

# Medway Yacht Club SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

## CRUISER RACING 2016 SEASON (for MYC Cruiser Class excluding the Keelboat Regatta and Wednesday Evening Racing)

### 1. Organising Authority

1.1 Medway Yacht Club (MYC)

### 2. Rules

2.1 The series will be governed by:

- The rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing and the Prescriptions of the RYA
- The RYA Racing Charter
- The Notice of Race including the Schedule (NOR)
- The Bye Laws and Directions of the Local Port Authority
- The MYC Minimum equipment List (MEL) and rating rules

2.2 RRS Changes:

- RRS 29.1, individual recall
- RRS 32, shortening course after the start
- RRS 64.1, protest committee penalties and exoneration
- RRS 44.1, alternative penalty system
- RRS 52, manual power

### 3. Notices to Competitors

3.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the Sailing Committee official notice board.

### 4. Changes to Sailing Instructions

4.1 Any changes to these SI's will be posted on the Sailing Committee official notice board no later than 2 hours prior to the start of the first race to which they apply.

4.2 Changes to the racing schedule will be posted before 1400hrs on the day before the race affected. The Cruiser Class racing representative may email the change of racing schedule but failure to do so shall not be grounds for redress.

### 5. Signals Made Ashore

5.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed in the vicinity of the MYC Race Box ("Race Box") on the mound by the clubhouse.

5.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced by 'not less than 30 minutes' in race signal AP.

### 6. Schedule of Races and Briefing

6.1 Races will be held at the dates and times published in NOR. The racing schedule may also be available in the MYC Calendar and on the Cruiser Class pages available on the MYC website.

### 7. Class Flag

7.1 The class flags will be as follows:

- Division 1 Numeral pennant 1
- Division 2 Numeral pennant 2

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

## **8. Racing Area**

8.1 The River Medway and Thames Estuary.

## **9. The Courses**

9.1 The courses to be sailed are listed by number in the Medway Cruiser Course Sheet 2016.

9.2 The number of the course to be sailed by each class will be displayed no later than the class warning signal.

9.3 Special courses will be indicated by displaying number "0" (zero).

9.4 The race committee may broadcast course and other race management information by VHF.

9.4.1 For Committee Boat Starts the race committee will broadcast on channel 72, using call sign "Offshore one".

9.5 No course permits passage through Hoo Creek, nor via Copperhouse Marshes and Bartlett Creek, unless expressly specified.

## **10. Marks**

10.1 Marks will be:

- Navigation marks of the Peel Ports;
- Permanent yellow/orange horizontal cylinder marks being MYA 1, MYC 2, MYC 4 and B.Ooze;
  
- Permanent yellow can mark being Blackstakes.

10.2 For the purposes of RRS 32.2 all marks will be considered to be rounding marks.

## **11. Obstructions**

11.1 This event is held on a navigable river and ships or other large vessels have right of way. International regulations and local bylaws may also apply to ships or vessels using jetties, piers, berths, moorings etc.

11.2 If a ship or vessel is being escorted, no boat shall sail between the guard boat displaying naval numeral "0" (zero) and the ship or vessel it is escorting. Boats shall not obstruct the fairway. Any boat reported by an Official Boat to have contravened this instruction or otherwise deemed to have caused an obstruction will be subject to protest and liable to be scored DNE.

11.3 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.

11.4 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.

11.5 Boats on moorings or at anchor are deemed to be obstructions for the purposes of RRS. If a boat or its crew make 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 boat is not part of it.

11.6 Any reasonable means of propulsion may be used by a boat to avoid making contact with a moored or anchored boat provided the boat does not gain a significant advantage in the race.

11.7 Boats shall not sail over span lines on fore and aft moorings.

## **12. The Start**

12.1 For Club line starts, the start line will be a transit line running approximately north/south through the apex of two white triangles above the Race Box.

- 12.2 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 boat. 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 affected may be substituted for the outer distance mark.
- 12.3 Boats, marks or other items attached to the committee boat for the duration of the starting sequence are deemed to be part of the committee boat and are not temporary attachments.
- 12.4 Boats not *Racing* (as defined by RRS) shall avoid the starting area during the starting sequence of other classes.
- 12.5 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.

### **13. The Finish**

- 13.1 For Club line finishes, the finish line will be as described in Instruction 12.1.
- 13.2 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.
- 13.3 For Club line finishes boats shall record their own finish times (on a smart phone if this is available).
- 13.4 If the race committee is absent when a boat finishes, she should report her finishing time, and her position in relation to nearby boats, to the race committee at the first reasonable opportunity.

### **14. Shortening Course**

- 14.1 The race committee may broadcast its intention to shorten course by VHF. In this event the absence of a visual or sound signal shall be disregarded. This changes RRS 32.
- 14.2 When racing is conducted from the Club line, if common consent between competitors in a class to shorten course can be reached, an appointed representative of the Cruiser Class will broadcast by VHF the decision and the mark of the course at which the race will be shortened, and inform the race committee of the decision at the first reasonable opportunity. This changes RRS 32.
- 14.3 The race committee may shorten course at navigation mark 30 if it is a mark of the course and if sailing conditions are such that in the view of the race committee sailing from navigation mark 30 to the finish line will not provide fair racing. This changes RRS 32. Shortening course pursuant to this Instruction shall not be grounds for redress.
- 14.4 The race committee may shorten course by requesting yachts to sail to a mark (ref. 10.0 Marks), if sailing conditions are such that in the view of the race committee, sailing the full race course will not provide fair racing. This changes RRS 32. Shortening course pursuant to this Instruction shall not be grounds for redress.
- 14.5 If the race committee is absent when a boat finishes a shortened course, she shall pass within 20 metres of the relevant mark of the course and record and report her finishing time in the manner required by SI's 13.3 and 13.4.

### **15. Time Limits**

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

### **16. Declarations**

Subject to the prior completion and delivery of a Race Declaration Form and payment of the appropriate entry fee pursuant to paragraph 2.3 of the NOR;

- 16.1 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.
- 16.2 When racing is conducted from the Club line;
  - 16.2.1 The boat's owner or the owner's representative shall provide a Declaration of Finishing by text to the Cruiser Class Race Declaration mobile telephone (number 07467 508877)

using the following format: YACHT NAME; SAIL NUMBER; FINISHING TIME. Any boat failing to declare within 60 minutes of the last finisher in her class shall be scored DNF. In a case where the racing was finished by committee boat, the time limit for declaration shall be 30 minutes after the last boat has come ashore.

- 16.2.2 If a boat has retired, her owner or her owner's representative shall provide a Declaration of Retirement by text to the Cruiser Class Race Declaration mobile telephone (number 07467 508877) using the following format: YACHT NAME; SAIL NUMBER; RETIRED. She shall also inform the race committee or the Officer of the Day (OOD) by any means possible at the earliest possible opportunity.

## **17. Protests and Requests for Redress**

- 17.1 Protest forms are available from the Race Box. Protests and requests for redress or reopening shall be delivered there within the appropriate time limit.
- 17.2 The protest time limit is 60 minutes after the last boat comes ashore after the last race of the day or the race committee signals no more racing today, whichever is the later.
- 17.3 Notices to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties, or named as witnesses, will be posted within 30 minutes of the protest time limit.
- 17.4 Notices of protests by the race committee or protest committee will be posted to inform boats under rule 61.1(b).
- 17.5 The RYA Exoneration Penalty, the RYA Advisory Hearing and RYA Arbitration provided for by the RYA Rules Disputes Process will be available.

## **18. Scoring**

- 18.1 The number of races to be completed and the scoring and/or handicap system to be used will be published in the NOR.

## **19. Safety Regulations**

- 19.1 A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee by VHF as soon as possible.

## **20. Replacement of Crew or Equipment**

- 20.1 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**

- 21.1 A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time by a race committee equipment inspector or measurer for compliance with the class rules and sailing instructions.

## **22. Official Boats**

- 22.1 Official support boats will display Numeral '9', but a failure to display shall not constitute grounds for redress.

## **23. Manual Power**

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

## **24. Prizes**

- 24.1 A list of prizes will be published in the NOR.

## **25. 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:

- 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;
- They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore;
- They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions;
- Weather conditions, as can practically be provided in the circumstances.

**26. Insurance**

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

**MYC Advisory Light Procedure**

<b>Signal</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Lights</b>	<b>Visual Signal</b>
Warning	5 min	3 fixed lights	Class flag displayed
Preparatory	4 min	2 fixed lights	Preparatory signal displayed
One Minute	1 min	1 fixed light	Preparatory signal removed
Start	0 min	No lights	Class flag removed
Individual	Recall	1 flashing light	X flag displayed

**MYC Sailing Committee  
March 2016**