



Sailing Instructions Merlin Rocket Open Meeting

16th-17th September 2017

Organizing Authority: Upper Thames Sailing Club

1. GENERAL

- 1.1. The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing*.
- 1.2. The Exoneration Penalty and the Advisory Hearing and RYA Arbitration procedures of the RYA Rules Dispute Procedures will be available. Decisions from RYA Arbitration can be referred to a protest committee but cannot be reopened or appealed. See the Official Notice Board for details.
- 1.3. Trash Disposal - Trash may be placed aboard support or official boats. The penalty for breaking rule 55, Trash Disposal, is at the discretion of the protest committee (DPI) and may be less than disqualification.

2. RISK STATEMENT

- 2.1. RRS 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:
 - 2.1.1. 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.
 - 2.1.2. They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore.
 - 2.1.3. They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omission.
 - 2.1.4. Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate;
 - 2.1.5. 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.
 - 2.1.6. The provision of patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances.
 - 2.1.7. Their boat is adequately insured, with cover of at least £3,000,000 against third party claims.

3. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

- 3.1. Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located in the Clubhouse.
- 3.2. All boats shall produce a valid certificate of measurement to Race Control before their first race.
- 3.3. Approval of the Race Committee is required in order to use a sail number other than that which is recorded on the measurement certificate, which must be obtained from Race Control before the sail concerned is used in any race.
- 3.4. Rule 40 and the Part 4 preamble are changed so that personal flotation devices shall be worn at all times when afloat:
 - 3.4.1. by all non-swimmers
 - 3.4.2. by all sailors under 14 years of age

4. CHANGES IN THE SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 4.1. Any change to the Sailing Instructions will be posted on the official notice board before 10:00 on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted before 18:00 on the day before it will take effect.

5. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

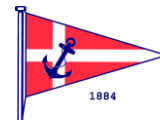
- 5.1. Signals made ashore will be displayed on the main clubhouse signal mast, adjacent to the Race Control Box.
- 5.2. After a postponement of more than 15 minutes flag D may be displayed with one sound meaning 'the warning signal will be made not less than 10 minutes after flag D is displayed'.

6. SCHEDULE OF RACES

- 6.1. The schedule of races and the times of the warning signals will be as in the Notice of Race.
- 6.2. On the last day of the regatta no warning signal will be made after 17:00.

7. CLASS FLAGS

- 7.1. The class flag will be Flag O.



- 7.2. Subject to the number of entries, the Race Committee may reduce the number of boats on the starting line by the use of group starts (“flights”). If so, the entries will be divided into four groups, seeded by the race committee. Each group will be identified by a colour (black, yellow, green, blue) and a flag or ribbon issued which shall be displayed on the Port shroud. The starting order will then be as follows:

| | | | | |
|--------------|-----|----------------|-----|----------------|
| Race Number: | 1a) | Black & Yellow | 1b) | Blue & Green |
| | 2a) | Black & Blue | 2b) | Yellow & Green |
| | 3a) | Black & Green | 3b) | Yellow & Blue |

8. MARKS AND COURSES

- 8.1. The approximate position of marks will be displayed on the board outside the Race Control Box.
- 8.2. Marks are orange and spherical and are identified by the letters H, S, T, M & L, and unless stated on the course board are rounding marks. Starting line limit marks (when set) shall be passed on the appropriate side at the start.
- 8.3. At the Warning Signal, and visible from the Club Line start area, letter boards followed by a numeral board indicate the course. From the left, the first letter on a red (port) or green (starboard) background indicates the first mark of the course and its rounding (or passing) direction. Reading from left to right, letters together indicate the direction of rounding (or passing) and the order of rounding (or passing) marks in a lap of the course. The number on a white background indicates the number of laps.
- 8.4. When an Upstream start is required, the Course Boards will be displayed before the boats leave the Club area, allowing sufficient time for boats to proceed to the Upstream start.

9. STARTS

- 9.1. The Warning Signal time for the races will be as advertised in the Notice of Race.
- 9.2. Races will be started in accordance with Rule 26.
- 9.3. Instead of flag X being used for individual recalls a white board with a blue cross will be displayed from the front of the starting box when the Club Line and the Angled Club Line are used. Flag X will be used for individual recalls when the Upstream Line is used.

10. STARTING LINES

One of the following starting lines may be used:

- 10.1. The **Club Line** is defined by two black and white poles set on the south bank of the river in transit with a similar pole near Race Control. The orange flag and pole on the front of the Race Control Box is also in line with this. The Club Line will normally be used.
- 10.2. The **Angled Club Line** is defined by two black and white poles (without top marks) on the south bank of the river set approx. 20 metres downstream of the Club Line poles, in transit with the orange flag and pole on the Race Control Box.
- 10.3. The **Upstream Line** is between an orange flag and mast on the committee boat or on shore, and a yellow limit mark. Boats shall pass on the channel side of the committee boat and yellow limit mark.
- 10.4. When a start line other than the Club Line is used, the starting line in use will be indicated on the balcony adjacent to the Race Control Box, together with one sound signal and the hoisting of flag Naval Numeral 4. This flag shall remain hoisted whilst a start line other than the Club Line, is in use.
- 10.5. Black Flag rule RRS 30.3 is changed so that the Triangle referred to in that rule is deemed to be the whole width of the river from the Start Line to the First Mark of the course.

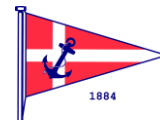
11. FINISHING

Boats shall finish at a finishing line determined as follows:

- 11.1. When the home mark is positioned **upstream** of the Club Line and when H is rounded to starboard, the finishing line is the imaginary line between the orange pole on the Race Control box and H, OR when H is rounded to port, the finishing line is the extension of H beyond the imaginary line between the orange pole on the Race Control box and H.
- 11.2. When the home mark is positioned **downstream** of the Club Line the finishing line is the Club Line, approached from whichever direction is necessary to complete the lap.

12. SHORTENING COURSE

- 12.1. This changes RRS 32. The race committee may shorten the course at a finishing line defined by one of the following:
- 12.2. As in 11.1 above.
- 12.3. As in 11.2 above.
- 12.4. between the committee boat and a rounding mark.
- 12.5. between the committee boat and a suitable mark/buoy laid in the river.



12.6. The Race Officer may finish lapped boats after the leading boat has finished, as follows: After the leading boat has finished, all boats will be finished the next time they cross the finishing line, and any lapped boat's result will reflect her position in the race at that time. In a Handicap race, the Average Lap Time of the lapped boat will be used to calculate what would have been her finishing time had she sailed the full course. This changes Appendix A. Such action or inaction by the Race Officer shall not be grounds for redress by competitors under rule 62.

13. TIME LIMIT

13.1. The time limit for all races is 2 hours. (Attention is drawn to SI 12.1.5 regarding lapped boats).

13.2. Any boat which fails to finish within 30 minutes of the leading boat in its race, will be scored as DNF, this changes rule 35 and Appendix A.

14. DECLARATIONS

14.1. There are none except that boats retiring from a race shall inform the Race Committee at the Race Control Box within the protest time limit.

15. PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

15.1. Protest forms are available from the Race Control Box. Protests shall be delivered there within the protest time limit.

15.2. The protest time limit is 45 minutes after the finishing time for the last boat in a race. The closing time will be available at the Race Control Box. Whenever the race committee is aware of protests between boats, at the end of the protest time a list will be posted on the notice board advising the time and place of hearings. The onus is on parties to prepare themselves and attend.

16. SCORING

16.1. The low point scoring system of Appendix A of the Racing Rules of Sailing will apply.

17. LOCAL VARIATIONS

17.1. Sailing Safety Zone:

When there is no rounding mark downstream of the 'Club Line' and when a boat is completely within the 'Sailing Safety Zone' on the downstream (East) side of the racing area, a boat breaching rules 41 or 42 while attempting to exit the zone shall receive a zero penalty.

The 'Sailing Safety Zone' is any part of the river on the downstream (Eastern) side of an imaginary line between the downstream end of the UTSC river frontage and the downstream post marking the end of the fence separating the downstream end of the Cockmarsh shallows and the property Windwhistle.

17.2 Obstructions

Fishing tackle shall count as an obstruction for the purposes of RRS 19 and 20.

17.3 Propulsion

RRS Appendix P will apply as changed below:

P1 Signalling a penalty: A member of the protest committee or its designated observer who sees a boat breaking rule 42 may penalise her by, as soon as reasonably possible, making a sound signal, pointing a yellow flag at her and hailing her sail number, even if she is no longer racing. A boat so penalised shall not be penalised a second time under rule 42 for the same incident.

P2 Penalties: When a boat is penalised under rule P1 her penalty shall be a Two-Turns Penalty under rule 44.2. If she fails to take it she shall be disqualified without a hearing; this changes rule 63.1.

P3 Redress limitation: A boat shall not be given redress for an action by a member of the protest committee or its designated observer under rule P1 unless the action was improper due to a failure to take into account a race committee signal or a class rule.

This measure does not prejudice a competitor's own right to protest a fellow competitor for breaking RRS 42.