

**Medway Yacht Club
SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**



IN-RIVER RACING 2017 SEASON

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 2017-2020 (RRS) and the Prescriptions of the RYA
- The RYA Racing Charter
- The Notice of Race (NOR)
- The Bye Laws and Directives of the Local Port Authority
- The MYC Minimum equipment List (MEL) and local rules for the particular class being raced

2.2 RRS Changes:

- RRS 28.1, sailing the course
- RRS 29.1, individual recall
- RRS 32, shortening course after the start
- RRS Race Signals and RRS 33, changing the next leg of the course
- RRS 35, A4 and A5, time limit and scores
- RRS 64.1, protest committee penalties and exoneration
- RRS 44.1, alternative penalty system

3. Notices to Competitors

3.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the Sailing Committee official notice board which will be located in the foyer of the clubhouse.

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 90 minutes prior to the start of the first race to which they apply.

4.2 Changes to the racing schedule will be posted on the Sailing Committee official noticeboard and may be posted on the MYC website at www.medwayyachtclub.com before 2100hrs on the evening before the race affected.

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 the MYC Calendar available on the MYC website.

6.2 Any briefing notes will be published on the MYC website

7. Class Flag

7.1 The class flags will be as follows:

- Dragon ICF “D”
- Sonata ICF “F”
- Squib Naval Numeral 9
- Wayfarer Wayfarer class flag (red “W” on white background)
- Dinghy Fast Handicap ICF Numeral pennant 3
- Dinghy Slow Handicap ICF Numeral pennant 4
- Sunday pm Allcomers ICF Numeral pennant 3

8. Racing Area

8.1 The River Medway. See Imray Chart Y18 The River Medway and Approaches.

9. The Courses

9.1 The courses to be sailed are listed by number in the 2017 MYC In-River Course Sheet.

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 display U2 or U3 in addition to the course number which indicates that the first mark will be MYC 2 or MYC 3 respectively to port, followed by the displayed course.

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

- 9.6 No course permits passage through Hoo Creek, nor via Copperhouse Marshes and Bartlett Creek, unless expressly specified.
- 9.7 Where a course requires more than one lap to be completed, the number of laps will be displayed in addition to the course number.
- 9.8 Courses to be sailed in Windward/Leeward racing will be described in Supplementary Sailing Instructions.

10. Marks

- 10.1 Marks will be:
- Navigation marks of the Peel Ports;
 - Permanent yellow/orange horizontal cylinder marks being MYA 1, MYC 4 and B.Ooze;
 - Temporary marks for MYC 2 and MYC 3. MYC 2 shall be laid in the vicinity of the Royal Engineers Jetty. MYC 3 shall be a temporary inflatable buoy or a buoy displaying a pink or orange flag on a staff.
- 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 large vessels have right of way. International regulations and local bylaws may also apply to vessels using jetties, piers, berths, moorings etc.
- 11.2 If a large vessel is being escorted, no boat shall sail between the guard vessel 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.
- 11.3 Boats shall not sail between Folly Beacon and Hoo Island, nor between Darnett Beacon and Darnett Ness, nor cross Bishop Marsh which lies between Darnett Ness and Bishop Ness.
- 11.4 Vessels 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 vessel 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 the boat to get clear 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.

- 11.5 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.
- 11.6 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 race committee vessel starts, the starting line will be between a mast/staff displaying an orange flag on the race committee vessel and a mast/staff displaying an orange flag on an outer distance vessel. An outer distance mark with a staff displaying an orange flag or the course side of a white or orange inflatable buoy may be substituted for the outer distance vessel.
- 12.3 At the race committee vessel end of the start line the starting mark will be the race committee vessel together with any dinghy, RIB, buoy or other inflatable object attached to it.
- 12.4 When a buoy is laid near the race committee vessel approximately on the start line, it is a starting limit mark and shall be left on the same side as the nearby race committee vessel.
- 12.5 For Dragon, Squib and Sonata class races only, 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 37 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 race committee vessel finishes, the finishing line will be as described in Instructions 12.2 and 12.3.
- 13.3 For Dragon class racing only, and then only in relation to In River racing (but not windward/leeward racing) boats may record their own finish at

buoy 30 provided adverse tide and wind conditions are forecast or exist and the race committee has agreed prior to the Dragon Class warning signal that it is in the interests of fair sailing to adopt the following procedure;

- 13.3.1 Boats will be required to leave buoy 30 to port. The finish line will be a transit line between the course side of buoy 30 and a radio mast at Gillingham Pier which bears approximately 205 degrees from buoy 30.
- 13.3.2 Boats will record their own finishing position and the sail number of the boat in the same class immediately in front of them (if any) and the boat immediately behind them (if any)
- 13.3.3 Boats shall record their finishing position when they sign off in accordance with SI 17.2. In the event of dispute a boat's final position will be determined in accordance with Medway Dragon Class Rules.
- 13.3.4 If a race is shortened by the race committee in accordance with RRS 32 or SI 14.2, the finishing position of each boat will be determined in accordance with RRS 32 or SI 14.2 notwithstanding the alternative procedure provided for in this SI 13.3.
- 13.3.5 This SI 13.3 changes RRS 28.1.

14. Shortening Course

- 14.1 If the race committee displays IRC flags "C" over "R" with repeated sound signals at any mark of the course, all competitors in the race are to round this mark on the designated side and proceed direct to the Club line described in Instruction 13.1 leaving navigation mark 30 to port, while still observing the prohibited areas provided for in these Instructions. This changes RRS Race Signals and RRS 33.
- 14.2 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.

15. Penalty System

- 15.1 For Dragon class races only, where a boat of the Dragon class may have broken one or more rules of Part 2 in an incident involving only boat or

boats of the same class while racing, she may take a One Penalty Turn. This changes RRS 44.1 (but not RRS 44.1(b)).

16. Time Limits

- 16.1 The time limit for all Saturday racing will be 17.30 hours.
- 16.2 The time limit for all Sunday racing will be 17.30 hours.
- 16.3 Boats failing to finish within 30 minutes after the first boat sails the course and finishes and are still racing may be given a finish position at any point on the course at the discretion of the Race Officer. This changes RRS 35, A4 and A5.

17. Declarations

- 17.1 The boat's owner or the owner's representative shall sign on in the entry column of the Race Entry Sheet before racing.
- 17.2 The boat's owner or the owner's representative shall sign off in the declaration column of the Race Entry Sheet as soon as possible after racing. 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 race committee vessel, the time limit for declaration shall be 30 minutes after the last boat has come ashore.
- 17.3 If a boat has retired, her owner or her owner's representative shall note this fact on the Race Entry Sheet and inform the race committee or the Race Officer by any means possible.

18. Protests and Requests for Redress

- 18.1 Protest forms are available from the Race Box. Protests and requests for redress or reopening shall be delivered there within the appropriate time limit.
- 18.2 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 later.
- 18.3 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.
- 18.4 Notices of protests by the race committee or protest committee will be posted to inform boats under rule 61.1(b).
- 18.5 The RYA Exoneration Penalty, the RYA Advisory Hearing and RYA Arbitration provided for by the RYA Rules Disputes Process will be available.

19. Scoring

- 19.1 The number of races to be completed and the scoring and/or handicap system to be used in any series run by a class shall be determined and published by the respective class.
- 19.2 In races or race series organised by MYC which are open to multiple classes
 - 19.2.1 The Low Point System of Appendix A will be used.
 - 19.2.2 One race is required to be completed to constitute a series.
 - 19.2.3 (a) When fewer than three races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores
 - (b) When three or more races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score

20. Safety Regulations

- 20.1 Wet or dry suits are obligatory for helms and crews under 18 years old who are sailing dinghies, except during the months from June to September.
- 20.2 All dinghy class competitors, when racing, shall wear personal flotation devices, except briefly while changing or adjusting clothing or personal equipment.
- 20.3 When the race committee considers that a boat, its equipment or crew are not adequate for the existing or anticipated conditions, or that a boat or crew member is in difficulty, it may instruct the boat or crew not to launch, or to retire or to sail ashore or to accept outside help. The boat and crew shall comply with such instructions without delay.

21. Replacement of Crew or Equipment

- 21.1 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.

22. Equipment and Measurement Checks

- 22.1 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.

23. Official Vessels

23.1 Official vessels will display Numeral '9', but a failure to display shall not constitute grounds for redress.

24. Prizes

24.1 Prizes for each series run by a class shall be determined by the respective class. Prizes for each race or series of races organised by MYC for multiple classes shall be determined by the Sailing Committee.

25. Risk Statement

Rule 4 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 organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities; and
- (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 risk 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 at the venue.

26. Insurance

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

MYC Advisory Light Procedure

Signal	Time	Lights	Visual Signal
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
February 2017