

MEDWAY YACHT CLUB
2024 CRUISER SPRING SERIES
Sundays 14, 21, 28 April and 12, 19 May
SAILING INSTRUCTIONS - SI



1. RULES

- 1.1 The racing will be governed by The RYA Racing Rules of Sailing 2021-24 (RRS).
- 1.2 The Prescriptions of the RYA will apply.
- 1.3 The following documentation shall apply:
 - i. The RYA Racing Charter
 - ii. The Notice of Race (NOR)
 - iii. The Bye Laws and Directives of the Local Port Authority
 - iv. The MYC Minimum Equipment List (MEL) 2024 and rating rules
- 1.4 The notation [DP] denotes that the penalty for a breach of that rule may, at the discretion of the protest committee, be less than disqualification.
- 1.5 The notation [SP] denotes a rule which a standard penalty may be applied by the Race Committee without a hearing, or a discretionary penalty applied by the protest committee with a hearing. This changes RRS 63.1 and A5.1.

2. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

Notices to competitors will be posted on the MYC Spring Series 2024 WhatsApp group. Entrants will be added to this group upon entry.

3. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 3.1 Changes to Sailing Instructions will be posted on the “WhatsApp Group”.
- 3.2 Changes to the racing schedule will be posted on the “WhatsApp Group” before 14:00 on the day before the race affected.

4. SCHEDULE OF RACES

- 4.1 Dates of racing:
 - Sunday 14 April
 - Sunday 21 April
 - Sunday 28 April
 - Sunday 12 May
 - Sunday 19 May
- 4.2 The entries will be divided by the organising authority between classes denoted as Class 1, Class 2 etc. based on YTC handicaps and depending on the number of entries. The classes and boats in each class will be published on the MYC website least twenty-four hours before the first race in the series.
- 4.3 There will be one race a day for each of the classes. Class 1 warning signal will be at 09:55 and the warning system of subsequent classes will follow at 10 minutes intervals.
- 4.4 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.

5. CLASS FLAGS

- 5.1 Classes will fly the numeral pennant of their class
- 5.2 Class flags shall be displayed from the backstay or equivalent rigging of boats while racing.

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6. RACING AREA

The River Medway and Thames Estuary.

7. COURSES

- 7.1 The start will be on the Upnor Line in front of the Medway Yacht Club.
- 7.2 The course to be sailed will be notified via the "WhatsApp Group" no later than the warning signal.
- 7.3 The Race Committee may broadcast the course and other race management information by VHF, on Channel 37.
- 7.4 No course permits passage through Hoo Creek, nor via Copperhouse Marshes and Bartlett Creek, unless expressly specified.
- 7.5 All courses where passage is made beyond Stangate Creek vessels shall pass Z2 and South Kent Buoys on the southern side of the Buoys.
- 7.6 All marks are passing marks unless specifically identified as a rounding mark.

8. MARKS

- 8.1 Navigation marks of the Peel Ports and permanent yellow/orange horizontal cylinder marks being MYA 1, Autumn, MYC 4 and B. Ooze.
- 8.2 See Appendix A for a list of marks which may be used.
- 8.3 Vessels must remain outside 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. Boats entering the exclusion zone will be automatically disqualified.

9. OBSTRUCTIONS

- 9.1 This series is held on a navigable river and large vessels have right of way. International regulations and local bylaws shall apply to ships or vessels using jetties, piers, berths, moorings etc.
- 9.2 The exclusion zones around the gas terminal are deemed to be obstructions. See SI 8.3.
- 9.3 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.
- 9.4 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 causes 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.
- 9.5 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.
- 9.6 Boats shall not sail over span lines on fore and aft moorings.

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10. THE START

- 10.1 Races will be started using RRS 26.
- 10.2 The starting line will be the Upnor Line in front of the MYC.
- 10.3 Any changes will be broadcast by the Race Committee via the “WhatsApp Group” and may be by VHF channel 37 before the warning signal of the first start.
- 10.4 Boats not racing (as defined by RRS) shall avoid the starting area during the starting sequence of other classes.
- 10.5 In the event of an individual recall, the sail number of the boat or boats judged 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.

11. COURSE SHORTENING

- 11.1 The Race Committee may broadcast its intention to shorten course by VHF channel 37. Additionally, it may be broadcast via the “WhatsApp Group”. Failure to do both shall be no cause for redress.
- 11.2 The Race Committee may shorten the course by requesting boats to finish at a mark in Appendix A or by leaving out specific marks. This changes RRS 32. Shortening course pursuant to this instruction shall not be grounds for redress.

12. THE FINISH

- 12.1 The finish may be the Upnor Line in front of the MYC or at a mark in Appendix A. It will be included with the course or with the course shortening instructions.
- 12.2 If boats are requested to self-finish at the Upnor Line they should record the time the bows cross the line preferably with a mobile phone photo.
- 12.3 If boats are requested to self-finish at a mark, they should record the time, preferably with a mobile phone photo, that their bows cross an imaginary line from the mark at right angles to an imaginary line from the most recent mark or turning point of the course.

13. TIME LIMITS

- 13.1 No warning signal will be made after 11:55 each day.
- 13.2 The time limit for finishing the race will be 17:00 but the Race Committee will make every effort to set courses that can be finished in that time by the fleet and if tide and wind conditions make that impossible to shorten the course.

14. DECLARATIONS (GENERAL)

- 14.1 A Race Declaration Form must be submitted with a Race Entry Form. This form is on the online official noticeboard. See NOR 2.1.
- 14.2 The boats shall signal their intention to race by notifying the number of crew on the WhatsApp group prior to the warning signal.
- 14.3 Race Finish times taken by boat owners must be reported immediately after finishing via the “WhatsApp Group”. This only applies if there is no Committee Vessel at the finish line or shortened course mark finish. See SI 12.

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14.4 Boat retirements must be provided to the Race Committee via the WhatsApp group at the earliest opportunity.

15. PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

- 15.1 Protest forms are available at the Club House. Protests and requests for redress or reopening shall be advised on the WhatsApp group and delivered to the Class Captain in the Club House within the appropriate time limit.
- 15.2 The protest time limit is 120 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.
- 15.3 Notices will be posted on the "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.
- 15.4 Notices of protests by the Race Committee or protest committee will be posted to inform boats under RRS 61.1(b).
- 15.5 The RYA Exoneration Penalty, the RYA Advisory Hearing and RYA Arbitration provided for by the RYA Rules Disputes Process will be available.

16. RESULTS AND SCORING

- 16.1 The provisional results for each race will be calculated as soon as possible after the last boat finishes and are planned to be available in the MYC club house. The provisional results will also be uploaded to the Club Results page. A WhatsApp message to the Autumn Series WhatsApp Group will advise as soon as they have been uploaded.
- 16.2 Low Point System of Appendix A shall apply to all series races, as detailed within the Notice of Race.

17. REPLACEMENT 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.

18. 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 2024.

19. ADVERTISING

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

20. MANUAL POWER

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

21. PRIZES

A list of prizes is in the NOR.

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22. RISK STATEMENT

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 involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event, each competitor agrees and acknowledges that:

- 22.1 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,
- 22.2 They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore,
- 22.3 They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions,
- 22.4 Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate,
- 22.5 The provision of a race management team, patrol boats if any, and other officials and volunteers by the organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities,
- 22.6 They are responsible for ensuring that their boat is equipped and seaworthy to face extremes of weather; that there is a crew sufficient in experience and fitness to withstand such weather; and that the safety equipment is properly maintained, stowed and in date and is familiar to the crew.

23. 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 £3,000,000 per incident or the equivalent.

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Appendix A MYC RACING MARKS

Designation	Name	Description	Approximate Position	Number in List
34		R. Can	51:23.14N 0:30.86E	1
32		R. Can	51:24.66N 0:32.15E	2
31		G. Conical	51:24.56N 0:33.05E	3
30A		R. Can	51:24.48N 0:33.00E	4
30		R. Can	51:24.08N 0:33.45E	5
29		G. Conical	51:24.00N 0:33.75E	6
28		R. Can	51:23.88N 0:34.08E	7
27		G. Conical	51:23.91N 0:34.71E	8
26		R. Can	51:23.84N 0:34.76E	9
25	Folly	G. Conical	51:24.09N 0:35.25E	10
24		R. Can	51:24.04N 0:35.37E	11
23	Darnet	G. Conical	51:24.60N 0:35.66E	12
MYA 1		Y. Barrel	51:24.66N 0:35.79E	13
22		R. Can	51:24.51N 0:36.09E	14
20		R. Can	51:24.52N 0:36.92E	15
19		G. Conical	51:24.63N 0:36.91E	16
Autumn		Y. Barrel	51:24.71N 0:36.91E	17
18		R. Can	51:24.48N 0:37.90E	18
17		G. Conical	51:24.60N 0:37.90E	19
MYC 4		Y. Barrel	51:24.76N 0:37.93E	20
16	Bishop	R. Can	51:24.71N 0:38.78E	21
B.Ooze		Y. Barrel	51:24.14N 0:38.79E	22
Otterham Fairway		R&W Pillar	51:23.78N 0:38.26E	23
15		G. Conical	51:24.75N 0:38.44E	24
W. Bulwark		R. Can	51:25.38N 0:39.10E	25
E. Bulwark		G. Conical	51:25.39N 0:39.25E	26
14		R. Can	51:25.43N 0:39.63E	27
13	Stoke	G. Conical	51:25.76N 0:39.84E	28
12		R. Can	51:25.76N 0:40.20E	29
22		N. Cardinal	51:25.65N 0:41.63E	30
Stangate Spit		E. Cardinal	51:25.41N 0:41.55E	31
South Kent		R. Can	51:25.98N 0:43.66E	32
Queenborough Spit		BYB Pillar	51:25.82N 0:43.94E	33
Grain Hard		G. Conical	51:26.90N 0:44.18E	34
Grain Edge		G. Conical	51:27.63N 0:45.49E	35
11		G. Conical	51:27.51N 0:45.80E	36
Nore Swatch		R. Can	51:28.30N 0:45.50E	37
Mid Swatch		G. Conical	51:28.68N 0:44.18E	38
W Nore Sand		R. Can	51:29.48N 0:40.87E	39

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Designation	Name	Description	Approximate Position	Number in List
Sea Reach 5 South		R Can	51:29.85N 0:41.43E	40
Sea Reach 4 South		R Can	51:29.50N 0:44.12E	41
W Shoebury		G. Conical	51:30.24N 0:45.74E	42
Sea Reach 3 South		R Can	51:29.22N 0:46.71E	43
Sea Reach 2 South		R Can	51:29.49N 0:49.73E	44
West Cant		R. Can	51:27.21N 0:45.50E	45
10A		Y. Can	51:27.57N 0:46.92E	46
8A		Y. Can	51:27.71N 0:47.70E	47
6A		Y. Can	51:27.88N 0:48.58E	48
4A		Y. Can	51:28.01N 0:49.42E	49
2A		Y. Can	51:28.23N 0:50.52E	50
Medway		R&W Pillar	51:28.83N 0:52.82E	51
Mid Cant		BY Beacon	51:26.85N 0:49.78E	52

Please note that the positions listed are approximate and should be checked against an up-to-date large-scale chart.
 Misprints of positions or descriptions shall not be grounds for redress.

MYC SAILING COMMITTEE 2024