

MEDWAY YACHT CLUB

CRUISER AUTUMN SERIES 2022 SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Rules

- a. Racing will be governed by The Racing Rules of Sailing.
- b. The Prescriptions of the RYA will apply.
- c. The following documentation shall apply;
 - i. The RYA Racing Charter.
 - ii. The Notice of Race including the Schedule (NOR).
 - iii. The Bye Laws and Directions of the Local Port Authority.
 - iv. The MYC Minimum Equipment List (MEL) 2022 and rating rules.
 - v. RRS Changes:
 - 1. RRS 29.1, individual recall.
 - 2. RRS 32, shortening course after the start.
 - 3. RRS 44.1, alternative penalty system.
 - 4. RRS 52, manual power.

2. Notices to Competitors

Notices to competitors will be posted on the “MYC Autumn Series 2022 WhatsApp Group”. Entrants will be added to this group upon entry.

3. Changes to Sailing Instruction

- a. Changes to Sailing Instruction will be posted on the “MYC Autumn Series 2022 WhatsApp Group”.
- b. Changes to the racing schedule will be posted on the “MYC Autumn Series 2022 WhatsApp Group” before 1400hrs on the day before the race affected.

4. Signals Made on Club Pontoon

The Committee Boat (Call Sign “Offshore One”) will be moored on the pontoon up to 08:30 a.m. Signals will be displayed on the Committee Boat. Failure to do so will not be cause for redress.

5. Schedule of Races and Briefing:

- a. Races will be held at the dates and times published in the Cruiser Racing NOR Schedule 2022 (Amended). The racing schedule may also be available in the MYC Calendar and on the Cruiser Class pages available on the MYC website www.medwayyachtclub.com.
- b. To alert boats that a race or sequence of races will begin soon, the orange starting line flag will be displayed with one sound at least five minutes before a warning signal is made.

6. Class Flags

The class flags will be as follows:

- i. Division 1 - Numeral pennant 1 (IRC)
- ii. Division 2 Numeral pennant 2 (NHC Spinnaker)
- iii. Division 3 Numeral pennant 3 (NHC White Sail)

Class flags shall be displayed from the backstay or equivalent rigging of boats while racing.

7. Racing Area

The River Medway and Thames Estuary.

8. The Courses

- a. The courses to be sailed are listed by number in the Medway Cruiser Course Sheet 2022. This can be found on the MYC Club Website and shall not be confused with the "In-River" Course 2022.
- b. The number of the course to be sailed by each class will be displayed on the Committee Boat, no later than the class warning signal. The Principal Race Officer will publish the course number, or a Special Instruction, via the "MYC Autumn Series WhatsApp Group" prior to the starting sequence.
- c. Special courses will be indicated by displaying number "0" (zero), as well as being published on the "Autumn Series WhatsApp Group.
- d. The race committee may broadcast course and other race management information by VHF, on Channel 72.
- e. No course permits passage through Hoo Creek, nor via Copperhouse Marshes and Bartlett Creek, unless expressly specified.
- f. All courses where passage is made beyond Stangate Creek vessels shall pass Z2 and South Kent Buoys on the southern side of the Buoy.

9. Marks:

Marks will be:

- i. Navigation marks of the Peel Ports;
- ii. Permanent yellow/orange horizontal cylinder marks being MYA 1, Autumn, MYC 4 and B.Ooze;
- iii. Permanent yellow can mark, Blackstakes has been removed. Vessels must abide by section 8.f and the exclusion zone around the gas terminal.
- iv. For the purposes of RRS 32.2 all marks will be considered to be rounding marks.

10. Obstructions

- a. This event is held on a navigable river and large vessels have right of way. International regulations and local bylaws may also apply to ships or vessels using jetties, piers, berths, moorings etc.
- b. If a vessel is being escorted, no boat shall sail between the guard boat displaying naval numeral "0" (zero) and the vessel it is escorting. Boats shall not obstruct the fairway. Any boat reported by an Official Vessel to have contravened this instruction or otherwise deemed to have caused an obstruction will be subject to protest and liable to be scored DNE.
- c. The variable exclusion zones relating to the LNG Terminal and LNG Vessels referred to in clauses 13 and 14 of the General Directions for Navigation in the Medway Ports 2013 are deemed to be obstructions.
- d. Boats shall not sail between Folly Beacon and Hoo Island; nor between Darnett Beacon and Darnett Ness; nor between the yellow sewer outfall buoy off Garrison Point and the Kent shore; nor cross Bishop Marsh which lies between Darnett Ness and Bishop Ness.
- e. Vessels on moorings or at anchor are deemed to be obstructions for the purposes of RRS. If a boat or its crew makes contact with a moored or anchored boat she shall declare the contact when signing off at the end of the race and accept a 20% Scoring Penalty pursuant to RRS 44.3(c). If a boat caused injury or serious damage, her penalty shall be to retire. A boat deemed to have contravened this instruction will be subject to protest and liable to be scored DNE. A mooring or anchor line or chain or an object accidentally attached to a moored or anchored vessel is not part of it. If a boat intends to continue racing after a collision with a moored or anchored vessel, any reasonable means of propulsion including the use of an engine, may be used by a boat to get clear of a moored or anchored vessel, provided the use of the engine or other means of propulsion ceases as soon as the boat is clear and she does not gain a significant advantage in the race.
- f. Any reasonable means of propulsion including the use of an engine may be used by a boat to avoid making contact with a moored or anchored vessel, provided the use of the engine or other means of propulsion ceases as soon as the boat is clear, and she does not gain a significant advantage in the race.
- g. Boats shall not sail over span lines on fore and aft moorings.

11. The Start

- a. For committee boat starts, the starting line will be between a mast/staff displaying an orange flag on the race committee boat and a mast/staff displaying an orange flag on an outer distance vessel.
An outer distance mark will be a named mark, the details of which will be broadcast by the race committee by VHF at least 10 minutes before the warning signal of the first start.
- b. At the race committee boat end of the start line the starting mark will be the race committee vessel together with any dinghy, RIB, buoy or other inflatable object.
- c. Boats not racing (as defined by RRS) shall avoid the starting area during the starting sequence of other classes.
- d. In the event of an individual recall, the sail number of the boat or boats adjudged OCS may be transmitted by the race committee on VHF channel 72 at least one minute after

the start. Failure to receive such a message shall not constitute grounds for redress. This changes RRS 29.1.

12. Change of the Next Leg of The Course

Not Applicable

13. The Finish

- a. For Club line finishes the finish line will be the Medway Yacht Club Line.
- b. For committee boat finishes, the finishing line will be between a mast/staff displaying an orange flag on the race committee boat and the last mark of the course.
- c. If the race committee is absent when a boat finishes, she should record her time by Smart Phone – preferably by screenshot showing the time of finish.

14. Shortening Course:

- a. The race committee may broadcast its intention to shorten course by VHF on Channel 72. Additionally, it may be broadcast via the Autumn Series WhatsApp Group. Failure to do the latter shall be no cause for redress.
In this event the absence of a visual or sound signal shall be disregarded.
This changes RRS 32.
- b. The race committee may shorten course by requesting yachts to sail to a mark (ref. 9. Marks), if sailing conditions are such that in the view of the race committee, sailing the full racecourse will not provide fair racing. This changes RRS 32. Shortening course pursuant to this instruction shall not be grounds for redress.
- c. If the race committee is absent when a boat finishes a shortened course, she shall pass within 20m of the relevant mark of the course and record and report her finishing time in the manner required by SI's 13c.

15. Time Limits

The time limit for all racing will be published in the NOR Schedule.

16. Declarations (General):

- a. A Race Declaration Form must be submitted with a Race Entry Form. These forms can be obtained by download from the Club Website www.medwayyachtclub.com.
- b. The boat's owner or the owner's representative shall signal the race committee of an intention to race by sailing around the stern of the committee boat, or by hailing the Committee Boat (Offshore One) on Channel 72.
- c. Race Finish times taken by boat owners must be provided to the Race Officer within 60 minutes of a finish time, via the "Autumn Series WhatsApp Group". Only applies if there is no Committee Boat at the finish line or shortened course mark finish. See 14.c Shortening Course.
- d. Boat retirements must be provided to the Race Officer via VHF Channel 72 to the Committee Boat (Offshore One) at the earliest opportunity.

17. Protests and Requests for Redress

- a. Protest forms are available from the PRO at the Club House. Protests and requests for redress or reopening shall be delivered to the PRO in the Club House within the appropriate time limit.
- b. The protest time limit is 90 minutes after the last boat has finished the last race of the day or the race committee signals no more racing today, whichever is the latter.
- c. Notices will be posted on the "MYC Autumn Series WhatsApp Group" no later than 30 minutes after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Protest hearings will be held in the MYC Library.
- d. Notices of protests by the race committee or protest committee will be posted to inform boats under rule 61.1(b).
- e. The RYA Exoneration Penalty, the RYA Advisory Hearing and RYA Arbitration provided for by the RYA Rules Disputes Process will be available.

18. Scoring

Low Point System of Appendix A shall apply to all series races, as detailed within the Notice of Race.

19. Safety Regulations

A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee by VHF Channel 72 (Offshore One) as soon as possible.

20. Replacement of Crew or Equipment

Boats wishing to use a sail that does not bear the boat's registration number, and which must not duplicate the number of another boat racing, must obtain prior approval from the race committee.

21. Equipment and Measurement Checks

A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time, before or after a race, by a race committee member to ensure compliance with any relevant class rules, sailing instructions or MYC Minimum Equipment List 2022.

22. Event Advertising

Competitors may be asked to fly a sponsorship pennant during key events. If required, an Amendment to these Sailing Instructions will be issued.

23. Manual Power

Boats may use electrically or hydraulically powered winches to adjust standing and running rigging. This changes RRS 52.

24. Haul-Out Restrictions

There are no haul-out restrictions.

25. Prizes

A list of prizes will be published in the NOR Schedule.

26. Risk Statement

Rule 4 of the RRS states “The Responsibility for a boat’s decision to participate in a race or 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 while 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. Weather conditions may be a risk.
- e. The provision of a race management team, patrol boats and other officials and volunteers by the event organiser does not relieve them from 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.

27. Insurance

Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £2,500,000 per incident or the equivalent.

MYC CRUISER RACE OFFICERS
October 2022