

SEVERN SAILING CLUB

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

FROM MARCH 2010

1.0 RULES

- 1.1 Racing will take place under the Racing Rules of Sailing 2009-2012, the prescriptions of the RYA, these Sailing Instructions and the appropriate class rules.
- 1.2 Class rules shall apply with any changes necessary to permit single handed racing in single handed races.
- 1.3 In a single handed race, only yachts which normally carry a crew of two or more shall compete.
- 1.4 At the discretion of the Sailing Committee, in a club series race, more than one crew may be carried in a two-man boat.
- 1.5 In a club series race, a two-man boat may be sailed single handed, but shall be subject to a reduction of 20 on its PY handicap number.
- 1.6 For club races only, and at the discretion of the OOD, AOOD or Safety Boat Crew, boats may receive help from the safety boat and be allowed to continue in the race, without penalty, provided they have gained no significant advantage.

2.0 CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

- 2.1 The safety of a yacht and her entire management (including insurance) shall be the sole responsibility of the owner/competitor racing the yacht, who must ensure that the yacht and crew are adequate to face the conditions which may arise in the course of the race. Neither the establishment of the sailing instructions nor the inspection of the yacht under these conditions in any way limits or reduces the absolute responsibility of the owner/competitor for his crew, his yacht and the management thereof. The race organisers shall not be responsible for any loss, damage, death or personal injury howsoever caused to the owner/competitor, his skipper or crew, as a result of their taking part in the race or races. Moreover, every owner/competitor warrants the suitability of his yacht for the race or races. Attention is drawn to Racing Rule 4.
- 2.2 A yacht shall not be eligible to race unless valid insurance cover to a minimum value of £2,000,000 has been obtained.
- 2.3 Under exceptional circumstances, and, providing that class rules allow, the race committee may permit a yacht to use sails carrying a number other than that required by Racing Rule 77.
- 2.4 When I.C.F. flag 'Y' is hoisted at least 15 minutes before the start of a race all competitors shall wear adequate personal flotation devices whilst racing (neither a wet nor a dry suit constitutes an adequate personal flotation device for these purposes).
- 2.5 Declarations must be signed within one hour of the last boat finishing.

Competitors failing to meet this condition may be disqualified unless they can prove the conditions to be unreasonable in the circumstances.

3.0 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

- 3.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located within the clubhouse or at or near the starting box.
- 3.2 Any changes to the sailing instructions will be posted on the official notice board at least thirty minutes before the start of the first race of the day.

4.0 SCHEDULE OF RACES

- 4.1 For club racing the schedule is published in the SSC Year (Blue) Book. Times of open events will be posted on the official notice board.
- 4.2 In the event of exceptional circumstances the Sailing Committee reserves the right to rearrange the racing programme as it sees fit to make best use of the year.

5.0 HANDICAPPING

- 5.1 Unless a local handicap figure is allocated by the Sailing Committee, the Portsmouth Yardstick Scheme will apply to all yachts in handicap races.
- 5.2 The Sailing Committee shall allocate each yacht's Portsmouth Number. Should it fail to do so, current RYA Publication YR2 shall apply. Disputes shall be settled by the Sailing Committee.

6.0 CLASS SIGNALS

- 6.1 Signal for Pursuit Races will be ICF 'Z'.
- 6.2 Signal for Class Races will be that designated by the class association.
- 6.3 Signal for Handicap Races will be ICF '4'.

7.0 THE COURSE

- 7.1 The course will consist of one upstream and one downstream turning mark, both coloured yellow. Further marks coloured red or green may be inserted between these marks. The course configuration will be shown on the front of the starting box. It will show the start/finish line and the hands on which all marks are to be left (i.e. port(red) or starboard(green)).
- 7.2 The Intended Elapsed Time for Handicap Races will be as stated in the SSC Year (Blue) Book. The duration of Pursuit Races will be sixty minutes for a yacht of 1116 P.N.
- 7.3 All yachts must keep clear of fishermen. These are designated as obstructions and Racing Rules 19 & 20 will apply.

8.0 STARTS

- 8.1 The starting line will be an extension of two transit posts in front of the starting box. One post will be the flag mast, the other will be portable and

- topped by a red circle unless otherwise specified by the race officer.
- 8.2 The starting direction will be shown by an arrow on the front of the starting box.
 - 8.3 The length of the start line will be the width of the river.
 - 8.4 The starting procedure for handicap and class races will be Racing Rule 26.
 - 8.5 If a race is postponed, the answering pennant will be flown and two sound signals made. One minute before the new warning signal, the answering pennant will be lowered and one sound signal made.
 - 8.6 The advertised start time of a pursuit race will be the time that a yacht with a Portsmouth Number of 1116 starts.
 - 8.7 Entries for a pursuit race shall be made 20 minutes before the advertised start time.
 - 8.8 The starting procedure for pursuit races will be as follows for the first yacht to start:

5 minutes to start - Warning Signal (ICF Flag 'Z') hoisted

4 minutes to start - Preparatory Signal (ICF Flag 'P') hoisted

1 minute to start – Preparatory Signal (ICF Flag 'P') Lowered

Start Signal – Warning Signal (ICF Flag 'Z') Lowered.

Each succeeding yacht's start shall be signalled by a sound signal only. The onus of starting at the correct time shall be on each competitor. Start times for each yacht shall be available from the race officer.

- 8.9 If only one yacht starts, the race will be abandoned.

9.0 RECALLS

- 9.1 Individual recalls will be signalled in accordance with Racing Rule 29.1 or alternatively by holding the preparatory and warning flags at dip until the boats have returned.
- 9.2 General recall will be signalled by the First Substitute flag with two sound signals. One minute before the new warning signal the first substitute will be lowered.
- 9.3 A black flag may be flown to indicate that a yacht that crosses the start line within a minute before the starting signal will be disqualified.
- 9.4 If a split race is the subject of a general recall, the yachts in that start will restart five minutes after the last start.

10.0 FINISHING LINE

- 10.1 The finishing line will be the same as the start line (see 8.1) unless otherwise specified by the race officer.
- 10.2 The finish of a pursuit race shall be signalled by the hoisting of ICF 'F' together with one long sound signal. Competitors are required not to overtake other yachts and to hold station after the finish until instructed otherwise by the race officer. Yachts failing to hold station may be given a position equal to the number of starters.
- 10.3 At the finish signal the finishing positions for a pursuit race shall be determined by boats' positions on the water in relation to a line

perpendicular to the line of the course.

- 10.4 When displayed on the down stream side of the OOD's hut an arrow will indicate the direction of finish. This is displayed at the discretion of the Race Officer.

11.0 SHORTENED COURSE

- 11.1 To shorten course ICF 'S' will be flown and two sound signals made .
- 11.2 If a shortened course signal is made as the leading yacht is at or near the finish line, then that boat, and all subsequent boats, shall finish by rounding the next mark on the required hand, and returning to the finish line. If the signal is made as the leading boat is elsewhere, the finish will be between the next mark and the committee boat (or a transit to the shore). This changes Racing Rule 32.2
- 11.3 The race officer may change course by flying ICF 'C' & making one sound signal and notifying all competitors by hail of new course. This changes Racing Rule 33.

12.0 TIME LIMITS

- 12.1 The time limit for the first yacht shall be 1.5 times the Intended Elapsed Time as stated in the SSC Year (Blue) Book except that the time limit for the Long Distance Race shall be 5 hours, the Bridge Race 2.5 hours and for the Picnic Race 2.5 hours for each leg.
- 12.2 If no yacht finishes within this time, the race shall be abandoned.
- 12.3 For races where the intended elapsed time is 1.5 hours or less, a yacht which fails to finish within 60 minutes of the leading yacht shall be scored DNF. For all other races, to score a finish a yacht must finish the course within the number of minutes taken by the lead yacht from the finishing time of the lead boat. This changes Racing Rule 35.

13.0 PROTESTS

- 13.1 Protests must be lodged within 30 minutes of the last finisher, unless this can be shown to be unreasonable.

14.0 ALTERNATIVE PENALTIES

- 14.1 A yacht touching a mark shall exonerate herself in accordance with Racing rules 44.1 & 44.2 (One Turn).
- 14.2 Racing Rule 44.1 & 44.2 (Two Turns) will apply for infringement of a rule of Part 2.
- 14.3 If at the end of a pursuit race a yacht which is required to do so has not exonerated herself with a Two Turns penalty, then that yacht shall retire and must be given retirement points.

15.0 SCORING SYSTEM

- 15.1 The points scoring system shall be as described in The Racing Rules of Sailing

Appendix A. The Low Points System shall be used as stated in A4 unmodified for a one or two day series, but modified for longer series in accordance with A9.

- 15.2 The number of races in a club series and the number to count will be as laid out in the SSC Year (Blue) Book.
- 15.3 In an invitation or open meeting, the number of races scheduled and the number to count will be as advertised. If less than the advertised number of races are sailed the following system is used.
- 15.4 If 4 races sailed -3 to count.
- 15.5 If 3 races sailed -2 to count.
- 15.6 If less than 3 races sailed all races to count.
- 15.7 In the event of a tie, Appendix A Section A8 will be used .
- 15.8 The accumulation of points in an invitation or open meeting shall be made by one named helmsman in one named yacht.
- 15.9 In a club series, the accumulation of points shall be made by one named helmsman, but may, at the discretion of the Sailing Committee, be in any boat of one class.

16.0 LARGE NUMBER OF ENTRIES.

- 16.1 Where the number of yachts or weather conditions dictate, the race officer may split the entries into two or more race starts.
- 16.2 Split race starts shall be at five minute intervals or at the discretion of the race officer.
- 16.3 The corrected times of all yachts shall be calculated as if they had sailed in the same race. All split races shall be sailed over the same course.

17.0 AVERAGE LAP TIMES.

- 17.1 The race officer may, at his discretion, finish slower boats on a complete lap or laps less than other boats. The elapsed time for these boats will then be calculated by using their average lap time and multiplying it by the number of laps completed by the leading boat.
- 17.2 In order for the procedure to be valid the course must not have been shortened and all boats must be finished on complete laps (in the same direction as the start).