

THAMES SAILING CLUB

June 2009

Standard Sailing Instructions

1.0 RULES

Racing will be governed by **The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS)**, the **prescriptions of the RYA**, the **appropriate class rules of the boats entered**, excepting any of these as changed by these **Sailing Instructions (SI)**, and by these **Sailing Instructions**. Unless amended by official notice of races, sailing will be designated Category C.

2.0 ENTRIES

2.1 Boats may be entered by completing an entry form or in non-open events by sailing in the vicinity of the starting line.

2.2 To be eligible a boat shall be in possession of a valid measurement or rating certificate which shall be presented to the Race Officer if so requested.

2.3 To be eligible either the helmsman or the boat's owners shall be a member of a club recognized by the RYA.

2.4 The safety of a boat and her entire management including liability insurance cover of £2,000,000 shall be the sole responsibility of the owner/person in charge who must ensure that the boat and crew are adequate to face the conditions that may arise in the course of the race. Neither these sailing instructions nor any inspection of the boat reduces the absolute responsibility of the owner/person in charge for the crew, the boat and her management. The race organisers shall not be responsible for any loss, damage, death or personal injury howsoever caused to the owner/person in charge or crew, as a result of their taking part in the race or races. Moreover, every owner/person in charge warrants the suitability of the boat for the race or races.

2.5 Adequate personal buoyancy shall be worn whilst afloat by all non-swimmers and everyone under the age of 17 years, and adequate personal buoyancy shall be carried onboard for all other crew members.

3.0 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board in or near to the Race Box.

4.0 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Changes to sailing instructions will be posted on the official notice board at least 20 minutes before the scheduled start time and will be indicated by displaying Flag L with one sound signal.

5.0 SIGNALS

Signals made ashore will be located at the Race Box and displayed by way of flags and shapes raised on signal halyards and course boards displayed on the front of the Race Box. A moveable Start Line may be used, if so details will be posted on the official notice board. All flag signals will be accompanied by the sounding of a horn. All other sound signals will be made by a bell.

6.0 SCHEDULE OF RACES

Schedules of races, classes to race and starting signals for each class will be as per the annual programme, notice of race or by separate notice of the event.

7.0 CLASS FLAGS

Class Flags will be:

" A " Class Thames Rater Flag A Merlin Class Flag O

Open (Handicap) Class Flag H Topper/Junior Flag T

Class signals for other starts will be advised by notice to competitors

8.0 RACING AREA

The course area will be the River Thames between Hampton Court Bridge upstream and Kingston Bridge downstream.

9.0 MARKS

9.1 All racing marks are ORANGE with BLACK letters on a WHITE background and normally positioned as follows:

9.2 Buoys normally upstream of the starting line are identified by letters "A", "B" and "C", with "A" normally being set nearest to the starting line and "C" furthest from the start line.

9.3 Buoys normally downstream of the starting line are identified by letters "D" and "E" with "D" normally nearest to the start line.

9.4 All the above buoys may be used as "X" course marks and not laid in their usual positions but advised to competitors in accordance with SI 10.6.

9.5 If a boat touches a rounding mark of the course she is required to re-round the mark keeping clear of all other boats racing until this obligation is satisfied. **This changes RRS 44.1.**

9.6 Red buoys may be laid off the London River Yacht Club moorings and all boats must pass between these buoys and Ravens Ait. Failure to do so or touching one of these marks may only be exonerated by sailing clear of the area and then performing a 360 degree turn whilst keeping clear of all other boats racing.

9.7 The definition of the zone is the area around the mark within two hull lengths of the boat nearer to it. A boat is in the zone when any part of her hull is in the zone. **This changes the definition of the Zone in the RRS**

10.0 THE COURSE

10.1 Courses are indicated by a letter or letters displayed on the front of the Race Box.

10.2 A single letter indicates a course round the named mark and return to round the "Home" mark.

10.3 Three letters with the first letter being a "S" indicates rounding the marks indicated by the second and third letters in that order for the prescribed number of times before crossing the line to finish. "Home" mark is not a mark of the course.

10.4 The direction of rounding marks will be indicated by the following signals:

One flag - either red (port) or green (starboard) - indicates all marks to port or to starboard.

When two flags are displayed the upper flag indicates the rounding direction for the upstream mark and the lower flag the downstream mark.

10.5 The direction of passing Ravens Ait will be indicated by the following signals:

One black shape displayed means that Ravens Ait will be passed by way of the Middlesex Channel only.

Two black shapes displayed means that Ravens Ait will be passed by way of the Surrey Channel only.

A Red and white shape displayed means that Ravens Ait may be passed using either channel in both directions.

A yellow shape displayed means that Ravens Ait will be passed to starboard.

In the absence of any shapes being displayed, Ravens Ait will be passed to port.

10.6 "X" means that a special course has been set and is displayed on a board adjacent to the race box.

10.7 The number of rounds will be displayed by numbers next to the course board.

11.0 THE START

11.1 Races will be started using RRS 26 as follows:

Warning Signal (Class Flag) will be flown five minutes before the Start time.

Preparatory Signal (P) will be flown four minutes before the Start time.

Preparatory Signal (P) will be lowered one minute before the Start time.

Warning Signal (Class Flag) will be lowered at the Start time.

11.2 The starting line will be a transit between the **Signal Mast** and a **White post surmounted by a triangle transit**

mark affixed to the jetty continued to the Middlesex shore. A white mark on the Middlesex shore may be approximately in position of the line.

Red inner and outer distance marks may be laid. If there is only one mark laid it will be the inner distance mark.

If a moveable Start Line is used, details will be posted on the official notice board.

11.3 Boats whose Warning Signal has not been made shall keep clear of the starting area and all boats whose Warning Signal has been made.

12.0 CHANGE OF COURSE AFTER THE START

There is no provision for changing course after the start apart from shortening course -see SI 15.0.

13.0 THE FINISH

13.1 When the "Home" mark is a mark of the course, the finish line will be the full extension across the river of the line from the white post at the Race Box window through the "Home Mark". To finish boats must pass the required side of the "Home" mark as in SI 10.4

13.2 For "X" courses the finish line will be indicated as in SI 10.6

13.3 In all other cases the finish line will be the same as the starting line.

13.4 Once the leading boat in a race has finished all boats will be finished when they next cross the designated finish line from the last mark whether or not they are on the same lap as the leading boat. **This changes RRS 32.**

14.0 PENALTY SYSTEM (changes RRS 44 & 45)

14.1 Will be as laid down in the RRS but with the following changes:-

14.2 When a boat intends to take a penalty as provided in RRS 44.1 and in the same incident has touched a mark, she must re-round the mark correctly as in SI 9.5 in addition to the completion of a 720 degree turn penalty. **This changes RRS 44.1(a).**

14.3 RRS 44.3 Scoring Penalty does not apply.

14.4 For non-open events only, the requirement for a boat to be afloat and off her moorings by her preparatory signal will not apply. **This changes RRS 45.**

15.0 TIME LIMIT AND SHORTENING COURSE (changes RRS 32 & 35)

15.1 Except for long distance races the time limit for racing on Tuesday or midweek evening races will be one and a half hours and for all other races it will be two hours. Boats failing to finish within 30 minutes after the first boat finishes or within the time limit, whichever is the later, will be scored "Did Not Finish". **This changes RRS 35.**

15.2 Shortening course will be designated by displaying flag S with two sound signals, normally when a boat is approaching the finishing line. It may however be displayed at a rounding mark of the course when boats will finish between the flag and the mark. Following the signalling of shorten course, all boats will be finished when they next cross the designated finish line from the last mark whether or not they are on the same lap as the leading boat. **This changes RRS 32.**

15.3 For club series races only, if no boat completes the course the result shall be determined by the order in which the previous round was completed. **This changes RRS 35.**

15.4 When flag S is displayed over flag H with three sound signals it means that places are recorded at the end of the **last completed round** and the race is now terminated. **This changes RRS 32**

16.0 PROTESTS

16.1 Protests shall be written on forms available from the Race Box and delivered there within 30 minutes after the time of the last boats finish. Extra time may be given by the race officer in extenuating circumstances.

16.2 The Exoneration Penalty and the Advisory Hearing and RYA Arbitration of the RYA Rules Disputes Procedures will be available in place of a protest hearing

16.3 Exoneration Penalty

(a) 1/ A boat that may have broken a rule of Part 2, or rule 31 or 42, may, after finishing the race concerned and before the start of a related protest hearing, notify the race committee that she accepts a 20% scoring penalty as similar to that stated in rule 44.3(c), (except that the minimum penalty is two places if that does not result in a score worse than DNF). This penalty does not reverse an OCS score, a disqualification under rule 30.3 or a penalty under Appendix P. It is not available for a breach of rule 2 or of class rules or for gross misconduct under rule 69. Nor is it available to a boat that caused injury or serious damage, or gained a significant advantage by her breach: in these circumstances, her penalty is to retire.

(a) 2/ When an Exoneration Penalty is accepted,
(a) Neither the boat nor a protest committee may then revoke or remove the penalty.
(b) The boat shall not be penalized further in a protest hearing when the protest committee decides that it was appropriate to the facts found and the applicable rules.

(b) Advisory Hearing
When there is an incident that will not result in the lodging of a protest or a request for redress, a boat, protest committee or race committee may request an advisory hearing with the race office, and notify any boat involved in the incident. An adviser will then call a hearing to learn what may have happened and will state whether any rule appears to have been broken, and by which boat. A boat may as a result notify the race office that she accepts an Exoneration Penalty when it applies to the incident, or choose to retire.

(C) RYA Arbitration

(c)1/ When a protest or request for redress is lodged, a boat may at the same time request RYA Arbitration, or the protest committee or race committee may offer it.

- (c)2/ If the parties and a member of the protest or race committee agree that RYA Arbitration is suitable, an arbitrator (who may be that member of the protest committee) will call a hearing conforming to Section B of Part 5 of the Racing Rules of Sailing, except that rule 64.1(a) will not apply. Instead, when the arbitrator decides that a boat that is a party to the arbitration hearing has broken a rule for which the Exoneration Penalty is available, the party will be invited to accept that penalty, and, if it is accepted by a protested boat, the protesting boat will be allowed to withdraw the protest, changing rule 63.1.
- (c)3/ When there is not an agreement to use RYA Arbitration, or when, after RYA Arbitration, a protest is not withdrawn or the Exoneration Penalty is not applicable to the facts, there will be a normal protest hearing, at which the arbitrator may be a member of the protest committee. Rule 66 will not apply to the arbitration decision. A boat may still accept an Exoneration Penalty at any time before the start of a protest hearing and receive its protection from further penalization. She may also retire.
- (c)4/ When redress is offered and accepted at the RYA Arbitration, the protest committee or race committee may seek to have this reviewed by asking for a full hearing. When redress is offered and not accepted, or not offered at all, the boat may have her request heard before a protest committee.

16.5 Any resulting protests will be heard as soon after the race as is convenient.

16.6 In the event of protests, the competitors must make themselves available in the club house to be informed of the time and place of the protest hearings. The information will be posted on the club notice board

17.0 SCORING

17.1 For open meetings and regattas the Low Point scoring system, RRS Appendix A2 will apply, modified so that each boat's series score will be the total of her race scores with her worst score discarded if more than two races have been completed.

17.2 Where some boats sailed less laps than the leading boat average lap times will be used for calculating corrected times.

17.3 Dead heats or equal corrected times will be scored using RRS Appendix A7

17.4 Ties will be broken using RRS Appendix A8.

17.5 For club average series races the "Thames Ladder System" detailed in SI Appendix "A" to these sailing instructions will apply. In the Handicap class points will be awarded to helms not boats.

18.0 DECLARATIONS

Declarations will not be required unless a competitor wishes to signify his boat's retirement from the race.

APPENDIX "A" - THAMES LADDER SYSTEM OF SCORING SERIES RACES

1 Points are allocated as follows:

Starting correctly 4 points

Finishing correctly 2 points

Plus, depending on position after handicap allowance

First Number of starters in the race plus 1

Second 2 points less than first

Third 3 points less than firstand so on

2 Total points scored in accordance with RRS Appendix A11 categories will be as follows--

DNC No points DNS 0 points OCS 3 points DNF 4 points RAF 4 points

DSQ 2 points RDG To be decided by Race Committee

3 There is no minimum number of starters for the race to count.

4 The boat with the highest score at the end of the series will be awarded the trophy, second being the next highest score and so on.

Further copies are available from the Race Box.