



## YARMOUTH SAILING CLUB STANDARD SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

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## 1 RULES

- 1.1 The 2017-2020 Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), the prescriptions of the RYA, and Class Rules, all as added to or amended by these Sailing Instructions, shall govern the races.
- 1.2 The Rules as stated above shall apply to both the river and the Solent, with specific points relevant to each location being made under separate headings later in these instructions.
- 1.3 A Race Committee may be appointed by the Sailing Committee for special events.
- 1.4 YSC adheres to the RYA Racing Charter (found at the front of the RYA edition of the RRS), which promotes rule observance, sportsmanship and good communication between organisers and competitors.

## 2 CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

- 2.1 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 an event, each competitor or, in the case of a competitor below the age of 18, their parent or legal guardian 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 organizer 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.
- 2.2 Junior sailing: it is up to the parent (or adult responsible for the child) to make a decision on whether a child goes sailing/racing. Advice can be sought but the ultimate decision and responsibility for that decision rests with the parent/responsible adult. This adult must be on site (or contactable and within 10 minutes' walk from it, having left mobile phone number and informed officer in charge of absence) immediately prior to and when the boat is afloat. This applies to all events where juniors are taking part.
- 2.3 Before the commencement of a race the owner or his/her representative shall ensure that each member of the crew is fully aware of the undertakings contained in these Sailing Instructions.
- 2.4 The schedule of races, the classes to race and timing of the first start will be published in the YSC programme of races and on the club noticeboard. Start times subsequent to the first start will take place at 5 minute intervals. For certain special events a separate programme will be issued.
- 2.5 All boats shall be fully insured with a minimum third party liability of £2,000,000 (two million pounds), without restrictions.
- 2.6 Competitors are required to sign on for each race in the clubhouse (see 5.1 below) and by so doing confirm that they will be bound by all rules governing the events and that their boats are fully insured.
- 2.7 Boats may be subject to inspection before or after any race at the discretion of the YSC race committee or nominated officer.
- 2.8 There shall be no race unless two yachts are properly entered and start, as in Sailing Instruction 5.
- 2.9 Handicap dinghies are restricted to a Portsmouth Yardstick handicap rating of not less than 1095.

### **3 SAFETY**

- 3.1 Boats shall, where applicable, comply with their respective class association rules.

- 3.2 Suitable clothing and adequate personal buoyancy shall be worn by all participants (including patrol boat crews and committee boat race officers). Wet/dry suits do not constitute adequate personal buoyancy.
- 3.3 At their discretion, the race officers may transfer dinghy races from the Solent to the river.
- 3.4 Competitors who retire from the race must notify the race officers as soon as practicable.
- 3.5 At least one patrol boat shall cease to ferry competitors prior to the time of the warning (5 minute) signal of the first race and not recommence until the last competitor has retired from or completed the last race.

#### **4 COMMUNICATIONS TO COMPETITORS**

- 4.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the noticeboards in the clubhouse.
- 4.2 Changes to the Sailing Instructions will be posted on the club noticeboards or signalled (as appropriate).
- 4.3 Class flags:
 

Wooden Scows (WWSC)	WWSC Class flag
YSCSC (GRP) Scows	Code flag 'G'
All Scows starting together	Code flag 'Z'
Handicap	Numeral One pennant
Optimists	Code flag 'O'
- 4.4 Courses will be displayed before the warning signal. Letters on a red background indicate marks to be rounded to port, letters on a green background marks to be rounded to starboard. When 2 or 3 diamonds are displayed, the course will be sailed 2 or 3 times round (this will not apply to the club line). When starting from the club line, the course will be displayed in the frame at the front of the clubhouse. When a committee boat start, the course will be displayed in a frame on the committee boat. Maps showing racing marks will be available at the clubhouse.

#### **5 BEFORE THE RACE**

- 5.1 Dinghy sailors who intend to race shall sign in by ensuring that their names, boat class and, where applicable, sub-class, and sail numbers are entered on the appropriate coloured entry sheets. These entry sheets are normally located on clip boards near the kitchen hatch in the clubhouse. By signing in sailors are confirming that their boat is fit for purpose and that they have appropriate insurance cover.
- 5.2 A dinghy that sails about in the vicinity of the starting line between her preparatory and starting signals shall rank as a starter.
- 5.3 Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area during the starting sequence for other races.
- 5.4 RRS 60.2 is changed in that there is an additional paragraph (d) stating "disqualify without a hearing any boat observed by at least 2 race officers contravening Rule 45", i.e. not being afloat and off mooring/slipway at the 4 minute (preparatory) signal.

## **6 STARTING THE RACE**

- 6.1 Races will be started in accordance with RRS rule 26, with the signal sequence of 5 minutes, 4 minutes, 1 minute, start. The starting signal for one race shall normally be the warning signal for the next race.
- 6.2 Signals will be made from either the YSC line or a committee boat.
- 6.3 The club line is formed by bringing into line the red and white transit post behind the race officers' station and the white post with a red cross on top on the far shore. There is also a post on the far shore with a diamond on it, the centre of which is on the line, and a red line on the "dodger" in front of the Race Officers' station which is also on the line. On this line all starts are in a southerly direction.
- 6.4 The starting line for committee boat starts will be between the class flag on the boat and a starting buoy.

## **7 SHORTENED COURSE**

- 7.1 The race officers may shorten course by displaying code flag 'S' (either on the flagstaff or on a board or both) together with the class flag of the class to be shortened, accompanied by 2 sound signals. If all classes are to be shortened, flag 'S' will be shown alone. The shortened course signals should be made as the leading boat rounds the last mark of the shortened course.
- 7.2 If the shortened course signal is sounded as boats are approaching 'A' buoy when this is the next buoy in the course, 'A' buoy shall be disregarded and boats shall proceed to finish at the club line.
- 7.3 If appropriate, the race officers may send a patrol boat to advise all competitors that the course is shortened and that they should go straight to the finish line after rounding buoy ' \_ '.

## **8 FINISHING THE RACE**

- 8.1 When using the Club line, all finishes will be in a northerly direction.
- 8.2 For races started at a committee boat, the finishing line will be either between the committee boat and a finishing mark or at the Club line.

## **9 TIME LIMIT**

- 9.1 For general club racing, the time limit for all dinghy races will be 2 hours. For special events, see separate programmes.
- 9.2 RRS 35 is altered in that when the first boat in her class finishes within the time limit, the race shall be valid only for those boats which finish within the time limit or within 30 minutes of the first boat in their race to finish, whichever is the later.
- 9.3 For races of more than one round, when the first boat in her race fails to finish within the time limit, but has completed one or more rounds of the course, the results of the race will be determined by the placings at the end of the last

round completed. For river races, these placings will be on the last rounding of 'A' buoy.

## **10 SCORING SYSTEM**

- 10.1 The scoring system will be the Low Points System with the following variations:
- 10.2 The "Declared Entry" shall be the number of entrants for whichever single race of each series has the greatest number of entrants, so this cannot be declared until after the last race.
- 10.3 Discards during a series:
- |                     |            |
|---------------------|------------|
| 1 – 3 races held    | 0 discards |
| 4 – 6 races held    | 1 discard  |
| 7 races & over held | 2 discards |
- 10.4 If a competitor who has entered the series does a race officer or patrol boat duty, he/she shall be given average points, after discards, rounded to the nearest whole number, for that duty race. Only one duty shall count in each series.
- 10.5 Points for yachts that do not score finishing points:
- Points for a yacht that either fails to finish, retires, or ranks as a starter but does not start (see SI 5.2), shall be "Declared Entry" plus 1.
  - Points for a yacht disqualified shall be "Declared Entry" plus 2.
  - Non-starting yachts, i.e. those that do not rank as starters, shall score "Declared Entry" plus 3.

## **11 PROTESTS**

- 11.1 Protests shall be made in accordance with the RRS and handed to the Chief Race Officer, the Rear-Commodore Sailing or the Sailing Secretary within 90 minutes of the last boat finishing in the last race of the day. RYA protest forms are available in the Club.
- 11.2 The time and place of protest meetings will be posted in the clubhouse. Both parties must be informed.

## **12 HANDICAPPING**

The rating system for the Handicap class will be based on the Portsmouth Yardstick system, varied or amended where appropriate by the Sailing Committee. Current PY numbers are on display in the club.

## **13 RESULTS**

Unless otherwise notified, race results will be posted on the YSC noticeboard as soon as possible after the end of the race. They can also be found on the club website, together with a copy of these Sailing Instructions.

## **Appendix**

### **RACING IN THE RIVER**

“The River” comprises all waters upstream from the River Yar Bridge.

Whilst every reasonable care is taken to avoid starting a race at bridge opening times, competitors must be aware of other river users, remembering that larger boats may have difficulty in manoeuvring in the restricted space. These boats may request a bridge opening at any time.

### **RACING IN THE SOLENT**

Sailors must be aware of the state and strength of the tide when sailing in the Solent, paying particular attention to other craft, especially the ferries.

Races in the Solent will take place either to the west of the Pier or to the east of the Pier. Sailors will be informed of the location of the race before leaving the Club.

All races in the Solent will be started and finished using a committee boat.

A combination of temporary YSC buoys and permanent buoys may be used. Charts showing permanent buoys are available in the clubhouse.

# RACING MARKS

