

1. RULES

- 1.1 Racing will be governed by the rules defined in the 2017 -2020 World Sailing Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), RYA Prescriptions, the Notice of Race, these Sailing Instructions, RVYC Race Chart 2018 and Class Rules, except where modified by the Sailing Instructions. In a case of conflict the Sailing Instructions will apply.
- 1.2 The organising authority is the Royal Victoria Yacht Club, Isle of Wight.
- 1.3 For eligibility and entry see the Notice of Race.

2. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

- 2.1 The official Notice Board is located outside the main changing rooms where the definitive copy will be posted of the Notice of Race, Sailing Instructions, RVYC Race Chart 2018 and any amendments to the Sailing Instructions, Exoneration Penalty X.1 and X.2, and the Advisory Hearing and RYA Arbitration procedures and results.
- 2.2 Notices to Competitors will be posted on the Blackboard outside the Club main entrance. Any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 2000 on the day before it will take effect. Other notices will be posted not less than 60 minutes before the first scheduled warning signal. In both cases Flag L will be displayed from the Club Flagstaff located on the jetty not less than 60 minutes before the first scheduled warning signal.

3. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 3.1 Any permanent change to the Sailing Instructions will be posted on the official Notice Board before 0900 on the first day it takes effect. Flag L will be displayed from the Club Flagstaff.
- 3.2 Any temporary change to the Sailing Instructions will be posted on the Blackboard not less than 60 minutes before the first scheduled warning signal and will be indicated by flag L being displayed from the Club Flagstaff.

4. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 4.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed from the Club Flagstaff.
- 4.2 If Flag AP is flown ashore, the next warning signal will be no earlier than 45 minutes after Flag AP is lowered.

5. SCHEDULE OF RACES

- 5.1 See RVYC 2018 Programme or special Notice of Race for an open regatta.

6. CLASS FLAGS

- 6.1 The Class flags and starting order will be:

Flag F	Cruiser
Flag - NN9	Keelboats*
Flag K	Fast Handicap Dinghies PY 1200 and below
Flag E	Slow Handicap Dinghies PY 1201 and above
Flag W	All classes starting together

* A keelboat is defined as a one-design keelboat with no cabin

- 6.2 In the event of no show for any class, subsequent start times may be moved forward.

7. RACING AREAS

- 7.1 The Race area is the Eastern Solent and Wootton Creek.

8. THE COURSES

- 8.1 Courses will normally be set in accordance with RVYC Race Chart 2018 (see 8.4 below).
- 8.2 The courses to be sailed for all classes, except Cruiser, will be displayed on boards as follows:
- Red background** (to be left to port) or **Green background** (to be left to starboard).
 - White boards black numbers:** number of laps.
 - Black +:** pass through the finish line
 - Red or Green background boards with numbers 1 to 4:** special courses. In special courses all boats on completion of a lap shall pass through the finish / lap line.
- 8.3 Channel 37A (M1) will be used to announce the Cruiser course ONLY. A warning will be given BETWEEN 16 and 11 minutes before the scheduled Cruiser start followed by the course ONE minute later. After the Cruiser start, all communications with Cruisers will be on channel P4/M2.
- 8.4 For specific races, e.g. Creek Race, the course will be shown on the Blackboard with Flag L displayed on the Club Flagstaff in accordance with paragraph 3.2.

9. MARKS

- 9.1 Marks and special courses are as described on the RVYC Race Chart 2018.

10. COMMERCIAL SHIPPING

- 10.1 In order to avoid the risk of collision with commercial shipping that is underway, a boat may use her engine or any other means of propulsion, including a tow from another vessel without retiring. Such use shall be reported to the Race Officer (RO) as soon as possible. The RO will decide what, if any, penalty to award. If the RO's decision is challenged by any competitor a protest committee will be convened.

11. THE START

- 11.1 When the RO has decided that racing will take place an Orange flag will be displayed from the starting position.
- 11.2 Unless specified otherwise the start of a race will be between a red and white post on the Race Box and a bicolour pillar (top Orange/bottom Yellow).
- 11.3 Alternative start lines, e.g. Committee boat or Club line, will be indicated by displaying flag L on the Club flagstaff and a notice posted to competitors on the blackboard outside the Club main entrance at least 60 minutes before the first warning signal (see 3.2).
- 11.4 Races will be started by using RRS Rule 26 with the warning signal made five minutes before the starting signal.
- 11.5 If there is a general recall of a class, that class will restart after the last class. (*Changes RRS Rule 29.2*)
- 11.6 Any boat that starts later than 30 minutes after their start signal will be recorded as DNS.
- 11.7 Boats whose warning signal has not been displayed shall keep clear of the start area.
Note: starting order is as in Clause 6. The start time shown in the programme is for the first scheduled class to start.

12. THE FINISH

- 12.1 The finishing line will be the same as the starting line, unless flag L is displayed from the Club flagstaff at least

- 60 minutes before the first warning signal, with a notice posted on the blackboard specifying the finishing line, or, as in 12.2 below.
- 12.2 Alternative finish line for Cruiser class: **If cruisers are asked to record their own finish times**, a cruiser may be awarded a finish by recording her own time (corrected to World Clock Time) when crossing a line between the Race Box and Wootton Rocks on a transit of the western two piles of the Race Box.
- 13. TIME LIMITS**
- 13.1 The time limit for the first boat to finish in a class will be: Two hours for Dinghies and Keelboats and three hours for Cruisers.
- 13.2 If a Dinghy or Keelboat fails to finish by the later of the time limit or 50 minutes after the first boat in her class to finish, she will be scored DNF. (*Changes RRS Rule 35 and Appendices A4 & A5.*)
- 13.3 If no boat finishes a result may be declared on the result of completed laps or mark rounding records if available.
- 13.4 Boats that do not finish solely because of their inability to complete the course within the time limit or because the RO has abandoned the race after at least one boat has finished may apply to the RO who may agree to will be scored one point more than the last boat to finish. A protest committee will be convened if any competitor disagrees with the RO's ruling.
- 14. PROTESTS & REQUESTS FOR REDRESS**
- 14.1 Protests are in accordance with RRS Part 5. Protests will be received by the RO within a time limit of 1½ hours after the last boat of her class to finish the last race of the day.
- 14.2 Protest forms are located in the sailing office in the club main entrance.
- 14.3 The Exoneration Penalty X.1 and X.2 (and the Advisory Hearing and RYA Arbitration procedures) of the RYA Rules Disputes Procedures will be available. See the Official race notice board for details.
- 14.4 Protests received outside the time limit may, at the discretion of the protest committee, be considered in extenuating circumstances.
- 15. SCORING & PRIZES**
- 15.1 The Low Point System will be used for scoring.
- 15.2 A boat that did not start, (except DNC), did not finish, retired or was disqualified will be scored points for the finishing place one more than the number of boats entered in that race. (*Changes RRS Appendix A4.2*)
- 15.3 One boat in a class crossing the start line will count as a race.
- 15.4 Portsmouth Yardstick 2018 Numbers will be used for handicapping dinghies and keelboats. Cruisers will be dual scored using firstly either Velocity Prediction Rating System (VPRS) or Multihull Offshore Cruiser & Racing Association (MOCRA) ratings and secondly the National Handicap for Cruisers (NHC) handicaps.
- 15.5 The races to count for all series will be 1/1, 2/2, 3/3, 3/4, 4/5, 4/6, 5/7, 6/8, 6/9, 7/10
(*Changes RRS Appendix A2.*)
- 15.6 Average points (AVP) will count when the helm and/or crew of a boat assists in race team duties and the boat does not race. Only two AVPs can be claimed in a series. Calculation of AVP includes all other races in the series except discards. If a disagreement arises over AVP, a protest committee will be convened.
- 15.7 If a minimum of six boats in the same Dinghy class or three boats in a Keelboat or Cruiser class finish each race of a series, individual class prizes may be presented at the discretion of the Sailing Committee.
- 15.8 Except in regattas, a Laser class boat will be scored in each race with the handicap of the largest rig it uses in the series.

15.9 An average lap time system may apply.

16. SAFETY

Personal responsibility

16.1 Neither the provision of patrol boats and crews nor the decision of a RO to start or continue a race will absolve a boat of the personal responsibilities defined in RRS Part 1 Fundamental Rules 1 and 4.

Sign On/Off and Insurance Declaration

16.2 Competitors shall lodge with the Club office a completed 2018 Racing Entry Form before their boat takes part in its first race listed in the 2018 Programme.

16.3 All Dinghy and Keelboat skippers shall sign on before they leave for the starting area on each day of racing. They shall sign off no later than 1 hour after the last boat in their class has finished. A declaration sheet will be in the main lobby of the Clubhouse.

Personal buoyancy (changes RRS 40)

16.4 Personal flotation devices shall be to current EC standards. A wetsuit or dry suit is not a personal flotation device.

16.5 All dinghy competitors shall wear an adequate personal flotation device at all times when afloat.

16.6 All Keelboats and Cruisers shall carry adequate personal flotation devices for all on board the vessel. It is recommended that all these competitors wear personal flotation devices when on the water.

General safety

16.7 A boat retiring from a race shall inform the RO or a safety boat as soon as possible.

16.8 Any boat instructed by the RO for safety reasons to return to shore or its mooring shall do so.

16.9 Each Keelboat and Cruiser shall be equipped with a working marine VHF radio.

16.10 It is recommended that Keelboats and Cruisers also carry a minimum of two red hand flares and a mobile phone.

17. RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

17.1 Except in an emergency, a boat shall neither make radio transmissions while racing nor receive radio communications not available to all boats. This restriction also applies to mobile telephones.

End of Sailing instructions Version 5, 16/03/2018