



Hurst Castle Sailing Club

## **SAILING INSTRUCTIONS – WEDNESDAY DINGHY RACING SERIES 2024**

### **1. Rules**

- 1.1 Wednesday Dinghy Racing will be governed by the rules as defined in the 2021 – 2024 Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) appropriate Class Rules and/or the RYA Portsmouth Yardstick Scheme (except as any of these are changed by the Sailing Instructions).
- 1.2 No yacht may take part in HCSC racing unless it is covered by Third Party Insurance with a minimum cover of £3,000,000 per incident.
- 1.3 Rule RRS 28.1 (Sailing the Race) is modified by the addition of – “The Race Committee may disqualify (DSQ) without a hearing a boat that has broken this rule but only when a member of the Race Committee has seen the incident. A boat so penalised shall be informed in the race results.”
- 1.4 Rule RRS 40(Personal Flotation Devices) is deleted and replaced with. “Whilst afloat, every competitor shall wear adequate personal buoyancy preferably to EN 50 Newtons. Wet or dry suits so not constitute adequate buoyancy.”
- 1.5 Rule RRS 41 (Outside Help) – Outside Help is permitted in the form of advice on sailing technique or racing tactics, from other competitors and/or race officials, or assistance recovering a boat after capsize or grounding.
- 1.6 Rule RRS 44.1 (Penalty for infringing Part 2 – When boats meet, or RRS 31 – Touching a Mark) is changed so that only one turn including one tack and one gybe, is required in either case.

### **2. Classes to be raced and Handicapping**

- 2.1 Races are open to all sailing dinghies.
- 2.2 Classes will be allocated HCSC Club Handicaps, where these exist on the basis of previous local experience, or Portsmouth Numbers as published on the RYA website. Where no number is published, a yacht will be allocated Trial Numbers by the Race Committee. The Race Committee may adjust Numbers during any series. For more information on the Portsmouth Number scheme, see (<http://www.rya.org.uk/infoadvice/racing/Pages/portsmouthyardstick.aspx>).

### **3. Safety**

- 3.1 A boat is entirely responsible for her own safety, whether afloat or ashore, and nothing, whether in the Notice of Race or Sailing Instructions or anywhere else

reduces this responsibility. It is for the boat to decide whether she is fit to sail in the conditions in which she will find herself. By launching or going to sea, the boat confirms that she is fit for those conditions and that her crew is competent to sail and compete in them.

- 3.2 Nothing done by the organisers can reduce the responsibility of the boat nor will it make the organisers responsible for any loss, damage, death, or personal injury, however it may have occurred, as a result of the boat taking part in the racing. The organisers encompass everyone helping to run the race and the event, and include the organizing authority, the Race Committee, the Race Officer, support boat(s) and slipway marshals. The provision of support boat(s) does not relieve the boat of her responsibilities. The fact that the Race Committee may conduct inspections of a boat does not reduce the responsibilities of the boat set out in these Sailing Instructions.
- 3.3 The helmsman or crew of each boat must sign on prior to racing and must sign off for each race in which he/she has competed within one hour of the finish of the last race of the day. Failure to sign off may be scored DNS.
- 3.4 It is a pre-requisite for Junior members to take part in racing that a Parental Disclaimer Form is completed by a responsible adult. Such forms are valid only for the year in which they are completed.
- 3.5 Any boat in the Keyhaven River shall not cause Hurst ferries to take avoiding action.
- 3.6 All boats shall comply with instructions given by the HCSC Official Committee Boat or Support Boat. Failure to do so may lead to disqualification from a race or the series.
- 3.7 All boats shall comply with their class rules and prescriptions as appropriate with regard to safety.

#### **4. Briefings, Notices to Competitors and Changes to Sailing Instructions**

- 4.1 Notices to competitors will be posted at the Clubhouse
- 4.2 Any change to the Sailing Instructions will be posted at the Clubhouse at least one hour before the published start time on the day it will take effect.
- 4.3 A briefing for competitors will be held at the Clubhouse, as advertised in the Notice of Race. This will be used to disseminate details of the course, weather forecast, tidal conditions and any other safety-related information.

#### **5. Schedule of Races and Series Scoring**

- 5.1 Races are scheduled as per the published Notice of Race. Up to two races may be run on any given 'normal race' day, according to the discretion of the Race Officer. All competitors will race together.
- 5.2 One day in each series is designated as a "Pursuit Race" day. Racing on that day will be run under the HCSC Pursuit Race Sailing Instructions, with one race only on that day. The race will count for double points in the series scoring.
- 5.3 Racing during the course of the season will be scored in two series, as published in the Club Programme.

- 5.4 Series scoring will be done using the Chipstead High Points System ( CHIPS). Details are available from the Race Committee on request.
- 5.5 For the calculation of Series results,  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the races sailed, rounded up to the nearest whole number, will be counted.
- 5.6 A helm changing to a different class of boat during a series will be classed as a new entry at the point of changing and his/her results from then will be scored separately. This applies also to classes with different rig options, unless the handicap for the larger sail is used when racing with the smaller one.
- 5.7 Competitors who carry out Race Officer or Support Boat duties will be awarded one more than their average points for the races in the Series in which they are classed as starters for all races held on the day(s) in question subject to actually sailing on a minimum of two race days in the series.
- 5.8 No racing will be held on any given day unless at least four boats sign on for the racing that day.

## **6. Class Flags, Anticipated Starting Times**

- 6.1 Flag "Y" will be used as the Class Flag.
- 6.2 Start time for the first race of the day will be advertised in the Notice of Race. A subsequent race may be started as soon as practicable after the completion of the previous race.

## **7. Racing Area and Course**

- 7.1 The racing area will be the Keyhaven creeks, the Pool inside Keyhaven River entrance or the Western Solent immediately outside the creeks. The course will be set up using Crewsaver inflatable race marks and/or Keyhaven River navigation marks. The approximate layout of the marks will be posted on the course board at the Clubhouse prior to going afloat. Competitors should obtain confirmation of the sequence and direction of rounding the marks.
- 7.2 All marks shall be rounding marks unless the alteration of course is clearly less than 45 degrees when they shall be passing marks.

## **8. Starting and Finishing**

- 8.1 Races will be started by using the RRS 26 (Starting Races). Times will be taken from the flag signals. The absence of sound signals shall be disregarded. The Warning signal (Flag "Y") will be 5 minutes before the starting signal. The preparatory signal (Flag "P" with Flag "Y") will be 4 minutes before the starting signal. At one minute before the start, Flag "P" will be removed.
- 8.2 A start may be postponed at any time before the start signal. Postponement will be indicated by the display of Flag "AP" accompanied by a sound signal (two hoots). When Flag "AP" is taken down, accompanied by one further hoot, the next Warning signal will be made approximately one minute later.
- 8.3 For a 'Pontoon Start', the Start Line will be between the triangular topmark on the pontoon pile and the red and white chequerboard on the sea wall on the

eastern side of the creek. For other starts, the Start and Finish line will be between the point on the Committee Boat where the Warning signal (Flag “Y”) is displayed and an adjacent mark, which will normally be an orange inflatable Crewsaver buoy. Exceptionally the Race Committee may position themselves on the beach, in which case the line will be between a flag-stick erected on the beach and a mark on the water. The choice of line for starting and/or finishing will be notified at the briefing.

- 8.4 For a ‘Pontoon Finish’ the finish line will be between the triangular topmark on the pontoon pile and the green channel marker adjacent to the pontoon. For other finishes, the Finish Line will be between the point on the Committee Boat where the Warning signal (Flag “Y”) is displayed and an adjacent mark, which will normally be an orange inflatable Crewsaver buoy. Exceptionally, The Race Committee may position themselves on the beach, in which case the finish line will be between a flag-stick erected on the beach and a mark on the water.
- 8.5 If any boat is on the course side of the line at the start, a second sound signal will be made, and Flag “X” displayed until all such boats have returned to the pre-start side of the line.
- 8.6 To shorten a race, Flag “S” will be signalled accompanied by two sound signals. If the shorten course signal is made from the normal finishing line, each boat will be finished on their next crossing of the Start and Finish line. If the shorten course signal is made from a Committee Boat adjacent to a mark of the course, the Finish Line shall be between the Committee Boat and that mark. Boats should cross the line by the shortest routes from the previous mark of the course.
- 8.7 Any boat not crossing the line within twenty minutes of the first boat finish may be scored ‘DNF’.
- 8.8 If Flag “L” is flying when boats are finishing the first race of the day, this indicates that another race will be started as soon as possible after the completion of that race.

## **9. Penalty System and Protest**

- 9.1 Protest shall be written on forms available from the Clubhouse and delivered there within 30 minutes of the protesting boat coming ashore. RYA Rules Dispute Advisory and Mediation Hearings are available.
- 9.2 Unless notified otherwise, full protest hearings will be heard as soon as possible after racing on the race day following the day on which the race concerned took place, except for the last race day of the series, when any protests will be heard on the same day.