

MERSEA WEEK 2016

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Note These instructions do NOT apply to the Round Mersea Island Race on Monday 22nd August, which is organised by the West Mersea Yacht Club nor to the Town Regatta on Saturday 20th August, which is organised by the Town Regatta Committee.

PART A Applies to ALL competitors

PART B Applies to Smacks Cruisers and Keelboats only

PART C Applies to Dinghies and Mersea Fisherman's Open Boats only

PART A **General Rules** **Applicable to All Competitors** **Events 1 - 15**

A1 RULES OF SAILING

The 2013-2016 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 2016 IRC Rules, Parts A,B &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.
- 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 and other officials and volunteers by the event 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; and
 - g) For cruiser & smack classes 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.

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.

Notes

- 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.
- Boats in the Cruiser and Smack classes after finishing should keep clear of boats in the Dinghy and MFOB classes which may still be racing.
- Similarly, boats in the Dinghy and MFOB classes after finishing should keep clear of boats in the Cruiser and Smack classes which may still be racing.

A3 AMENDMENTS

Amendments to these Sailing Instructions will be posted at the Race Centre, located in the Long Room at WMYC. The details of any amendment(s) affecting Smack, Cruiser & Keelboat classes may also be announced from the Committee Boat by VHF on channel 77. Copies of any written amendments will be available from 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 RRS 75.

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 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 RRS 75.

A7 STARTING ORDER

The order of starting and start times are set out in parts B & C of these instructions, together with class flags.

A8 STARTING RACES

All races shall be started in accordance with RRS 26 with the warning signal made five minutes before the starting signal.

A9 RECALLS/INDIVIDUAL

In the event of an individual recall Code Flag 'X' will be displayed and one sound signal made in accordance with RRS 29.1. 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 being scored OCS.

RECALLS/GENERAL

In the event of a general recall two sound signals will be made and 'First Substitute' flag will be displayed in accordance with RRS 29.2. The warning signal for a new start for the recalled class shall be made one minute after the First Substitute is removed (one sound signal) and the start for any subsequent classes shall follow the new start.

A10 COURSE INFORMATION

The requesting or receiving of information regarding the course to be sailed at any time shall not be grounds for protest or grounds for redress. this amends RRSs 41&62.

A11 PROTESTS

These must be delivered to the Race Office within the time limit defined in RRS 61.3.

A12 POINTS SCORING SYSTEM

The Low point scoring system (Racing Rules 2013-2016 Appendix A) will apply.

1st place = 1 point

2nd place = 2 points

Etc.

DNF or RET 1 more than the number of boats ranking as starters in that race.

DNS or DSQ 1 more than the number of boats entered in the series.

This changes RRS A4.2

A13 RESULTS

These will be displayed as soon as practicable AFTER PRIZE GIVING at DSC and/or WMYC and on the event website.

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 RRS 75.

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.

A16 COMPETITOR IDENTIFICATION

- All boats competing in Smack, Cruiser, keelboat and MFOB classes must fly a Mersea Week 2016 pennant to indicate they are part of the race fleet. This will also indicate mooring requirements to the launch men. The Dinghy fleet may choose to fly the pennant but this is not obligatory.
- Pennants are available free from the Race Office from 19.00-20.00 on Monday 22nd August and from 08.30 on Tuesday 23rd August.
- Competitors in Dinghy Classes are required to display a streamer see SI C10.