

1. RULES

- 1.1 Racing will be governed by the rules defined in the 2017 - 2020 World Sailing Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), RYA Prescriptions, the Notice of Race, these Sailing Instructions, RVYC Race Chart 2017 and Class Rules, except where modified by the Sailing Instructions. In case of a conflict the Sailing Instructions shall apply. Previous Sailing Instructions in the EWCC have been retracted and replaced by these Sailing Instructions.
- 1.2 The organising authority is the Royal Victoria Yacht Club, Isle of Wight.
- 1.3 For eligibility and entry see the Notice of Race.

2. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

- 2.1 The official notice board is located outside the main changing rooms where the definitive copy of the Notice of Race, Sailing Instructions, RVYC Race Chart 2017 and any amendments to the Sailing Instructions, Exoneration Penalty X.1 and X.2, and the Advisory Hearing and RYA Arbitration procedures and results will be posted.
- 2.2 Notices to competitors will be posted on the blackboard outside the Club main entrance. Any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 2000 on the day before it will take effect. Other notices will be posted not less than 60 minutes before the first scheduled warning signal. In both cases Flag L will be displayed from the Club flagstaff not less than 60 minutes before the first scheduled warning signal.

3. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 3.1 Any permanent change to the Sailing Instructions will be posted on the Club notice board before 0900 on the first day it takes effect. Flag L will be displayed from the Club flagstaff located on the jetty.
- 3.2 Any temporary change to the Sailing Instructions will be posted on the blackboard outside the Club main entrance not less than 60 minutes before the first scheduled warning signal and will be indicated by flag L being displayed from the Club flagstaff.

4. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 4.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed from the Club flagstaff.
- 4.2 If Flag AP is flown ashore, the next warning signal shall be no earlier than 45 minutes after Flag AP is lowered.

5. SCHEDULE OF RACES

5.1 Saturday 26 August 2017

- 1255 Warning signal for first Merrydown race consisting of day boats and fast handicap
- 1300 Warning signal for first race of slow handicap
- **1310** Warning signal for cruisers

Races will continue directed by the Race Officer, one fleet at a time to a maximum of three races.

5.2 Sunday 27 August 2017

- 1325 Warning signal for First Merrydown race consisting of day boats and fast handicap
- 1330 Warning signal for first race of slow handicap
- **1340** Warning signal for cruisers

Races will continue directed by the Race Officer, one fleet at a time to a maximum of three races. Cruisers will complete one race per day.

6. CLASS FLAGS

The class flags shall be:

Cruiser	Flag F
Day boat	Flag NN9
Fast handicap dinghies PY 1200 and below	Flag K
Slow handicap dinghies PY 1201 and above	Flag E

7. RACING AREAS

The Race area is the Eastern Solent and Wootton Creek.

8. THE COURSES

- 8.1 Courses will normally be set in accordance with RVYC Race Chart 2017 (see 8.4 below).
- 8.2 The courses to be sailed for all classes, except cruiser classes, will be displayed on boards as follows:
 - a) Red background (to be left to port) or green background (to be left to starboard)
 - b) White boards black numbers: number of laps
 - c) Black +: pass through the finish line
 - d) Red or green background boards with numbers 1 to 4. Special courses : In special courses all boats on completion of a lap shall pass through the finish/lap line.

- 8.3 Courses for cruisers will be announced on VHF radio, channel 37A (M1). A warning signal will be given on the VHF radio at 15 minutes before the scheduled start and the course will be given at ten minutes before the start. Competitors are requested to confirm that they have received the course via the radio. After the start the race committee will switch to channel P4 as a listening channel.

9. MARKS

Marks will be as shown on the RVYC 2017 Race Chart available from the RVYC website or the club bar.

All day laid marks are orange pillars except for slow handicap, who will use small yellow pillars.

10. COMMERCIAL SHIPPING

In order to avoid the risk of collision with commercial shipping that is underway a boat may use her engine or any other means of propulsion, including a tow from another vessel without retiring. Such use shall be reported to the Race Officer (RO) as soon as possible. The RO shall decide what, if any, penalty to award. If the RO's decision is challenged by any competitor a protest committee shall be convened.

11. THE START

- 11.1 When the RO has decided that racing shall take place an orange flag shall be displayed from the starting position five minutes before the first warning signal.

- 11.2 Unless specified otherwise the start of a race shall be between a red and white post on the Race Box and a bicolour pillar (top orange/bottom yellow).

- 11.3 Alternative start lines (eg committee boat or Club line), shall be indicated by displaying flag L on the Club flagstaff and a notice posted to competitors on the blackboard outside the Club main entrance at least 60 minutes before the first warning signal.

- 11.4 Races shall be started by using RRS Rule 26 with the warning signal made five minutes before the starting signal.

- 11.6 Any boat that starts later than four minutes after their start signal will be recorded as DNS. **Any cruiser that crosses the start line later than 15 minutes of their start signal will be recorded as DNS.**

- 11.7 Boats whose warning signal has not been displayed shall keep clear of the start area.

12. THE FINISH

- 12.1 The finishing line shall be the same as the starting line, unless flag L is displayed from

the Club flagstaff at least 60 minutes before the first warning signal, with a notice posted on the blackboard specifying the finishing line, or, as in 12.2 below.

- 12.2 Boats may be finished on the course. Flag W may be displayed and the boat's sail number called.

13. TIME LIMITS

- 13.1 The time limit for the first boat to finish in a class shall be :

- Dinghies & day boats One hour
- Cruisers Three hours

- 13.2 If a boat fails to finish by the later of the time limit or 50 minutes after the first boat in her class to finish, she shall score DNF. (Changes RRS Rule 35 and Appendices A4 & A5.)

- 13.3 If no boat finishes a result may be declared on the result of completed laps or mark rounding records if available.

- 13.4 Boats that do not finish solely because of their inability to complete the course within the time limit or because the RO has abandoned the race after at least one boat has finished, may apply to the RO who may agree they will be scored one point more than the last boat to finish. A protest committee shall be convened if any competitor disagrees with the RO's ruling.

14. PROTESTS & REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

- 14.1 Protests are in accordance with RRS Part 5. Protests shall be received by the RO within a time limit of 1½ hours after the last boat of her class to finish the last race of the day.

- 14.2 Protest forms are located in the sailing office in the club main entrance.

- 14.3 The Exoneration Penalty X.1 and X.2 (and the Advisory Hearing and RYA Arbitration procedures) of the RYA Rules Disputes Procedures will be available. See the official race noticeboard for details.

- 14.4 Protests received outside the time limit may at the discretion of the protest committee, be considered in extenuating circumstances.

15. SCORING & PRIZES

15.1 Scoring

- i) The Low Point System shall be used for scoring.
- ii) One boat in a class crossing the start line will count as a race.
- iii) Portsmouth Yardstick 2017 numbers shall be used for handicapping all boats except cruisers who shall be scored using the RVYC Byron adapted handicap.

- iv) Discards : One discard will be allowed after four races have been completed. (There will be no discards for the Merrydown prizes.)

15.2 Prizes

Prizes will be awarded for the following,

- Merrydown Saturday race (first race with day boats and fast handicap)
- Merrydown Sunday race (first race with day boats and fast handicap)
- Merrydown combined Saturday and Sunday races
- Regatta cruisers
- Regatta day boat all races, including Merrydown races
- Regatta fast handicap including Merrydown races
- Regatta slow handicap
- Regatta junior trophy **will be awarded to the best-placed boat with a crew all of whom will be under the age of 13 on completion of the regatta.**

16.1 SAFETY

16.1 Personal responsibility

Neither the provision of patrol boats and crews nor the decision of a RO to start or continue a race shall absolve a boat of the personal responsibilities defined in RRS Part 1 Fundamental Rules 1 and 4.

16.2 Sign on/off and insurance declaration

- i) All skippers must lodge with the Club office a completed 2017 Merrydown race entry form available on the Club website before their first race
- ii) All dinghy and day boat skippers shall sign on before leaving for the starting area. They must sign off no later than one hour after the last boat in their class has finished. A declaration sheet shall be in the main lobby of the Clubhouse.

16.3 Personal buoyancy (changes RRS 40)

- i) Personal flotation devices shall be to current EC standards. A wetsuit or dry suit is not a personal flotation device.
- ii) All dinghy competitors shall wear an adequate personal flotation device at all times when afloat.
- iii) All day boats and cruisers shall carry adequate personal flotation devices for all on board the vessel. It is recommended that

all these competitors wear personal flotation devices when on the water.

16.4 General safety

- i) A boat retiring from a race shall inform the RO or a safety boat as soon as possible.
- ii) Any boat instructed by the RO for safety reasons to return to shore or its mooring shall do so.
- iii) Each day boat and cruiser shall be equipped with a working marine VHF radio.
- iv) It is recommended that day boats and cruisers also carry a minimum of two red hand flares and a mobile phone.

17. RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

- 17.1 Except in an emergency, a boat shall neither make radio transmissions while racing nor receive radio communications not available to all boats. This restriction also applies to mobile telephones.

End of Merrydown sailing instructions

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