Rutland Sailing Club Ltd

Club Sailing Instructions

Revised May 2012

1.	**RULES**
1.1	Club racing will be governed by *The Racing Rules of Sailing*, the rules and bylaws of Rutland Sailing Club Ltd (RSC), the requirements of the Anglian Water Authority, these Sailing Instructions and the rules of the relevant Classes (except as changed by these Sailing Instructions).
1.2	In the event of a conflict between class rules and these Sailing Instructions, these Sailing Instructions will prevail.
1.3	Identification on Sails Boats must display their number in accordance with Class Rules. In exceptional circumstances the Sailing Committee will accept written applications to use another distinguishing number on a sail
2	**ELIGIBILITY& ENTRY**
2.1	Competitors, Helmspersons and their boats must be registered as members of Rutland Sailing Club before being eligible to sail or race.
2.2	Each competitor must sign the appropriate race sheet, entering their name, class of boat and sail number, before racing.
2.3	All Cruisers shall, while racing, fly a yellow flag not less than six inches (150 mm) from a conspicuous point on the stern.
3.	**NOTICES TO COMPETITORS**
3.1	Notices to competitors will be posted on the official racing notice board located in the Wet Bar.
4.	**CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**
4.1	All proposed permanent changes to these Sailing Instructions, must be submitted to the Sailing Committee for approval in writing before the changes may be affected permanently. Any permanent change, approved by the Sailing Committee, shall be displayed on the official notice board for 14 days before taking effect.
4.2	Any temporary changes to the Sailing Instructions will be posted at least one hour before the advertised starting time of the race or races concerned and Flag L shall be flown.
5	**SIGNALS MADE ASHORE**
5.1	Signals made ashore will be displayed on the flagpole on the balcony of the clubhouse.
5.2	When flag AP (postponement) is signalled ashore (with 2 sound signals), the first warning signal will be made not less than 30 minutes after flag AP is removed (with 1 sound signal). This changes race signal AP.
6	**SCHEDULE OF RACES**
6.1	Races and start times are published in the Annual Club Sailing Programme and may not be changed without approval of the Sailing Committee.
6.2	On Sundays, the Race Officer will be available at 09:30 in the wet bar for a brief discussion with competitors.
7	**FLEET FLAGS**
7.1	For the purposes of these sailing instructions, the term 'Fleet' will apply to boats that start at the same time. Each fleet shall have a single Fleet Flag, which is displayed as the Warning Signal and removed as the Starting Signal. A fleet may consist totally of one class e.g. Squib or a group of multiple classes e.g. Asymmetrics. Reference to a class will apply to all boats of the same class, whether sailing in their own fleet or as part of a General Handicap or Pursuit race.
7.2	Fleet flags will be: Naval Numeral 9 — Cruisers Naval Numeral 9 — Squibs (when class racing) Red Flag — Catamarans Green Flag — Fast Handicap (dinghies with a Rutland adjusted PY less than or equal to 960) Laser flag — Lasers Yellow Flag — Slow Handicap (dinghies with a Rutland adjusted PY greater than 960)
8	**RACING AREAS**
8.1	The racing/starting area may be indicated by the Race Officer on the signing on sheet.
9	**THE COURSES**
9.1	No later than the warning signal, the course to be sailed will be displayed from the course board on the back of the committee boat, or, if the start is to be from the Race Box, from the north facing clubhouse wall. A mark which is

	displayed with a red background will be passed to port, and a mark which is displayed with a green background will be passed to starboard.
9.2	The number of laps (rounds) to be sailed will be displayed along with the course.
9.3	Legs of the course will not be changed after the preparatory signal. This changes rule 33.
9.4	For club racing (unless the course board explicitly states otherwise) the Catamarans and Fast Handicap fleets sailing a windward /leeward course **must** treat the gate, and thus the Committee Boat, as a mark of the course to be left to starboard on the downwind leg of the course. This is a permanent mark of the course whether shown on the course board or not.
10	**MARKS**
10.1	The course marks will be club fixed marks, as shown on the club racing map chart and/or moveable buoys, as indicated from the course board.
11	**AREAS THAT ARE OBSTRUCTIONS**
11.1	The following are designated as obstructions; competitors shall give reasonable clearance, especially when craft are moving or drifting
a)	'RUTLAND BELLE';
b)	Anchored and drifting fishing boats
c)	Moored boats in the East and West Creeks
d)	The area at the western ends of the north and south arms, as marked by a line of buoys.
12	**THE START**
12.1	**General**
a)	Races shall be started with a Warning signal at 6 minutes before the start and a Preparatory signal at 3 minutes. This changes rule 26.
b)	Succeeding fleets will be started at three-minute intervals with their warning signal being displayed with the preparatory signal of the preceding fleet. This is illustrated below:

Signal	*Flag*	*Sound*	*Minutes after first warning*
Warning	Fleet flag(s) for next start displayed	1 sound	0
Preparatory Warning	P, I, Z, Z with I, or black flag displayed (The preparatory flag is removed when the last fleet starts.) Fleet flag(s) displayed for next start	1 sound	3
Starting Warning	Fleet flag(s) removed for those starting Fleet flag(s) displayed for next start	1 sound	6
Starting Warning	Fleet flag(s) removed for those starting Fleet flag(s) displayed for next start	1 sound	9
Starting Warning	Fleet flag(s) removed for those starting Fleet flag(s) displayed for next start	1 sound	12
etc.			

c)	Fleets will normally start in the following sequence, with the fleet flags shown in brackets: Cruisers and Keelboats (NN9) Catamarans (red) Fast handicap (green) Lasers(Laser insignia flag) Slow handicap (yellow)
d)	The preparatory flag shall remain displayed until the last fleet.
e)	Boats whose preparatory signal has not been made shall keep clear of the starting area. Any craft failing to keep clear may be disqualified from their subsequent race by the race committee without a hearing.
12.2	**Committee Boat Starts**
a)	The start line will be between the mast displaying an orange flag on the committee boat at the starboard end and a pin end mark flying an orange flag.
b)	Fleets will normally start in the following sequence, with the fleet flags shown in brackets:

Sundays	Thursdays
Cruisers (NN9) Cruisers and Keelboats	**Cruisers and Keelboats (**Naval numeral 9**)**
Windward Leeward (red) PY 960 or less	**Catamarans** (Red)
Includes : Catamarans, Musto Skiffs and	**Fast Handicap** inc Musto Skiffs (Green)
and Fast Handicap	**Lasers** (Laser flag)
Varied course (yellow)	**Slow Handicap** (yellow)
Includes Lasers and slow handicap	

c)	The race officer may choose to combine starts of any two or more fleets. In this case, the combined fleets warning signals will be displayed at the same time. Any subsequent starts will continue at 3 minute intervals.
d)	In the event of a general recall, rule 29.2 is amended as follows: ➢ The 3 minute sequence will be maintained. 1st Substitute will be removed 1 minute after the start and the recalled fleet will go to the end of the start sequence ➢ If the last start is subject to a general recall, the 3 minute sequence will continue, but at the next 3 minute signal the 1st Substitute will be removed and the fleet warning flag and preparatory flag displayed. These will be removed 3 minutes later, which will be the start of the recalled fleet.
12.3	***Race Box Starts***
a)	*The club line is a transit line between the two yellow posts on shore, identified with yellow triangles and positioned in front of the Cruiser Fleet Race Hut.*
b)	*The inner limit of the line is a blue buoy marked 'IDM'. The centre limit of line is a blue buoy with a black band marked 'CS' The outer limit is a blue buoy with a yellow and red bank marked 'ODM' . A board will be displayed to indicate the section of starting line to be used, eg. yellow and red over black (ODM-CS) or black over blue (CS-IDM).*
c)	*The start procedure will be by the use of orange lights, in accordance with ISAF Racing Rule 26. A sound signal will normally be made when any light signal is made. The yellow flag, blue flag and red flag will be replaced with orange lights.*
d)	*<u>Race Box Lights</u>* *Warning Signal - (5 mins to start) - one orange light is on illuminated.* *Preparatory Signal - (4 mins to start) - 2nd orange light is illuminated.* *One minute Signal - All 3 orange lights are illuminated.* *Start Signal - All 3 orange lights are switched off.*
e)	*In the event of an individual recall the middle light will remain illuminated with one sound signal. The light will be extinguished when all boats have started correctly. Yachts not starting correctly will be penalised by the addition of 5% to their corrected time. It is the responsibility of all yachts to ensure they themselves have started correctly. No method of communication to individual yachts indicating their non compliance is to be made except by switching off the middle light when all yachts have started correctly. This changes rule 29.1.*
f)	*In the event of a General Recall, all three lights will remain illuminated with two sound signals. The restart will be the same as the standard start sequence. The restart will be as soon as practicable after the general recall.*
13	**CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE**
13.1	The race committee may change a leg of the course according to Rule 33 using a green for a change to starboard or a red flag for a change to port. If the length of the leg is to be changed, no signal will be used; this changes Rule 33.
14	**THE FINISH**
14.1	**General**
a)	All boats must keep clear of the finish line after they have finished. Boats shall not re-cross the finish line after they have finished.
b)	When racing under General Handicap, and using a Start/Finish Gate ('Gate' signified with course instructions on back of committee boat), RSC adopt the principle of Average Lap Racing whereby boats in a fleet may be finished after completing a different number of whole laps.
14.2	**Committee Boat Finishes**
a)	The finishing line will either be: - the same as the start line; **OR** - between the mast displaying an orange flag on the committee boat at the starboard end and a mark of the course in the vicinity in which she has taken station; **OR** - a remote finish between the mast displaying an orange flag on the committee boat at the starboard end and a dan buoy flying an orange flag.
b)	If the Race Officer signals a shortened course (flag S + fleet flag with two sound signals) and a Start/Finish Gate is being used, all boats shall finish the next time they cross the finishing line, irrespective of the number of laps they have completed. If flag S only is flown, the shortened course instruction applies to all fleets.
14.3	**Race Box Finishes**
a)	The finishing line will be the same transit as the start line extending between "ODM" and "IDM" and the centre light should be illuminated.
b)	If the Race Officer signals a shortened course (middle light illuminated with two sound signals) – the leading boat - shall finish the next time it crosses the finishing line and thereby establish the finishing line and direction for all subsequent finishing boats.

15	**PENALTY SYSTEM**
15.1	For the multihull fleets, rules 44.1 and 44.2 are changed so that only one turn, including one tack and one gybe, is required. A dinghy or catamaran need only sign off if they have retired. A retirement declaration sheet will be located in the club office. All cruisers must sign off on the declaration sheet located in the cruiser race control box.
16	**TIME LIMITS**
16.1	The time limit will be 120 minutes for all fleets.
16.2	Boats failing to finish within 30 minutes after the first boat in their fleet finishes or within the time limit, whichever is later, shall be scored 'Did Not Finish. This changes rules 35, A4 and A5.
17	**PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS**
17.1	Protests shall be written on forms available at the office or from behind the bar, and should be delivered there, or to the Race Officer, within one hour after the time of the last boat in its fleet to finish the race or races if back to back races have been sailed.
17.2	Requests for the Arbitration Process shall be written on forms as per the Protest Procedure.
17.3	Notices will be posted to inform all parties of the time and place of hearings.
18	**SCORING**
18.1	The Low Point Scoring system of Appendix A will apply, unless amended in temporary Sailing Instructions for special regattas.
18.2	All handicaps except for catamarans will be based on the RYA PY system, with handicaps amended by the RSC Sailing Committee based on results at RSC events and club racing. Boats without Portsmouth Numbers will be allocated a trial number, which may be amended at any time during a series. Portsmouth numbers will be reviewed regularly by the Sailing Committee and will be available from the club office. The catamarans will race using the SCHRS except when competing against other fleets when they too will use the PY system.
19	**MEASUREMENT OR RATING CERTIFICATES**
19.1	A boat may be required to present her valid measurement or rating certificate on request by the Sailing Committee. Where applicable the measurement or rating certificate shall contain a current buoyancy endorsement.
19.2	Boats may be inspected/measured before or after any race at the discretion of the Race Committee.
20	**DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY**
20.1	Competitors are entirely responsible for their own safety, whether afloat or ashore, and nothing reduces this responsibility. It is for competitors to decide whether their boat is fit to sail in the conditions in which it will find itself. By launching or going to sea competitors confirm the boat is fit for those conditions and that they are competent to sail and compete in them. Nothing done by the organisers can reduce the responsibility of the owners and/or competitors, 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 event. The provision of patrol boats does not relieve owners and competitors of their responsibilities.
21	**INSURANCE**
21.1	Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £2,000,000.
22	**LOCAL VARIATIONS**
22.4	Personal buoyancy shall be worn by all competitors when using any of the Club's pontoons and jetties and whilst afloat. This changes rule 40 and the Part 4 preamble.