

MEDWAY YACHT CLUB

2025 AUTUMN SERIES

19th, 26th October, 2nd, 9th, 16th November

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS



1.0 RULES

- 1.1 Racing shall be conducted in accordance with the RYA Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS).
- 1.2 The Prescriptions of the RYA are applicable.
- 1.3 The following documentation shall apply:
 - i. RYA Racing Charter
 - ii. MYC 2025 Autumn Series Notice of Race (NOR)
 - iii. Bye Laws and Directives issued by the Local Port Authority
 - iv. MYC 2025 Cruiser Class Minimum Equipment List (MEL) and 2025 One Design MEL
- 1.4 All IRC vessels must comply with World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations Appendix B.

2.0 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS & CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the MYC Autumn Series 2025 WhatsApp Group (WhatsApp Group). Entrants will be added to this group.
- 2.2 Changes to Sailing Instructions will be posted on the WhatsApp Group.
- 2.3 Changes to the racing schedule will be posted on the WhatsApp Group before 14:00 on the day before the race affected.

3.0 SCHEDULE OF RACES & CLASSES

- 3.1 Dates of racing: Sunday 19th, 26th of October and 2nd, 9th, 16th of November.
- 3.2 The entries will be divided by the organising authority between classes denoted as Class 1, Class 2, etc. depending on the number of entries. The classes and vessels in each class will be published on the Autumn Series website at least twenty-four hours before the first race in the series.
- 3.3 Separate results will be published under YTC and IRC handicaps classes.
- 3.3 There will be one race each day for each of the classes.
- 3.4 Vessels will fly the numeral pennant of their class from the backstay or equivalent rigging while racing.

4.0 COURSES

- 4.1 The race area is the River Medway and Thames Estuary.
- 4.2 The courses will be notified to competitors using the WhatsApp Group prior to the warning signal for each race.
- 4.3 The race committee may broadcast the course and other race management information by VHF, on channel 72, and the WhatsApp Group.
- 4.4 No course permits passage through Hoo Creek, nor via Copperhouse Marshes and Bartlett Creek, unless expressly specified.
- 4.5 All courses where passage is made beyond Stangate Creek vessels shall pass Z2 and South Kent Buoys on the southern side of the Buoy.
- 4.6 All marks are passing marks unless specifically identified as a rounding mark.
- 4.7 Marks are listed in the appendix to these sailing instructions.

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SAILING INSTRUCTIONS



5.0 THE START

- 5.1 The start for all races will be from a committee boat line down-river from MYC.
- 5.2 Vessels shall signal their intention to race by notifying the number of crew on the WhatsApp Group prior to the warning signal.
- 5.3 Class 1 warning signal will be at 09:55 and the warning signal of subsequent classes will follow at 10 minute intervals provided the start of racing is not postponed.
- 5.4 To alert vessels 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.
- 5.6 Any changes will be broadcast by the Race Committee via the WhatsApp Group and may be by VHF (channel 72) before the warning signal of the first start.
- 5.7 Races will be started using RRS 26.
- 5.8 Vessels not racing (as defined by RRS) shall avoid the starting area during the starting sequence of other classes.
- 5.9 In the event of an individual recall, the sail number of the vessel(s) judged OCS may be transmitted by the Race Committee on VHF channel 72 or via the WhatsApp Group at least one minute after the start. Failure to receive such a message shall not constitute grounds for redress. This changes RRS 29.1.

6.0 OBSTRUCTIONS

- 6.1 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.
- 6.2 Vessels must abide by the exclusion zones around the gas terminal which are deemed to be obstructions.
- 6.3 Vessels 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.
- 6.4 Vessels on moorings or at anchor are deemed to be obstructions for the purposes of RRS. 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.
- 6.5 If a vessel or its crew makes contact with a moored or anchored vessel, she shall declare the contact to the Race committee at the end of the race and accept a 20% Scoring Penalty pursuant to RRS 44.3(c). If a vessel causes injury or serious damage, her penalty shall be to retire. A vessel 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.
- 6.6 Vessels shall not sail over span lines on fore and aft moorings.

MEDWAY YACHT CLUB

2025 AUTUMN SERIES

19th, 26th October, 2nd, 9th, 16th November

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS



7.0 FINISHING

- 7.1 Vessel retirements must be notified to the Race Committee via the WhatsApp Group at the earliest opportunity.
- 7.2 The finish will be between the Committee Boat and a mark in the Appendix to these SI's.
- 7.3 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 to shorten the course if tide and wind conditions make finishing in time impossible.

8.0 PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

- 8.1 Protest forms are available at the MYC Club House. Protests and requests for redress or reopening shall be advised on the WhatsApp Group and delivered to the Race Officer within the appropriate time limit.
- 8.2 The protest time limit is 60 minutes after the last vessel has finished the last race of the day or the Race Committee signals no more racing today, whichever is the later.
- 8.3 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.
- 8.4 Notices of protests by the Race Committee or protest committee will be posted to inform vessels under RRS 61.1(b).
- 8.5 The RYA Exoneration Penalty, the RYA Advisory Hearing and RYA Arbitration provided for by the RYA Rules Disputes Process will be available.

9.0 RESULTS AND SCORING

- 9.1 The provisional results for each race will be calculated as soon as possible after the last vessel 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 message to the WhatsApp Group will advise as soon as they have been uploaded.
- 9.2 A vessel that does not come to the start of a race shall score for that race one more than the number of vessels in the class entered in the series. A vessel that comes to the start of a race but does not finish for some reason will score one more than the number of vessels in the class that finish that race. This changes RRS A5.

10.0 EQUIPMENT

- 10.1 Vessels wishing to use a sail that does not bear the vessel's correct sail number, and which must not duplicate the number of another vessel racing, must obtain prior approval from the Race Committee.
- 10.2 A vessel 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 relevant MYC Minimum Equipment List 2025.
- 10.3 Vessels may use electrically or hydraulically powered winches to adjust standing and running rigging. This changes RRS 52.

MEDWAY YACHT CLUB

2025 AUTUMN SERIES

19th, 26th October, 2nd, 9th, 16th November

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS



11.0 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.” By participating in this event each competitor agrees and acknowledges that sailing is a potentially dangerous activity with inherent risks. These risks include 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 increased risk of injury. Inherent in the sport of sailing is the risk of permanent, catastrophic injury or death by drowning, trauma, hypothermia or other causes.

12.0 INSURANCE

Each participating vessel 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.

MYC Race Committee 2025

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19th, 26th October, 2nd, 9th, 16th November

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS



Appendix 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. Buoy	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. Buoy	51:24.76N 0:37.93E	20
16	Bishop	R. Can	51:24.71N 0:38.78E	21
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

MEDWAY YACHT CLUB

2025 AUTUMN SERIES

19th, 26th October, 2nd, 9th, 16th November

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS



Designation	Name	Description	Approximate Position	Number in List
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
Z2		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
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
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.