

# **STOKES BAY SAILING CLUB**

## **SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

### **1. CONDUCT AND SAILING OF RACES**

- 1.1 All races will be governed by the 'rules' as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), Class Rules and these Sailing Instructions (SIs). All races are designated Category 'C'. Helmsmen need not be members of their Class Association. For Open and Special Events, separate Instructions may be issued in place of these Instructions.

### **2. RACE ORGANISATION AND COMPETITORS OBLIGATIONS**

- 2.1 The functions in the Rules for the 'Race Committee' shall be performed by the Sailing Committee who shall delegate responsibility for the conduct of each race to a 'Race Officer'.
- 2.2 For each race a Race Officer and two other members will be allocated to Bridge duty and two members Patrol Boat duty, under the Club's duty scheme. If a member does not appear for duty, and a replacement cannot be found, the procedure below shall be followed.
- Postpone the race.
  - Close and withdraw the race entry list at the time for the warning signal of the last class to start, calculated from the advertised start time.
  - Draw lots from those on the race entry list to find a replacement for the duty.

If there is no Patrol Boat afloat and manned, racing cannot take place.

- 2.3 All Competitors **MUST** be available to assist with the Patrol Boat when racing has finished.
- 2.4 The Notice Board where notices are posted is in the lobby of the Clubhouse.

### **3. RACE ENTRY AND DECLARATION**

- 3.1 Helmsmen must enter each race by fully completing the Entry and Declaration Sheet posted on the Notice Board before his warning signal.
- 3.2 Helmsman failing to comply with (3.1) above will receive points as a non starter, but will be considered to be a starter for the validity of the race.
- 3.3 Helmsman who retire should inform the Race Officer or the Patrol Boat Crew at the first opportunity.
- 3.4 Helmsman must sign the Declaration Sheet after each race, noting retirement or intention to protest.
- 3.5 No member may race and therefore qualify for points or prizes unless:
- a. His boat has a valid measurement and/or buoyancy certificate where required by Class Rules.
  - b. His boat is insured against Third Party risks for not less than £3,000,000 (three million pounds).
  - c. The helmsman and crew (unless properly introduced visitors) have paid all fees due for the current year.

**NOTE** Checks may be made by the Management or Race Committees or its representatives. However, neither they nor the Club will be responsible for failure to carry out checks and any inadequacy in checking.

- 3.6 Points for races (see below) will be awarded to the helmsman. Helmsmen may not change boats in a series except on sale or with a Flag Officer's prior written consent for good cause.

### **4. RACE PROGRAMME**

- 4.1 Dates and times of races are set out on the SBSC Fixture List but may be changed by the Sailing or Management Committees by posting a notice of change at least seven days before the race affected.

- 4.2 Start times for series races are the times of the first start.
- 4.3 Class Flags and the Start Sequence are as set out in Appendix 1 (Class Flags & Start Sequence).
- 4.4 A class's 'Class' flag will be considered to be that class's preparatory signal as well as its warning signal.
- 4.5 A race cannot be held unless at least TWO boats race.

5. **COURSE AND LINES**

5.1 The course(s) will be displayed on the Club Course Board, with the written description prevailing over the drawn diagram. Courses will be set by the Class Captains, or their representatives, and set in agreement with other classes and the Race Officer. Whenever possible an upwind start should be set.

5.2 Any change to the course after it has been posted shall be signaled by the Race Officer hoisting IC Flag 'L' together with the Class Flags and making a sound signal immediately the change has been made.

5.3 **Handicap Classes**

To equalize the time spent racing by faster and slower boats, the Race Officer may set fewer laps for the slower handicap boats as defined by the Race Officer, and average the finishing times accordingly.

5.4 Saturday Series will be handicap racing, with starts for Catamarans, Dinghies and Cadets. Finishing time for the first boat will be approximately 45 minutes.

Cadets and novices (first season racers) who complete at least one lap will be given a finishing position.

6. **THE START**

6.1 **The Starting Line**

For all shore starts the starting line will be an extension of the line formed by two posts, one on the Bridge and the other on the foreshore limited by an outer distance mark which is a starting mark. All boats must pass inshore of the outer distance mark or the point of the line nearest to it. More than one outer distance mark may be laid to allow the Race Officer to remove or add bias to the starting line. In this case, the ODM in use shall be the one closest to the start line defined above and may be detailed on the course board by referring to its colour.

6.2 Races will be started in accordance with appendix 1.

6.3 **Dart 18 Start Sequence (Class racing)**

The Dart 18's are split into Gold and Silver fleets, with the silver fleet starting one minute in front of the Gold fleet. The Silver fleet should start when the Dart 18 class flag (Pink) is raised, i.e. 1 minute before the Scheduled Dart 18 start. The Silver fleet boats will start on this signal and **should not** be given a premature start unless the Bridge Officers can clearly identify the Silver fleet boats starting earlier than one minute in advance of the normal class start. The Gold fleet boats will display a yellow ribbon from their second to top batten, to make it possible for the Bridge Officers to identify them.

7. **THE FINISH**

7.1 **Finishing Line**

The finishing line will be between the pink/red outer distance mark and bridge post unless otherwise declared on the course board.

8. **AVOIDING STARTERS & FINISHERS**

8.1 In order that all classes can enjoy a fair start all boats **MUST** keep clear of the starting line and any boats in the process of starting until, at the earliest, their 1-minute warning signal is raised.

- 8.2 Any boat impeded by another class boat that has not yet started may protest that boat under rule 2 (Fair Sailing). Any boat so protested must make it's penalty turns after it's own class start.
- 8.3 Boats who have finished MUST endeavour to keep clear of the finishing line to avoid obstructing other competitors and the Race Officer's view.

9. **RECALLS**

- 9.1 Individual Recall - If a boat/boats start prematurely and can be identified by the Race Officer, a second sound signal will be made and the class flags(s) for that start will be left at half hoist until all premature starters have returned or until the expiration of two minutes from the time of the start, whichever shall occur first.
- 9.2 General Recall - If a boat/boats start prematurely, and the Race Officer is unable to identify these boats, a general recall will be indicated by a second and third sound signal and the class flag(s) for that start will be left at half hoist for a period of at least 2 minutes. A restart for the class will be attempted after all other classes have started. If this re-start also produces a general recall, the start for that class shall be abandoned, signified by the raising of the class flag and the IC Flag 'N' with no sound signals. This amends RRS 29.2

10. **SHORTEN COURSE**

- 10.1 Courses may be shortened at the finishing line at the end of a round to be completed by the leading boat or elsewhere by a patrol boat. This will be signaled by hoisting IC Flag 'S' together with the appropriate class flag(s).
- 10.2 In the case of handicap racing on the same start, they may be shortened for the slower class(es) only, by hoisting flag 'S' after the leading boats have crossed the finishing line. In which case the slower class would have to complete a fewer number of laps than the leading class(es). The number of laps are then averaged to give an overall result.

11. **TIME LIMITS**

- 11.1 Unless otherwise prescribed on the Course Board, time limits for races shall be as follows:

Daytime Races (starts before 18.00)	2hrs	From the last start time of the sequence
Evening Races	1.5hrs	From the last start time of the sequence
Passage Races	4hrs	From the last start time of the sequence

This amends RRS 35. Boats failing to finish within 30 minutes after the first boat of her class finishes or within the time limit, whichever is later, will not be scored. In handicap races, the period of 30 minutes is taken from the finishing times after correction for handicap.

11.2 **EXPIRY OF THE TIME LIMIT OR ABANDONMENT OF RACE**

If a race is abandoned and not re-sailed and all boats in a class have completed at least one round, all boats still racing at the expiry of the time limit or at abandonment shall be scored points for their position at the end of the last completed round.

12. **SCORINGS & TROPHIES**

The Low Point System A2 will apply modified so that a helmsman's total score will be his best results in 50% of the races held in the series for his class (the nearest number above for an odd number of races) are to count. Three races of a series need to be held to constitute a series, except in the Wednesday Series when eight races need to be held, and in the Sundowner Series when two races need to be held.

Members undertaking Bridge or Patrol Boat duty may claim average personal points for a race (up to a maximum of four) during which they are on duty. Average personal points will be calculated by averaging the points of the races they have sailed in the Series in which the duty occurred. The points are to be claimed by signing the duty book, which is situated in the Patrol Boat garage under the Clubhouse.

13. **PROTESTS**

- 13.1 A helmsman intending to protest should inform the Race Officer and name the boat(s) protested, as soon as possible after coming ashore. He should also note this on the Declaration Sheet (SI 3.4).
- 13.2 Protests shall be written on forms available from the Bridge Office and posted through the Clubhouse front door letterbox on the same day as the race during which the incident took place.
- 13.3 Once the protester and the protestee have been notified by the Sailing Committee or its representatives, of the place, time and date of the hearing, either directly or by means of a notice placed on the Club Notice Board, then should either party fail to attend without having given notice in writing to the Sailing Secretary, the protest will be heard in his absence.
- 13.4 The hearing shall be conducted by not less than three members appointed by the Sailing Committee.

14. **SHORELINE PROHIBITED AREA**

- 14.1 No boat shall sail:
- within 50 metres of the Gosport shoreline or
  - to the landward side of the line parallel to the shoreline which joins any yellow Prohibited Area buoys (including the yellow buoy off the GAFIRS slipway) or its extensions (whether more or less than 50 metres from the shoreline)

except:

- if a boat is capsized or disabled or requires attention ashore or is helping those in danger
- if a boat is sailing to or from the slipway area off the Club

- 14.2 The prohibited area is an obstruction for the purpose of RRS Rule 18 and 19.
- 14.3 The Race Officer will monitor the prohibited area and will disqualify any boat seen infringing this Instruction without a hearing (although any boat disqualified may seek redress under rule 60.1).
- 14.4 The Race Officer may direct a patrol boat to monitor the 50m rule if he deems it necessary
- 14.5 A boat infringing the prohibited area may also be liable to other penalties under RRS Rule 69 -Gross Misconduct).
- 14.6 This is a variation to the Racing Rules of Sailing as the Race Officer does not have to raise a protest against a boat seen infringing this rule, in order to disqualify them from the results of that race.

15. **SAFETY**

- 15.1 All competitors start or continue to race at their own risk. (Note RRS Fundamental Rule 4).
- 15.2 Personal Buoyancy shall be worn at all times. Wet suits and dry suits are not considered to be acceptable personal buoyancy for the purpose of this Instruction. This Changes RRS Rule 1.2, 40 and IC Flag 'Y' in the race signals.
- 15.3 Attention is drawn to RRS Fundamental Rule 1 'Helping Those in Danger'. In the absence of a nearby Patrol Boat, any boat in a race is to stand by a boat which has capsized or is disabled unless it is clear that no assistance is required. Redress maybe requested. (RRS Rule 62.1)
- 15.4 Competitors who, for reasons beyond their control, come ashore at places other than the Club, shall radio (call sign Stokes Bay Bridge) or telephone (023 9250 2093) the Club to notify their whereabouts whenever possible. This will prevent unnecessary air-sea rescue and anxiety.

16. **CHANGES TO THESE SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

The Race Officer may vary or add to these Instructions by setting out the terms in writing on or near the course board and hoisting IC Flag 'L' at least 10 minutes before the start of any race affected. The Race Officer may not change SIs 1, 2, 3, 9, 11 and 13.

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