



SWSA CRUISER RACING

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Revised 03.11.23



1. RULES

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

Automatic steering is permitted in all passage races, and by boats sailed single handed in any race.

2. ELIGIBILITY

- a) Racing will be for Monohulls, with a Byron Handicap between 880 and 1250, which may race in two fleets.
- b) 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 a series. The decision as to which races count is the Entrants.
- c) Multihulls & Vessels outside the normal handicap range may apply to race on an annual basis.
- d) 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 by calling on Channel 37 (M1) or hailing, failure to do may make them be ranked as a non-starter.

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 SWSA Cruiser Sub-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 at the end of the race or within 2 hours of the start time of the race, to racing@SWSA.org.uk. 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 and Race Officials shall wear lifejackets.

For passage races, use of the RYA SafeTrx application for Iphones or Android phones is recommended.

For races within Southampton Water, SWSA requires that boats should carry at least the following safety equipment:

- a) One strong bucket with a lanyard and of at least 9 litres capacity.
- b) One compass (a hand-held is acceptable).
- c) One fire extinguisher required if electrical system, engine or stove on board.
- d) One anchor and warp.
- e) A lifebuoy with a drogue.
- f) A heaving line, no less than 6 mm (1/4") diameter, 15 -25 m long, readily accessible to cockpit.
- g) A strong, sharp knife readily accessible from the deck or a cockpit.
- h) Each crew member shall have a lifejacket.
- i) At least two red hand flares or alternatively a single electronic distress flare and two orange smoke flares, in a waterproof container.



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- j) First aid kit.
- k) VHF radio. with Ch 37 enabled .

For the passage races SWSA recommends compliance with Category 4 of the ISAF Offshore Special Regulations (OSR).

For all racing SWSA requires boats to carry a functioning engine

6. COMMITTEE BOAT

Each race shall be sailed under the authority of a Race Officer appointed by SWSA who will have total responsibility to conduct the race in accordance with the SWSA Safety Policy. The committee boat will normally display an SWSA dodger. The committee boat may communicate with the fleets on VHF Channel 37 (M1)

7. STARTING LINE.


Except when amended by course specific instructions for passage races, the starting line will be formed between the flag mast of the committee boat and the named buoy. Boats colliding with the committee boat will be disqualified.

8. START SIGNALS

For Evening Series: the course number, and for Weekend Series and Single Hander race: the course letter will be displayed on the committee boat and may be announced on VHF Ch37 (M1).

For all races, starts times shall be taken from the visual signals. Absence of a sound signal shall be disregarded. Classes 1 & 2 will normally start together and both class flags will be used for the single start. If fleet numbers are large the Race Officer may start the classes separately. This will be announced on Channel 37 and single class flags will be flown for each start. (The start signal for Class 1 will be the warning signal for Class 2.

RRS 26 will apply (5-4-1-Go)

Before start sequence	Postponement Flag AP displayed 
1 min before Warning Signal	AP removed plus sound signal
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. SI Flag AP may not be displayed for Passage Race starts.

9. FINISH LINE

The finish line will be between the main mast of the committee boat and the named buoy.

For evening, Bert Drought and single handed races the finish line is shown in the course information unless shortened to another mark in which case the line is between the committee boat and the mark.

For Passage races if the committee boat is not on station:

- a) Boats should finish so that the named buoy is within two boat lengths of the boat.
- b) 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, should be supplied to the Race Officer or emailed to racing@swsa.org.uk within 2 hours of finishing.

10. TIME LIMITS

- a) For the Evening Series, and the Single-handed race; 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 published race start time. There will be no extension. For the Passage races the time limit is stated with the course information.
- b) If the passage 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 Race Officer as soon as possible on VHF Ch37 or to racing@swsa.org.uk within 2 hours of the time limit. Starters that cease racing before the final time limit shall advise their retirement to the RO on VHF Ch37.
- c) Any boat that retires without advising the RO will be scored DNF.



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.

Boats will finish on a direct course from the previous mark and a line between the Committee boat and the finish mark.

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 times at mark or finishing line as recorded by the Race Officer.

12. DECLARATIONS AND RETIREMENTS

Declarations will not be required, but retirements must be notified to the Race Officer on VHF Channel M1 or at the finish. If this is not possible, they should send this information to racing@swsa.org.uk within 2 hours of retiring.

13. PROTESTS

Protests must be lodged in writing to racing@swsa.org.uk on the day the race finishes. The intention to protest should be notified verbally to the Race Officer at the finish. The Race Officer will 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) A boat correctly requesting to be scored Over Time Limit will receive 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 if the OTL boats had tied at the finishing line, or if racing on handicap, had equal corrected times

c) The number of races to count in the scoring shall be:

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 Race Officer, the competitor will be awarded average points for that race. This will be the competitor's average of the points gained after allowing discards. The points awarded for acting as Race Officer will remain provisional until calculated at the end of the series. These points will count towards both team and individual totals.

e) Results will normally be available within 24 hours of the event on the SWSA Website.

f) Byron Handicaps are produced by Byron Software and Services as detailed on the SWSA website. Entrants are encouraged to complete the online form to obtain a handicap for their individual boat. A small donation ensures a rapid response and Byron will copy the new handicap directly to racing@swsa.org.uk. Where a provisional handicap is used a confirmed handicap from Byron will be applied for all races in the series.

- i. It is the owner's responsibility to declare any new handicap and obtain a new certificate if changes are made to the boat.
- ii. Spot checks on declared measurements may be made by the SWSA or a designated Club Measurement Official.
- iii. Owners should submit both spinnaker and white sail handicaps on their entry form if they have a spinnaker. The default handicap will then be the spinnaker handicap unless the owner informs SWSA of their wish to sail with white sails only for a complete series by notifying racing@swsa.org.uk.

End of SIs.