



ROYAL SOUTHERN
— YACHT CLUB —



Sailing Instructions

Inter-Service Match Racing Championships

3rd – 4th September 2026

1. RULES

- 1.1. The event will be governed by the rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) including RRS Appendix C.
- 1.2. The Boat Handling Rules in Attachment B will apply.
- 1.3. When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 30 minutes' in Race Signals AP.
- 1.4. Within a flight, when a visual signal is displayed over a numeral pennant, the signal applies to that match only. This changes Race Signals.
- 1.5. RRS 40.1 (Personal Floatation Devices) applies at all times whilst sailing or transferring between boats, except whilst on an anchored Hotel Vessel.
- 1.6. RRS 32 is deleted and replaced with: 'After the starting signal, the RC may abandon or shorten any match for any reason, after consulting with the match umpires when practical.'

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. Flag L over the numeral pennant of the most recent amendment will be displayed ashore on the day it will take effect until the boats have departed for the race course.

3. COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

- 3.1. Notices to competitors will be posted on the [official ONLINE notice board](#).
- 3.2. Signals made ashore will be displayed from the flagpole outside the clubhouse.
- 3.3. Skippers shall attend the first briefing, which will be at 0900 on the Friday morning of the event, unless excused by the OA. [NP]
- 3.4. Messages to competitors from the Race Committee and Organising Authority will be sent via the Competitors' WhatsApp group. The WhatsApp group may be joined using this link:
<https://chat.whatsapp.com/DD3HPjINcs5CpvxDsalS8P>

4. BOATS AND SAILS

- 4.1. Sails shall be reefed if instructed to do so by the Race Committee.
- 4.2. The sail combination to be used will be displayed on the signal vessel, with or before the warning signal. The signals will have the following meanings.

Signal	Meaning
	All sails may be used
NN 3	Spinnakers shall not be used.

- 4.3. After the starting signal and at a windward mark, the Race Committee may signal a change to the use, or otherwise of spinnakers by displaying either of the following signals.

Signal	Meaning
NN 9 with repetitive sounds	Spinnakers may be used in the remainder of the race
NN 3 with repetitive sounds	Spinnakers shall not be used in the remainder of the race

5. FLIGHTS AND MATCHES

- 5.1. The match pairing list will be provided at registration.
- 5.2. The next flight number will be displayed on the Committee Vessel.
- 5.3. The Race Committee may change the order of matches within a flight at its discretion. This will be communicated verbally to competitors.

6. RACING AREA

- 6.1. The racing area will be Central Solent or Southampton Water.

7. COURSES

7.1. The course will be as described in Attachment A.

8. MARKS / STARTING AND FINISHING LINE

8.1. Marks 1 and 2 will be black inflatable buoys.

8.2. When looking up the course, the starting and finishing line is between a staff displaying an orange flag on the Committee Vessel at the starboard end, and the course side of an orange inflatable mark at the port end.

9. OBSTRUCTIONS

9.1. The following line is designated as an obstruction. A breach of this SI is not open to protest by boats but is subject to action by umpires in accordance with RRS C8.2. This changes RRS C6.2 and C8.2.

9.1.1. A buoy may be attached to the Committee Vessel anchor line at just below keel depth. Boats shall not pass between this buoy and the CV at any time. This area is designated as an obstruction. As part of the anchor line, this buoy is not part of the starting mark.

10. BREAKDOWN AND TIME FOR REPAIR

10.1. Before the attention signal of a flight or within two minutes of finishing or changing into a new boat, whichever is later, a boat may display flag L to signal breakdown or damage to the boat, her sails or injury to her crew and request a delay to the next start. She shall proceed as soon as possible to a position just to leeward of the Committee Vessel and remain there, unless otherwise directed.

10.2. The time allowed for repairs will be at the discretion of the Race Committee.

10.3. After the attention signal of a flight, a match will not be postponed or abandoned due to breakdown unless the breakdown signal was displayed as required by SI 10.1.

10.4. Except when RRS 61.4 (b) (2) or (3) applies, failure to effect repairs in the time allowed, or breakdowns after the attention signal shall not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 61.

11. TIME LIMIT

11.1. A boat that does not Finish within 5 minutes after her opponent has Sailed the Course will be scored zero points. This changes RRS 35.

12. RISK STATEMENT

12.1. See NoR 14.

Sailing Instructions – Attachment A

Course

The course to sail is as follows:

Signal	Rounding Order
L2	Start – WW – LW – WW – Finish
L3	Start – WW – LW – WW – LW – WW - Finish

Note: All marks to be left to STARBOARD



Sailing Instructions – Attachment B

Boat Handling Rules

B1. Actions Prohibited at All Times

Except in an emergency or in order to prevent damage or injury, or when directed by an umpire otherwise, the following are prohibited:

- B1.1. Any additions, omissions or alterations to the equipment supplied. In particular the cutting or shortening of any sheets, control lines or other running rigging.
- B1.2. The use of any equipment for a purpose other than that intended or specifically permitted.
- B1.3. The replacement of any equipment without the sanction of the Race Committee.
- B1.4. Sailing the boat in a manner that it is reasonable to predict would cause significant damage.
- B1.5. Moving equipment from its normal stowage position except when being used.
- B1.6. Boarding a boat without prior permission.
- B1.7. Taking a boat from its berth or mooring without having permission from the Race Committee.
- B1.8. Hauling out a boat or cleaning surfaces below the waterline.
- B1.9. Attaching lines to the fabric of spinnakers.
- B1.10. Perforating sails, even to attach tell tales.
- B1.11. Radio transmission (including mobile telephones), except to report damage or in response to a request from the RC.
- B1.12. Adjusting or altering the tension of standing rigging, excluding the backstay.
- B1.13. The use of electronic instruments other than compass and watches.
- B1.14. Marking directly on the hull or deck with permanent ink.
- B1.15. Passing head to wind with the head of the spinnaker above the gooseneck
- B1.16. The use of the shrouds (including any inner shrouds) above the lower bottle screw (turnbuckle) to facilitate tacking, gybing or steering.
- B1.17. Having the bowsprit extended, except when in the process of setting, flying or taking down the spinnaker. The bowsprit shall be fully retracted at the first reasonable opportunity after taking down the spinnaker. A boat that does not retract the bowsprit fully may be warned and given an opportunity to correct the error.
- B1.18. Extending the bowsprit before getting on the new leg of the course, after entering the zone of a rounding mark without a spinnaker set.

A breach of SI B1.15, B1.16, B1.17, B1.18 is subject to action by Umpires in accordance with RRS C8.2. This changes RRS C6.2 and C8.2.

B2. Permitted Actions

Notwithstanding SI B1, the following tools and equipment may be taken on board:

- B2.1. Basic hand tools consisting of knife, pliers and screwdrivers but excluding hammers and saws.
- B2.2. Adhesive tape.
- B2.3. Line (elastic or otherwise of 4mm diameter or less).
- B2.4. Tell tale material.
- B2.5. Notebook.
- B2.6. Watch, timers and handheld compass.
- B2.7. Shackles and clevis pins.
- B2.8. Velcro tape.