

1. GOVERNANCE

- 1.1. The racing will be governed by the 'rules' as defined in the current [World Sailing "Racing Rules of Sailing"](#) (RRS) and these sailing instructions.
- 1.2. Competitors should note that Shropshire Sailing Club implements the [RYA Racing Charter](#) and that they will be required to undertake to sail in compliance with the Charter, which can be found on the club website and on club notice boards.
- 1.3. In order to constitute a race a minimum of 2 boats are required to be intending to race at the start signal.
- 1.4. **Competitors are required to sign on for racing at least 15 minutes before the start of the first race they intend to enter;** this will allow the OOD to enter competitor details into the club computer system. Changes to the declared crews must only be made with the consent of the OOD, which shall not be unduly withheld.
- 1.5. **Competitors are required to sign off within 30 minutes of the last boat finishing.** In so doing the competitor is declaring that all rules have been observed. Failure to sign off **may** be assumed by the OOD to mean the boat has retired and award it DNF.

2. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

- 2.1. Notices to competitors will be posted on the race notice board located in the Clubhouse.

3. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 3.1. Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted on the race notice board not less than 30 minutes before the start of the first race.

4. CLASS FLAGS

- 4.1. Class Flags will be as recommended by the Sailing Committee, the prescriptions of the RYA and class associations.

5. SIGNALS

- 5.1. Signals will be displayed on the Flag Staff of the Committee Boat. Note: The start sequence will commence no earlier than 15 minutes from the cancellation of a postponement.

6. COURSE INSTRUCTIONS

- 6.1. The marks of the course are white or yellow buoys with black numbers; there are currently nine permanent marks numbered 1 to 9. In addition there are three temporary pink marks "O", "X" and "S" which can be placed at the discretion of the OOD.

7. COURSES

- 7.1. These will normally be shown on the course board in the clubhouse with mark numbers and rounding (port/starboard) indicated on the board. Pursuit times will be published in the Clubhouse prior to the start.
- 7.2. The course may also be indicated by boards located on the Committee Boat coloured either red or green, bearing letters or numbers in white. Red boards indicate a PORT rounding, and green a STARBOARD rounding.
- 7.3. Laps. If there is a maximum number of laps it will be shown on the Clubhouse course board.

- 7.4. Change of Course: Should the OOD decide to change the course or the Start Location then flag AP will be hoisted and will remain until one minute before the WARNING signal for that race. The above signals will be supplemented in accordance with 5.1 above.
- 7.5. Windward Marks: The Racing Rules of Sailing assume windward marks are rounded to port. Interpreting the rules when rounding a mark to starboard is difficult for helms and club officers. **The OOD will aim to set a course with windward marks rounded to port unless wind conditions make it impractical.**

8. STARTING RACES

- 8.1. Races will be started using RRS Rule 26 "Starting Races".
- 8.2. Starting will be LINE STARTS.
- 8.3. The start line will be between the flag mast of the Committee Boat and EITHER a nearby mark of the course OR a temporary mark. The committee boat will normally be positioned at the Starboard end of the line.
- 8.4. At the discretion of the OOD Rule 30.1 ("I Flag Rule") may be applied to a start. The "I" Flag must be raised with the Preparatory signal. Rule 30.1: "If flag I has been displayed, and any part of a boat's hull, crew or equipment is on the course side of the starting line or one of its extensions during the last minute before her starting signal, she shall thereafter sail from the course side across an extension to the prestart side before starting." (This was previously known as the "Round an End" rule).
- 8.5. Rule 45 does not apply: Boats must be afloat and off their moorings 2 minutes before the start of a race. The penalty for infringement will be 2 minutes. If the race is a pursuit race then boats must be afloat and off their moorings 2 minutes before their start.

9. PERSONAL BUOYANCY

- 9.1. RRS Rule 40 [personal buoyancy] applies at all times while afloat and not just when Flag Y is displayed.

10. RECALLS

- 10.1. These will be as RRS Rule 29 "Recalls".

11. PENALTIES

- 11.1. These will be as RRS Rule 30 "Starting Penalties"

12. DURING THE RACE

- 12.1. **In all ALT handicap races boats will cross the start/finish line on every lap.** Failure to do so will result in the lap not being completed until the boat next crosses the line. (i.e. A boat that completes three "laps" but only crosses the line twice will be deemed for the purposes of ALT to have completed only two laps).
- 12.2. Rule 18 (Mark Room) The zone around a mark of the course is defined as three boat lengths.

13. FINISHING RACES

- 13.1. Finishing line: The finishing line will be between the Flag Mast of the Committee Boat and EITHER a nearby temporary mark OR a mark of the course.
- 13.2. Shorten Course: Races may be shortened at the discretion of the OOD as per Rule 32.

- 13.3. Average Lap Times: Once the sound signal is given for **finishing all boats between the last mark and the finish line must complete another lap**. Only boats that have yet to round the final mark before the finishing line will be finished on their current lap.
- 13.4. Direction of finishing will be from the previous course mark.
- 13.5. Boats having finished **MUST** clear the line round its extensions (i.e. must not return over the line) and must **NOT** interfere with boats still racing. Doing either will result in disqualification - DNF.

14. TIME LIMITS

- 14.1. Any boat failing to cross the finish line within 15 minutes of the leading boat in that fleet may be deemed to have retired.

15. DISPUTE PROCEDURES

- 15.1. The Exoneration Penalty and the Advisory Hearing and RYA Arbitration Procedure of the RYA Disputes and Procedures will be available.
- 15.2. Protests must be lodged at the Race Office on the standard RYA form no later than 60 minutes after the finish of the last boat in the last race of the day and a £5 deposit is required (returnable if protest is judged not to be frivolous).

16. DECLARATIONS

- 16.1. Boats retiring or resigning **MUST** advise the OOD to that effect within 15 minutes of coming ashore.

17. HANDICAPPING

- 17.1. Handicap race finishing times will be calculated with the current RYA Portsmouth Yardstick [PY] or [PN] scheme or other rating approved by Shropshire Sailing Club prior to the first race of the event. Boats without a PY/PN may be accepted for handicap racing **BUT** will be allocated a suitable Yardstick by the Race Committee.

18. IDENTIFICATION

- 18.1. All boats must sail under their own class insignia **and number**, permission to do otherwise must be sought from, and granted by, the OOD on behalf of the Committee **PRIOR** to racing or disqualification may result.