



ROYAL WESTERN
YACHT CLUB OF ENGLAND



Offshore Weekend
1st and 2nd May 2021

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

**Organising Authority: The Royal Western Yacht Club of England
Plymouth, UK**

Sailing Instructions

1 RULES

The Series will be governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing*.

- 1.2 Where boats are racing within the boundaries of the Port of Plymouth they are referred to the Dockyard Port of Plymouth Order 2020, a copy of which is displayed on the Club notice board, website <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2020/1261/made> and Local Notices to Mariners. When the Race Committee believes that such regulations have been broken so as to bring the sport into disrepute it will act under RRS 60.2(c) requesting the Protest Committee to act under RRS 69.1(a), Allegation of Misconduct.
- As a naval/commercial port, shipping movements are frequent and have priority. Boats must at all times keep clear of ships leaving or entering the port and must obey instructions from the Race Committee where avoiding action is necessary. Failure to obey Race Committee instructions may be treated as misconduct.
- 1.3 An engine or other alternative means of propulsion shall be used when appropriate to avoid risk of collision with another vessel that is underway but not racing; or in a grave emergency. The facts shall be reported by radio to the Race Committee at the finish with written details submitted to the race office before the end of protest time. The protest committee may impose a penalty if it thinks fit. This changes RRS 63.1.
- 1.4 Racing rule(s) , 44, 87 will be changed as follows:
- 44.1 For all classes, RRS 44.1 is changed so that the Two Turns Penalty is replaced by the One Turn Penalty.
- 1.5 Under rule 87, rule(s) IRC Rule 22.4.2 of the IRC class rules is replaced with:
- “The maximum number of crew that may sail aboard a boat shall be the crew number printed on the certificate plus one. There is no weight limit.”
- 1.6 COVID 19 –a yachts crew will be either a maximum of 6 persons or 80% of her crew number whichever is lower!
- 1.7 For safety reasons, no boats shall race with anchors mounted on, or in front of, their stem-head rollers or other bow fittings.
- 1.8 IRC and VPRS rating certificates to be submitted to the regatta office.

2. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

- 2.1 Notices to competitors before and during the event will be posted on the Triangle Series Event page of the RWYC website. [The Royal Western Yacht Club of England | PR Systems Offshore Weekend \(rwyc.org\)](https://www.rwyc.org). This shall be regarded as the Official Notice Board.

3. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 3.1 Any changes to the sailing instructions will be posted by 0800 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.

4. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 4.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed from each respective yacht club's main flag staff and/or on the Official Notice Board (website).

5. SCHEDULE OF RACING

Dates of racing: 1st and 2nd May 2021.

The schedule for each class is as follows

Class	Warning Signal 1 st May	2 nd May
MOCRA	09.55	09.55
IRC, VPRS, NHC	10.05	10.05

To alert boats that the sequence of races will begin soon, the orange starting flag will be displayed with one sound signal at least five minutes before a warning signal is made.

Any boat that has not started within 10 minutes of her starting time will be scored DNC or DNS as appropriate.

6. CLASS FLAGS

Class Flags shall be flown from the backstay when racing as follows.

CLASS	FLAG No
MOCRA	8
NHC, IRC VPRS	1

7. COURSES

Courses will be using a combination of fixed and virtual marks starting from a committee boat and finishing on the RWYC club line.

A list of virtual marks will be posted on the PR Systems event page on the RWYC website. By the 28th April.

8 **DESCRIPTION OF MARKS**

Committee boat Start Pin – Orange Pillar Buoy

9 **THE START**

- 9.1 All boats shall pass close to the Committee vessel on the side opposite to the start line before the warning signal of the first race of each day with mainsails hoisted for identification.
- 9.2 The start line for all classes will be between the mast displaying an orange flag on the Committee vessel and the outer distance mark, an orange pillar buoy.
- 9.3 Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall stay at least 100 metres from the starting area.

10 **RECALLS** (This changes rule 29.2)

In the event of an individual recall, competitors' attention may be brought to the signal on VHF Ch 77. Such communication may not be transmitted until one minute after the start. The failure to receive any Race Committee transmissions shall not constitute grounds for redress.

11. **CHANGE OF COURSE**

Courses will not be changed after the start signal. Courses for each class will be displayed on the side of the committee boat. And published via Social Media RWYC racing on Facebook and the Plymouth Racers Forum Whatsapp group.

12 **SHORTEN COURSE**

Races may be shortened at any mark.

13. **THE FINISH**

- 13.1 Races will finish at the RWYC club line, unless shortened course is signaled, by sailing in an easterly direction to pass an extension of a transit from the RWYC flag mast and a yellow and black striped transit staff on the shore below it. The outer distance limit of the line will be the yacht mooring buoys on the south side of the main Cattewater channel.
- 13.2 Whilst racing, boats are prohibited from entering the Controlled Mooring Area located north of Mountbatten peninsula and south of the Plym navigation channel. Boats must remain north of a line extending from the westerly mooring buoy positioned on the south side of the Plym navigation channel, east through each mooring buoy on the northern boundary of the Controlled Mooring Area and west of a line extending from the most westerly mooring buoy on the south side of the Plym navigation channel due south to the Mountbatten peninsula. The prohibited area defined above ranks as an obstruction to sea room under RRS.

- 13.3 All yachts shall take their own finishing times using GPS time, and noting the boat that finishes one position ahead and one position astern if possible. This information is to be retained by each skipper and only required if the Race Committee so requests it, along with a GPS track should it be required.

14. PENALTY SYSTEM

- 14.1 The Exoneration Penalty and RYA Arbitration of the RYA Rules and Disputes procedures will be available. This is the preferred method of resolving disputes. See the below website for details. <https://www.rya.org.uk/racing/racing-rules/Pages/rules-disputes-process.aspx>
- 14.2 The Two-Turns Penalty is replaced by the One-Turn Penalty. This changes rule 44.1.
- 14.3 Discretionary penalties will be available to the Protest Committees.

15. TIME LIMITS

- 15.1 Any boat not finishing by 2000hrs shall be scored DNF.

16. PROTESTS & REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

- 16.1 For each class, the protest time limit is 60 minutes after the last boat has finished that day's racing. The same time limit applies to protests by the race committee and protest committee about incidents they observe in the racing area and to requests for redress.

17. RETIREMENT

- 17.1 Boats retiring shall report their retirement to the Race Committee as soon as possible but no later than 60 minutes after finishing or retiring. Retirements shall be reported via VHF Ch77 to the race committee call sign "Western", or by telephone and confirmed by text to the race committee mobile as follows –

07702577666 – Keith Davies

18. RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

- 18.1 All yachts shall carry and operate a VHF radio and monitor race committee broadcasts. The Race Committee will use VHF Ch77, however signal will only work close to ports. The failure to receive any race committee transmissions shall not constitute grounds for redress. In all communication to the race committee please state your Class, name of yacht and sail number.

19. SELF STEERING

- 19.1 The use of self-steering devices is permitted.

20. PRIZES

20.1 Prizes will be awarded to each class depending upon number of entries.

21. RISK STATEMENT

21.1 Rule 4 of the Racing Rules of Sailing states: "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone."

Sailing is by its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event, each competitor agrees and acknowledges that:

- a) They are aware of the inherent element of risk involved in the sport and accept responsibility for the exposure of themselves, their crew and their boat to such inherent risk whilst taking part in the event;
- b) They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore;
- c) They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions;
- d) Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate;
- e) The provision of a race management team, patrol boats, umpires and other officials and volunteers by the organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities;
- f) The provision of patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances;
- g) They are responsible for ensuring that their boat is equipped and seaworthy so as to be able to face extremes of weather; that there is a crew sufficient in number, experience and fitness to withstand such weather; and that the safety equipment is properly maintained, stowed and in date and is familiar to the crew;

22. INSURANCE

Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £3,000,000 for the duration of the Series or the equivalent.

23. FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information please contact the Secretary, Royal Western Yacht Club, Queen Anne's Battery PL4 0TW - by email at admin@rwyc.org.

