

Ranelagh Sailing Club Founded 1889		
		Tel : 020 8788 4985
Sailing Instructions - Downriver		

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL RACES

1. Rules

Racing will take place under the current Racing Rules of Sailing, the prescriptions of the RYA, the notice of Race, these sailing instructions and the appropriate class rules.

Rules 1.2, 30.1, 31.2, 35, App A2, A4, A8, A9 shall not apply.

Rule 44.2 (Touching the Mark Penalty) and 45 are altered by these SI's

2.0 Conditions of Entry

2.1 General (A "boat" refers to and includes all on board)

2.1.1 A boat is entirely responsible for her own safety, whether afloat or ashore, and nothing, whether in these Sailing Instructions or anywhere else, reduces this responsibility.

2.1.2 It is for the boat to decide whether she is fit to sail in the conditions in which she will find herself. By launching, the boat confirms that she is fit for those conditions and her crew is competent to sail and compete in them.

2.1.3 The boat is required to hold adequate insurance and in particular to hold insurance against third party claims in the sum of at least £3,000,000.00
Provision of rescue boats does not relieve the boat of her responsibilities.

2.1.4 Nothing done by the organisers can reduce the responsibility of the boat nor will it make the organisers responsible for any loss, damage, death or personal injury, however it may have occurred, as a result of the boat taking part in the racing. The organisers encompass everyone helping to run the race and the event and include the organising authority, the race committee, the race officer, patrol boats and any assistants.

2.2 Measurement or Rating Certificates

2.2.1 Open Meetings

A boat is eligible to race in an open meeting entirely at the discretion of the Race Officer on the day.

2.3 Measurement

Any yacht may be measured before or after any race at the discretion of the committee.

2.4 Distinguishing Numbers

A boat shall comply with the requirements of Appendix G governing class insignia, national letters and numbers on sails. The Race Committee may, at its discretion, vary these requirements on application.

2.5 Eligibility

The provision of Appendix 2, valid at the date of the race, shall apply and in addition the following may compete:-

2.5.1 (A) Open Meetings

Any amateur member of a club recognised by the RYA.

(B) Club Races

Any temporary or permanent member of Ranelagh Sailing Club.

3. Safety

3.1 Personal Buoyancy

3.1.1 Adequate personal buoyancy shall be worn by all crew members when on the water at all times. Wet suits or dry suits do not constitute adequate personal buoyancy.

3.2 Tallies

There is no tally system.

4. Communication with competitors

4.1 Class Signals

See start sequences below

4.2 Notice to Competitors

Notices to competitors will be posted on the Race Notice Board.

4.2.1 The Race Notice Board is located in the Club House between the sets of doors leading to the balcony.

4.3 Changes in Sailing Instructions

4.3.1 Changes to the Sailing Instructions will be posted on the Race Notice board at least 30 minutes before the start.

5. Course Area

5.1.1 The course area is the area of the Thames downriver of the Black Buoy to Westminster Boating Base. No competitor should go beyond either of these limits.

5.2 Course

5.2.1 The course to be sailed is indicated by a letter displayed at the front of the Race Box.

The club uses 2 main methods for starting races (Flags and/or Lights).

FLAGS - The starting procedure will be in accordance with rule 26 except that The Warning Signal will be flown 10 (5) minutes before the start. For Club & mixed class races, code flag "Q" will be used as the Warning Signal. For "Open" meetings, the relevant class flag will be used. Where all competitors are on the water the normal sequence of 5, 4, 1, start may be used and in this instance a red flag will be flown at the race box to denote this.

LIGHTS – The light box is on the start box below the signals mast. The Warning Signal is a Yellow flashing light and will be shown 10 (5) minutes before the start. The Preparatory Signal is a Blue Flashing Light. A Red flag will signify a 5-4-1 start. The sequence will be

10 (5) mins -			On – Off	Hooter
4 mins –			On – On	Hooter
1 mins -			On – Off	Long Hooter
Start -			Off – Off	Hooter

7.4 Individual Recalls

Individual recalls will be in accordance with rule 29.2 except that Code flag "X" will be displayed (with a sound signal) at the dip irrespective of the class or classes of the yachts concerned. Boats OCS must make concerted attempts to cross to the pre-start side the start line. Flag "X" will remain displayed until 4 minutes after the start. Boats still heading for the pre-start side of the start line at the time the "X" flag is removed will be deemed to have started, however no unfair advantage will be allowed and the race officer will have final say. This changes rule 29.

7.5 General Recalls

7.5.1 When there is a general recall any scheduled subsequent start may be delayed.

7.6 Prohibited area penalties - competitors using closed arches will be disqualified. Closed arches will be advised at the briefing.

9. Finishing

9.1 Finishing Line - The finishing line is the same as the starting line described in the sailing instruction

9.1.1 Finishing Line - Shortened course at Clubhouse - The finishing line for any clubhouse finish will always be the same as the start line, as described in the sailing instruction, from the direction of the previous mark. No finish at the clubhouse will be at a buoy.

9.1.2 Finishing Line - Shortened course at a Mark – On signalling the shortened course the next Mark will be the finishing Mark. The line will be between the committee/safety boat and the Finishing Mark from the direction of the previous Mark. NB this may mean leaving the Mark on a different hand to the original course.

9.2 Time Limits- Rule 35 shall not apply.

The time limit for each race will be two and a half hours. The race will be valid for all those boats finishing within the time limit.

When the first boat finishes within the last half hour of the prescribed time limit, the race will be valid for those boat that finish within half an hour of the finishing time of the first boat.

When no boat finishes within the above time limit, the race will be abandoned. Signals will be in accordance with Rule 32.1 (Signals). Notification of re-sail date and time, or cancellation will be posted on the official notice board as soon as possible.

10. Touching a Mark Rule 44.1 is amended.

When a yacht infringes rule 31 she may exonerate herself by completing one entire rounding of the mark, leaving it on the required side, and thereafter re-rounding it or re-passing it without touching it, and then finish sailing the course in accordance with rule 28 – Sailing the Course – and the sailing instructions. No alternative penalty is allowed for breaching rule 44.1.

11. Alternative Penalties

The 720° turns penalty as provided in rule 44 (Penalties for Breaking Rules of Part 2 of Racing Rules of Sailing) shall apply for infringement of a rule of Part 2.

12. Zone

The Zone is 3 boat lengths.

13. Protest

Protests must be lodged with the Race Officer within 30 minutes of completing the course or retiring from the race. This time may be extended by the Race Officer provided application for such an extension is made to him within the 30 minute limit. Protests will be heard in the clubhouse as soon after the race as convenient.

14. Declarations

Competitors must sign an entry form/sheet before starting. If stipulated by the Race Committee, Helmsmen must sign the Declaration Sheet within 30 minutes of completing the race or retiring.

15 Scoring System

15.1 (A) Open Meetings

Points are awarded as follows:-

First Place	1
Second Place	2
Nth Place	N
Retired	Number of entries + 1
Disqualified	Number of entries + 5

15.2

(B) Class/Club Series

Points are awarded to a helmsman as follows:-

First Place	51
Second Place	49
Nth Place	51-N
Retired	50 – (number of starters + 4)
Disqualified	0

15.3

Club Handicap Races and Series

Places are calculated after the time has been corrected for handicap based on the current Portsmouth Yardstick, as amended from time to time by the Sailing Committee. Such amendments will be displayed on the Race Notice Board.

15.4

Ties

Ties will be broken in favour of the second race (upriver direction).

16.

Local Variations

16.1

Anchoring

After the Preparatory Signal a boat shall not be anchored by means of the crew standing on the bottom, except to effect repairs, reef or bail out. This constitutes a variation of Rule 45, Hauling Out; Making Fast; Anchoring.

16.2

Moored Boats and Moorings

Boats, Crafts, Floating Pontoons, mooring buoys and other moored or standing objects shall not be used for assistance after the Preparatory Signal, unless for the making repairs and to ensure safety.

16.3

Visibility

The competitors shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that their numbers are seen by the Race Officer at the start and at the end of each race.

It is a requirement of the PLA Byelaws that in conditions of low visibility or darkness a white light shall be carried to illuminate sails and indicate position to other traffic.