

**THE SOLWAY YACHT CLUB**  
**STANDARD SAILING INSTRUCTIONS FOR CRUISERS**

(in accordance with RRS 2005 – 2008 Appendix L)

**1 ELIGIBILITY AND RULES**

- 1.1 Competing boats must be genuine cruising yachts fit for sea-going outside the Urr Estuary (See SSI 18 for mandatory fittings and equipment).
- 1.2 All entrants / skippers must be either Full, Youth or Cadet members of SYC or any other RYA affiliated club or private member of the RYA. As a dispensation to satisfy the International Sailing Federation (ISAF) Regulation 19, crew only who do not comply with this requirement, will be made Temporary Members of SYC for the duration of the race or series.
- 1.3 Races will be governed by the Racing Rules of Sailing 2005 – 2008 (RRS) as subsequently amended and the prescriptions of the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) and local SYC instructions. Racing between sunset and sunrise will be governed by the International Rules for Prevention of Collision at Sea. All competitors are recommended to obtain a copy of RRS 2005 – 2008 and RYA Prescriptions.
- 1.4 An entrant must inform the Race Officer before the Warning Signal that a boat is intending to race.

**2 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS**

Notices to competitors will be posted on the Cruiser Notice Board in the entrance hall of the Clubhouse.

**3 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

Any changes to these Sailing Instructions will be posted on the Cruiser Notice Board at least one hour before the Warning Signal for a race and Flags L over T flown at the Club pier.

**4 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE**

- 4.1 Signals made ashore will be flown at the Club pier.
- 4.2 Flag N indicates that all racing is cancelled for the day. Flags N over T indicates that cruiser racing only is cancelled.

**5 SCHEDULE OF RACES**

Races are scheduled in the Club Handbook and / or the Notice of Race if appropriate. The times stated are for the Warning Signal.

**6 CLASS FLAG**

The cruiser Class Flag will normally be Flag T. Additional class flags will be notified in Notice of Race and/or as a Notice to Competitors.

**7 RACING AREA**

Courses will be set in the Urr Estuary, the Solway Firth and the Irish Sea.

**8 THE COURSES**

- 8.1 If a Committee Boat or Starting Hut start is used, the course will be displayed on a board giving the designation of the turning marks and the directions of rounding. If a Committee Boat or Starting Hut start is not used, courses will be communicated by VHF and/or hailing from the race officer's competing boat.
- 8.2 Shortened Course (Committee Boat start only)  
The Committee Boat flying Flags S and T will take up station near one of the marks of the course. The finish line will be between her mast and the turning mark. Boats will leave the mark on the side specified in the original course.
- 8.3 Shortened Course (2 Hour Rule – Inshore races only)  
If still racing 2 hours after the start signal, the leading boat in each class, if not on the last leg of the course, will sail to the next mark, round it on the specified side, then proceed directly to the finish line. All other boats will follow the same course as the leading boats in their class.

**9 MARKS**

- 9.1 Letter designated spherical ORANGE mark buoys together with the GREEN conical Channel Navigation buoys will be used for inshore races. The approximate position of these is shown on the SYC Course Chart. Offshore navigation buoys and the mooring buoy at Little Ross Island will be used for offshore races. Hestan Island may also be used as a turning mark.
- 9.2 Additional marks may be laid and specified. Their position will be promulgated in accordance with Sailing Instruction No. 2.

**10 AREAS THAT ARE OBSTRUCTIONS**

*Almerness Fishing Nets* - Boats must at all times pass to the East of the bushy withy marking the outermost perch of the Almerness fishing nets.

*Rough Island* - Rough Island must not be passed on the Eastern side.

*Rough Island (Spring Stones Reef)*- Boats must at all times pass to the South of the yellow buoy marked ROCKS marking the Spring Stones Reef at the Southern end of Rough Island.

**11 THE START (AND FINISH)**

- Races will be started using RRS Rule 26 with the Warning Signal given 5 minutes before the Starting Signal.
- 11.1 NETS START AND FINISH**
- 11.1.1 Committee Boat Start and Finish**  
The start and finish line will be from the main mast of the committee boat, flying flag T, to the green starboard hand navigation buoy, marked No 2 on the SYC Course Chart.
- 11.1.2 No Committee Boat Start and Finish**  
The start and finish line will be between the red port hand navigation buoy at Almorness Nets and the green starboard hand navigation buoy marked No 2 on the SYC Course Chart.
- 11.2 HESTAN START AND FINISH LINE**  
See appropriate page in SYC Handbook for description and diagram.
- 11.3 STARTING HUT START AND FINISH**  
The line will be a transit of the starting hut flagstaff and the perches. Boats must pass between the perches. After starting from this line, boats must leave Penman Mark (No 8 on Course Chart) to port on their way out to sea. This mark then ceases to be a mark of the course and can be ignored when finishing at the starting hut line.
- 11.4 STARTING SIGNALS.** Rule RRS26 applies with the following procedures:
- 11.4.1 Committee Boat Starts and Starting Hut Starts** Sound signals and flags will be used.  
Sequence Start - 5 minutes - Class Flag hoisted, 1 sound signal (see SSI 6)  
Start - 4 minutes - Preparatory\* Flag hoisted, 1 sound signal  
Start - 1 minute - Preparatory\* Flag lowered, 1 sound signal  
Start - Class Flag lowered, 1 sound signal  
Individual Recall - Flag X hoisted, 1 sound signal  
General Recall - First Substitute hoisted, 2 sound signals  
\* Preparatory Flag will be either Flags P, I, Z, with I, or a Black Flag ( For definitions see RRS Rule 30 and RYA RRS Race Signals section )
- 11.4.2 No Committee Boat Starts (11.1.2) and Hestan Island Starts (11.2)**  
Sound signals only will be used made from the Race Officer's boat (The Race Officer may be a competitor.)  
Sequence Start - 5 minutes - 1 sound signal Warning Signal  
Start - 4 minutes - 1 sound signal Preparatory Signal  
Start - 1 minute - 1 sound signal  
Start - 1 sound signal  
No recall signals will be made.
- 12 CHANGE OF COURSE AFTER THE START**  
There will be no change of course after the Start other than the Committee Boat shortening the course or the 2 Hour Rule coming into effect.
- 13 THE FINISH**
- 13.1** Finish lines are detailed in Sailing Instructions No 11.  
**13.2** Boats must cross the Finish Line in the direction of the course from the last mark.
- 14 PENALTY SYSTEM**
- 14.1** A Two-Turns Penalty will be used as in RRS Rules 44.1 and 44.2. The Scoring Penalty in RRS Rule 44.3 and any system of Time Penalties will not apply.  
**14.2** The penalty for touching a mark is a One-Turn Penalty  
**14.3** A boat that has taken a penalty must report this to the Race Officer at the earliest opportunity.
- 15 TIME LIMIT**  
The time limit for inshore races only will be 3 hours. RRS Rule 35 will apply to scoring.
- 16 PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS**
- 16.1** Protests must be made in writing on forms available from the Race Office in the Clubhouse. Protests shall be delivered within 90 minutes after the last boat has finished. The same time limit applies to requests for redress. This changes RRS Rules 61.3.  
**16.2** Protests will be heard as soon as all interested parties and a protest committee can be assembled.
- 17 SCORING**
- 17.1** The Low Point Scoring System in Appendix A4 of RRS 2005 - 2008 will apply.  
**17.2** The number of races required to be completed to constitute a series will be stated in the Notice of Race.  
**17.3** Discards allowed in a series  
Up to three races – no discards  
Up to seven races – one discard  
**17.4** All races will be sailed on handicap using the RYA Portsmouth Yardstick Scheme as set out in the current YR2. Portsmouth Numbers will be those published in the current YR2 adjusted for different

- configurations. Boats not listed in the current YR2 will be allocated a Trial Number, which will be reviewed and may be adjusted after 3 scored races. Trial numbers will be based on advice from the RYA Technical Department if possible. The PY number will be supplemented by an Individual Performance Handicap Number to give a SYC Handicap Number, for all competing yachts.
- 17.5 Handicap Numbers will not be changed during a series of continuous racing unless in exceptional circumstance determined by the SYC.
- 18 SAFETY REGULATIONS AND SEAWORTHINESS**
- 18.1 Boats must be genuine cruising yachts with internal accommodation to include a minimum of two fitted bunks, a cooker and a toilet facility. They should have a pulpit, lifelines, a bilge pump, suitable anchor with chain or warp, a life ring, (preferably with danbuoy , light and whistle), fitted compass, VHF radio, (a race frequency will be allocated), first aid kit and distress flares. Each boat must carry sufficient life jackets and safety harnesses for its crew, (RRS Rule 40 does not apply).
- 18.2 Additionally, for offshore races, a liferaft or inflatable dinghy, a radar reflector and fitted navigation lights must be carried.
- 18.3 It is the sole responsibility of competing yacht skippers whether or not to start a race. A boat that retires from a race MUST notify the Race Officer at the earliest opportunity by the most expedient means available.
- 19 REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT**
- 19.1 In a series substitution of skipper / helmsman will not be allowed without prior approval of the Race Committee.
- 19.2 Alterations to the yacht's configuration and equipment which will affect the allocated Portsmouth Number MUST be brought to the attention of the Race Management Officer as soon as possible.
- 20 EQUIPMENT CHECKS**
- A boat and its equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with Sailing Instructions and carrying of safety equipment.
- 21 OFFICIAL BOATS**
- If a Committee Boat is used it will be identified at Briefing.
- 22, 23, 24 Standard Sailing Instructions - 22, 23 & 24 do not apply.**
- 25 RADIO COMMUNICATION**
- A boat shall not receive radio communications not available to all competitors. Mobile telephones MUST NOT be used to acquire information of material advantage to the yacht using such equipment.
- 26 PRIZES**
- The schedule of awards and timing and venue of associated prize giving ceremonies will be published in any Notice of Race and copied as a Notice to Competitors.
- 27 DISCLAIMER**
- Competitors participate in any race(s) entirely at their own risk. See RRS Rule 4 "Decision to Race". The organising authority will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during or after the race.
- 28 INSURANCE**
- Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £2,000,000.