



STOKES BAY SAILING CLUB

NOTICE OF RACE & SAILING INSTRUCTIONS 2026/2027

1 CONDUCT AND SAILING OF RACES

- 1.1 All races will be governed by the 'Rules' as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), the prescriptions of the RYA, together with this Notice of Race (NOR) and Sailing Instructions (SIs). All races are designated Category 'C'.
- 1.2 Competitors need not be members of their Class Association.
- 1.3 For Open and Special Events (the latter identified in Section 19), separate Instructions may be issued in place of these Instructions, but if not, these instructions will apply.
- 1.4 Competitors should note that SBSC implements the RYA Racing Charter and that they will be expected to sail in compliance with it. <https://www.rya.org.uk/racing/rules/racing-charter>
- 1.5 Each Class sailed will comply with the rules set out by the relevant Class Association. In the case of one design Classes such as the ILCA, replica spars and sails are permitted provided that they do not result in an advantage over Class legal equipment.

2 CHANGES TO THESE SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1 The Race Officer may vary or add to these Instructions by setting out the terms in writing on or near the course board and hoisting IC Flag 'L' at least 15 minutes before the start of any race affected.
- 2.2 The Race Officer may not change SIs 1, 3, 4, 8, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18.

3 RACE ORGANISATION AND COMPETITORS OBLIGATIONS

- 3.1 The functions in the Rules for the 'Race Committee' shall be performed by the Sailing Committee who shall delegate responsibility for the conduct of each race to a 'Race Officer'.
- 3.2 For each race a Race Officer and a minimum of one other member will be allocated to Bridge duty and two members to Patrol Boat duty, under the Club's duty scheme. If a member does not appear for duty, and a replacement cannot be found, the procedure below shall be followed:
 - Postponement of the race.
 - The drawing of lots from those on the race entry list to find a replacement for the duty.If there is no Patrol Boat afloat and manned, racing cannot take place.
- 3.3 All Competitors MUST be available to assist with the Patrol Boat when racing has finished.
- 3.4 Notices to competitors, including race results, will be posted on the official notice board in the lobby of the Clubhouse.
- 3.5 Courses are displayed in accordance with section 7 below.

4 RACE ENTRY AND DECLARATION

- 4.1 Competitors less than 18 years of age shall submit a signed Parent/Guardian declaration at the beginning of the season. (This is normally done via WebCollect as part of the membership application/renewal process.)
- 4.2 Competitors must **be registered** for the **2026/2027** season on 'Sailevent' and enter each race day by signing on via 'Sailevent' at least 15 minutes before the publicised scheduled first warning signal. By doing so the Competitor agrees to comply with 1.1, 4.9 and 18 of this Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions.
- 4.3 Where a Competitor changes their Class of boat in a Fleet between races within a series then they are classed as a new entry for that series.
- 4.4 If a boat sails with a different rig configuration within a series it will be considered as changing class of boat as per Rule 4.3 unless multiple rigs are permitted within the respective Class rules.
- 4.5 All boats shall sail under their registered numbers to comply with RRS Rule 77. However, a boat may be permitted to carry sail numbers or letters in contravention of RRS Rule 77 or her Class rules provided that the sail number in use is recorded on 'Sailevent' and is not duplicated in that Class.
- 4.6 Competitors failing to comply with 4.2 above will receive points as a non-starter (provided that they enter correctly another race in the series), but will be considered to be a starter for the validity of the race.
- 4.7 Competitors who retire should inform the Race Officer or the Patrol Boat crew at the first opportunity.
- 4.8 Competitors accepting a scoring penalty RRS 44.3 should inform the Race Officer on completion of racing. See also paragraph 14.1.
- 4.9 No member may race and therefore qualify for points or prizes unless:
- Their boat has a valid measurement and/or buoyancy certificate where required by Class Rules.
 - Their boat is insured **with valid third party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £3,000,000 per incident (three million pounds, or the equivalent in another currency).**
 - The Competitor has paid all fees due for the current year.
- NOTE** A Competitor is entirely responsible for their own safety, whether afloat or ashore and nothing, whether in this Notice of Race/Sailing Instructions, or anywhere else, reduces this responsibility. It is for the Competitor to decide whether their boat is fit to sail in the conditions. By launching or going to sea, the Competitor confirms that the boat is fit for those conditions and that all sailors on board are competent to sail and compete in it. The Management Committee, Sailing Committee or its representatives, will not be responsible for any loss, damage, death or personal injury, however it may have occurred, as a result of the boat taking part in the racing.
- 4.10 Visitors may race by paying the appropriate fee via WebCollect and advising the Race Officer on the bridge of their Fleet and sail number at least 15 minutes before the publicised scheduled first warning signal. They should also declare that they have read this NoR and SIs.

5 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 5.1 These are displayed from the flag masts on the bridge, boards on the railings and the sound of the klaxon.

6 RACE PROGRAMME

- 6.1 Dates and times of races are set out on the SBSC **Sailing** Calendar but may be changed by the Sailing or Management Committees by posting a notice of change on the official notice board, on the website, or by email, at least 24 hours before the race affected.

- 6.2 Start times for series races are the times of the first start.

- 6.3 **Fleets** are defined in section 20 below.

6.4 Fleet Flags and Start Sequence

For timings refer to “Start Sequence A” and “Start Sequence B” at the end of this document. The Start Sequence commences with a 6 minute Warning Signal Code Flag W which is then lowered 2 minutes before the first Fleet starts. A Fleet flag is raised one minute before the start of the respective Fleet and is deemed to be the Preparatory Signal for the relevant Fleet. The lowering of the Fleet flag shall signal the start of the race for that Fleet. This amends RRS 26.

ALL SERIES “Start Sequence A” unless specified otherwise

Catamaran Handicap & Dart 18	BLUE FLAG
Cadet & Club Handicap	RED FLAG
Asymmetric & Fast Handicap	ORANGE WITH BLUE STRIPE FLAG
ILCA	GREEN FLAG
Dinghy Handicap	YELLOW FLAG

“Start Sequence B” See 19

Catamaran Handicap	BLUE FLAG
Cadet & Club Handicap	RED FLAG
Dinghy Handicap	YELLOW FLAG

- 6.5 If only one boat has entered in any Fleet, the Race Officer and the sole entrant may agree that their Fleet shall not have a dedicated start and the entrant shall join another appropriate Fleet start. However, the entrant will be regarded as having participated in their own Fleet race and their result will be recorded in their own Fleet series.
- 6.6 The Bridge will indicate which starts are to take place by displaying boards on the railings matching the relevant Fleet flag colours. If Fleets are missing as a result of 6.5, there will be a reduced sequence which will start at 2 minute intervals only the Fleets indicated on the Bridge.
- 6.7 For handicap fleets, the RYA Portsmouth Yardstick scheme as set out in the current PY list will be used.

7 COURSE

- 7.1 Marks used by SBSC include the Solent Racing Marks, other permanent markers such as ‘Sewer’, and laid inflatable marks.

- 7.2 The SBSC race area extends one mile in every direction seawards from the clubhouse.
- 7.3 The Course(s) will be displayed on the Club Course Board, with the written description prevailing over the drawn diagram. Courses will be set by the Fleet Captains, or their representatives, and set in agreement with other Fleets and the Race Officer. Where buoys are used by more than one fleet, the Race Officer, working with the Fleet Captains, shall ensure that all fleets round in the same direction. Whenever possible an upwind start should be set with all Fleets starting in the same direction.
- 7.4 Competitors must go through the line on every lap. Failure to do so will result in disqualification by the Race Officer.
- 7.5 Any change to the Course after it has been posted shall be signalled by the Race Officer hoisting IC Flag 'L' together with the Fleet flags and making a sound signal immediately the change has been made.
- 7.6 **Any postponement** of races not yet started will be indicated by flag AP accompanied by two sound signals. Once flag AP is lowered with a single sound signal, the Flag W signal for the next race will follow no less than one minute later.
- 7.7 **The abandonment** of racing is signalled by flag N accompanied by three sound signals.

8 SHORELINE PROHIBITED AREA

- 8.1 No boat shall sail:
- within 50 metres of the Gosport shoreline or
 - to the landward side of the line parallel to the shoreline which joins any yellow Prohibited Area buoys or its extensions (whether more or less than 50 metres from the shoreline) except:
 - if a boat is capsized or disabled or requires attention ashore or is helping those in danger
 - if a boat is launching or recovering within the slipway area off the Club
- 8.2 The prohibited area is a continuing obstruction for the purpose of RRS Rule 19.
- 8.3 The Race Officer will monitor the prohibited area and will disqualify any boat seen infringing this Instruction without a hearing. This changes RRS 63.1 and RRS A5.
- 8.4 The Race Officer may direct a patrol boat to monitor rule 8 (the "50m rule") if deemed necessary.

9 THE START

- 9.1 **Starting Line** - For all shore starts the starting line will be an extension of the line formed by two posts, one on the Bridge and the other on the foreshore, limited by an outer distance mark as detailed on the Course Board which is also a starting mark. All boats must pass inshore of the outer distance mark.
- 9.2 The Race Officer may choose to make a special arrangement to run a start sequence afloat.

10 THE FINISH

- 10.1 **Finishing Line** - The finishing line will be between the pink outer distance mark and bridge post (moved if necessary after the starts) unless otherwise declared on the Course Board.
- 10.2 RRS 35 is changed so that Race Officer may award a finishing position to any boat struggling to finish within 20 minutes of the first boat **in their Fleet** crossing the finish line. They may be awarded a finish based on their observed position on the course, and the Race Officer's judgement, but after all finishers who made it to the finish line.

11 AVOIDING STARTERS & FINISHERS

- 11.1 In order that all Fleets can enjoy a fair start, boats in all other Fleets, which have not yet started, MUST keep clear of the starting line and any boats in the process of starting.
- 11.2 Boats who have finished must keep clear of the finishing line to avoid obstructing other competitors and the Race Officer's view.

12 RECALLS

- 12.1 **Individual Recall** - If a boat/boats start prematurely and can be identified by the Race Officer, a second sound signal will be made and the Fleet flag for that start will be left at half hoist until all premature starters have returned or until the expiration of at least a minute from the time of the start, whichever shall occur first.
- 12.2 **General Recall** - If a boat/boats start prematurely, and the Race Officer is unable to identify these boats, a general recall will be indicated by a second and third sound signal and the Fleet flag for that start will be left at half hoist for a period of a minute. **If the bridge team is able, they will also display on the railings a First Substitute board.** A restart for the Fleet will be attempted with the Fleet flag raised one minute after the start of the last scheduled Fleet start. NOTE: Should the recall be for the Fleet starting last in the start sequence then their Fleet flag will be returned to full hoist after the minute has passed and removed at the restart a minute later.

13 RACE LENGTH/SHORTEN COURSE

- 13.1 The preferred race length is 45 minutes. To facilitate this, an adapted shorten course procedure has been adopted. A race can be concluded at the finishing line at the end of a round to be completed by the leading boat. This will be signalled by two sound signals as the leading boat passes the last mark and by positioning the Flag S board on the bridge alongside the Fleet boards of those whose race is finishing. This changes RRS 32.2.
- 13.2 After the Flag S board has been displayed all boats in that Fleet will be finished as they cross the line and their result will be calculated on the basis of average lap time.
- 13.3 **The Race Officer does however have discretion to use RRS 32.2 (flying flag S with appropriate Fleet flag) for an individual Fleet eg Cadet/Club Handicap.**

14 PENALTY SYSTEM

- 14.1 The Scoring Penalty RRS 44.3 applies. No Yellow Flag is required. This amends RRS 44.3 (a) and (b).
- 14.2 For the Catamaran Handicap, Dart 18s, Asymmetric and Fast Handicap, Rule 44.1 is changed so that the Two Turns Penalty is replaced by a One Turn Penalty, including one tack and one gybe.

15 TIME LIMITS

- 15.1 Unless otherwise prescribed on the Course Board, time limits for races shall be as follows: Daytime Races (starts before 18.00) 2hrs from the last start time of the sequence. Evening Races 1.5hrs from the last start time of the sequence. This amends RRS 35. Boats failing to finish within 30 minutes after the first boat of her Fleet finishes or within the time limit, whichever is later, will not be scored unless the Race Officer uses their discretion to apply 10.2. In handicap races, the period of 30 minutes is taken from the finishing times after correction for handicap.
- 15.2 **Expiry of the time limit or abandonment of the race**
If a race is abandoned and not re-sailed and all boats in a Fleet have completed at least one round, all boats still racing at the expiry of the time limit or at abandonment shall be scored points for their position at the end of their last completed round.

16 HEARING REQUESTS

- 16.1 The RYA encourages the use of Post-Race Penalties, Advisory Meetings and Arbitration before scheduling a Protest Hearing. (Arbitration Report forms are available from the Bridge.) See also RRS Appendix T.
- 16.2 A competitor intending to lodge a Protest should alert the Race Officer accordingly upon coming ashore.
- 16.3 Protests shall be written on Hearing Request forms available from the Bridge. Completed forms shall be returned to a member of the Sailing Committee within 60 minutes after the last boat in their Fleet has finished.
- 16.4 All parties will be notified by the Sailing Committee of the place, time and date of the hearing, both directly and by means of a notice placed on the Club Notice Board. Should either party fail to attend without having given notice in writing to the Sailing Secretary, the protest will be heard in their absence.
- 16.5 The hearing shall be conducted by not less than three members appointed by a quorum of the Sailing Committee as defined in the club rules.

17 SCORING & AWARDS

- 17.1 The Low Point System A2 will apply modified so that a Boat's series score will be their best results in 50% of the races held in the series for their Fleet (the nearest number above for an odd number of races) are to count.
- 17.2 For Club series racing, a Boat will be scored as a single Boat in a series if the helm is the same in all races or the crew is the same in all races or the same team is in the Boat for all races. For administrative purposes, **if the helm or crew is likely to change, the 'Sailevent' entry should stipulate just one constant name as the helm.**
- 17.3 **Changing boats during a series** - A Competitor changing their Boat part way through a series can have the results for both Boats scored as a single Boat provided that both Boats are the same Class with the same PY number. They must notify the club administrator to update 'Sailwave' accordingly.
- 17.4 Three races of a series need to be held to constitute a series.
- 17.5 Moths will race as part of the Asymmetric and Fast Dinghy Fleet, but will be awarded separate prizes.
- 17.6 Members undertaking Bridge or Patrol Boat duty should confirm attendance by signing the duty book located on the Bridge. They may also claim average points for a race (up to a maximum of four) during which they are on duty by emailing the club administrator with details of the Fleet they are currently participating in. Average points will be calculated by 'Sailwave' **using RRS A9 (a).**
- 17.7 Awards are usually made to the top three of each Fleet in a Series, provided that if:

2 races are to count	No DNC/DNS are included
3 or 4 races are to count	Only 1 DNC/DNS is included
5 or more races are to count	2 DNC/DNS can be included

Note that due to race entry via 'Sailevent' and the difficulty in distinguishing between whether or not boats have come to the starting area, 'Sailwave' will award the same points for DNC and DNS.

- 17.8 The Sailing Committee will make awards for the following categories based on an annual review of the 12 months from 1 November to 31 October.

Highest Achiever	For competing away from the club
Top Youth Achiever	Age 16 – 21 home and away
Top Cadet Achiever	Up to age 16 home and away
Sportsmanship Award	On the water and facilitating racing for others
Services to the Club	Both for sailing and non-sailing services
Top Catamaran Helm	Club racing
Top Dinghy Helm	Club racing
Top Lady Helm	Club racing
Top Crew	Home and away
First over 50 Helm	Club racing
Under 12 most improved Cadet	Cadet Rep decision
Over 12 most improved Cadet	Cadet Rep decision
Most helpful Cadet (above and beyond)	Cadet Rep decision
Top Cadet Crew	Club racing

18 RISK STATEMENT/SAFETY

- 18.1 The sport of sailing is a potentially dangerous activity with inherent risks. These risks include exposure to 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 an increased risk of permanent, catastrophic injury, or death by drowning, trauma, hypothermia or other causes.

18.2 ADDENDUM A (RYA)

Rule 3 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 inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event, each competitor 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 and other officials and volunteers by the event 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;
- (g) It is their responsibility to familiarise themselves with any risks specific to this venue or this event drawn to their attention in any rules and information produced for the venue or event and to attend any safety briefing held for the event;

18.3 **Whilst afloat**, personal buoyancy shall be worn at all times. The Race Officer can disqualify a Competitor who does not comply with this rule. Wet suits and dry suits are not considered to be acceptable personal buoyancy for the purpose of this Instruction. This is in addition to RRS Rule 1.2, 40 and IC Flag 'Y' in the race signals.

18.4 Attention is drawn to RRS Fundamental Rule 1 'Helping Those in Danger'. In the absence of a nearby Patrol Boat, any boat in a race is to stand by a boat which has capsized or is disabled unless it is clear that no assistance is required. Redress may be requested. (RRS Rule 61)

18.5 Competitors who, for reasons beyond their control, come ashore at places other than the Club, shall contact the Club as soon as possible. This will prevent unnecessary air-sea rescue and anxiety. Contact can be made via Radio (call sign 'Stokes Bay Bridge').

18.6 The provision of a Patrol Boat does not relieve competitors of their responsibilities.

19 SPECIAL EVENTS

New Year's Day Race	Single start handicap race (Yellow flag)
Turk Trophy	See separate NoR and SIs
Club Championships	"Start Sequence B"
Round the Forts Race	See separate NoR and SIs
Bart's Bash	"Start Sequence B"
Boxing Day Race	Single start handicap race (Yellow flag)

20 FLEET DEFINITIONS

Cadet	Any boat with at least one Cadet member on board. This would normally be (but not limited to) Topper 4.2, Topper 5.3, Feva, Fusion, ILCA 4.
Club Handicap	Adults participating in their first year of racing in classes such as (but not limited to) Topper 4.2, Topper 5.3, Feva, Fusion, ILCA 4.
Catamaran Handicap	Two parallel hulls sailed single or double handed
Dart 18	Sailed single or double handed with no handicapping
Asymmetric & Fast Handicap	Asymmetric PY \leq 1002 Dinghy PY \leq 910
ILCA	ILCA 4 ILCA 6 ILCA 7
Dinghy Handicap	Monohull PY \geq 911 Asymmetric PY \geq 1003