



SEAFARERS SAILING CLUB

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS (SIs) - 2026

A copy of these instructions will be displayed on the Club website and in the clubhouse.

The notation '[DP]' in a rule of the sailing instructions (SIs) means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1(a).

1 RULES

- 1.1 The event is governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing*.
- 1.2 RRS 40.1 applies.

2 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1 Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted before 0900 on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 2000 on the day before it will take effect.
- 2.2 Changes to a sailing instruction may be made on the water by the Patrol Boat informing all competitors.

3 COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

- 3.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located at the Club in the wet room or on a notice board outside.
- 3.2 The race office is located at the Club (usually the race tower)
- 3.3 From the first warning signal until the end of the last race of the day, except in an emergency, a boat shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats.

4 CODE OF CONDUCT

- 4.1 [DP] Competitors and support persons shall comply with reasonable requests from race officials.
- 4.2 [DP] Competitors and support persons shall handle any equipment provided by the organizing authority with care, seamanship, in accordance with any instructions for its use and without interfering with its functionality.

5 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 5.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed on the club roof or beach as appropriate.
- 5.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore more than 30 minutes prior to the scheduled race start, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 15 minutes' in Race Signals AP.
- 5.3 [DP] Flag W with one sound means 'Boats are requested not to leave the shore until this signal is removed. The warning signal will not be made before the scheduled time.'

6 SCHEDULE OF RACES

- 6.1 Races for the season are as promulgated in the Club's sailing programme.
- 6.2 The scheduled nominal start time for the first race each day is in the promulgated programme available via the website. In accordance with 12.1 below, the warning signal will be 5 minutes before the starting signal.



7 CLASS FLAGS

- 7.1 Class “flags” or signals are displayed on the painted boards adjacent to the Signal Tower or Committee boat. Visual signals (including flags) may also be used whether from the club mast or handheld on the beach or committee boat.

Flag O



Fast Handicap

Flag D



Slow Handicap

8 RACING AREA

- 8.1 The racing area is defined by a 1.5nm radius from the Club's slipway.

9 COURSES

- 9.1 The diagrams in the Tower and in the Wet room show the example course(s) and the specific course for each race will be displayed on a notice board in the Club's wet room or as otherwise advised on the day.
- 9.2 Shortening course. When conditions change markedly and unexpectedly, the RO may shorten the course even though one or more boats have started another lap. The recorded time may be that taken on the last lap completed by all finishing boats

10 MARKS

- 10.1 Mark(s) are inflatable orange, yellow or other specified colours. The ODM is a small inflatable buoy. On occasion the permanent yellow racing marks or marks defining a restricted speed area may be used.

11 OBSTRUCTIONS

- 11.1 The following objects are designated as obstructions: the beach and the 2 outfalls marked by a post with a green X located approximately 0.2nm either side of the Club.

12 THE START

- 12.1 Races will be started using RRS 26 with the warning signal made 5 minutes before the starting signal.
- 12.2 The start line is a transit from the white triangle on the signal tower mast and the orange arrow on the fence, extending outward as far as the Outer Distance Mark (ODM). All competing boats shall cross the line on the club side of the ODM.
- Other means of starting e.g. Committee Vessel or Gate starts may be employed, at the discretion of the RO. In that case the revised start line will be as set out on the Course Race board in the wet room or otherwise notified to competitors.
- 12.3 Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area during the starting sequence for other races.
- 12.4 A boat that does not start within 5 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.1 and A5.2.



13 **CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE**

- 13.1 To change the next leg of the course, the race committee will move the original mark or the finishing line to a new position. Movement within 100m of original position does not need to be communicated to competitors.
- 13.2 Any significant changes needs to be done before the leading boat rounds the previous mark or line.

14 **THE FINISH**

- 14.1 The finish line lies between the signal tower mast and the ODM / Line Buoy. Finishing boats shall cross the finishing line on the shore side of the ODM / Line Buoy from the direction of the last mark of the course. Other means of finishing eg Committee Vessel finish line may be used at the discretion of the RO and the revised finish line will be as set out on the Course Race Board in the wet room or otherwise notified to competitors.
- 14.2 In a congested finish, it is helpful if a competitor notes their position in relation to nearby boats. The race committee may request this to help confirm results. This is not a requirement under the rules.
- 14.3 A competitor finishes when:
 - (i) In the case of an Elapsed Time Race:
 - a. He crosses the finish line having completed the specified course, or ..
 - b. He crosses the line having completed the same course as the lead boat after Flag S has been hoisted.
 - (ii) In the case of an Average Lap Time Race, he completes the lap he is on and crosses the finish line after Flag S has been hoisted.

15 **PENALTY SYSTEM**

- 15.1 No change.

16 **TIME LIMITS AND TARGET TIMES**

- 16.1 The standard target race time is for a boat in the middle of the fleet to finish sailing in 75 minutes. It may be varied at the discretion of the RO depending on the type of race, weather conditions and other circumstances. The Race Time limit is 2 hours and the Finishing Window 30 minutes.
- 16.2 The Finishing Window is the time for boats to finish after the first boat sails the course and finishes. Boats failing to finish within the Finishing Window, and not subsequently retiring, penalized, or given redress, will be scored Time Limit Expired (TLE) without a hearing. A boat scored TLE shall be scored points for the finishing place one more than the points scored by the last boat that finished within the Finishing Window. This changes RRS 35, A5.1, A5.2 and A10.
- 16.3 Failure to meet the Target Time will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 62.1(a).

17 **HEARING REQUESTS**

- 17.1 The protest time limit is 30 minutes after the last boat in that class finishes the last race of the day or the race committee signals no more racing today, whichever is later.

Where possible we will follow the RYA guidance for Rules disputes if no boat takes a penalty at the time. We offer a choice of:

1. An advisory hearing or
2. RYA Arbitration or
3. A Protest Hearing.



More information is available at the RYA website and can be provided on request. A copy of the guidance poster is at Appendix C Section 6. The protest form is at Appendix B Section 6. The aim is to encourage everyone to follow the Racing Rules of Sailing. More guidance is available on the RYA website or from the Racing Secretary, the Vice Commodore, or the Commodore.

- 17.2 Hearing request forms are available from the wet room at the Club.
- 17.3 Notices will be posted no later than 30 minutes after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Hearings will be held in the protest room, located at the Club, beginning at the time posted.
- 17.4 RRS 62.2(a) and 66.2(a) do not apply.
- 17.5 The right of appeal from a protest committee decision is denied as provided in rule 70.5[(a)][(b)][(c)].

18 SCORING

- 18.1 RRS A5.3 applies for all Series races as promulgated in the sailing programme. It is changed to reflect that a boat disqualified is scored two more than the number of boats that came to the starting area.
- 18.2 RRS A5.3 does not apply to one off competitions, regattas or cups as highlighted in the sailing programme.
- 18.3 Results for all races will be calculated using Portsmouth Yardstick (PY) numbers as promulgated by the RYA. For classes where no PY is published by the RYA, a PY will be allocated by the Racing Secretary.
- 18.4 For a promulgated series, one race will constitute a series.
- 18.5 In all Series races points will be attributed to Competitors, including crew, rather than boats, based on their individual result in each race of the series.
- 18.6 For elapsed time racing, boats failing to finish within 30 minutes after the first boat to sail the course and finish in that fleet will be scored TLE without a hearing. This replaces Rules 35 A4 and A5.
- 18.7 Duties. Competitors attending club sailing duties, including formally promulgated club RYA courses/training endorsed by CI (Sailing), shall be awarded, for the race missed, the average of the points gained by that Competitor in all other races in that series after any discard has been applied.
- 18.8 Qualification
 - a) To qualify for a "Main Series" prize a boat must have qualified in the Spring, Summer, and Autumn Series.
 - b) To qualify for a "Evening Series" prize a boat must have qualified in the Evening A, Evening B, and Evening C Series.
 - c) The Back-to-Back series will consist of a number of events each being 2 short back to back races. The score for competitors at each event will be the average over the 2 races. If 3 or more boats are signed on the race is valid even if subsequently competitors do not complete both races. For example if 4 boats sign on to compete in race 1 of the event but subsequently only 2 boats compete in race 2 of the event the boats that did not compete will be awarded 5 points each for the second race and their event score calculated accordingly.
 - d) The Back-to-Back Series, Handicap Series, Ladies Series (sailed as part of the Handicap fleet), Evening A, Evening B and Evening C Series, Sunset Series, and Novices / Cadets Series will each be sailed as one fleet; results will be usually calculated on the basis of average lap times.
 - e) The Spring, Summer and Autumn Series will each be sailed as two fleets - Fast and Slow. Results for these races will usually be calculated on the basis of elapsed times although ROs may elect to run individual races as Average Lap Time races.
 - f) The Combined and Asymmetric Series will be sailed as two fleets with the Combined series being sailed as average Lap and the Asymmetric series as elapsed time but at the discretion of the RO either one start or two starts will be employed and either or both courses can be shortened using the



Fast fleet flag for the Asymmetric fleet and the Slow fleet flag for the Combined fleet.

- g) For the Frostbite Series, the OOD will decide the appropriate format on the day.
- h) Guidance can be found in the 'Types of Race' section in the RO Duty Crew Guide section of the SSC Standard Operating Procedures. There is full guidance on the scoring of the Back-to-Back series in the RO section of the duty crew guide.

- 18.9 Provisional race results will be promulgated as soon as practicable after racing and usually within 72 hours. Provisional series results will be promulgated as soon as practicable after the series is complete. The results of the Main Series will be promulgated as part of the annual prize giving.
- 18.10 To constitute a race 1 boat or more for their fleet must start. A total of 3 boats must elect to sail in any 'session / event' for the race to be run. This means that if 2 boats entered in a slow fleet race and 1 boat in a fast fleet race all decide to race, then it will be run, provided it is deemed safe to do so, and the results for those boats will count. If only 2 boats enter / approach the start area, then the race will not be run. This is designed to protect the volunteers from running a race for 1 or 2 boats.
- 18.11 RRS A2.1 is changed in accordance with NOR 15.2.

19 SAFETY REGULATIONS

- 19.1 To enter the boat in the race, the Competitor must sign the Entry Form for that race. When signing, the Competitor agrees to be bound by the World Sailing 'Racing Rules of Sailing' and by all other rules that govern that event. When signing the Race Entry Form the Competitor accepts that they and, if applicable, their Crew have read the 'Notice of Race 2026' which is Appendix A to these Sailing Instructions. Failure to sign in will result in a DNC result and no timings will be taken for the race.
- 19.2 [DP] On completion of a race the Competitor must again sign the Entry Form, indicating whether he/she completed the course, retired, or is making a protest. Signing 'in' after a race must be completed no later than 20 minutes after the patrol boat has been returned to the compound. Failure to sign in within the time scale will result in disqualification.
- 19.3 [DP] A suitable Personal Flotation Device (i.e. buoyancy aid) shall be worn by all participants, except briefly while changing or adjusting clothing or personal equipment. Rule 40, which requires Flag 'Y' to be flown if Personal Flotation Devices are to be worn, shall not apply. Buoyancy aids that are self-inflating or require inflation by the wearer are not acceptable. Failure to wear a buoyancy aid when racing as described above will result in the award of DSQ.
- 19.4 [DP] A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee promptly after returning to shore. The boat shall annotate the race entry sheet accordingly.

20 REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT N/A

21 EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

- 21.1 A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with club rules, notice of race and sailing instructions.

22 SUPPLIED BOATS

- 22.1 Boats will be supplied for all competitors, who shall not modify them or cause them to be modified in any way except that:
 - (a) a compass may be tied or taped to the hull or spars
 - (b) wind indicators, including yarn or thread, may be tied or taped anywhere on the boat
 - (c) hulls, centreboards and rudders may be cleaned, but only with water
 - (d) adhesive tape may be used anywhere above the water line; and
 - (e) all fittings or equipment designed to be adjusted may be adjusted, provided that the class rules are complied with.
- 22.2 All equipment supplied with the boat for sailing purposes shall be in the boat while afloat.



- 22.3 The penalty for not complying with one of the above instructions is disqualification from all races sailed in which the instruction was broken.
- 22.4 Competitors shall report any damage or loss of equipment, however slight, to the organizing authority's representative immediately after securing the boat ashore. The penalty for breaking this instruction, unless the protest committee is satisfied that the competitor made a determined effort to comply, is disqualification from the race most recently sailed.
- 22.5 Class rules requiring competitors to be members of the class association do not apply.
- 22.6 [DP] It is Club policy that club-owned boats must carry masthead flotation bags whenever they are used. Any club boat not carrying masthead flotation when racing will be disqualified from the race.
- 23 **OFFICIAL VESSELS**
- 23.1 Official vessels will be identified as follows: Club Patrol Boats and other vessels described prior to race start.
- 24 **[DP] SUPPORT TEAMS**
- 24.1 Team leaders, coaches and other support persons shall stay outside areas where boats are racing from the time of the preparatory signal for the first start until all boats have finished or retired or the race committee signals a postponement, general recall, or abandonment.
- 25 **TRASH DISPOSAL**
- 25.1 Trash may not be disposed afloat.
- 26 **BERTHING** N/A
- 27 **HAUL-OUT RESTRICTIONS** N/A
- 28 **DIVING EQUIPMENT AND PLASTIC POOLS** N/A
- 29 **PRIZES**
- 29.1 Prizes will be awarded in line with NoR.
- 30 **RISK STATEMENT**
- 30.1 RRS 3 states: 'The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue to race is hers alone.' By participating in this event each competitor agrees and acknowledges that sailing is a potentially dangerous activity with inherent risks. These risks include strong winds and rough seas, sudden changes in weather, failure of equipment, boat handling errors, poor seamanship by other boats, loss of balance on an unstable platform, and fatigue resulting in increased risk of injury. **Inherent in the sport of sailing is the risk of permanent, catastrophic injury or death by drowning, trauma, hypothermia, or other causes.**
- 31 **INSURANCE**
- 31.1 Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £3,000,000 per incident or the equivalent.



SEAFARERS SAILING CLUB SI 2026 - ADDENDUM A
ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE FOR COMPETITORS

- A1. To enter the Asymmetric series a boat must, in compliance with the rules for its class, be intended to be equipped with an asymmetric spinnaker whether or not the spinnaker is actually rigged or deployed. Boats that are not intended to be equipped with an asymmetric spinnaker will not qualify for this series.
- A2. Pursuit races will be run for 60 or 90 minutes. The completion of a Pursuit race will be signalled by hoisting Flag S. A boat's finishing position will be the one she occupies at the time Flag S is hoisted.
- A3. Novices are defined as those competitors who are inexperienced at dinghy racing. The status of Novice is at the discretion of the committee. Novices and Cadets are required to identify their boats by using the red and white striped tape provided tied to the end of their boom.
- A4. Ladies and Handicap series races are sailed within the same session as the Novices and Cadets series races. Ladies and Handicap sailors **MUST** be aware of Novices and Cadets on the water and give them sufficient room. The rules of the road and racing rules are in force but if in doubt experienced sailors should tack or manoeuvre away.



**Appendix A to
Seafarers Sailing Club
Sailing Instructions 2026**

**Seafarers Sailing Club
Notice of Race (NoR) – 2026**

*The notation '[DP]' in a rule means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule.
This changes RRS 60.1(a).*

1 RULES

- 1.1 The event is governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing*.
- 1.2 [DP] The Club SOPs, available from the Club's website and QHM Portsmouth's Local Notice to Mariners apply.

2 SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1 The 2026 Sailing Instructions will be available via the Club's website prior to the first race of the season.

3 COMMUNICATION

- 3.1 The official noticeboard is in the club's wet room.
- 3.2 Boats are not required to carry a VHF radio.
- 3.3 On the water, the race committee will use channel P4 or its variants as their working channel and will monitor this along with Ch 16.
- 3.4 [DP] From the first warning signal until the end of the last race of the day, except in an emergency, a boat shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats.

4 ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

- 4.1 The event is open to all boats owned by members of Seafarers Sailing Club, and with the agreement of the Commodore, Vice Commodore or Racing Secretary on an occasional basis and usually for specific events, their guests.
- 4.2 The event is open to all boats with valid handicap.
- 4.3 The Portsmouth Yardstick handicap system applies to boats racing at the Club.
- 4.4 Classes are defined as follows:

Fast	Portsmouth Yardstick Number	1138 and below
Slow	Portsmouth Yardstick Number	1139 and above

- 4.5 (DP) Eligible boats must enter by personally completing the 'signing in' sheet available in the wetroom prior to proceeding afloat and the start of the race.
- 4.6 To be considered an entry in the event, a boat shall complete all registration requirements and pay all fees.



- 5 **FEES** N/A
- 6 **CREW LIMITATIONS**
- 6.1 Crew should be club members unless otherwise authorised.
- 7 **ADVERTISING**
- 7.1 Boats may be required to display advertising chosen and supplied by the organizing authority.
- 7.2 The organizing authority may provide bibs that competitors are required to wear as permitted by the World Sailing Advertising Code.
- 8 **QUALIFYING SERIES AND FINAL SERIES**
- 8.1 The event may consist of a qualifying series and a final series.
- 9 **SCHEDULE**
- 9.1 Registration: To take place on the day of event and prior to the warning signal.
- 9.2 Dates of racing: In accordance with the Seafarers Sailing Club annual programme.
- 9.3 Number of races: In accordance with the Seafarers Sailing Club annual programme.
- 9.4 The scheduled time of the warning signal for the first race each day is: In accordance with the Seafarers Sailing Club annual programme.
- 10 **EQUIPMENT INSPECTION**
- 10.1 [DP] Boats shall also comply with RRS 78.1 when racing. Class specific fittings and sails need not be used, although boats should comply with the 'spirit' of the class. Where there is doubt, the Vice Commodore should be consulted prior to the start of the race. Where a boat looks to gain a notable advantage by not complying with the class rules, the Vice Commodore may form a sub-committee to ascertain whether an entry will be permitted in future races.
- 11 **CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT**
- 11.1 A Buoyancy aid shall be worn at all times when afloat for a club organised event. It may be removed for a short period to adjust clothing.
- 12 **VENUE**
- 12.1 NoR Addendum 1 shows the plan of the event venue.
- 12.2 NoR Addendum 1 shows the location of the racing areas.
- 13 **COURSES**
- 13.1 The Course/s will be displayed on the notice or chalk board on the day of the race.
- 13.2 The marks that may be used are as follows: Coloured inflatable marks and yellow special racing marks.
- 14 **PENALTY SYSTEM** N/A
- 15 **SCORING**
- 15.1 Detailed in the Club's SOPs, SIs and as otherwise advertised for members.



15.2 RRS A2.1 is changed as follows:

:

- 10 or more races sailed – 7 to count
- 9 races sailed – 6 to count
- 8 races sailed – 6 to count
- 7 races sailed – 5 to count
- 6 races sailed – 4 to count
- 5 races sailed – 4 to count
- 4 races sailed – 3 to count
- If three races or fewer are sailed, they will all count

16 **SUPPORT PERSON VESSELS** N/A

17 **CHARTERED OR LOANED BOATS**

17.1 A chartered or loaned boat may carry national letters or a sail number in contravention of her class rules, provided that the race committee has approved her sail identification before the first race.

18 **BERTHING**

18.1 [DP] Boats shall be kept in their assigned places while in the boat park, although rigging / de-rigging may take place in a clear area.

19 **HAUL-OUT RESTRICTIONS** N/A

20 **DIVING EQUIPMENT AND PLASTIC POOLS** N/A

21 **DATA PROTECTION**

21.1 See the Club SOPs.

22 **RISK STATEMENT**

22.1 RRS 3 states: 'The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue to race is hers alone.' By participating in this event each competitor agrees and acknowledges that sailing is a potentially dangerous activity with inherent risks. These risks include strong winds and rough seas, sudden changes in weather, failure of equipment, boat handling errors, poor seamanship by other boats, loss of balance on an unstable platform and fatigue resulting in increased risk of injury. Inherent in the sport of sailing is the risk of permanent, catastrophic injury or death by drowning, trauma, hypothermia or other causes.

By signing in for a race the Competitor confirms that he/she has read this notice and takes full responsibility for his/her boat including its crew and also confirms that he/she has appropriate insurance including a minimum £3,000,000 third party liability. (Hereafter, a 'boat' is taken to mean the Competitor and, if appropriate, the crew.)

A boat is entirely responsible for its own safety, whether afloat or ashore, and nothing, whether in this 'Notice of Race' or the 'Sailing Instructions' or anywhere else, reduces this responsibility. It is for the boat to decide whether it is fit to sail in the conditions in which it will find itself. By launching or going to sea, the boat confirms that it is fit for those conditions and that its crew is competent to sail and compete in them.

Nothing done by the organisers can reduce the responsibility of the boat nor will it make the organisers responsible for any loss, damage, death, or personal injury, however it may have occurred, as a result of the boat taking part in the racing. The organisers encompass everyone helping to run the



race and the event, and include the organising authority, the race committee, the race officer, the patrol craft crew and the beach masters.

The provision of Patrol craft does not relieve the boat of its responsibilities.

All instances of outside assistance under Rule 41(a – d) should be reported to the OOD, preferably by the competitor. However, the boat may not be protested and penalised unless they have gained a significant advantage and any penalty may be less than disqualification.

23 INSURANCE

- 23.1 Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £3,000,000 per incident or the equivalent.

24 PRIZES

- 24.1 Prizes will be given as promulgated by the Club's Committee.

- 24.2 Trophies and prizes will be presented as follow:

To the first place only for series or single race with not less than 4 competitors

To the first and second places for series or single race with not less than 8

To the first, second and third places to the series or single race with more than 8 competitors

For the Main series and the Evening series, each series result for every competitor will be considered as an individual race. The competitor with the lowest score will win the series; in case of a draw the competitor with the most wins in each series will win; in case of a tie it shall be calculated by using the most second places in the main series and so on, until all ties are broken. In case of a tie in a series position, the competitor with the best result to the last race of the last series will win.

25 FURTHER INFORMATION

- 25.1 For further information please contact the Vice Commodore



ADDENDUM 1 TO SEAFARERS SAILING CLUB NOR – 2026

Seafarers Sailing Club Clubhouse, Location and Sailing Area

