

# SAILING INSTRUCTIONS (SIs)

## Minima Yacht Club: Club Racing 2024

*The notation '[NP]' in a rule of the SIs means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1(a).*

### 1. RULES

- 1.1 The event is governed by
  - (a) the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS);
  - (b) the prescriptions of the Royal Yachting Association (RYA);
  - (c) the rules of the relevant Class Association where applicable.
- 1.2 Beginners may receive outside help during a race. This may include on-water coaching, or receiving a tow to get back into the race if a strong stream is taking them backwards. This changes **RRS 41 Outside Help**.
- 1.3 Competitors are encouraged to launch and clear the landing stage in a timely and prompt manner before the start of the race. However, they will not be protested by the Race Officer for not being afloat at the preparatory signal, unless it is thought they are seeking to gain an unfair advantage by doing so. This changes **RRS 45 Hauling Out, Making Fast, Anchoring**.
- 1.4 A boat that is recorded as finishing in accordance with **SI 17 Stragglers' Rule** is not required to sail the course or finish after she has been so recorded. This changes **RRS 28 Sailing the Race**

### 2. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1 Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted 1 hour before the scheduled start of the first race on the day it will take effect.
- 2.2 In exceptional circumstances, changes to a sailing instruction may be made by the Race Officer by notifying all competitors in the launching area, or from a patrol boat on the water, or by any other method appropriate to the circumstances.

### 3. COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

- 3.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the Sailing notice board located near the changing rooms.
- 3.2 Any change to the Notice of Race or Sailing Instructions will also be posted on the website at <https://minimayc.co.uk/sailing/>.

### 4. CODE OF CONDUCT

- 4.1 The objective of Club Racing is to promote friendly, fair and competitive racing within the rules between sailors of all abilities from beginners to experienced racers.

4.2 [DP] Competitors and anyone accompanying them shall comply with reasonable requests from race officials.

## 5. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

5.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed from the Race Box.

## 6. LAUNCHING

6.1 Competitors are strongly urged to fully rig their boats before launching when conditions permit to enable a swift departure from jetties.

## 7. SCHEDULE OF RACES

7.1 The schedule of races shall be as set out in the White Book.

## 8. CLASS FLAGS

8.1 The class flags are as described in **SI Addendum A**.

## 9. RACING AREA

9.1 The racing area is on the River Thames between Kingston Bridge and Ravens Ait.

## 10. COURSES

10.1 The courses are displayed from the race box and will show:

- (a) the order in which the marks are to be passed, using letter boards;
- (b) the side on which each mark is to be left, indicated by the background colour of the letter boards (red for port and green for starboard);
- (c) the number of laps to be completed, using number boards.

10.2 In the event of the word SPECIAL being displayed, the course will be displayed on the official notice board or a chalk board.

## 11. MARKS

11.1 Marks A, B, C, D, E and S will be orange or red with white letters. The position of marks will be approximately as laid out in **SI Addendum B**.

## 12. THE START

12.1 Races will be started using RRS 26.

12.2 The normal starting line is between the red line painted on the Race Box and the white mark on the Middlesex bank.

12.3 If it is decided to set a starting line upstream of Town End Quay to take advantage of better sailing conditions, this may be:

- (a) a line from a vertical staff on a club launch to the closest point on the opposite river bank;
- (b) a line extending at right angles from a vertical staff on the Surrey Bank to the Middlesex Bank; or
- (c) a line between a vertical staff on either a club launch or a bank to Mark 'S'.

12.4 Mark 'S' may be laid as an inner or outer distance mark.

- 12.5 Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area during the starting sequence for other races.
- 12.6 If any part of a boat's hull is on the course side of the starting line at her starting signal and she is identified, the race committee will attempt to hail her sail number, name or helm name. Failure to hail her, failure of her to hear such a hail, or the order in which boats are hailed will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 62.1(a).

### **13. CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE**

- 13.1 To change the next leg of the course, the race committee will lay a new mark or move the original mark or the finishing line to a new position.

### **14. THE FINISH**

- 14.1 The normal finishing line is between the red line painted on the Race Box and the white mark on the Middlesex bank.
- 14.2 Competitors are reminded that (RRS 32.2):
- (a) if the race committee signals a shortened course (displays flag S with two sounds), the finishing line shall be,
    - (i) at a rounding mark, between the mark and a staff displaying flag S;
    - (ii) a line the course requires boats to cross; or
    - (iii) at a gate, between the gate marks.
  - (b) the shortened course shall be signalled before the first boat crosses the finishing line.
- 14.3 If flag S is displayed together with one or more class flags then the course is shortened for that class or classes only.
- 14.4 After they have finished, boats shall keep clear of the area around the finish line and shall keep clear of boats that have not finished.

### **15. STRAGGLERS' RULE**

- 15.1 Provided she has completed at least one lap, a boat that is still racing at the end of the finishing window shall be recorded as finishing at the end of her previous lap and the race officer shall notify her that she has finished and should return to the launching area (or starting area if appropriate).
- 15.2 If it is clear that a boat that is still racing will not finish within the finishing window, then the race officer may
- (a) record her as finishing at the end of her previous lap; and
  - (b) notify her that she has finished and should return to the launching area (or starting area if appropriate).

### **16. TIME LIMITS AND TARGET TIMES**

- 16.1 Time limits and Target Times for series and individual races will be as set out in the White Booklet, Notice of Race or as decided by the Race Officer in light of the prevailing conditions on the day.
- 16.2 The Finishing Window will normally be 30 minutes.

## **17. POST-RACE PENALTY**

- 17.1 A boat that may have broken a rule of Part 2 of the Racing Rules of Sailing or rule 31 may, after finishing the race concerned and before the protest time limit or, if a hearing has been scheduled, before the start of that hearing, notify the race committee that it accepts a Post-Race Penalty – a 30% scoring penalty (SCP), based on the number of boats that came to the starting area in that race, except that the minimum penalty is three places and the boat shall not be scored worse than the number of boats that came to the starting area. However, if the boat caused injury or serious damage or, despite taking a penalty, gained a significant advantage in the race or series by its breach, its penalty shall be to retire.
- 17.2 When a Post-Race Penalty is accepted:
- (a) neither the boat nor a protest committee may then revoke or remove the penalty;
  - (b) the boat shall not be penalised further in a protest hearing when the protest committee decides that it was appropriate to the facts found and the applicable rules.

## **18. ADVISORY MEETING**

- 18.1 When there is an incident that will not result in the lodging of a protest or a request for redress, a boat may request an advisory meeting and notify any boat involved in the incident.
- 18.2 An adviser will then call a meeting to learn what may have happened and will state whether any rule appears to have been broken, and by which boat.
- 18.3 A boat may as a result notify the race office that it accepts a Post-Race Penalty when it applies to the incident, or choose to retire, but is not required to do so.

## **19. RYA ARBITRATION**

- 19.1 After a protest is lodged, a boat may request RYA Arbitration, or the protest committee or race committee may offer it.
- 19.2 If the parties and the protest committee agree that RYA Arbitration is suitable, an arbitrator (who may be a member of the protest committee) will call an arbitration.
- 19.3 When it is the arbitrator's opinion that a boat that is a party to the arbitration has broken a rule for which the Post-Race Penalty is available, the party will be invited to accept that penalty and, if all such penalties are accepted, the protesting boat will be allowed to withdraw the protest, changing rule 63.1.
- 19.4 When any of the following conditions apply:
- (a) a party to the protest does not agree to RYA Arbitration;
  - (b) the arbitrator's opinion is that the Post-Race Penalty is not applicable to the incident;
  - (c) a boat may be entitled to redress;
  - (d) a boat does not accept an offered Post-Race Penalty;
  - (e) the protest is not withdrawn,

there will be a protest committee hearing.

- 19.5 The arbitrator may be a member of the protest committee.
- 19.6 Any boat is entitled to accept a Post-Race Penalty at any time before the later of the protest time limit or the start of the protest committee hearing and receive protection from further penalisation. The boat may also retire.
- 19.7 Rules 66 and 70 (reopening and appeal, respectively) do not apply to an RYA Arbitration since this is not a protest committee decision or procedure.

## **20. HEARING REQUESTS**

- 20.1 The protest time limit is 60 minutes after the last boat finishes the last race of the day or the Race Officer signals no more racing today, whichever is later.
- 20.2 Hearing request forms are available from the Race Officer.
- 20.3 Notices will be posted no later than 30 minutes after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Hearings will be held in the 'snug' room in the clubhouse, beginning at the time posted.
- 20.4 The Race Officer will make reasonable efforts to inform competitors verbally, or if they have left the club by telephone or email, of the time and place of any hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses.
- 20.5 RRS 62.2(a) and 66.2(a) do not apply for any series longer than one day.

## **21. SCORING**

- 21.1 RRS Appendix A shall apply with the following amendments:
  - (a) RRS A2.2 is replaced with the following: "A2.2 A boat that has come to the starting area for at least 20% of the total number of races sailed in the series plus 1, rounded down *qualifies* for the series and she shall be scored for the whole series."
  - (b) Rule A5.3 shall apply and is amended after the final comma as follows: "and a boat that did not come to the starting area shall be scored points for the finishing place one more than the greater of the number of boats *qualifying* for the series and the number that came to the starting area."
- 21.2 Minima handicap numbers or personal handicap numbers approved by the Sailing Committee will be used for internal club racing.
- 21.3 At the sole discretion of the Sailing Committee, competitors will be allocated 'average points' (of races sailed) for individual series races for which they have been on duty as Race Officer, Bosun, Training or representing MYC in races at other clubs.
- 21.4 A helm who changes his or her their boat during a long series may amalgamate points providing boats are of the same class, and their Annual Registration form is amended in the Race Box. Only one change per series is allowed unless agreed by the Sailing Committee.

## **22. SAFETY REGULATIONS**

- 22.1 [DP] Boats shall be equipped with a paddle and a painter of at least 4m.

- 22.2 Personal flotation devices (buoyancy aids) are compulsory for all children under 16 and all non-swimmers at all times while afloat, launching or recovering.
- 22.3 Competitors are reminded that if flag Y is displayed from the Race Box with one sound, each competitor shall wear a personal flotation device at all times while afloat except briefly while changing or adjusting clothing or personal equipment (**RRS 40**).
- 22.4 Competitors are reminded that all boats must carry adequate life-saving equipment for all persons on board, including one item ready for immediate use, unless her class rules make some other provision (**RRS 1.2**), and this requirement is satisfied if all persons on board wear a personal flotation device adequate for the conditions.
- 22.5 [DP] A boat that retires from a race shall notify the Race Officer at the first reasonable opportunity.

### **23. EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS**

- 23.1 A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules, notice of race and sailing instructions.

### **24. PRIZES**

- 24.1 Trophies will be awarded as set out in the White Book.
- 24.2 Trophies will not be awarded for classes with fewer than three *qualifying* entries.
- 24.3 Prizes will be awarded for the number of places equal to the square root of the number of *qualifying* entries, rounded down.


### **25. RISK STATEMENT**

- 25.1 RRS 3 states: 'The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue to race is hers alone.' By participating in this event each competitor agrees and acknowledges that sailing is a potentially dangerous activity with inherent risks. These risks include strong winds and rough seas, sudden changes in weather, failure of equipment, boat handling errors, poor seamanship by other boats, loss of balance on an unstable platform and fatigue resulting in increased risk of injury. **Inherent in the sport of sailing is the risk of permanent, catastrophic injury or death by drowning, trauma, hypothermia or other causes.**

### **26. INSURANCE**

- 26.1 Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £3 million per incident or the equivalent.

## CLASS FLAGS

Enterprise	Echo	
Laser	Lima	
Merlin Rocket	Oscar	
Solo	Numeral 1	
Thames A Rater	Alpha	
Handicap Class	Hotel	
All Classes (not yet started)	Golf	
Mass start (handicap race)	Zulu	

# MARK LAYOUT

NOT TO SCALE

