

MEDWAY YACHT CLUB
2026 IN-RIVER (SATURDAY) RACING
SAILING INSTRUCTIONS



The Organising Authority is Medway Yacht Club

1. RULES

- 1.1. The racing will be governed by the rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS).
- 1.2. Changes to RRS include RRS 33; RRS 35; RRS40.1; RRS 44.1; RRS 44.3; RRS 60.1; RRS 63.1; RRS63.7; RRS A1; RRS A5, RRS Appendix T1(b) and Race Signals.
- 1.3. Supplementary advisory light signals for starting from the MYC line are set out in Appendix A.
- 1.4. Additional instructions for Windward/Leeward format are set out in Appendix B.
- 1.5. Courses for Windward/Leeward format are set out in Appendix C.
- 1.6. Dragon Class rules which amend the RRS are set out in Appendix D.
- 1.7. RRS Appendix T, Arbitration, will apply. Advisory Hearing facility will also be available
- 1.8. Additional instructions for Downriver starts are set out in Appendix E.
- 1.9. In all rules governing this event:
 - 1.9.1 [NP] denotes a rule that shall not be grounds for protests by a boat. This changes RRS 60.1.
 - 1.9.2 [SP] denotes a rule for which the race committee or technical committee may apply a standard penalty without a hearing, or a discretionary penalty may be applied by the international jury with a hearing. However, the race committee or technical committee may protest a boat if it considers a standard penalty is inappropriate. A boat that has been penalised with a standard penalty shall neither be protested by another boat for the same incident nor can another boat request redress for this committee action. This changes RRS 60.1, 63.1 and A5.

2. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS (SI's)

- 1 [NP] Any changes to these SI's will be posted on the official notice board, located in the foyer of the clubhouse, no later than 90 minutes prior to the start of the first race to which they apply.

3. COMMUNICATION TO COMPETITORS

- 2 Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board and on the MYC website at www.medwayyachtclub.com.
- 3.1. [DP] Changes to the racing schedule will be posted on the official notice board and on the MYC website before 19.00hrs on the evening before the race affected.
- 3.2. All boats shall carry a VHF radio capable of communicating on channel 37.

4. CODE OF CONDUCT

- 4.1. [DP] Competitors and support persons shall comply with reasonable requests from race officials.

5. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 5.1. Signals made ashore will be displayed from the mast(s) in front of the race box by the clubhouse.
- 5.2. When flag AP is displayed ashore, "1 minute" is replaced by "not less than 30 minutes" in the race signal AP.
- 5.3. No warning signal will be displayed after 16:00.

6. CLASS FLAGS – See NOR 5

7. SCHEDULE OF RACES – See NOR 7

8. COURSES

- 8.1. Where a club line start is scheduled the course to be sailed will be contained in the 2026 MYC In-River course sheet unless a special course is agreed with the race committee.
- 8.2. The number of the course to be sailed by each class will be displayed on the race hut no later than the class warning signal.
- 8.3. Special courses will be indicated by displaying number "0" (zero).
- 8.4. When flag U is displayed in addition to the course number this indicates that the first mark will be upriver. This mark will be passed to port, followed by the displayed course.
- 8.5. The race committee may broadcast the course and other race management information by VHF. Failure to communicate information by this method will not be grounds for sailing boats to protest.
- 8.6. Where a course requires more than one lap to be completed, the number of laps will be displayed in

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addition to the course number.

8.7. Downriver starts (including Windward/Leeward) courses are described in Appendices B, C and E.

9. MARKS

9.1. Navigation marks of the Peel Ports.

9.2. Permanent yellow mooring buoys being MYA 1, MYC 4 and Autumn.

9.3. A temporary mark upriver of the club start line may be used where U is displayed prior to the course number. This will be an orange or white buoy.

9.4. Marks to be used in Windward/Leeward racing are described in Appendices B and C.

9.5. Marks to be used in downriver starts (round the cans) are described in Appendix E.

10. OBSTRUCTIONS

10.1. Racing is held on a navigable river and ships or other large vessels have right of way. International regulations and local byelaws may apply to ships or vessels using the river, jetties, piers or berths.

10.2. [DP, NP]. A boat shall not exercise right of way, cross in proximity to, or interfere with reasonable transit of the race area by commercial ships, tugs, or barges. Boats must take evasive action well in advance of a potentially dangerous situation. All boats racing shall not sail between a ship/vessel and an accompanying guard vessel deployed by Race Management and displaying Naval Numeral Zero.

10.3. Peel Ports, ship captains and pilots have been encouraged to report any incident they observe.

10.4. The race committee or protest committee may protest a boat for breaking SI 11.2 based on information received from any source. The protest time limit does not apply. This changes RRS 60.2 and 60.3.

10.5. Sailing 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.

10.6. Passage through Hoo Creek, Copperhouse Marshes, Bishop Marsh or Bartlett Creek is prohibited unless expressly specified as part of a course.

11. THE START

11.1. For club line starts, the start line will be a transit line running approximately north/south through the apexes of two white triangles mounted on poles positioned above and to the rear of the race box.

11.2. Races will be started using RRS 26 with the warning signal made 5 minutes before the starting signal.

11.3. Starts to be sailed in Downriver starts (including Windward/Leeward) racing are described in Appendix B, C and E.

12. CHANGE AND SHORTENING OF COURSE

12.1. Courses for all classes may be shortened according to RRS 32 at any mark of the course.

13. THE FINISH

13.1. For club line finishes, the finish line will be a transit line running approximately north/south through the apexes of two white triangles mounted on poles positioned above and to the rear of the race box.

13.2. For Dragon class series races, an alternative self-recording finish line is described in Appendix D.

13.3. Finishes to be sailed in Downriver starts (including Windward/Leeward) racing are described in Appendices B, C and E.

14. PENALTY SYSTEM

3 Penalties and scoring penalties are determined by RRS 44.1 to 44.3.

15. TIME LIMITS

15.1. No warning signal will be displayed after 16:00.

15.2. The time limit for finishing will be 17:30.

15.3. The Finishing Window (30 minutes) is the time for boats to finish after the first boat sails the course and finishes. Boats failing to finish within the Finishing Window, and not subsequently retiring, penalized or given redress, will be scored Time Limit Expired (TLE) without a hearing. A boat scored TLE shall be scored points for the finishing place one more than the points scored by the last boat that finished within the

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Finishing Window. This changes RRS 35, A5.1, A5.2 and A10.

16. DECLARATIONS

- 4 [SP] Declarations should be made by the boat's owner or the owner's representative on the signing on/signing off sheet displayed by the entrance to the club house. Boats failing to sign on will be scored a penalty of 20% without a hearing. Boats failing to sign off in the declaration column within 30 minutes of the time limit shall be scored a penalty of 20% without a hearing.
- 16.1. [SP] If a boat has "come to the starting area but not started", DNS, or "retired before finishing", DNF, her owner or her owner's representative shall note this fact on the signing on/signing off sheet.

17. HEARING REQUESTS

- 17.1. Hearing request forms are available from the race box. Hearing requests must be in writing and shall be delivered to the race box within the protest time limit. The protest committee shall extend the time limit if there is good reason to do so (RRS 61.3).
- 17.2. 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. Notices will be posted no later than 30 minutes after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Hearings will be held in the protest room; the location, times and date will be described in the notice.
- 17.3. The Post-Race Penalty will be 20% of the number of boats (rounding 0.5 upwards) entered in the relevant fleet. This changes Appendix T1(b).

18. HEARING REQUESTS

- 18.1. 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.
- 18.2. In races or race series organised by MYC which are open to multiple classes the 2026 PY numbers shall be used.

19. SAFETY REGULATIONS

19.1. Moored boats and moorings

- 19.1.1. 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.

19.2. Use of engines and manual propulsion

- 19.2.1. A boat without way may use any means of propulsion to avoid commercial traffic that is under way, or a moored or anchored vessel, provided that:
- (a) the boat does not gain an advantage;
 - (b) using the propulsion is the boat's only means of avoiding the commercial traffic, moored or anchored vessel; and
 - (c) the boat submits a report (in writing or by email) with the race committee by the protest filing deadline describing the incident and the boat's actions.
- 19.2.2. A boat shall not exercise right of way, cross in proximity to, or interfere with reasonable transit of the race area by commercial ships, tugs or barges. Boats must take evasive action well in advance of a potentially dangerous situation.
- 19.2.3. Grounded boats may use any reasonable means of propulsion including support from a safety vessel to regain flotation, provided the use of the engine or other means of propulsion ceases as soon as the boat is clear, and she does not gain an advantage in the race.
- 19.2.4. The race committee or protest committee may protest a boat for breaking SI19.2.1, SI19.2.2 or SI19.2.3 based on information received from any source. The protest time limit does not apply. This changes RRS 60.2 and 60.3.

19.3. Safety Equipment

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- 19.3.1. RRS 40.1 applies to all competitors whilst racing.
- 19.3.2. Competitors shall conform to the MYC minimum equipment list.
- 19.3.3. 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. REPLACEMENT OF EQUIPMENT

- 20.1. Boats wishing to use a sail that does not bear the boat's registration number, must obtain prior written approval from the race officer. The alternative number must not duplicate the number of another boat racing in the same class.

21. RISK STATEMENT – See NOR 8

22. INSURANCE – See NOR 9

MYC SAILING COMMITTEE
MARCH 2026

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Appendix A : 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
General Recall		2 flashing lights	1 st Substitute displayed
Race Abandoned			N flag displayed

(Any failure or other irregularity in the display of these advisory lights will not be grounds for boats to protest)

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Appendix B : Windward Leeward Races Supplementary Sailing Instructions.

B.1 Rules

B.1.1 The windward leeward races will be governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing* including the Notice of Race (NOR) and sailing instructions for the MYC 2025 in-river racing series (MYC SI's 2025) and these supplementary sailing instructions (SSI's).

B.2 Changes to SI's

B.2.1 Any changes to the SI's for this event will be posted on the sailing committee official notice board before 10:00 on the day they are to take effect.

B.3 Signals made ashore

B.3.1 When flag AP is displayed ashore "1 minute" is replaced with "not less than 45 minutes" in the race signal AP

B.4 Schedule of races and start times

B.4.1 The scheduled time of the warning signal is described in the NOR.

B.4.2 A maximum of four races per class per day will be sailed.

B.4.3 The warning signal for a succeeding class to start will be made at the same time as the start signal for the preceding start.

B.4.4 Classes will start in the following order:

Dragon

Sonata

Squib, Laser/ILCA7 and Slow Handicap (PY No. 1110-1210)

Wayfarer and Fast Handicap (PY No. 1109 or below)

B.4.5 The race committee may combine two or more classes for their start.

B.4.6 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.

B.4.7 No warning signal will be given later than 16:00.

B.4.8 The Finishing Window for each race (15 minutes) is the time for boats to finish after the first boat sails the course and finishes. Boats failing to finish within the Finishing Window, and not subsequently retiring, penalized or given redress, will be scored Time Limit Expired (TLE) without a hearing. A boat scored TLE shall be scored points for the finishing place one more than the points scored by the last boat that finished within the Finishing Window. This changes RRS 35, A5.1, A5.2 and A10.

B.5 Courses

B.5.1 The diagram in Appendix C shows alternate courses A and B including the order in which marks are to be passed and the side on which each mark is to be left.

B.5.2 Boats shall not cross the start/finish line on a leg from Mark 1 to Mark 2 when sailing course A or on a leg from Mark 2 to Mark 3 when sailing course B.

B.5.3 Target time for race completion will be 40 minutes. Failure to meet the Target Time will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 61.1.

B.5.4 The race committee will display the letter of the course to be sailed and the number of laps (the "Course Designation") on boards positioned on the side of the committee vessel no later than the warning signal for each race.

B.5.5 As an alternative to specifying a number of laps to be completed in the course designation, the race committee may adopt **"average lap racing" in which case the race committee will display the letter of the course to be sailed and the letter X**. Boats will continue to race until the race committee

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shortens course in accordance with RRS 32.2. Boats will be recorded as finishers when they next cross the finish line. For handicap fleets, race results will be calculated using each boat's average corrected lap time. However, no boat will be penalised for completing additional laps to others in the same class of boat or a boat with a lower Portsmouth Number.

B.6 Marks

- B.6.1 In course A, Mark 1 and Mark 2 will be large orange inflatable buoys.
- B.6.2 In course B, Mark 1 and Mark 3 will be large orange inflatable buoys and Mark 2 will be a white inflatable buoy.
- B.6.3 The Outer Distance Mark (ODM) for the start and finish lines will be a white inflatable buoy or a mark displaying an orange flag.

B.7 The Start

- B.7.1 Races will be started using RRS 26. The starting line will be between a mast/staff displaying an orange flag on the race committee vessel and the course side of the adjacent ODM.

4.1 B.8 The Finish

- B.8.1 The finish line will be between a mast/staff displaying a blue flag on the race committee vessel and the course side of the adjacent ODM.

B.9 Shortening Course

- B.9.1 The race committee may shorten course at Marks 1, 2 or 3 or at the start/finish line in accordance with RRS 32.2.

B.10 Scoring

- B.10.1 The race committee will provide each class with the scores of their vessels in every race to enable classes to incorporate the results into their respective series results, in accordance with their local class rules.

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Appendix C : Windward/Leeward Courses



COURSE A	
Course Designation	Course to be sailed
A1	1p, 2p, S/F
A2	1p, 2p, S/F, 1p, 2p, S/F
A3	1p, 2p, S/F, 1p, 2p, S/F, 1p, 2p, S/F
A4, A5 or A6	and so on



COURSE B	
Course Designation	Course to be sailed
B1	1p, 2p, 3p, S/F
B2	1p, 2p, 3p, S/F, 1p, 2p, 3p, S/F
B3	1p, 2p, 3p, S/F, 1p, 2p, 3p, S/F, 1p, 2p, 3p, S/F
B4, B5 or B6	and so on

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Appendix D : Supplementary rules for Dragon Class

D.1 International Dragon Association (IDA) Rules

- D.1.1 IDA 13.10 (crew numbers) and 13.30 (crew weight) do not apply.
- D.1.2 IDA Rule 12.20 Depth Sounders are permitted.

D.2 Alternative finishing line for Dragon Class

- D.2.1 Subject to agreement by the OOD/Race Committee on the day and before the warning signal of any race, Dragon class boats may record their own finishing position at a line described in D.2.2
Advisory confirmation of this decision shall be given by displaying the letter 'X' underneath the course number at the race box.
- D.2.2 This finish line will be a transit line through the two poles with triangles on the Medway Cruising Club line just to the East of buoy 29 near The Strand on the south shore.
- D.2.3 There is no limit mark on the north shore.
- D.2.4 Boats will record their own finishing position and the sail number of the boat immediately in front of them (if any) and the boat immediately behind them (if any) on the signing off sheet as described in SI 15.
- D.2.5 In the event of overlapped boats being unable to determine their respective places at this finish line, they will be scored as tied.
- D.2.6 To demonstrate safe return, all boats shall sail to within 50m of the club line, unless impractical due to wind/tide conditions.

D.3 Dragon class penalties

- D.3.1 Where a boat of the Dragon class may have broken one or more rules of RRS Part 2 in an incident involving only a boat or boats of the same class while racing, she may take a one turn penalty. This changes RRS 44.1 (but not RRS 44.1(b)).
- D.3.2 This change only applies where racing does not include multiple classes racing on a handicap basis.

D.4 Dragon class races sailed outside the normal schedule

- D.4.1 It is the responsibility of the Class Captain or delegated person to nominate an OOD/RO for any races that fall outside the normal Saturday schedule. No race will be started before 12:30.
- D.4.2 It is the responsibility of the Class Captain or delegated person to arrange safety boat cover.
- D.4.3 RRS 40.1 will apply to all races.
- D.4.4 All Communication will be by VHF Channel 37 or 72
- D.4.5 All boats shall carry a working VHF radio.

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Appendix E : Downriver Start (Round the Cans) Supplementary Sailing Instructions.

E.1 Rules

- E.1.1 The downriver races will be governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing* including the Notice of Race (NOR) and Sailing Instructions for the MYC 2025 in-river racing series (MYC SI's 2025) and these Supplementary Sailing Instructions (SSI's).
- E.1.2 All boats shall carry a working VHF radio.

E.2 Changes to SI's

- E.2.1 Any changes to the SI's for this event will be posted on the sailing committee official notice board before 10:00 on the day they are to take effect.

E.3 Signals made ashore

- E.3.1 When flag AP is displayed ashore "1 minute" is replaced with "not less than 45 minutes" in the race signal AP.

E.4 Schedule of races and start times

- E.4.1 The scheduled time of the warning signal is described in the NOR.
- E.4.2 A maximum of two races per class per day will be sailed. If a second race is sailed it shall start as soon as possible after the previous race.
- E.4.3 In general, the starting order will be as below but may be varied by the RO as conditions dictate:
- E.4.4 Dragon
- E.4.5 Sonata
- E.4.6 Wayfarer and Fast Handicap (PY No. 1109 or below)
- E.4.7 Squib, Laser/ILCA7 and Slow Handicap (PY No. 1110-1210)
- E.4.8 Subsequent races will start as soon as possible after a class has finished its first race and not necessarily in the order shown in paragraph E.4.3 of these SSI's. The race committee may combine two or more classes for their start.
- E.4.9 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.
- E.4.10 No warning signal will be given later than 16:00.

E.5 Courses

- E.5.1 The course to be sailed will be a special course advised by the race committee.
- E.5.2 The course to be sailed by each class will be communicated over VHF radio on channel 37/M1 no later than the class warning signal.
- E.5.3 The race committee may broadcast other race management information by VHF. Failure to communicate information by this method will not be grounds for sailing boats to protest.

E.6 Marks

- E.6.1 Marks will be as described in the MYC SI's 2026. An orange inflatable buoy may be laid to windward of the start line and used as a windward mark. This mark shall be passed to port.
- E.6.2 The Outer Distance Mark (ODM) for the start and finish lines will be a white inflatable buoy or a mark displaying an orange flag.

E.7 The Start

- E.7.1 Races will be started using RRS 26. The starting line will be between a mast/staff displaying an orange flag on the race committee vessel and the course side of the adjacent ODM.

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E.8 The Finish

E.8.1 The finish line will be between a mast/staff displaying a blue flag on the race committee vessel and the course side of the adjacent ODM.

E.9 Shortening Course

E.9.1 The race committee may shorten course at any mark of the course according to RRS 32.

E.10 Scoring

E.10.1 The race committee will provide each class with the scores of their vessels in every race to enable classes to incorporate the results into their respective series results, in accordance with their local class rules.