

# Harlow Blackwater Sailing Club

## Sailing Instructions

### 1 Rules

Racing will be governed by *The Racing Rules of Sailing*, the prescriptions of the RYA, these sailing instructions, and the appropriate class rules. Competitors shall not be required to be a member of the relevant class association. All events are designated Category A.

### 2 Conditions of Entry

#### 2.1 General

The safety of a boat and her entire management including insurance 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, limits or 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.

#### 2.2 Distinguishing Numbers

Under exceptional circumstances the race officer may permit a boat to use sails carrying a distinguishing number other than that required by appendix G of *The Racing Rules of Sailing*.

#### 2.3 Personal Buoyancy

All competitors shall wear life-jackets or other adequate personal buoyancy at all times while racing. Wet suits and dry suits are not adequate personal buoyancy.

#### 2.4 Intention to Race

A representative of each boat shall, prior to the preparatory signal, declare their intention to race by writing their sail number and helmsman's name on the form provided by the course board.

#### 2.5 Declaration

A representative of each boat shall sign a declaration, within 20 minutes of finishing a race or coming ashore after a series of back to back races, either that racing rules have been observed, or that the boat has retired from the race(s), on the form provided by the course board. The time may be extended at the Race Officers discretion. Failure to declare within the prescribed time will result in a score of 'Did Not Finish'.

### 3 Notices to Competitors

Notices to competitors will be displayed on the notice board or course board.

### 4 Changes in Sailing Instructions

Any changes to the sailing instructions will be posted at least one hour before the race for which it will take effect.

### 5 Signals Made Ashore

#### 5.1 Location of Signals Made Ashore

Signals made ashore will be either hoisted on the flag mast or indicated on the flag boards.

#### 5.2 Postponements

Flag AP (Answering Pennant) with two sound signals when hoisted means 'The race is postponed'. The warning signal will then be made one minute after AP is lowered.' (1 sound signal)

### 6 Schedule of Races

The classes to race and the order and times of starts shall be displayed on the course board.

### 7 Class Signals

Class Boards or flags will be allocated as follows to enable course instructions to be directed to individual classes.

Orange Boards designated 1, 2 and 3 indicate the start sequence that will follow for the first, second or third fleet or class to start as designated by the Race Officer on the course board in the entrance hall.

Board No1 must be raised at least 5 minutes before the beginning of the first start sequence.

If Class Flags are to be used instead of Class Boards they will be indicated on the Course Board.

## 8 Racing Area

The racing area is displayed on a board adjacent to the course board.

## 9 The Course

The course to be sailed shall be displayed on the course board in the main club house at least 20 minutes before the start of the race. Where races are held 'back-to-back' the course for the race and subsequent races may be displayed on the Committee Boat.

When the Course passes the land known as Mundon Spit in Lawling Creek each boat must leave Mundon Spit to port when leaving Lawling Creek and to starboard when entering Lawling Creek.

## 10 Marks

A description of each mark is displayed on a board adjacent to the course board.

## 11 Starts

### 11.1 Starting Procedure

SIGNAL	BOARD OR FLAG AND SOUND SIGNAL	Minutes before Starting signal
Warning	Class Board or Class Flag raised 1 sound signal	5
Preparatory	Preparatory Board, P Flag or Black Flag raised 1 sound signal	4
One Minute	Preparatory Board, P Flag or Black Flag removed 1 long sound signal	1
Starting	Class Board or Class flag removed 1 sound signal	0

### 11.2 Starting line

Races shall be started from the clubhouse starting line, or a committee boat starting line.

#### 11.2.1 Clubhouse Starting Line

The clubhouse starting line is an extension of an imaginary line between the race box flag mast and the orange post on the foreshore. The outer limit of the line is marked by 'Jetty' mark, which may not be in line with the starting line.

#### 11.2.2 Committee Boat Starting line

The committee boat starting line is an imaginary line between the main mast of the committee boat and an outer distance mark described on the course board. An inner distance mark may be laid adjacent to the committee boat. No boat shall pass between such inner mark and the committee boat.

### 11.3 Boats Not Yet Starting

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

### 11.4 Recalls

#### 11.4.1 Individual Recalls

Code flag 'X' or board 'X' and one sound signal indicates an individual recall.

#### 11.4.2 General Recalls

Code flag 'First Substitute' or signal board 'First Substitute' and two sound signals indicates a general recall.

One sound signal will be made when the First Substitute is removed.

The Warning Signal shall be made one minute after the general recall is removed.

Any following classes shall also be delayed.

### **11.4.3 Back Flag Rule**

If a black flag has been displayed, no part of a boat's hull, crew or equipment shall be in the triangle formed by the ends of the starting line and the first *mark* during the last minute before her starting signal.

If a boat breaks this rule and is identified, she shall be disqualified without a hearing, even if the race is restarted or re-sailed, but not if it is *postponed* or *abandoned* before the starting signal. If a general recall is signalled or the race is *abandoned* after the starting signal, the race committee shall display her sail number before the next warning signal for that race, and if the race is restarted or re-sailed she shall not sail in it.

If she does so, her disqualification shall not be excluded in calculating her series score.

*N.B. (The start of the 1 minute period shall be signalled by the lowering of the black flag with a long sound signal).*

### **12 Mark Boats**

The details of any mark boats used shall be displayed on the course board.

### **13 Changes of Course after the Start**

Code flag '5' flown on the flag mast, or signal board and two sound signals signifies that the course has been shortened and shall finish when the leading boat in the class(es) next crosses the finishing line in either direction.

There may be instances where different classes finish in different directions.

Code flag '5' flown at any mark of the course and two sound signals signifies that the course has been shortened and shall finish when the leading boat in the class(es) crosses an imaginary line between the mark and the vessel flying code flag '5'.

Code flag 'R' flown at any mark of the course and two sound signals signifies that the course has been changed. All boats in the class(es) are to round or pass the mark on the designated side and sail directly to the finishing line.

### **14 The Finish**

#### **14.1 Clubhouse Finishing Line**

The clubhouse finishing line is an imaginary line between the flag mast and the 'Jetty' mark.

#### **14.2 Committee Boat Finishing Line**

The finishing line will be an imaginary line between the main mast of the committee boat and the nearby mark of the course or distance mark.

### **15 Penalty System**

The Scoring Penalty, Rule 44.3, will not apply.

### **16 Time Limits**

Unless otherwise specified on the course board, the time limit shall be 30 minutes after the first boat has finished. There is no time limit for cup races.

Boats not finishing within the time limit will be scored as 'Did Not Finish'. This changes Rule 35.

### **17 Protests**

Protests shall be written on forms available at the Race Box and should be delivered to the Race Officer within 30 minutes after the time of the last boat to come ashore.

### **18 Scoring**

The Low Point scoring system Rule A4, modified by Rule A9, will apply. Races to count in a series shall be the nearest whole number above half the number of races completed.

**Finishing Place**

<b>Finishing Place</b>	<b>Points</b>
First	<b>1</b>
Second	<b>2</b>
Third	<b>3</b>
Each place thereafter	Add 1 point

**Non Finishers**

<b>Mnemonic</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Points</b>
DNC	Did not come to the starting area	One more than the number of boats entered in the series
DNS	Did not start	One more than number of boats that came to the starting area in that race
OCS	On the course side of the starting line and failed to comply with Rule 29.1	One more than number of boats that came to the starting area in that race
DNF	Did not finish	One more than number of boats that came to the starting area in that race
RET	Retired after finishing	One more than number of boats that came to the starting area in that race
DSQ	Disqualified	One more than number of boats that came to the starting area in that race
DND	Disqualification not discardable under Rule 88.3(b)	One more than number of boats that came to the starting area in that race
RDG	Redress given	Race Committee's discretion