

SWSA CRUISER RACING – SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

1. RULES

All races will be governed by the [Racing Rules of Sailing](#) (RRS) 2017-2020, the prescriptions of the RYA, by these instructions and any addenda.

The RRS Team Racing rules will not apply. Automatic steering is permitted in all passage races, and by boats sailed single handed in any race.

2. ENTRIES

A signed entry form, together with the appropriate fee, is required from each eligible boat before it competes in its first race of the season. The entrant should ensure it is received by the organisers as stated on the entry form. A boat will not be ranked as a starter until a signed form has been received.

3. ELIGIBILITY

- a) The series will be open to entrants from SWSA member clubs or associations. Those not from SWSA member clubs, but who are RYA members or affiliates, may race on payment of double race fees.
- b) Racing will be for Monohulls with a Byron Handicap between 880 and 1250 which will race in two fleets. For details of Byron Handicaps see Sailing Instruction (SI) 14 f)
- c) If a boat changes fleet during a series, only its points for races with one fleet shall count towards its individual position. A boat may not represent more than one club or association throughout the series.
- d) Vessels outside the normal handicap range may apply to race on an annual basis.
- e) Vessels with sound reasons to do so may apply to race outside their normal fleet.

4. IDENTIFICATION

Boats are required to fly a class flag from the backstay: Class 1 - numeral 1; Class 2 - numeral 2. Competitors should identify themselves to the committee boat prior to the start, failure to do so may risk them being ranked as a non-starter.

(Note: The flying of an ensign during a race signifies retirement.)

5. SAFETY

All boats shall obey the harbour byelaws and keep clear of large vessels using the deep water channels. Any boat reported as hazarding a large vessel by its master will be disqualified from that race by the Race Committee. All competitors must comply with the A.B.P. Bye-Law No. 11 – MOVING PROHIBITED ZONE which shall be deemed an obstruction for the purposes of RRS. 18, 19, 20, & 21

Boats shall use engines when appropriate to avoid risk of collision with another vessel that is under way but not racing; or in grave emergency. If a boat should use its engine in this way, the facts shall be reported to the Race Officer within 24 hours. The Cruiser Sub-committee will decide if the boat's time will stand or add any penalty it thinks fit.

Deck stowed anchors must not project beyond the extremities of the hull.

When Flag 'Y' is flown from the Committee vessel ALL competitors shall wear lifejackets.

It is recommended that boats comply with Category 4 of the ISAF Offshore Special Regulations updated 2017
<http://www.sailing.org/specialregs>

As a minimum it is recommended that all boats should be equipped with:

- a) Suitable means for pumping or bailing
- b) At least two red hand flares and two orange smoke flares, in a waterproof container.
- c) A fire extinguisher and a stout bucket (min. 9 litres) attached to a lanyard.
- d) A lifejacket for each crew member.
- e) A rescue quoit or throw bag with at least 15m of floating line, and at least one lifebuoy or lifesling.
- f) A waterproof first aid kit, with instructions.
- g) A suitable anchor and sufficient warp to hold the boat in 15m depth of water in the expected conditions.
- h) a working VHF radio.

All equipment, fittings and outboard engines shall be securely fastened.

6. COMMITTEE BOAT

Each race shall be sailed under the authority of a member club or the SWSA which shall supply a committee boat and appoint the race officer who will have total responsibility to conduct the race in accordance with SWSA policy and risk assessment. The committee boat will normally display an SWSA dodger. The committee boat may communicate with the fleets on VHF Channel 37 (M1). (P1)

7. STARTING LINE.

Except when amended by course specific instructions (passage races), the starting line will be formed between the flag mast of the committee boat and the named buoy and may be limited at the committee boat end by a dinghy or buoy. Boats colliding with the committee boat will be disqualified.

8. START SIGNALS

The Evening course numbers and Weekend and Single Hander course letter(s) will be shown on the committee boat, and may be announced on VHF Ch37 (M1).

For all races, Times shall be taken from the visual signals. Absence of a sound signal shall be disregarded. Classes 1 & 2 will start together. RRS 26 will apply (5-4-1-Go)

5 minutes before start	Warning signal - Class flags displayed, plus Sound Signal.
4 minutes before start	Preparatory signal, flag P displayed, plus Sound Signal.
1 minute before start	Preparatory flag removed, plus long Sound Signal
Start	Class flags removed, plus Sound Signal

In exceptional circumstances sound signals may be used without the flags.

9. FINISH LINE

The finish line will be between the main mast of the committee boat and the named buoy. The finish line may be limited at the committee boat end by a buoy.

If the committee boat is not on station:

- Boats should finish so that the named buoy is within two boat lengths of the boat.
- When the finish is not otherwise defined, the line will be to port of the named mark, at right angles to the direct course from the previous mark.
- Competitors should record their own time and, if possible, the identity of boats visible ahead and astern. The recorded information, after being corrected for error in the timepiece used, must be communicated to the race officer, or to your SWSA representative, or to 07971 795221, or to ntedwards0@gmail.com for Evening Series Races within 24 hours of completing the race, and all other races before 20.00 hours on the Monday following the race.

10. TIME LIMITS

- For races in Southampton Water: the Evening Series, Single Hander; the time limit for a class will be 1.5 hours. For the Bert Drought series the time limit shall be 2 hours. This will apply after the race start, there will be no extension. If no boat in the class finishes within the time limit, the race for that class will be abandoned. For the Passage races the time limit is stated with the course information.
- If the race is not abandoned, a boat that is still racing at the final time limit may ask to be scored as OTL (Over Time Limit). To do so, she shall inform the RO (Race Officer) as soon as possible (VHF Ch37) that she was still racing and wishes to be scored OTL, and await an acknowledgement. See Scoring OTL below for scoring.
Starters that cease racing before the final time limit shall advise their retirement to the RO on VHF Ch37.
Starters that were still racing at the final time limit but do not ask to be scored as OTL or do not receive an acknowledgement will be scored DNF if the RO is aware they were racing, otherwise the score will be DNC.
- Any boat that retires without advising the RO and receiving an acknowledgement will be scored DNC.
- This SI changes RRS 35 and A4.

11. SHORTENING COURSE

The race may be shortened by laying a finish line at any of the marks of the course. Flag 'S' will be flown, from the Committee boat, together with the class flag(s) of the class(es) whose course is being shortened. Two sound signals will be given prior to the leading boat in that class crossing the line.

A race may be retrospectively shortened by displaying IC flags S over N with two sound signals, the finishing order may be determined from the position at mark or finishing line at which the boats' positions were recorded by the Race Committee.

12. DECLARATIONS AND RETIREMENTS

Declarations will not be required, but retirements must be notified to the Race Officer on VHF Channel M1 (37) (P1) or at the finish or to the competitor's SWSA club representative.

13. PROTESTS. Protests must be lodged in writing to the organising club (Race Officer) within 72 hours of the completion of the race. The intention to protest should be notified verbally to the committee boat or by telephone (to the organising club) or to 07971 795221, or to racing@swsa.org.uk on the day the race finishes. Exceptionally protests not resulting from boat to boat incidents may be accepted at the post-race meeting of the Cruiser Sub-committee.

The organising club will itself form or may request the SWSA to form any protest committee required.

14. SCORING

- a) The Low Point scoring system, RRS Appendix A will apply, except that boats which come to the starting area but are not placed (DNS, OCS, DNF, RET, DSQ, DNE, DGM) will be scored for the finishing place one more than the total number of boats starting in that race, but boats which did not come to the starting area (DNC), shall be scored points for the finishing place two more than the largest number of starters in any one race of the series.
- b) Scoring OTL
- (i) Over Time Limit (OTL). A boat complying with SI 10 (b) above, will be scored as "OTL" with points one more than the last placed boat to finish before the time limit. If more than one boat in a class is to be scored OTL, points will be awarded as described in RRS A7 as if the OTL boats had tied at the finishing line, or if racing on handicap had equal corrected times.
- (ii) This SI changes RRS A4.2, A5, A7, A8.2 and A9.
- c) The number of races to count in the scoring shall be
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| Races started by SWSA and not abandoned | 10 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 |
| Number of discards | 5 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
- d) If a competitor is unable to compete in a race in a series through acting as Committee boat or Race Officer, the competitor will be awarded average points for that race. This will be the average of the points gained in the results remaining after allowing the discards specified in 14b for one race less (for each duty performed) than the total number of races started and not abandoned. The total will then be recalculated taking into account these 'average points' using the total number of races started and not abandoned. These points will count towards both team and individual totals.
- e) Publication of results: results will normally be available within 48 hours of the event on the SWSA Website www.swsa.org.uk. Results will only be mailed to entrants where specifically requested.
- f) Byron Handicaps are produced by Byron Software and Services, details on <http://www.byronsoftware.org/>. Entrants are encouraged to complete the online form <http://www.byronsoftware.org/boats/calcrequest.htm> to obtain a handicap for their individual boat. (A small donation (£5 or more) ensures a rapid response and also details sent direct to SWSA.) The numbers published on the Byron website are for the upper quartile of those boats of the same class, and in general will be a faster rating than an individual rating, and hence place the owner at a disadvantage. When a certificate greater than 3 years old is produced, the SWSA will use the website value, or if no website value is published will issue an arbitrary club handicap value. Races run before production of a certificate will not be rescored retrospectively.
- Handicaps may be reviewed, or amended, should Byron publish fresh data. It is the owner's responsibility to declare, and obtain a new certificate if changes are made to the boat.
 - Spot checks on declared measurements may be made by the SWSA or a designated Club Measurement Official.
 - Upon giving notice to the Sailing Secretary before an event start time, boats may opt to sail without spinnaker/cruising chutes, and hence use the appropriate non-spinnaker Byron handicap for that event only. This is intended to assist owners who find themselves short crewed for a particular event.
- g) Competitors should note that SWSA implements the RYA Racing Charter and that they will be required to undertake to sail in compliance with the Charter, which can be found at www.rya.org.uk/racing/Pages/racingcharter.aspx

15. RISK STATEMENT

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 inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event, each competitor agrees and acknowledges that:

- 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;
- They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore;
- They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss, to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions;
- Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate;
- 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;
- The SWSA does not provide patrol boat cover.
- 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;

- h) Their boat is adequately insured, with cover of at least £2,000,000 sterling against third party claims; and
- i) There is a need for extra care and prudent decisions when navigating in the main channel. Note SI 5.

16. RACE SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS

These instructions apply solely to the events indicated;

h) Evening Series

Start Line: HOVERCRAFT 2
Courses: See separate SWSA Evening Course list.
Finish Line: HOVERCRAFT 2
Time Limit: 1.5 hours from the start for all classes, there will be no extension

i) Bert Drought Weekend Series

Start Line: In the vicinity of ROYAL SOUTHAMPTON.
Courses: See separate SWSA list for races in Southampton Water
Additional Courses: At weekends an additional course may be used to avoid conflict with other races in the area.
Finish Line: In the vicinity of ROYAL SOUTHAMPTON.
Time Limit: 2 hours from the start for all classes, there will be no extension

j) Single Handed Race

There shall be one and not more than one person on board.
Spinnakers and Cruising Chutes will not be used.
Start Line: In the vicinity of ROYAL SOUTHAMPTON.
Courses: As for the BD weekend Series
Additional Courses: At weekends an additional course may be used to avoid conflict with other races in the area.
Finish Line: In the vicinity of ROYAL SOUTHAMPTON.
Time Limit: 1.5 hours from the start for all classes, there will be no extension

k) Passage Race Series

Start Line: For P1-4 at BALD HEAD Buoy, green stb hand, approx. 1 Nm SE of Hamble River entrance.
Finish line: See Passage race Courses. Note there will not normally be a finish boat on the line so competitors will need to take their own times according to SI 9a and 9c.

[End of Sailing Instructions]