



HIGHCLIFFE SAILING CLUB
SAILING INSTRUCTIONS 2011

1.0 RULES

- 1.1 All club racing will take place under the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), the prescriptions of the RYA, these sailing instructions and the appropriate class rules.
- 1.2 All club events are designated category B.

2.0 CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

2.1 GENERAL

- 2.1.1 The safety of a yacht and her entire management, including insurance to cover third party risk to a minimum of **£2,000,000**, shall be the sole responsibility of the owner / competitor racing the yacht who must ensure that the yacht and her crew are adequate to face the conditions that may arise during the course of the race.
- 2.1.2 Neither the establishment of these sailing instructions nor the inspection of the yacht under these conditions in any way limits or reduces the absolute responsibility of the owner / competitor for his crew, the yacht and the management thereof.
- 2.1.3 The race organisers shall not be responsible for any loss, damage, death or personal injury howsoever caused to the owner/competitor, skipper or crew as a result of their taking part in the race or races. Moreover, every owner/competitor warrants the suitability of the yacht for the race or races.

2.2 MEASUREMENT CERTIFICATES

- 2.2.1 In exceptional circumstances the Sailing Committee may request a competitor to present a valid measurement certificate before that yacht is permitted to compete in the HSC race programme.

2.3 IDENTIFICATION - SAIL NUMBERS

- 2.3.1 Under exceptional circumstances, and provided that the class rules allow, the race committee may permit a yacht to use sails carrying an identifying number other than that required by RRS 77. All yachts racing must have a sail number .

2.4 ELIGIBILITY

- 2.4.1 Competitors for all club events, other than those designated “Open Series” are to be members of HSC. A non-member may race up to four times in a season in club races as a guest, after which they shall be required to apply for membership.
- 2.4.2 The “Sea evening “ series races are designated “Open Series” to members of RYA affiliated clubs .
- 2,4,3 Non members racing shall complete an HSC Open meeting entry form

2.5 PERSONAL BUOYANCY / WINTER CLOTHING

2.5.1 RRS 40.1 Personal Buoyancy shall not apply.

Competitors shall wear adequate personal buoyancy at all times while afloat, sailing or power boat. Neither a wetsuit, nor a dry suit constitutes adequate personal buoyancy. In addition to personal buoyancy a wetsuit or dry suit must be worn whilst racing between November 1st and 30th March .

2.6 SIGNING ON

2.6.1 To lodge their entry, all competitors are to complete the signing on sheet, located in the clubhouse foyer, prior to the start of the race or races.

Failure to do so shall exclude them from the result in that race or races and they shall score DNC.

Race Officer and safety boat crews are also required to complete the relevant section of the signing on form.

2.7 DECLARATIONS

2.7.1 When a yacht has either performed a 'Two Turns' penalty for an infringement of a rule of Part 2, or a 'One Turn' penalty for touching a mark, or retires, she shall complete a declaration in the relevant section of the signing on / declaration form, located in the clubhouse foyer, before the end of the protest time.

3.0 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

3.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located in the main hall of HSC.

4.0 CHANGES TO THE RACING PROGRAMME OR SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

4.1 Any changes in the racing programme and / or sailing instructions will be posted for 6 days before the advertised starting time of the race or races concerned.

4.2 Races postponed may be run on subsequent dates of the same series without need to give separate notice to a maximum of 3 races on any day

5.0 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

5.1 Signals made ashore, for sea racing will be hoisted on a flagpole visible above the HSC clubhouse roof, and for harbour racing will be hoisted on a flagpole situated at the rail of the starting platform adjacent to the RNLI station or the harbour side balcony of HSC clubhouse.

6.0 SCHEDULE OF RACES

6.1 The Racing Programme indicates the schedule of races and the first fleet start times.

6.2 The fleets to race and class flags are as follows:

SEA FLEETS

Spring, Summer, Autumn Points Races, Frostbite Series and Trophy races:

	<i>Class Flag</i>
Mono Hull fleet	- Numeral 1

Long distance Races and Evening Series

Single start, numeral pennant 1, start time as Racing Programme

HARBOUR FLEET

All races

	<i>Class Flag</i>	<i>Start Time</i>
Harbour Fleet	- Numeral 3	As Racing Programme
Novice/ Junior start	Flag V	After harbour fleet start
(if a separate Flag V start is provided the results can be used to include in the concurrent harbour race)		

6.3

A minimum of 3 yachts must be entered to constitute a start .
(except as published by fleet captains for individual fleet extracted results)

7.0 THE COURSE

7.1 The course configuration, the order of rounding of marks and the number of rounds shall be displayed on the race notice boards.
or the race will continue until flag S (shorten course) is flown .

7.2 Course signals may be displayed on the starting boat.

7.3 Average lap system may be used at the discretion of the Race officer

8.0 MARKS

8.1 Sea :

Orange inflatable marks are to be used for windward and gybe marks, a dan buoy with a flag will be used as a start / leeward mark. Additional inflatable marks may be used in alternative course configurations.

Alternative marks may be used in the case of long distance races when navigational marks may also be used.

8.2 Harbour :

Course marks are yellow spherical buoys with an orange waist-line marked HSC and numbered, numbers 1,2,3,4,& 6 are permanently laid, the approximate position of these marks is displayed on the chart adjacent to the race notice board in the clubhouse foyer. Mark number 5 is a similar mark which is temporarily laid as required.

Alternative marks may be used as defined by the race Office.

9.0 STARTS

9.1 STARTING LINES

9.1.1 Sea Racing: The start line is defined as the line between the mast on the starting boat flying an orange flag and an outer starting line mark which shall be either an orange inflatable buoy or dan-buoy with mast carrying an orange flag or a mark of the course.

9.1.2 Harbour Racing: The starting line will be either set from a starting boat as described above or defined as the line between a mast flying an orange flag flagpole situated at the rail of the starting platform adjacent to the RNLI station (or the harbour side balcony of HSC clubhouse) and an outer starting line mark which shall be a yellow spherical buoy with the marks 'HSC' and a numeral .

9.2 STARTING PROCEDURE

9.2.1 The normal starting procedure shall be in accordance with rule 26 i.e. 5,4,1,Go

9.2.2 A yacht shall not start later than 4 minutes after her fleet start.

10.0 PROHIBITED AREA PENALTIES

10.1 All boats are prohibited from passing between the outer post mark of Clarendon rocks and Mudeford Sandbank.

10.2 All boats are prohibited from the buoyed exclusion areas for birds in the harbour

11.0 FINISHING

- 11.1 Sea Racing: The finishing line shall be between the mast displaying a blue flag (or alternatively flag S) aboard the finishing boat and the finishing mark which shall be the nearby rounding mark.
- 11.2 Harbour Racing: The finishing line shall be between the mast displaying a blue flag (or alternatively flag S) either the finishing boat or the harbour side balcony of the clubhouse, and the finishing mark which shall be the nearby rounding mark.
- 11.3 The race officer may at his sole discretion , after one or more boat have finished , assign finishing positions to remaining boats on the course who are still racing . Flag W may be flown. (This to avoid delays in starting subsequent races and to enable all competitors to score relative positions when they would otherwise be out of time .)

12.0 TIME LIMITS

- 12.1 Sea and Harbour Racing: RRS 35 shall not apply.
- 12.1.1 The time limit for daytime races, other than long distance events, will be 2 hours. The time limit for evening races will be 1 ½ hours.
- 12.1.2 When no yacht finishes within the prescribed time limit, the race will be abandoned. Signals will be in accordance with RRS 32 'N' or 'N' over 'H'. Notice of any re-sail date and time shall be posted on the notice board as soon as possible.
- 12.1.3 For long distance races the time limit shall be four hours.

13.0 PROTESTS

- 13.1 Protests shall be written on R.Y.A. protest forms available from the clubhouse and shall be lodged with the Race Officer within 60 minutes of the last yacht finishing the last race of the day, unless extended at the discretion of the Race Committee. Protests will be heard in approximate order of receipt as soon as possible. (Normally the same day)
- 13.2 The time and place of protest hearings shall be notified by being ' displayed on the on the race notice board in the foyer of the clubhouse .

14.0 SCORING SYSTEM

- 14.1 The low points scoring system, Rule A2 will apply, with races scheduled as per the Racing Programme, of which 2 shall be completed to constitute a series.

Each yachts total score shall be the sum of her scores for all races, excluding her worst scores determined in accordance with the following table:

12 - 14	races sailed ,	discard 4 worst scores
9 - 11	races sailed ,	discard 3 worst scores
6 - 8	races sailed ,	discard 2 worst scores
3 - 5	races sailed ,	discard 1 worst scores

Fewer than 3 races sailed, no discards allowed.

- 14.2 Average Points for series races will be awarded for Race Officer and Rescue Boat duties as rotaed.
Average points are derived from the sum of the best scores available at the conclusion of the series after allowing the relevant discards.
(with limitation that if 6 or less races in series only one discard allowed)
The average points is then re-entered into the scores profile and the total score finally computed.
- 14.2.1 If a Open meeting is held at the same time as a club race all those assisting with the Open event will be awarded average points as above for races missed
- 14.3 Awarding of Points: For all series races scheduled in the Racing Programme, points shall be awarded to the helm not the yacht. Where more than one class of yacht is sailed by the same helmsman in a particular series, points shall be awarded to the yacht and not the helm.
Where a competitor chooses to change between rig sizes to suit conditions eg Laser / Laser radial /Laser 4.7/Laser Rooster it shall be counted as one entry, but in such case the handicap to be applied to that entry for all races in that series, is the handicap of the fastest rig used .
- 14.4 **Series Tie** If, after discard, two or more boats have the same points total the tie will be broken in accordance with RRS Appendix A8.
- 14.5 **Handicap numbers** Generally the RYA published Portsmouth Yardstick numbers are used but with some HSC minor amendments and additions for one off designs. The handicap numbers used are those displayed on the notice-board in the main hall of the clubhouse. At the absolute discretion of the sailing committee
Fleet Captains may designate certain series as using a "personal handicap " for certain class trophies .The Harbour Autumn points series will use such a system

- 14.6 **Class Trophies** Annual Trophies may be awarded for Laser @ sea , Topper & Mirror classes and Catamaran category plus any others appropriate as follows

Results calculated by accumulated points awarded as follows : Last place Topper in any club series scores 2 points the next scores one more etc so the best Topper in each series scores (number of Toppers + 2 points) and hence the points awarded are biased to the series with most participants

Qualifying races for Topper Trophy :-

All HSC club series , Harbour Trophy and Club Championship races completed in which Toppers participate Easter to end of Oct

Qualifying races for Mirror Trophy :-

All HSC club series , Harbour Trophy and Club Championship races completed in which Mirrors participate Easter to end of Oct

Qualifying races for Laser Trophy :-

All series at Sea and Trophy races at sea plus Club Championship in which Lasers participate Easter to end of Oct

Qualifying races for Catamaran Trophy :-

All series at Sea and Trophy races at sea plus Club Championship in which Lasers participate Easter to end of Oct

15.0 SEA RACING

- 15.1 Yachts with a Portsmouth Yardstick Number in excess of 1297 are not allowed to compete in Sea Fleet handicap races, unless an 2nd safety boat (in addition to the committee boat and primary safety boat) is in the course area .
The Club Championships , Rodney Spicer Trophy and “Harbour at sea” races shall have an additional safety boat and all members shall be eligible to compete .

16.0 Outside assistance to competitors

- 16.1 The policy of HSC is that in club races verbal assistance from the official race team to competitors during racing is permitted . It should be equally available to all competitors but it is recognised that there will be a bias towards the newcomers and those towards the back of the fleet. This is a local variation from RRS

ADVICE to Race Officers & Safety boat crews

The Race Officer is responsible for decisions regarding courses, weather conditions and all other matters pertaining to the days racing. Club policy is that there should always be a safety boat in addition to the committee boat. All race support boats to have a minimum crew of two .

The Race officer is solely responsible for the decision to allow racing to continue in the event of deteriorating weather conditions. He should regularly communicate with the other rescue boats and Sea Vixen to monitor all boats on the race course.

Remember the primary role of “Seafox 1” or “Edna May ” is as safety boats and should conditions deteriorate to such an extent, then the Race Officer should be prepared to abandon the race and shepherd all yachts to safety.

In the event of attending to capsized yachts, Safety boat helms are in charge. If a competitor has been struggling with his boat for some time, the SBH’s decision as and when to take him off is final. The priority is to get to capsized boats quickly, ensure the safety of competitors, do not allow them to get too tired or cold, and finally secure the boat if possible.

In the event of attending a yacht in trouble, Safety Boat helms should if necessary attempt to anchor / secure the recovered yacht within the race area. Where competitors are removed from their yachts for safety reasons by any of the HSC safety boats, an identifying tag (normally a red and white coloured hazard tape or ribbon as included in the safety boat kit shall be secured to the abandoned yacht in a prominent position (usually rudder pintle) to denote that all crew are safe.

Under no circumstances should the safety boats leave the race area without the express permission of the Race Officer .

Only members of HSC above the age of 17 are authorised to take charge of any club safety boats. Cadets may only assist in the operation of the club’s safety boats under the strict supervision of an experienced adult.

The following are kept in the race cupboard and need to be taken aboard

Committee boat kit

Sea fleet race bag or Harbour race box : flags , horn, clipboard etc

VHF radio ; HSC Race control use Channel **P4 / M2**

“Sea Fox” and “EDNA MAY” each have a safety kit in screw top plastic canisters
contents include : Small first aid kit , Flare, Spare canister for horn Whistle ,Spare pencil ,laminated Sheet with VHF & emergency procedures

Safety boat kit

Safety . First aid bag : Yellow to be fixed in holder on front of console

VHF hand held radio ; HSC Race control use Channel **P4 / M2**.

Tow line : 10 m floating blue line

Safety tags : 3 ribbons

Knife : Holster on console

ADVICE TO COMPETITORS

Before going afloat you should take account of the current weather forecast and conditions which you might expect to encounter on the water and your ability to deal with these conditions.

Your buoyancy aid should be of the correct type and be capable of supporting your total weight.

If you get into difficulties you should stay with your boat.

If your boat is capsized and you are unable to right it you should sit on the upturned hull and attract the attention of a safety boat by waving both arms .

To attract the attention of a safety boat you should hold both arms outstretched with the palms of your hands open.

If the crew of a safety boat instruct you to leave your boat and board the safety boat do so without delay.

If you retire from a race or between races, please inform a safety boat who will give you instructions.

On no account are competitors to leave the race area without the permission of a safety official

ADVICE TO PARENTS OF COMPETITORS

Parents / guardians need to be available in the vicinity of the club during racing so that when the Juniors come ashore you are able to take responsibility for them .

Please ensure juniors are appropriately dressed , including for changes in weather including protection against sun and dehydration ____

Litter

Please ensure all litter is brought ashore and not discarded in the sea/harbour e.g. Wrappers from Chocolate bars , plastic drinks bottles and including banana skins .