



# Hollingworth Lake Sailing Club

## Sailing Instructions

Updated: March 2024

# HOLLINGWORTH LAKE SAILING CLUB SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

## 1 RULES, LIABILITY & BUOYANCY

### 1.1 Rules

Club sailing and racing will be governed by the rules as defined in the current Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), except as any of them are changed by these Sailing Instructions.

### 1.2 Liability and Risk

Rule 4 of the Racing Rules 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 inherently involves an element of risk.

By taking part in the sport each person agrees and acknowledges that:

1.2.1 They are aware of the inherent 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 sport;

1.2.2 They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their property whether afloat or ashore;

1.2.3 They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions;

1.2.4 Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail the event and they are fit to participate and by launching they confirm these requirements;

1.2.5 The provision of any organisers for the sailing, race management team, patrol boats and other officials and volunteers by the Club does not relieve them of their own responsibilities;

1.2.6 The provision of patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances; 1.2.7 Their boat is adequately insured, with cover of at least £2,000,000 against third party claims.

### 1.3 Personal Flotation Devices

Variation to the first sentence of RRS 40 At all times whilst afloat, members and visitors shall wear personal flotation devices, except briefly while changing or adjusting clothing or personal equipment.

### 1.4 Boat Buoyancy

No boat shall be allowed to compete which does not comply with the Class/Owners Association Rules or which, in the opinion of the Sailing Committee or duty officers, has inadequate or inadequately secured buoyancy.

## 2 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

2.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board, located just outside the main entrance to the clubhouse.

## 3 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

3.1 Any change to the Sailing Instructions will be posted at least half an hour before the advertised start time of the race(s) concerned.

## 4 SIGNALS

4.1 Signals made ashore and signals for club-based line starts will be displayed from the Starters' Box at the upper front of the Clubhouse in respect of visual and sound signals.

4.2 Signals made afloat will be displayed from the committee boat, which will display an Orange Flag when on station.

4.3 Flags may be used, or boards posted bearing the appearance of flags.

4.4 Visual starting signals will be made using a rotating starting frame. One row of the frame will display numbers corresponding to the number of minutes to the start signal. The other row will display the fleet name that the visual signal relates to. Times shall be taken from when the "Fleet" board is aligned with the "Minutes" board. The absence of a sound signal shall be disregarded.

## **5 SCHEDULE OF RACES**

5.1 The schedule of races is displayed in the Race Programme section of the Club Fixtures Handbook. The starting sequence and start times for the various fleets is displayed on the Sailing Committee notice board in the Main Clubroom.

## **6 RACE AREA**

6.1 The race area will be the whole of Hollingworth Lake, except for the eastern end nature reserve.

## **7 COURSES**

7.1 Prior to the start of any race the Race Officer may display, on the official notice board, a list of boats that are only required to sail a reduced number of laps and average lap time will be used to calculate the scores. In this situation complete laps must be sailed and so the course will be started and finished in the same location.

7.2 The course will be indicated EITHER:

7.2.1 By a series of boards displayed in the Course Frame which is to be read vertically from top to bottom and left to right, (as viewed from the lake side). A board bearing the image of a white triangle indicates that there will be a club-based starting line. OR:

7.2.2 By a series of boards displayed on the Committee Boat. This will be notified by a board bearing the outline of a boat, displayed within the Course Frame.

The course will be displayed horizontally by a series of lettered boards that are to be read from left to right. A white board with black lettering, at the left-hand end, indicates that the starting line uses that mark.

7.2.3 In both the above cases, Red or Green boards, bearing mark letters, indicate the order in which marks are to be passed and the side on which each mark is to be left.

A white board, with "I-O" in black lettering indicates a line formed by marks I & O that must be crossed.

A Numbered board at the end of the course board indicates the number of laps to be sailed. Additionally, a white board with "M" in black lettering may be displayed next to a numbered board to indicate the number of laps for a boat/class sailing a reduced number of laps.

7.3 When a previously displayed course has to be changed, Flag L will be flown on the Committee Boat (prior to the Warning Signal for the first start of the starting sequence). Any previously displayed course, whether on the Course Frame or on the Committee Boat, shall be disregarded and any course that continues to be displayed on the Course Frame shall also be disregarded.

7.4 The course to be sailed will be that shown at the warning Signal for the first start of the starting sequence. A course displayed on the Committee Boat takes precedence over a course displayed on the Course Frame.

7.5 When required to pass through the Starting or Finishing lines, boats must pass between any inner and outer distance marks.

## **8 MARKS**

8.1 The approximate location of Club marks is shown on a map inside the Clubhouse and on the Lake page of the club's website. Marks are orange buoys labelled alphabetically clockwise round the Lake A to F, plus buoys G and H in the middle. Buoys I and O are white. Orange Buoy X may be used at the discretion of the Race Officer and its location advised.

## 9 THE START

### Variations to RRS 26

9.1 Unless otherwise indicated on the official Noticeboard, there will be one start for all boats. The Mass Start starting board will be used as the "Fleet" Board in the starting frame.

9.2 For a particular series, the sailing committee may choose to introduce separate starts for different fleets. This decision will be displayed on the official noticeboard no less than 30 minutes before the first start of the first race of any given series and will apply to the whole series. Starting for any subsequent series will revert to one mass start unless a further notification is posted. This notification will include which "Fleet" board will be used to indicate that particular fleets start.

9.3 If two races are to be run 'back to back' a white board with a double B in black lettering will be displayed in the Course Frame before the Warning Signal of the first 'back to back' race.

9.4 The start sequence for all starts will be as follows:

Minutes before starting signal	Visual Signal	Sound Signal	Means
5	Fleet board & 5	One	Warning Signal
4	Fleet board & 4	One	Preparatory Signal
1	Fleet board & 1	One	One Minute Signal
0	Fleet board removed	One	Starting Signal

9.4.1 The Warning Signal for any subsequent fleet start may be given at the same time as the as the starting signal of the current start.

9.5 The starting line, in the case of Committee Boat based starts, will be between the mast of the Committee Boat (flying an orange flag) and a club mark (see SI 8.1), which is indicated on the Course Frame or Committee Boat by a white board with black lettering.

9.6 The starting line, in the case of club-based starts, will be between the Red Triangle in the window of the Starters' Box and the outer distance mark (O); with an inner limit mark (I). Boats must pass between the outer and inner distance marks.

## 10 STARTING: RECALLS

10.1 Individual recalls shall be in accordance with RRS 29.1 10.2 Starting procedure after a General Recall shall be in accordance with RRS 29.2

## 11 FINISHING

11.1 The finishing line, in the case of Committee Boat based finish, will be between the mast of the Committee Boat (flying an orange flag) and the last mark of the course (unless the course is shortened, see 11.3)

11.2 If the committee boat is not flying an orange flag, then the finishing line will be between the Red Triangle in the window of the Starters' Box and the last mark of the course, which may be I-O (unless the course is shortened, see 11.3)

11.3 If the race committee signals a shortened course (displays flag "S" with two sounds as the leading boat rounds a mark of the course), the finishing line shall be at the next mark of the course (which may be I-O). The finish will be from the committee boat if it is flying flag "S" or the starters box if it is displaying a board depicting flag "S".

11.4 Once a course is shortened any boat which then subsequently crosses the finish line will be provided a finish regardless of the number of laps they have completed and average lap time will be used to calculate the scores. In order for average laps to be applied, complete laps must have been sailed (ie the race was started and finished in the same location).

11.5 Pursuit Handicap races can be finished at a finishing line set up between a Committee Boat displaying an orange flag and a specially laid nearby mark.

## **12 TIME LIMIT**

Variation to RRS 35, A4 and A5

12.1 Boats failing to finish within 30 minutes after the first boat that started at the same time (i.e. the same Starting Signal), sails the course and finishes will be scored Did Not Finish.

## **13 PROTESTS & ARBITRATION**

13.1 Protests shall be written on forms available from the Duty Officer. Protests shall be delivered to him/her within 30 minutes of the end of the last race on that day.

The hearing should be held on that day.

13.2 The Exoneration Penalty (RRS 44.3) is available

13.3 The Advisory Hearing and RYA Arbitration of the RYA Rules Disputes Procedures may be available. See the Sailing Committee notice board for details.

## **14 SCORING - Variations to Appendix A**

14.1 The Low Point System, RRS Appendix A will apply with the following variations:

14.2 Scores shall be awarded to a Helm and Class combination. If a Helm sails a different Class during a series then that shall be considered a new entry to the series.

14.2.1 For boats that have various rig options which attract a different PN (Such as the Laser, Laser Radial, Laser 4.7) a change in the rig to one with a slower PN will be scored using the PN of the faster PN rig.

14.2.2 For the same boats, an increase in rig size during a series shall be considered a new entry to the series

14.3 A competitor will count 50% of their series scores + 1 race for a series with an even number of races sailed or rounded up for a series with an odd number of races sailed (eg a 20 race series will count 11 races as will a 21 race series).

Ties will be broken in accordance with rule A8.

14.4 As our club series are held over a period of time longer than a regatta then races will be scored in accordance with rule A9.

14.5 A boat starting or restarting later than 4 minutes after her starting signal shall be scored Did Not Start (DNS).

14.6 Duty Officers carrying out duties will be awarded an average of their score for any races they have counted for the whole series.

Helms who have entered Open Meetings under the burgee of HLSC will be awarded an average of their score for any races they have counted for the whole series.

A minimum of 50%+1 of the races counted in a series must be HLSC club races.

Open Meeting Points can only be awarded for events that are held on a club race day.

In order to be considered for Open Meeting points (which are given at the discretion of the Sailing Committee), helms must apply by e-mail to [results@hlsc.org.uk](mailto:results@hlsc.org.uk) by the last day of the month of the event.

Points will only be awarded to the Class of boat sailed, unless the helm has been selected by the Sailing Committee to represent the club at an "away event", in which case they may choose which class this score applies to.

14.7 At the discretion of the Sailing Committee, boats in the various fleets may be scored in sub-fleets (eg Gold, Silver, Youth etc). Series' results will be calculated separately for the boats in each of the separate sub-fleets.

However, no matter to which sub-fleet a boat is allocated, all boats remain eligible to be the overall winner of the club's various series trophies that are based on the results of all the boats in the fleet.

14.8 The Club Trophies for the various classes (Merlin Rocket, GP14, Solo & Laser) will only be awarded if, at the end of each series, at least three boats have participated in at least one third of the races run in the series (rounded down).

## **15 SAIL NUMBERS**

15.1 In accordance with RRS Appendix G, all boats shall display their correct sail numbers. In exceptional circumstances, the Duty Officer may permit a different number to be used, provided that it is distinguishable from other boats in that race.

Such requests MUST be made prior to racing on that day. Boats contravening this Rule are liable to disqualification.

## **16 SUBSTITUTION OF BOAT, CREW OR EQUIPMENT**

16.1 Substitution of a boat in the same Class during a club series will not be allowed unless authorised by the Sailing Committee.

16.2 Substitution of competitors during our Special Races (see SI 17) will not be allowed unless authorised by the Sailing Committee.

16.3 Substitution of competitors during a club series will be allowed.

16.4 Substitution of damaged or lost equipment during our Special Races and/or club series will be allowed.

## **17 FORMAT OF SPECIAL RACES**

### **17.1 Founders' Plate**

17.1.1 The event is planned to have a series of three qualifying races which, unless amended by a starting sequence displayed on the official notice board, will be run using the starting sequence of these sailing instructions. Two races are required to be completed to constitute a series.

17.1.2 The qualifying races will determine who from each fleet races in the final. The different fleets being Merlin Rocket, GP14, Solo, Laser & Mixed.

17.1.3 Qualifiers from each fleet for the final will be the three lowest scorers using the Low Point System, RRS Appendix A and each boat's series score will be the total of her race scores (i.e. no discards).

17.1.4 The Final will be run as a Pursuit Handicap race based on the RYA Portsmouth Yardstick Scheme, as set out on the current RYA PYS website. The starting times for the various classes will be posted on the official notice board prior to the Final Race. 17.1.5 The three qualifying races will also count towards the relevant club series.

### **17.2 Club Championship**

17.2.1 Competitors who enter for the Championship will be divided, by the Sailing Committee, into 3 sub-fleets, (gold, silver and bronze), based on their overall performance to date in that season.

17.2.2 The event is planned to be a three race series and two races are required to be completed to constitute a series. The overall finishing positions in each race will be determined using the RYA Portsmouth Yardstick Scheme, as set out on the current RYA PYS website.

17.2.3 The Club Championship series will be scored using the Low Point System, RRS Appendix A and each boat's series score will be the total of her race scores (i.e. no discards).

17.2.4 Overall Championship results will be calculated separately for the boats in each of the 3 sub-fleets (gold, silver & bronze) based on the series scores.

### **17.3 Other Special Races**

17.3.1 The Spring, Summer, Autumn & Winter Pursuit Races will be run as Pursuit Handicap races using the RYA Portsmouth Yardstick Scheme, as set out on the current RYA PYS website.

Portsmouth Numbers for individual boats will be determined by the Sailing Committee.

The starting times for each boat will be posted on the official notice board.

17.3.2 If run, the Ladies, Partners Pot and Single-handed races will be Handicap races with a "Mass Start". The overall finishing positions in each race will be determined using the RYA Portsmouth Yardstick Scheme, as set out on the current RYA PYS website.

17.3.3 If run, the Single-handed Race will only be open to boats where the class configuration is for a crew of two.

### **18 DUTY OFFICERS**

18.1 The Sailing Committee will appoint four Duty Officers for each day of racing who will also be available to sit on the Protest Committee of the day.

18.2 It is the member's responsibility to arrange their own swop if they are unable to do a duty.

Swops to be ideally with someone from the same column on the Duty Rota then there will always be a qualified RIB driver & someone who can set start-line & course on duty each race day.

The Sailing Sec should be informed of swops by Email: [sailing@hlsc.org.uk](mailto:sailing@hlsc.org.uk) then the "live rota" on the club website can be updated.

### **Update History**

March 2024 – revisions to 14.6 & 18.2