

BLITHFIELD SAILING CLUB

OPEN MEETING SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

2018



1 RULES

- 1.1 The series of races will be governed by the “rules” as defined in the World Sailing Racing Rules of Sailing, (<http://www.sailing.org/tools/documents/WorldSailingRRS20172020-%5b20946%5d.pdf>) The prescriptions of the RYA, the Notice of Race, these Sailing Instructions, the rules of Blithfield Sailing Club, the rules of the class association and the requirements of South Staffordshire Water PLC.
- 1.2 Blithfield Sailing Club supports the RYA Racing Charter & that when entering, competitors undertake to sail in compliance with the Charter.

2 NOTICE TO COMPETITORS

- 2.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located in the clubhouse near the race box.

3 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS (SIs)

- 3.1 Any changes to the SIs will be posted at least 30 minutes before the warning signal of a race it will affect. The race committee reserves the right to amend the racing programme subject to prevailing conditions.

4 SIGNALS MADE

- 4.1 Signals made may be displayed on either the flagstaff adjacent to the race box or on the committee boat of Blithfield Sailing Club.
- 4.2 Flashing Light: - If the amber flashing light on the Club House is activated, all boats shall return to the Club House shore immediately. If a race is in progress, this light shall have the same meaning as Flags ‘N’ over ‘H’ - Race Abandoned, further signals ashore.
- 4.3 House Flag flying - means that boats may be launched. Boats launching when the House Flag is not flying will be scored DSQ by the race committee in the race sailed closest in time to the incident. This amends RRS 63.1 & Appendix A5

5 SAFETY, DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY & INSURANCE

- 5.1 Rule 4 of the Racing Rules of Sailing states: “responsibility for a boat’s decision to participate in a race or to continue racing 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 this.
- 5.2 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. It is for the boat’s crew to decide whether she is fit to sail in the conditions in which she will find herself.
- 5.3 By launching or going afloat, the boat confirms that she is fit for those conditions and that her crew is competent to sail and compete in them. The crew accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions. The crew accept the inherent risk of taking part in the event.
- 5.4 The boat is required to hold adequate insurance and in particular, to hold insurance against third party claims in the sum of at least £2,000,000.
- 5.5 Nothing done by the organizers can reduce the responsibility of the boat, nor will it make the organizers 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 organizers encompass everyone helping to run the race and the event, and include the organising authority, the race committee, the race officer, patrol boats and beach masters. The provision of patrol boats does not relieve the boat of her responsibilities. The cover provided is limited, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as to that which can be practically provided in the circumstance.

- 5.6 Flag Y will not be flown. Personal floatation devices are mandatory, adequate personal buoyancy must be worn by all competitors whilst afloat. This amends RRS 40.
- 5.7 The race committee and its patrol boat crews are empowered to compel a competitor to receive significant outside assistance, or return to the shore, when they deem a situation where safety is put at risk. The right of a competitor to seek redress under the RRS is withdrawn under these circumstances. This amends RRS 62.1 This provision does not limit the responsibility of the competitor.
- 5.8 Patrol Boat(s) - All power boats engaged in safety duties in the sailing area shall rank as an obstruction as defined in RRS Definitions. In addition, the water between a power boat and the dinghy(ies) to which she is standing by shall also rank as an obstruction.

6 SCHEDULE OF RACES

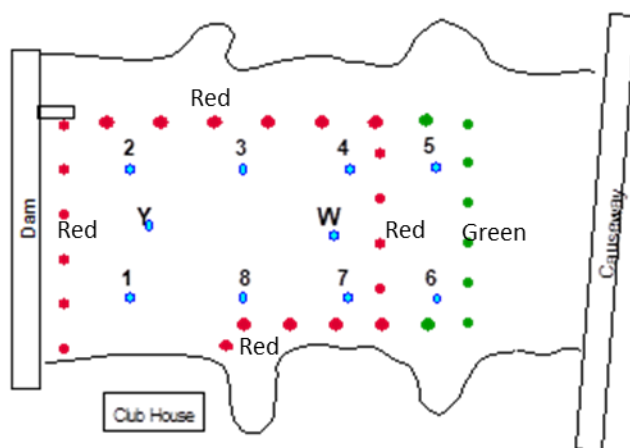
- 6.1 As detailed in the Notice of Race.

7 CLASS FLAG

- 7.1 The class flag will be notified at the briefing.

8 SAILING AREA & OBSTRUCTIONS

- 8.1 The sailing area is restricted with coloured buoys as shown in the diagram below. A straight line drawn between two adjacent buoys shall rank as an obstruction as defined in RRS definitions. Further information will be given at the briefing.
- 8.2 Any boat seen crossing the lines defining the sailing area by race officials will be scored DSQ by the race committee in the race sailed closest in time to the incident. This amends RRS 63.1 & Appendix A5. Other boats may protest an infringement.



Indicative layout.

- 8.3 A judge boat, or fishing boats and their associated equipment straying into the sailing area, shall rank as an obstruction as defined in RRS definitions.

9 THE COURSE & MARKS

- 9.1 The course will be displayed on the Committee Boat no later than the warning signal. The mark numbers or letters shall be displayed in sequence, their background colour 'Red' or 'Green' indicating whether marks are to be passed to port or starboard respectively.
- 9.2 The number of laps (white numeral on black background) will be displayed on the Committee Boat no later than the warning signal. The number of laps shall be counted from the first windward mark unless the outer starting line mark is also used as the finishing mark.
- 9.3 Course marks – Course marks are spherical blue buoys, numbered in white and laid out approximately as shown above. Spherical blue buoys labelled "Y" and "W" may be re-positioned at any time during the regatta. "Y" will normally be in the sailing area

nearest the dam. "W" will normally be in the sailing area closest to the Causeway. The "X" mark - a white spherical buoy with a pillar marked "X". At times this mark may also carry an orange or blue flag. This will not change its designation as the "X" mark.

- 9.4 Start Line Mark - The mark used for the starting line will be "X" and will carry an orange flag.
- 9.5 Finish Line mark - The mark used for the finish line may be the "X" mark displaying an orange flag, a Mark of the Course or as described in RRS 32.

10 THE START

- 10.1 Starting System– Races will be started by using RRS Rule 26. When signalled by the Race Committee, the provisions of RRS 30 will apply.
- 10.2 The Starting Line – will be between a staff on the committee boat displaying an orange flag and the start line mark.
- 10.3 A boat starting later than 10 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes RRS 63.1 & Appendix A.

11 CHANGE OF POSITION OF THE NEXT MARK

- 11.1 No blue course marks will be moved after the warning signal; however, if the 'X' mark is moved after the start, no visual or audible signals will be made. (This amends RRS 33)

12 THE FINISH

- 12.1 The Finishing Line – will be between the staff on the Committee Boat flying an orange flag and the finish line mark.
- 12.2 Sound Signal – Boats crossing the finishing line may be acknowledged with a sound signal.

13 PENALTY SYSTEM

- 13.1 The penalties described in RRS 31 & RRS 44.1 - will apply. Failure to take a penalty when knowingly breaking a rule is considered a serious breach of the basic principle of sportsmanship.
- 13.2 A boat that has taken a penalty under RRS 31 or RRS 44.1 shall complete an acknowledgement form at the race office within the protest time limit.

14 RACE TIME LIMIT

- 14.1 There is a time limit on each race of 1 hour 45 minutes, or 30 minutes after the first boat finishes whichever is the sooner. Any boat still racing will be recorded "Did not finish". This amends RRS 35 & Appendix A.
- 14.2 The Race Committee may, in its absolute discretion, allocate a finishing position to any boat that appears to be unlikely to finish in the time limit, or to facilitate the management of the racing. Boats affected will be hailed. The right of a competitor to seek redress under the RRS is withdrawn under these circumstances. This amends RRS 60 and 62.

15 PROTESTS, REQUESTS FOR REDRESS & HEARINGS

- 15.1 Protests or Requests for Redress shall be written on forms available from the race office at Blithfield Sailing Club. This amends RRS 61 & 62.
- 15.2 Completed protest forms shall be lodged with the Race Officer or their representative at the race office at Blithfield Sailing Club within the protest time limit.
- 15.3 The protest time limit is 30 minutes after the last boat finishes the last race of that day.
- 15.4 A request for reopening a hearing shall be lodged within 30 minutes of being informed of the original hearing decision. This amends RRS 66.
- 15.5 Notices of hearings and protests by the race committee or protest committee will be posted to inform boats under RRS 61.1(b).
- 15.6 Boats observed by the race committee to have not sailed the correct course will be scored DSQ without the need to protest. Boats may seek redress from this action.

This amends RRS 63.1 & Appendix A.

16 DECLARATIONS

16.1 Within 30 minutes of the end of a race a Declaration shall be made to indicate any of the following as appropriate:-

- I have retired

- I have undertaken penalty turns

The Declaration shall be recorded on a sheet posted on the official notice board.

16.2 Back to back races - If races are sailed consecutively the time limit shall be from the last race sailed before coming ashore.

16.3 A boat that retires and does not complete a declaration within the declaration time limit will be scored DNC by the Race Committee. This amends RRS 63.1 & Appendix A.

17 SCORING

17.1 The event will be scored using the low points system in RRS Appendix A.

17.2 Discards - See Notice of Race

18 SUBSTITUTION OF COMPETITORS

18.1 Changing of helm - See Notice of Race.

18.2 Changing of crew - A change of crew must be recorded on the registration form. If the substitute crew is a minor, the parental declaration must also be signed.

18.3 Change of boat -See Notice of Race.

18.4 The Race Committee must approve the change before any race is sailed under this rule.

15.02.18.PJM