

Topper Open 19 May 2019 Sailing Instructions

1 Rules

1.1 The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in the **Racing Rules of Sailing** and by the **RYA Racing Charter**.

1.2 **Harwich Haven Authority Bylaws will also apply.** Competitors should note in particular: *“A vessel which is not confined to the Deep Water Channel by reason of her draught shall keep clear of the Deep Water Channel when necessary to avoid impeding the movement of a vessel which is proceeding in, and by reason of her draught is confined to that channel.”* Note that keeping clear of the deep water channel may require boats to make a clear and obvious change of course away from the channel before they get to the channel, in order to make it clear to any approaching vessel that they are keeping clear (noting that visibility from the bridge of a large vessel may be restricted).

1.3 **The following local rule will also apply:** *“Any boat, even if capsized, whose hull or equipment makes contact with a moored yacht (excluding her mooring buoy) shall retire immediately unless she claims that she was wrongfully compelled to make contact by another boat, in which case she shall protest. (Fending off is permitted).”*

2 Safety Regulations

2.1 **Each competitor shall wear a personal floatation device** (e.g. buoyancy aid or lifejacket) appropriate to their size and weight of at least CE 50 Newton standard or equivalent at all times when on, in, or near the water, except briefly while changing or adjusting clothing or personal equipment. Wet suits and dry suits are not personal floatation devices.

2.2 **A tally system will be in operation for the safety of competitors.**

(a) Each competitor will be allocated a unique tally number at registration.

(b) The tally board will be located in or near the club race box (situated at the north east corner of the club lawn, adjacent to the club slipway).

(c) No competitor shall go afloat without first having personally collected the tally band bearing their tally number from the tally board.

(d) Competitors shall wear their tally band visibly (i.e. outside all clothing) on their wrist at all times whilst afloat.

(e) On coming ashore each competitor shall ensure that their tally band is replaced on the tally board as soon as practicable after they come ashore, and in no case later than 10 minutes after the last boat has come ashore.

(f) The penalty for each breach of SI 2.2(c), (d) or (e) will be the addition of a non-discardable points penalty to the relevant boat's score for the series without a hearing. The number of points will be the whole number nearest to 20% of the number of boats entered, except that the minimum penalty will be 5 points. This changes rules 63.1 and A5.

(g) Notwithstanding the penalty identified in SI 2.2(f), any competitor that goes afloat without their tally band shall report this fact to the race committee as soon as possible. They will be scored DNC without a hearing for all races started until they have done so. This changes rules 63.1 and A5.

(h) The race committee may impose any additional penalty or take any other action they think fit for flagrant or repeated breaches of this SI. This changes rules 63.1 and A5.

2.3 **Any boat that wishes to go ashore or otherwise leave the race area before the end of racing** shall ask for permission to do so from the race committee or the crew of an official support boat before doing so, and shall obey any instruction given in response.

2.4 **All boats shall have a painter of adequate length**, or other means of securing the boat to a mooring buoy or to a support boat for towing, that is readily identifiable and accessible to the crew of a support boat.

2.5 **When a member of the race committee or its designated official considers that a boat, its equipment or a competitor may not be adequate for the current or expected conditions, or for any other reason associated with safety**, they may stop the boat launching, require it to return to shore, require it to accept outside assistance, or require the competitor to abandon their boat, in which case the boat or competitor concerned shall obey that instruction.

2.6 **Support boats may escort large vessels through the race area.** If a support boat is displaying a red flag then no boat shall pass between the support boat and the large vessel. The race committee may give warning of the approach of a large vessel by making five sound signals.

2.7 **Failure to comply with any safety regulation or instruction may result in disqualification or the imposition of any other penalty as the race committee sees fit, without a hearing.** This changes Rule 63.1.

3 Communications

3.1 **Notices to competitors** will be posted in the clubhouse foyer.

3.2 There will be a **briefing for competitors** before racing which all competitors intending to race should attend.

3.3 Any **change to the sailing instructions** will be posted at least 15 minutes before the launch signal for the race or races affected.

4 Signals Made Ashore

4.1 **Signals made ashore** will be displayed on the flag mast adjacent to the club race box.

4.2 Flag D will be displayed ashore with one long sound when the race committee is content for boats to leave the shore (launch signal). **Boats shall not leave the shore unless flag D is displayed.** (Competitors may collect their tally bands before flag D is displayed).

4.3 When flag AP is displayed ashore (racing postponed) the launch signal will not be made earlier than 10 minutes after flag AP is removed. This changes the definition of Race Signal AP.

5 Schedule of Races

5.1 The intention is to sail four races back-to-back (with no opportunity to return to shore between races) , but with the option of sailing more or fewer at the Race Officer's absolute discretion.

5.2 The launch signal will not be made earlier than 5 minutes after the end of the competitors' briefing.

5.3 The warning signal for the first race will not be made until the Race Officer is satisfied that boats have had a reasonable opportunity to get to the starting area following the launch signal.

5.5 The warning signal for the start of each subsequent race will be made as soon as practicable following completion of the previous race.

6 Classes and Class Flags

6.1 The class flag will be numeral 6.

7 Racing Areas

7.1 Racing will be on the River Orwell in the vicinity of the Royal Harwich Yacht Club.

8 Courses and Marks

8.1 The course(s) to be sailed and description of marks to be used will be announced at the competitors' briefing before racing and displayed on the course board on the committee boat (with the written version on the course board prevailing if there is any inconsistency).

8.2 The race committee may change the course to be sailed whilst afloat, in which case they will display the new course to be sailed on the course board on the committee boat and display flag L with one sound signal.

9 Areas that are Obstructions

9.1 No boat that is racing shall enter the area between the club hard (marked at its outer end by a post with a red topmark) and the club marina, except to come ashore to effect repairs.

9.2 No boat that is racing shall sail inside the club marina (inside a line joining the outer ends of the pontoons), or between the club marina and the MDL marina, or inside the MDL marina.

10 The Start

10.1 Races will be started in accordance with rule 26 with the warning signal made 5 minutes before the starting signal.

10.2 The starting line will be between the mast displaying an orange flag on the committee boat at one end of the line and the course side of the mark at the other end of the line.

11 Change to the Next Leg of the Course

11.1 To change a leg of the course the race committee will move the original mark (or the finishing line) to a new position.

11.2 The race committee will not normally signal any change to the next leg of a course, but may direct a support boat to lead the fleet towards the repositioned mark. This changes rule 33.

12 The Finish

12.1 The finishing line will be between the mast displaying an orange flag on the committee boat at one end of the line and the course side of the mark at the other end of the line.

12.2 Boats that have finished and cleared the finishing line shall thereafter stay away from the finishing area and course, and keep clear of all boats that are still racing. Only the race committee may protest a boat for a breach of this SI. This changes rule 60.1.

13 Shortening Course

13.1 The race committee may shorten the course of any race at any time for any reason. This changes rule 32.1.

14 Alternative Finish

14.1 At any time after the first boat has finished, the race committee may display flag W with three sound signals, in which case all boats still racing will be deemed to have finished at that time, with their finishing place for scoring purposes being determined by their position around the course at that time as assessed by the Race Officer (whose decision on the matter will be final and shall not be the subject of a request for redress – this changes rule 62.1). This changes rule A3.

15 Time Limits

15.1 There will be no time limits.

16 Outside Help

16.1 A boat that has capsized or suffered a gear failure may receive outside help from the race committee or crew of an official support boat. This changes rule 41. (Competitors should note however that such help will only be provided after the affected competitors have themselves made reasonable efforts to rectify the situation). Failure to provide such help will not be grounds for redress – this changes rules 62.1.

17 Penalties

17.1 The Exoneration Penalty and the Advisory Hearing and RYA Arbitration procedures of the RYA Rules Disputes Procedures will be available..

18 Protests and Requests for Redress

18.1 Protest forms will be available in the club race box. Protests and requests for redress or reopening shall be delivered there within the time limit, which will be 30 minutes after the last competitor has come ashore.

18.2 A notice will be posted in the clubhouse foyer as soon as practicable after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties. This is the notification required by rule 63.2. Advisory hearings, arbitration hearings and protest hearings may begin without a notice, including within the protest time limit, when the parties are available.

19 Scoring

19.1 The Low Point System of Appendix A will apply.

19.2 One race needs to be completed to constitute a series.

19.3 Discards

(a) When fewer than 3 races have been completed a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores.

(b) When 3 or more races have been completed a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.

19.4 Boats using both 5.3 and 4.2 sails will race together and be scored as a single fleet on the basis of finishing position.

20 Replacement of Crew or Equipment

20.1 While racing, a boat shall only be helmed by the competitor listed on the entry form for that boat.

20.3 No boat shall use a sail displaying a sail number different to that listed on the entry form for that boat without first notifying the race committee in writing of the new sail number (or other identifying sail marking) and obtaining the race committee's consent to the new sail number (or other identifying marking).

20.4 Competitors may swap between 5.3 and 4.2 sails as often as they wish during the regatta provided that all sail changes are made ashore.

21 Compliance with Class Rules

21.1 Boats need not comply strictly with class rules, and measurement or rating certificates will not be required. In particular, replica sails and equipment may be used, and sail numbers need not match the number of the boat. This changes rule 78.1.

21.2 Competitors shall however abide by the spirit of class rules, and in particular not seek to gain a competitive advantage through any breach of class rules.

21.3 Only the race committee may protest a boat for a breach of this SI. This changes rule 60.1.

22 Identification on sails

22.1 Boats need not comply with the requirements of Appendix G as regards class insignia, national letters and numbers on sails. This changes rule 77.

22.2 Boats will however be required to display a unique identifying marking on their sail.

23 Unofficial support boats

23.1 All unofficial support boats shall be at least 50m outside the race course at all times whilst racing is in progress, unless specifically requested to assist in the race area by the race committee. The race committee may impose any penalty they see fit on all competitors associated with an unofficial support boat that fails to comply with this SI.

23.2 Parents/guardians and coaches are reminded that communication with competitors whilst racing is in progress constitutes outside assistance, which makes the competitor liable to disqualification from the race. Only members of the race committee and crews of official support boats may give advice and support to competitors whilst racing is in progress.

24 Prizes

24.1 Prizes will be awarded at the discretion of the race committee.

25 Risk Statement

25.1 Rule 4 of the Racing Rules of Sailing states: "The 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 involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event, each competitor (and their parents/legal guardians) 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, their 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, umpires and other officials and volunteers by the organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities;
- f) The provision of patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances;
- g) It is their responsibility to familiarise themselves with any risks specific to this venue or this event drawn to their attention in any rules and information produced for the venue or event and to attend any safety briefing held for the event.

26 Insurance

26.1 Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £3,000,000 per incident.