

Ranelagh Sailing Club Founded 1889		
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Sailing Instructions		

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS TO – Vintage, Classic & Thames Series Race - 22nd June 2025

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, in relation to appropriate organising groups.

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.

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

A boat is eligible to race in an open meeting only if she has a valid measurement certificate or complies with class requirements. This shall be available for inspection at the time of entry. In the event of a competitor being unable to produce a certificate, an undertaking in accordance with rule 78.2 must be accompanied by a deposit of £10 which will be forfeited if a previously issued valid certificate or true copy is not received within 14 days of the date of the race.

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:-

Any amateur member of a club recognised by the RYA.

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

Class signals will be in accordance with Rule 26. For club races code flag "O" will be used as the Warning Signal, and/or the Orange Light as per briefing.

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 and copied to Board behind the main club flag pole.

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 shown on a map to the right of the door leading to the up-river end of the balcony. The course buoys laid near to positions as shown on the Race Course Map as displayed.

5.1.2 **Exclusion Zone** - The area on the south shore inside the main trot buoys adjacent to Chas Newans Chandlery is an exclusion zone and no competitor shall sail within or near that area. Competitors will obey the instructions of the safety boat at all times.

5.2 Course

5.2.1 The course to be sailed is indicated on the notice board and passed to all competitors.

A diagram of the course may be drawn on the Race Notice Board.

5.3 Number of Rounds

5.3.1 The course may be shortened by the Committee boat flying flag or displaying 'S' at any mark of the course. Boats shall finish by sailing direct to the finish line from the direction of the previous mark. Other courses may be shortened by the race officer at the Club flying flag N.

5.4 Magnetic Bearing of Mark 1

5.4.1 No magnetic bearing will be displayed.

5.5 Description of Course Marks (All spherical marked with RSC)

5.5.1	O = Orange Buoy	Y = Yellow Buoy
	R = Red Buoy	B = Blue Buoy

5.6 Change of Position of Marks during Race

5.6.1 There is no provision for moving marks in such a way as to alter, significantly, the course to be made good. A lost mark may be substituted by the safety boat

6. Starts

6.1 Starting Times

6.1.1 Start times are published in the Sailing NOR.

7.

8. Fixed Line Starts

7.1 Starting Line

The starting line is between the signals mast in front of the race Box, at the upriver end of the balcony, and the orange line (topped with white) on the north embankment (Bishop's Park). For the assistance of competitors, there is a transit with a pole, at the rear of the Race Box

7.2 Limit Marks - Not Applicable

7.3 Starting Procedure

The club uses 2 main methods for starting races.

FLAGS - The starting procedure will be in accordance with rule 26 except that The Warning Signal will be flown 10 minutes before the start. Code flag "O" will be used as the Warning Signal.

LIGHTS – The light box is on the start box below the signals mast. The Warning Signal is a Yellow light and will be shown 10 minutes before the start. The Preparatory Signal is a Blue light. The sequence will be

10 mins -		On – Off	Hooter/Bell
4 mins –		On – On	Hooter/Bell
1 mins -		On – Off	Long Hooter/Bell
Start -		Off – Off	Hooter/Bell

7.4 Individual Recalls

Individual recalls will be in accordance with rule 29.2 except that Code flag “X” will be displayed at the dip irrespective of the class or classes of the yachts concerned.

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 will be disqualified if they ignore the instructions of the safety boat.

8. Gate Starts - There is no provision for gate starts.

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 the 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.

Whilst completing this re-rounding she shall have no rights over other boats, and must therefore keep clear.

Rule 43.1(a) exonerates a boat in any situation in which she is compelled to break a rule because another boat has broken a rule.

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.

15.1 Scoring

Vintage Series – Finishing positions will be calculated by a representative of the Merlin Rocket Owners Association.

Thames Series – Places are calculated on finishing place.

Classic Series – Finishing positions will be calculated by a representative of the Merlin Rocket Owners Association.

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 round.

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.