scored as a single boat, provided both boats are the same class of dinghy with the same Portsmouth yardstick numbers.

## **17. CHANGING CREW DURING A SERIES**

A boat will be scored in a series if her helmsman is the same person in all races in that series.

## **18. DISCARDS**

There will be 3 discards if 8 or more races are completed in a series, 2 discards if 6 or 7, and 1 discard if 4 or 5 races are completed.

## **19. PRIZES**

Prizes will be awarded to the winning sailors in each fleet and such lower places as the dinghy committee deem appropriate having regard to the total series entries, and the entries in each race. Only WSC boats are eligible for WSC prizes. Overall trophies will be awarded for each fleet with the highest points scored in the Wednesday and Friday series on the basis 10pts for 1st, 9 for 2nd, 1 for 10th for which a boat is eligible with the best 4 series results being counted. The points will be applied to the series results after non-WSC boats have been removed. Ties shall be broken using the principles of RRS App A, A.8.