



Open Meeting Sailing Instructions 2025

1 RULES

- 1.1 The event will be governed by the rules as defined in the current World Sailing Racing Rules of Sailing (**RRS**).
- 1.2 A rule marked [NP] shall not be the subject of a protest by a boat. This changes RRS 60.1. The penalty for breach of a rule marked [DP] may, at the discretion of the Protest Committee, be less than disqualification. This changes RRS 64.
- 1.3 The Salcombe Yacht Club (**SYC**) Course Map (available on the SYC website) forms part of these Sailing Instructions (**SIs**).

2 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

- 2.1 Any changes to the SIs will be posted on the SYC website (<http://www.salcombeyc.org.uk>) at least 2 hours before the start of the first race to which they apply. They may also be posted on the official notice board(s) in the SYC clubhouse.
- 2.2 Notices to competitors other than changes to the NoR or SIs will be posted on the official notice board(s) in the hallway of the SYC clubhouse. They may also be posted on the SYC website. No signal will be made to indicate that any such changes have been made or notices given. This changes the "Race Signals" part of the RRS.

3 SALCOMBE HARBOUR DINGHY RACING CODE OF CONDUCT

- 3.1 [NP][DP] Boats shall sail safely and give due consideration to all users of Salcombe Estuary:
 - (a) non-racing boats - there are many pleasure and commercial craft afloat who do not understand the racing rules. Boats are required to be courteous.
 - (b) swimmers - when sailing near to beaches, boats shall keep a lookout for swimmers, who should be treated courteously and be given a wide berth.
 - (c) fishermen - whether onshore or on a vessel, boats should be aware that fishermen's lines may be cast well away from their position and should be avoided.

(d) cadet racing – if cadet racing is taking place, boats should give them due consideration and care.

(e) Kingsbridge and South Sands ferries. Boats should make reasonable effort to avoid impeding these ferries which are obstructions.

A boat breaking this sailing instruction and/or bringing the reputation of its class or SYC into disrepute may be protested by the race committee.

4 COLLISIONS WITH NON-COMPETING BOATS

- 4.1 If a boat has a collision with a non-competing boat, whether it be underway or moored, the incident must be reported by the completion of a Salcombe Harbour Accident Report form, (available from the SHA website which must be submitted on the day of the incident to the Harbour Office electronically or in hardcopy as instructed on the Form.
- 4.2 A collision with a moored boat requires one penalty turn at the first opportunity.
- 4.3 If such a penalty turn is not effected, the boat concerned may be protested by another boat, but not unless that other boat was involved in or saw the collision. This changes RRS 60.1.
- 4.4 A boat seen by a member of the Race Committee or the Salcombe Harbour Board to have a collision as described above, which is not reported, may be disqualified from the race without protest at the Race Officer's discretion. This changes RRS 63.1.

5 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 5.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed at the Watch House. They may also be displayed at the top of the Batson slipway.
- 5.2 When flag AP over D is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 55 minutes' in the race signal AP. When flag AP over D is displayed, boats shall not launch [NP][DP]. A boat that breaks this rule may be scored DSQ by the race committee without a hearing. This changes RRS 63.1 and A5.1.

6 RACING AREAS

- 6.1 As detailed on the SYC Course Map available on the SYC website.

7 FAIRWAY

- 7.1 During busy times of the year the Harbour Authority mark a Fairway in the vicinity of the Starting Line to provide a safe passage for the use of non-racing craft during a start sequence. The outer edge of this Fairway is defined by an imaginary line between adjacent yellow buoys which extend from and include V0 (Salcombe Harbour Hotel) to V3 (Ferry Inn). They are set out from the Salcombe shore of the estuary. The length of the Fairway may be extended by placing spherical

yellow buoys carrying a yellow X top mark at either or both the northern and/or southern ends. The **Prohibited Area** is between the outer edge of the Fairway (see above) and the Salcombe shore.

- 7.2 At all times during which the Fairway is active the Prohibited Area ranks as a continuing obstruction.
- 7.3 [NP] When the Fairway is active, boats shall not enter or remain in the Prohibited Area except as permitted under 7.10 or 7.13 below.
- 7.4 [NP] A Salcombe Harbour Authority – Kingsbridge Estuary Local Notice to Mariners will apply.
- 7.5 The Fairway is activated by the display of the 2nd Sub pennant at the Watch House. In addition yellow flashing lights may be displayed on each end of the Watch House. The Fairway will remain active for so long as and as often as that pennant is displayed at the Watch House.
- 7.6 If the race committee intend that the Fairway will be active for a start, it will be activated at latest at the Warning Signal for that start.
- 7.7 If the race committee intend that the Fairway shall not be active for a start it may either not activate the Fairway or may activate it at any time at or before the warning signal start and de-activate it at the warning signal.
- 7.8 If the Fairway was active for a start it will remain active for a minimum of 5 minutes after the start. If there is no general recall, no postponement no abandonment and no warning signal due in respect of another start of the same or another class or event, the Fairway will be de-activated a maximum of 10 minutes after a start.
- 7.9 However, whatever the race committee's intentions in respect of the use of the Fairway, all the rules in this SI will apply at any time during which the Fairway is active, and whether or not the Fairway was or was intended to be active before, at or after the time of a boat's start or of any other start or at any other time, so boats must be aware that, amongst other possibilities:
- (a) If the Fairway was activated for an earlier start it may remain active for the whole period between that earlier start and between 5 and 10 minutes after any later start or starts (whether the later start is for the same or another class or event).
 - (b) The Fairway may be activated forthwith in the event of a general recall, postponement or abandonment of a race.
 - (c) The Fairway may be de-activated at any time between 5 and 10 minutes after a start, but it may be re-activated in respect of later starts of the same or different classes or events and may remain active until some time after those starts.
- 7.10 [NP] A boat which is in the Prohibited Area at the moment when the Fairway is activated shall leave the Prohibited Area without delay by the most direct route in a seamanlike manner.
- 7.11 [NP] Unless the race officer considers that the boat is acting as specified in 7.10 above or 7.13

below, a boat identified by the Race Officer or staff of the Salcombe Harbour Authority entering or in the Prohibited Area at a time when the Fairway is active shall be scored DSQ in that race without a hearing. This changes RRS 63.1 and A5.1.

- 7.12 The sail numbers of boats disqualified under this Fairway rule may be displayed on an RC vessel close to a mark of a course or near to a disqualified boat on a leg of the course.
- 7.13 Boats whose moorings are in the Prohibited Area or which are sailing from Batson boatpark are permitted to sail out through the Prohibited Area by their shortest course.
- 7.14 [NP][DP] Any competing boat involved in an avoidable incident with a non-competing craft within the Prohibited Area at a time when the Fairway is active may be disqualified from that race and any other subsequent race in that series. This changes RRS 63.1 and A5.1.
- 7.15 Competitors should consider non-racing craft that are being held north and south of the starting area by the Harbour Master to be restricted in their ability to manoeuvre.

8 COURSES

- 8.1 Unless an alternative start line is in operation, courses will be indicated by number and letter boards displayed at the Watch House before or at the warning signal.
- 8.2 When an alternative start line is in operation, courses will be indicated by number and letter boards displayed on the race committee boat at the starting line before or at the warning signal.
- 8.3 The boards will show the numbers or letters (as per the SYC Course Map) of the marks to be rounded. The marks are to be rounded in the order in which they are displayed (reading left to right).
- 8.4 When a Red number is displayed the mark shall be rounded to Port. When a Green number is displayed the mark shall be rounded to Starboard.
- 8.5 A course set as above will include a final leg from the last mark indicated to the finishing line.
- 8.6 Description of marks

Mark	Description	Location
1 to 8	Spherical buoy	As per SYC Course Map
M,N,O	Spherical buoy	As per SYC Course Map
W	Large pillar	south of Mark 1 (Blackstone)
X	Large pillar	between Marks 1 (Blackstone) and 3 (Crossways)
Y	Large pillar	between Marks 3 (Crossways) and 4 (Yalton)

Z	Large pillar	between Marks 5 (Saltstone) and 7 (Gerston)
F	Large pillar	between Marks 5 (Saltstone) and 6 (Frogmore)
A	Large pillar	West Range (Starehole)
B	Large pillar	East Range (Gara)

- 8.7 The positions shown for the marks on the SYC Course Map are only approximate positions and in particular marks X, Y, Z and F might be positioned close to one or other of the numbered marks which they are positioned between.
- 8.8 All marks shown on the SYC Course Map are rounding marks (see RRS definition of “Sail the Course”).
- 8.9 In the absence of a listed rounding mark, it will be replaced by a pillar buoy or a boat flying flag M.
- 8.10 For races that will start at sea, refer to specific event NoR or SIs.

9 STARTING LINE AND STARTING PENALTIES

- 9.1 (a) Unless an alternative starting line is signaled as below, the starting line is: a straight line between the flagstaff of the Watch House and the lower of the posts bearing orange triangles on the East Portlemouth shore¹. If the Fairway is not activated a pillar buoy may be laid as an inner distance mark (“**IDM**”). When the IDM is laid:
- The IDM is a starting mark for the purposes of Part C of the RRS.
 - Boats approaching the starting line to start shall pass between the IDM and the East Portlemouth shore.
- b) An alternative start line is a straight line between a staff displaying an orange flag on an SYC race committee boat and either a nearby rounding mark (which may not necessarily be a mark of the course) or a pillar buoy.
- 9.2 An alternative start line within the Harbour will be signaled at the Watch House by flag C and the number/letter board of the nearest racing mark.
- 9.3 For races starting in “The Range” flag C will be flown at the Watch House with no course numbers or letters for marks.
- 9.4 A boat starting later than 10 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a

¹ Note: the higher pole and triangle on the East Portlemouth shore and the pole and triangle behind the Watch House may not be on the straight line extensions of the starting and finishing line and are for approximate guidance only.

hearing. This changes RRS 63.1 & A4.

- 9.5 In RRS 30.2 (Z Flag Rule), 30.3 (U Flag Rule) and 30.4 (Black Flag Rule) the words “in the triangle formed by the ends of the starting line and the first *mark*” are replaced by “on the side of the starting line and its extensions nearest to the first *mark*”. This changes RRS 30.2, 30.3 and 30.4.

10 **STARTING SYSTEM AND STARTING PENALTIES**

- 10.1 Races shall be started in accordance with RRS 26.
- 10.2 10 minutes before the first start in a sequence an orange flag may be displayed accompanied by one sound signal.
- 10.3 The sail numbers of boats disqualified under the Black Flag Rule (RRS 30.4) may be displayed on a race committee boat unless SI 10.4 applies.
- 10.4 In the event of a General Recall when the Black Flag Rule (RRS 30.4) is in use, the Race Committee may before or after the next warning signal for that race (i) display, on a boat which shall be close to the starting area, the sail numbers of boats disqualified from the restarted or resailed race and/or (ii) inform all or any such boats orally of their disqualification. If the race is restarted, any boat whose sail number is so displayed or is so orally informed shall not sail in it. If she does so, her disqualification shall not be excluded in calculating her series score. This amends RRS 30.4.
- 10.5 After a General Recall the new start will be as soon as possible but not less than 10 mins after the recalled start. The warning signal for a new start for the recalled race may be made at any time being not less than one minute after the First Substitute is removed (one sound). In the event of a General Recall for a class in a sequence of starts, the new start for the recalled class will be 10 minutes or longer after the last scheduled start of the sequence. This amends RRS 29.2.
- 10.6 In RRS 30.2 (Z Flag Rule), 30.3 (U Flag Rule) and 30.4 (Black Flag Rule) the words “in the triangle formed by the ends of the starting line and the first *mark*” are replaced by “on the side of the starting line and its extensions nearest to the first *mark*”. This changes RRS 30.2, 30.3 and 30.4.

11 **CHANGING THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE**

- 11.1 To change the next leg or legs of the course, (other than from the Watch House) a race committee boat will be positioned in the vicinity of a mark of the course and:
- will fly flag C or, where the change is not for all classes, flag C over the class flag(s) for the class or classes to which the change applies.
 - will display the next mark or marks of the course

- will make a sound signal which may be repeated as appropriate
- may verbally advise of the next mark or marks.

11.2 To change the course or the next leg or legs of the course from the Watch House the race committee at the Watch House:

- will fly flag C or, where the change is not for all classes, flag C over the class flag(s) for the class or classes to which the change applies.
- will display the new race course at the Watch House, which will include marks already passed.
- will make a sound signal which may be repeated as appropriate
- may verbally advise of the next mark or marks and/or may cause a safety boat to do so.

11.3 SIs 11.1 and 11.2 change and replace RRS 33 in its entirety.

12 FINISHING LINE

12.1 The Finishing Line is a straight line between the flagstaff of the Watch House and the lower of the posts bearing orange triangles on the East Portlemouth shore. However, if the course is shortened the following will apply:

- (a) If the course is shortened at the Watch House, the Finishing Line will be as above.
- (b) If the course is shortened elsewhere (this changes RRS 32.2), the Finishing Line will be:
 - between a staff displaying code flag S on the SYC safety or committee boat and the nearby racing mark. This mark may not necessarily be a mark of the course. Or
 - between a staff displaying code flag S on the SYC safety or committee boat and a pillar buoy.

12.2 Unless disqualified by the Race Officer, boats may be given a sound signal when crossing the finishing line. This is a discretionary signal to indicate that the boats may return to shore and it is still the responsibility of the boats to ensure that they have sailed the races in accordance with the rules.

13 TIME LIMIT

13.1 The race time limit shall be two and a half hours for the first boat ("***the First Boat***") in the race which sails the course as required by RRS 28 and finishes. Unless the next SI (Special Finishing Procedure) is applied to it, any boat failing to finish within that time limit or within 30 minutes after the First Boat finishes, whichever is the later, will be scored DNF (this changes RRS 35 and A5).

14 SPECIAL FINISHING PROCEDURE (this changes RRS 35, A4 and A5)

- 14.1 After one boat has finished a race, the race committee may motor through the fleet displaying flag “Q”. It shall record boats still racing in order of increasing distance to sail the course to the finishing line.
- 14.2 The leading boat so recorded will be scored one more than the last boat to finish before this special procedure was begun. Each subsequent boat recorded will be scored one more point than the previous boat.
- 14.3 When a boat is scored under this SI:
 - (a) Her score will apply even if the boat subsequently finishes.
 - (b) The race committee shall be under no obligation to delay the start of a subsequent race of the series in order to enable the boat to finish.

15 SCORING SYSTEM

- 15.1 The scoring system will be in accordance with Appendix A using the Low Point system as changed by the NoR and the SIs.
- 15.2 Boats observed by the Race Committee to have not sailed the correct course will be scored NSC in accordance with Appendix A.

16 Retirement and post-race penalties:

- 16.1 **T1** of Appendix T to the RRS (Post-Race Penalties) shall apply with the following modification:
 - Under T1(c) the requirement of delivery of a written statement that the boat accepts the penalty and that identifies the race number and where and when the incident occurred to be delivered to the arbitrator or a member of the protest committee shall apply, without the reference to the arbitrator (there will be no arbitrator at the event)..
- 16.2 The remainder of Appendix T shall not apply.
- 16.3 Except for the purpose of calculating a post-race penalty, RRS 44.3 (Scoring Penalty) shall not apply.

17 PROTESTS, MEDIATION AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

- 17.1 There will be no arbitration or mediation.
- 17.2 Protest forms are available at the SYC Race Office or in the hallway of the SYC Clubhouse.
- 17.3 Protests, requests for redress or reopening of a hearing shall be delivered to the Race Committee by posting them in the Race Office Box in the hallway of the SYC Clubhouse within the time limit specified.
- 17.4 A protest based on an incident in the racing area shall be delivered, as above, within 90 minutes of the last boat finishing the race in which the incident occurred. Where races are sailed back-to-back the time will be from the last boat finishing the last race of the day. On the last day of an Open Meeting this time limit is shortened to 60 minutes.
- 17.5 Other requests shall be delivered to the Race Office within 60 minutes of learning of the reason(s) for making the request. The Race Office is on the 1st floor of the SYC clubhouse
- 17.6 A Notice to Competitors will be published to advise of the time(s) that any Protest Committee will be convened. Parties to the Protest may also be contacted by mobile phone so phone numbers should be included on the Protest form.
- 17.7 Video or tracking evidence, except for such as may be provided by the race committee, shall not be admissible at hearings of protests or requests for redress for the purpose of determining whether or not a boat was OCS, UFD or BFD or for the purpose of determining when or in what position a boat finishes. This changes RRS63.4 and 63.5

18 SAFETY REGULATIONS

- 18.1 RRS 40.1 (Personal Flotation Devices) shall apply whilst afloat. [DP] [DP]. If a competitor does not comply with this *rule* the boat concerned may be disqualified without protest at the Race Officer's discretion. This changes RRS 63.1.
- 18.2 [NP][DP] The Batson slipway is a public slipway so please respect the rights and safety of other users.
- 18.3 [NP][DP] A boat that retires from a race is requested to notify the Race Committee (Race Office Telephone 01548 843170) or a SYC Patrol boat as soon as possible.
- 18.4 The race committee and its patrol boat crews are empowered to compel a competitor to receive outside assistance, or return to the shore, when they deem it necessary due to safety considerations. [NP][DP]
- 18.5 A boat not complying with 18.4 can be disqualified from the race without protest at the Race Officers discretion. This amends RRS 63.1.

19 REPLACEMENT OF HELMSPERSON, CREW OR CRAFT

19.1 See Notice of Race.

20 EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

20.1 A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules and the SlS.

21 ADVERTISING

21.1 Boats may be required to display advertising supplied by the organizing authority.