

MERSEA WEEK 2011

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Note These instructions **DO NOT** apply to the Round Mersea Island Race on Wednesday 11th August, which is organised by the West Mersea Yacht Club, nor to the Town Regatta on Saturday 14th August, which is organised by the Town Regatta Committee.

PART A Applies to ALL Competitors

PART B Applies to Smacks, Cruisers and Multihulls only

PART C Applies to Dinghies and Mersea Fishermans' Open boats only

PART A

General Rules Applicable to All Competitors Events 1 - 13

A1 RULES OF SAILING

The 2009-2012 Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) the Notice of Race, the Sailing Instructions and Class rules shall govern all races. Boats racing under IRC shall also be governed by the 2011 IRC Rules, Parts A, B and C.

A2 SAFETY

RRS Fundamental Rule 4 Applies. The following will also apply:-

- The safety of a boat and her entire management, including insurance, shall be the sole responsibility of the owner/competitor racing the boat. These Sailing Instructions in no way limit or reduce this absolute responsibility.
- The race organisers shall not be liable for any loss, damage, death or personal injury, howsoever caused, to the owner/competitor, his skipper or crew, as a result of their taking part in the race or races. Moreover, every owner/crew warrants the suitability of their boat for the race or races.

Note. Areas around the start line and other buoys may be busy with other boats that are also racing. Helms are warned to keep a good look out at all times and be aware of the possibility that other racing boats may be in the area. You are advised that racing rules continue to apply between boats racing in different classes, and that a protest against a boat in a different class is always possible.

A3 AMENDMENTS

Amendments to these Sailing Instructions will be posted at the Race Centre, located in the Long Room at WMYC. The details of the amendment(s) may also be announced from the Committee boat by VHF on channel 77. Copies of any written amendments will be available from the Committee Boat and the Race Centre.

A4 INSURANCE

Competing boats shall be insured with valid Third Party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £2,000,000 per event or the equivalent.

An entrant who is not the owner of the boat being raced must make certain that the owner's insurance extends to cover him/her. This defines the entry criteria in accordance with RRS75.

A5 HANDICAPS

All races are sailed under appropriate Handicaps. Competitors are required to supply full particulars of the boat entered including any known performance figures. Absence of such particulars may result in the boat being placed in a different event from that indicated by the competitor on the entry form and/or given an 'ESTIMATED' handicap.

A6 CLASSES

The Committee reserves the right to place a boat in any appropriate class and to combine starts and classes where there are insufficient entries to warrant individual races. This defines the entry criteria in accordance with RRS75.

A7 STARTING ORDER

The order of starting and starting times are in parts B and C of these instructions, together with starting flags.

SIGNALS - Visual signals will be flags displayed from the Committee boats. These will be in accordance with RRS Race Signals Section.

A8 STARTING RACES

RRS26 is changed. Races shall be started using the following signals. Times shall be taken from the visual signals; the absence of a sound signal shall be disregarded. Starting signals shall be made at ten minute intervals.

Signal	Flag and Sound	Minutes Before Starting Signal
Warning	Class flag; one sound	5 minutes
Preparatory	Flag P; one sound	4 minutes
One Minute	Preparatory Flag removed; one long sound	1 minute
Starting	Class Flag removed; one sound	0

A9 COURSE INFORMATION

The asking for information or the receiving of information at any time shall not be grounds for protest under RRS41 (outside assistance) or grounds for redress. RRS41 is amended thereby.

A10 RECALLS / INDIVIDUAL

In the event of an individual recall Code Flag "X" will be displayed and one sound signal made in accordance with RRS Race Signals section. No recall numbers will be displayed and it is the responsibility of each boat over the line at the start to return and start correctly. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.

RECALLS / GENERAL

In the event of a general recall two sound signals will be made and the 'First Substitute' will be displayed. The warning signal for a new start for the recalled class shall be made one minute after the First Substitute is lowered (one sound signal) and the starts for any succeeding classes shall follow the new start.

A11 PROTESTS

These must be handed in at the Race Centre within the time limit defined in RRS61.3.

A12 POINTS SCORING SYSTEM

The Low point scoring system (Racing Rules, 2009-2012, Appendix A) will apply.

1st place = 1 point

2nd place = 2 points

Etc.

DNS, DNF, retired after finishing or disqualified scores 1 more than the number of boats entered in the series.

A13 RESULTS

These will be displayed as soon as possible AFTER PRIZE GIVING at DSC and/or WMYC.

A14 NUMBER OF ENTRANTS

There must be at least two qualified starters for a race to commence. This defines the entry criteria in accordance with RRS75.

A15 PRIZES

- No second prize may be awarded unless there are 4 or more qualified starters.
 - No third prize may be awarded unless there are 5 or more qualified starters.
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