

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Minima Yacht Club

Annual Regatta 2025

Saturday 30th – Sunday 31st August 2025



1. RULES

- 1.1 The event is governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing.
- 1.2 [DP] The rules of each Class Association shall apply where relevant, however in the case of a breach of a Class Association rule that does not affect safety the Committee may impose a penalty less than disqualification, or no penalty.
- 1.3 All competitors shall comply with the provisions of The Thames Navigation Licensing and General Byelaws 1993 (the 'Thames Byelaws'), however these provisions shall not apply between competitors.
- 1.4 Rule 40.1 (personal flotation devices) applies at all times when afloat.

2. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1 Except where SI 2.2 applies, any change to the sailing instructions will be posted before 0900 on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 2000 on the day before it will take effect.
- 2.2 Changes to a sailing instruction may be made by:
 - (a) announcement by the Race Officer at the competitors briefing;
 - (b) on the water by a race official hailing all competitors.

3. COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

- 3.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the website at <https://minimayc.co.uk/regatta/> and on the notice board located on the ground floor of the Club House.
- 3.2 [DP] While racing, except in an emergency, a boat shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats.

4. CODE OF CONDUCT

- 4.1 [DP] Competitors and support persons 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. SCHEDULE OF RACES

- 6.1 The intended schedule for the event is as provided in the Notice of Race. This schedule and any changes to it will be posted on the official notice board.

7. CLASS FLAGS

- 7.1 The class flags are attached to these sailing instructions as Appendix A.
- 7.2 Competitors should note that the class flag for the ILCA 7 (Laser) fleet is Flag L (Lima). This changes the meaning of Flag L indicated in the Race Signals included in the RRS.

8. RACING AREA

- 8.1 The racing area is on the Thames between Kingston Bridge and Raven's Ait.

9. COURSES

- 9.1 The intended course(s) will be described at the competitors briefing each day. Any changes to the course(s) described shall not be grounds for redress.
- 9.2 No later than the warning signal, the course to be sailed will be 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 of the course, using number boards.
- 9.3 In the event of the word SPECIAL being displayed, the course will be displayed on a chalk or white board below the Race Box.

10. MARKS

- 10.1 Marks A, B, C, D, E and S may be orange or red buoys with black or white letters. The approximate position of the marks is indicated in Appendix B to these sailing instructions.

11. OBSTRUCTIONS

- 11.1 A vessel, other than a competitor vessel, that is a stand-on vessel according to the provisions of the Thames Byelaws is an obstruction.
- 11.2 A patrol boat in close attendance to a boat or a competitor in difficulty is deemed to be an obstruction surrounded by navigable water.

12. THE START

- 12.1 Races will be started using RRS 26 with the warning signal made five minutes before the starting signal.
- 12.2 The starting line is normally between a red line painted below the Race Box and a white mark on the opposite bank. This line is also indicated by transit marks above the Race Box.
- 12.3 Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area during the starting sequence for other races.
- 12.4 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. Failure to hail her number, 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). This rule does not apply if the race is subject to a general recall.

- 12.5 A boat that does not start within five minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.1 and A5.2.
- 13. CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE**
- 13.1 To change the next leg of the course, the race committee may move the original mark to a new position or lay a new mark.
- 14. THE FINISH**
- 14.1 The starting line is normally also the finishing line. If the course is shortened, boats may be finished in the opposite direction to that in which they started.
- 14.2 Boats shall keep clear of the area around the finishing line once they have finished to allow clear water for finishing boats and a clear view for Race Officers.
- 15. TIME LIMITS AND TARGET TIMES**
- 15.1 Any boat that is still racing but, in the opinion of the Race Committee, is unlikely to finish within 20 minutes of the leading boat may be given a finishing position (a 'whisky finish') based upon her position in the fleet at the time as observed by the Race Committee. When the whisky finish is applied, the boats affected will be notified by hail from the Race Box or a race committee vessel. This changes RRS 35.
- 15.2 If 15.3 is not applied, boats failing to finish within 20 minutes of the first finisher shall be scored Did Not Finish without a hearing. This changes RRS 35, A5.1, A5.2 and A10.
- 15.3 The Target Time is 45 minutes. Failure to meet the Target Time will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 62.1(a).
- 16. HEARING REQUESTS**
- 16.1 The protest time limit is 30 minutes after the last boat finishes the last race of the day or the race committee signals no more racing today, whichever is later.
- 16.2 Hearing request forms are available from the Race Box.
- 16.3 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 Club House, beginning at the time posted. The race committee will attempt to contact competitors by telephone to inform them of hearings, but failure to make such contact will not be grounds for redress.
- 17. SCORING**
- 17.1 Two races are required to be completed to constitute a series.
- 17.1.1 When fewer than three races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores.
- 17.1.2 When fewer than five races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.
- 17.1.3 When five races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her two worst scores.

18. SAFETY REGULATIONS

- 18.1 Boats shall be equipped with a paddle, or be otherwise capable of manual propulsion, and a painter of at least 2m.

19. REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT

- 19.1 [DP] Substitution of competitors is not allowed without prior approval of the Race Officer.
- 19.2 [DP] Substitution of damaged or lost equipment is not allowed unless authorized in writing by the Race Officer. Requests for substitution shall be made to the Committee at the first reasonable opportunity, which may be after the race.

20. EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

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

20.2 PRIZES

- 20.3 Prizes will be given in each class with at least 3 entries. The number of prizes awarded will be the square root of the number of entries in the class, rounded down.

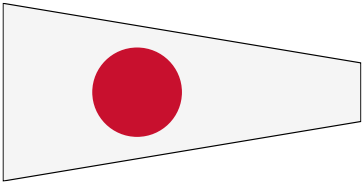
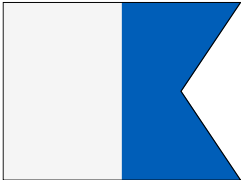
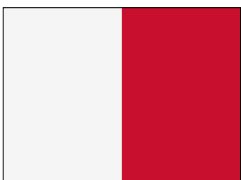
21. RISK STATEMENT

- 21.1 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.

22. INSURANCE

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

Appendix A: Class Flags

Class	Flag or pennant	Name
Solo		Numeral one
Thames A Rater		Alpha
Enterprise		Echo
All classes not yet started		Golf
PY fleet (general handicap)		Hotel
Laser		Lima
Merlin Rocket		Oscar
As announced in the SIs or at a briefing		Zulu

Please note that the class flags, and the preparatory flag, are painted boards displayed in the window of the race box.

Appendix B: General arrangement of marks

S mark
may be placed
anywhere

