

SHOREHAM SAILING CLUB



FIREBALL AND MERLIN OPEN MEETING 2011 SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

1. RULES

- 1.1 Racing will take place under the ISAF *Racing Rules of Sailing* (RRS) 2009-2012, RYA prescriptions, and the relevant Class rules (except where any of these are altered by these Sailing Instructions). All references to the Race Committee in the RRS will be taken to refer to the Race Officer.

2. ENTRIES

- 2.1 The safety of a boat and her entire management shall be the sole responsibility of the owner / person in charge. He or she warrants its suitability for racing and must ensure that the boat and her crew are adequate to face the conditions that may arise. Neither the establishment of these Sailing Instructions nor any inspection of the boat limits or reduces this absolute responsibility. Neither the Shoreham Sailing Club nor the Race Officer will be responsible for any loss, damage, death, personal injury or inconvenience, howsoever caused, occurring as a result of participation in a race.
- 2.2 It is a condition of entry that boats shall be insured at a minimum against Third Party liability as recommended by the RYA (£2,000,000). Owners / persons in charge are personally responsible for their insurance and the Club can accept no liability if a competitor's insurance is found to be inadequate.
- 2.3 Boats must be identifiable on the racecourse by sail number, and any change in number must be notified to the Race Officer and approved. Otherwise the boat may receive no finishing position.

3. SAFETY

- 3.1 All those intending to race must complete the sign on sheet prior to going afloat, and must sign off within 30 minutes of the last boat coming ashore after the last race of the day. **Failure to do so may result in disqualification.**
- 3.2 Adequate personal flotation must be worn by all competitors while afloat. Flag Y will not be used: this changes RRS Rule 40. Wetsuits or dry-suits are not considered adequate on their own.
- 3.3 **All competitors must comply fully with Shoreham Port Authority General Byelaws.** Failure to do so will result in disqualification and possible disciplinary action by the committee in addition to other liability. In particular, signals are made as follows:

Middle Pier Control Station Signal - Amber light occulting every 3 seconds, focusing to seaward, by day and by night	Major vessel manoeuvring or about to leave the Port. No vessel shall enter the Port except that small vessels need not comply providing that they do not hinder the movement of the major vessel
Lifeboat House Signal - Red light, occulting every 3 seconds, focusing over East Arm, by day and by night	Major vessel about to enter the Port or leave the West Arm. No other vessel to navigate in the East Arm except small vessels providing they do not hinder the movement of the major vessel

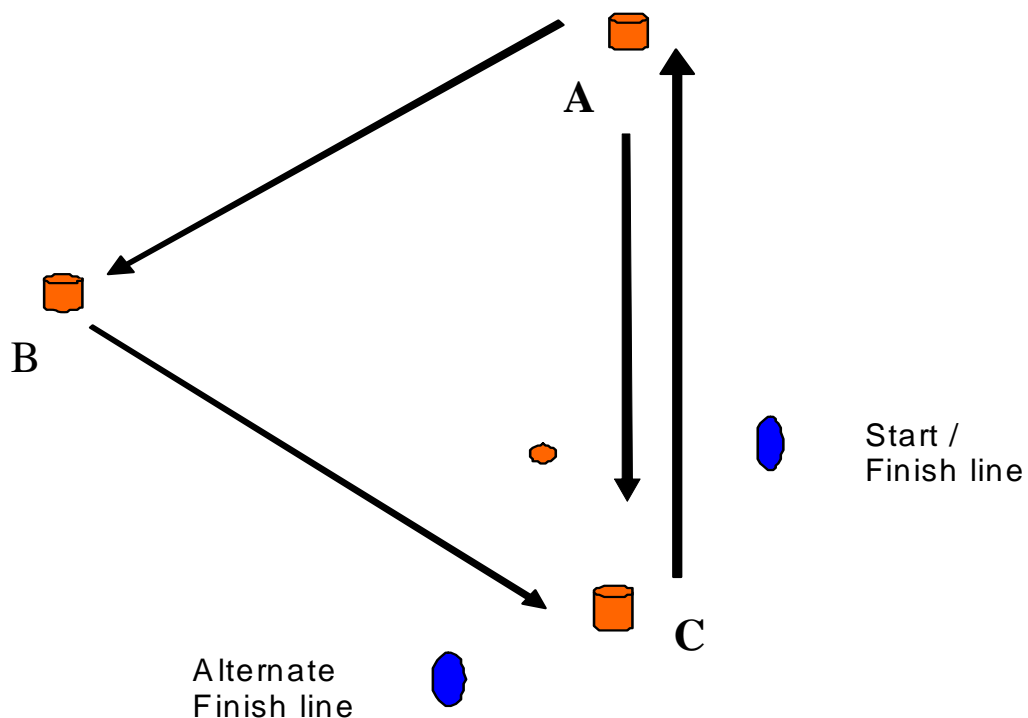
If these signals are displayed, small craft must clear the main channel as soon as possible and keep to the side of the harbour. More generally, shipping and large craft always have priority in the river or harbour, and near the harbour mouth.

4. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

- 4.1 Notices will be posted on the Race Notice Board, located in the main upstairs room of the clubhouse. Any signals made ashore will be displayed from the club balcony or flag post.
- 4.2 Any changes to the Sailing Instructions will be posted at least 90 minutes before the advertised starting time of the race or races concerned. International Code Flag L may be displayed.

5. PROGRAMME, RACE AREA AND COURSES

- 5.1 The schedule of races will be in accordance with the Notice of Race and Entry Form.
- 5.2 Races scheduled to be held at sea may be held in the river at the discretion of the Race Officer. Races at sea will normally be held to the West of the harbour mouth.
- 5.3 Unless indicated on the Race Notice Board, the course configuration and order of rounding will be as shown below, though this does not indicate the angles between legs.



- 5.4 Marks A, B and C will normally be orange cylindrical-type or triangular inflatable buoys. The course will be set up with marks left to port unless a green flag is hoisted to indicate a starboard-hand course.

5.4.1 The **start / finish line** is defined as the line between a mast on a committee boat (normally bearing an orange flag) and the centre of the outer distance mark. This mark will be a small orange cylindrical buoy laid on the port side of the committee boat.

5.4.2 The **alternate finish line** (if used) is defined as the line between the mast on the “NAB” committee boat and “Mark C”. International Code Flag S will be hoisted and two sound signals given if it is used.

5.5 The **course**:

Unless indicated otherwise, the full course will comprise the following:

Start, A,B,C, A,C, A,C, A,B,C, Finish

i.e. triangle, sausage, sausage, triangle

Boats **do not** need to pass through the start / finish line when going from C to A.

5.6 The approximate magnetic bearing of “Mark A” may be displayed on the Committee Boat.

6. STARTING PROCEDURE

6.1 The procedure will be in accordance with RRS Rule 26, illustrated as follows. Each flag signal will normally be accompanied by a single sound signal: however the visual (flag) signal shall govern.

<u>Title</u>	<u>Signals</u>	<u>Time before start</u>
Warning	Class Flag hoisted	5 Minutes
Preparatory	Preparatory Flag P hoisted	4 Minutes
One Minute	Preparatory Flag P removed	1 Minute
Start	Class Flag removed	0 Minutes

The **class flags** are:



Flag 'Z' - Fireball



Flag 'O' – Merlin

6.2 **Individual recalls** shall be indicated by one further sound signal. International Code Flag X will be hoisted in accordance with RRS rule 29.1.

6.3 **General recalls** shall be in accordance with RRS Rule 29.2 and indicated by two additional sound signals and hoisting International Code Flag 1st Substitute.

If a start results in a General recall, that class may be moved to the back of any starting queue at the discretion of the Race Officer..

6.4 A **one-minute “black flag” rule** may be introduced as specified in RRS Rule 30.3. This will be indicated by a black flag hoisted at the 4-minute signal (flown in place of Flag P.) The area formed by the start line and “Mark A” then forms a prohibited area during the 1 minute prior to the start. If any part of a boat or its crew enters this area during that time, it shall be liable to disqualification from that race, unless it is postponed or abandoned prior to the start.

The disqualification will apply even if the race is subsequently re-started or re-sailed. The sail numbers of disqualified boats may be displayed and/or competitors informed verbally.

- 6.5 A boat not starting within **5 minutes** of her starting signal may be designated as "Did Not Start" at the Race Officer's discretion.

7. CHANGE OR SHORTENING OF COURSE

- 7.1 **A change of course direction** after the start will be signalled before the leading boat has begun the first leg to be changed, although the new mark may not yet be in position. A red or green flag may be used to indicate the required change in heading to the next mark: this varies RSS Rule 33. Any subsequent mark to be rounded may be relocated without further notice so as to maintain the course configuration.
- 7.2 **Shortening Course.** Courses may be shortened to finish at any mark of the course, including the outer distance mark. The finishing vessel shall take up station near the mark and as the leading boat approaches it, International Code Flag S will be hoisted and two sound signals given.
- 7.3 **A race may be abandoned at any time**, indicated by Code Flag N with 3 sound signals. If a race is abandoned for reasons of safety, competitors are advised to return to the harbour without delay.

8. TIME LIMITS

- 8.1 The time limit for each race shall be 100 minutes for the first finisher. Expiry of this limit will be indicated by two sound signals. If no boat has finished within that time, race results may be calculated on the basis of positions at a previous mark of the course. If this is infeasible, the race shall be abandoned.
- 8.2 For the **first race each day**, any boat that has not finished within 20 minutes of the first finisher in her class shall receive "Did Not Finish" points (unless otherwise disqualified). For subsequent races, 30 minutes will be allowed. This changes RRS Rule 35.

9. PENALTIES & PROTESTS

- 9.1 The penalty system will be in accordance with RRS Rule 44.1, (a two-turn penalty if a rule of Part 2 of RRS is broken, or a one-turn penalty after touching a mark). The scoring penalty system (RRS Rule 44.3) will not apply.
- 9.2 Any protest shall be submitted within 2 hours of the last boat finishing the last race of the day, on a form obtainable from the club office. Where possible, any protests will be heard on the same day. The time and place of the hearing shall be advised by the Race Officer.

10. SCORING

- 10.1 Overall prizes will be awarded to each class for competitors placed first, second and third in the event, or the first 15% of the entry. The low point scoring system (Appendix A) shall apply.

- 10.2 Races to count will be as follows:

Races sailed	1	2	3	4
Races to count	1	2	2	3