

Part 1 Sailing Instructions for Regattas at Cowes

1. Rules

- 1.1 Racing will be governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing* (RRS). Parts 2 and 3 are sailing instructions as applicable.
- 1.2 There shall be no race unless two boats start. This changes RRS Appendix A.
- 1.3 Boats shall not carry anchors that protrude over the bow nor outboards that extend beyond the transom. Only the race committee may protest under this Sailing Instruction (SI). This changes RRS 60.1.
- 1.4 Boats may use engines or any other method in accordance with RRS 42.3(h) in an emergency to keep clear of a ship. Such engine use shall be reported to the race committee in writing within the protest time limit.
- 1.5 If it appears to the race committee, or any appropriate authority, that a boat is failing to comply with SI 10.1 or 10.4. It may order that boat to take a tow and the boat shall comply with that order. When taken in tow the boat shall retire.
- 1.6 Nothing in SI 1.4 and 1.5 reduces or relieves the obligation of a boat to comply with the collision regulations or ABP Notice to Mariners No 3 of 2011. Equally nothing done, or not done, by the organisers, the race committee or any person assisting the race committee, will make any of them responsible for any loss, damage, death or personal injury, however it may have occurred.
- 1.7 Boats may be required to display an event pennant over their class flag whilst racing. Only the organising authority may protest for infringing SI 1.7

2. Notices and Communication with Competitors

- 2.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board at the host club.
- 2.2 The race committee may use VHF to broadcast information such as signals made ashore, the location of the committee boat, time checks before the first warning signal, description of laid marks, bow or sail numbers of boats recalled, change of course and oral alterations to sailing instructions made before the warning signal, or during the race if it concerns the time limit, in accordance with RRS 90.2(c).
- 2.3 If no other channel is specified, **Channel 77** will be used for races involving Committee boat starts and **Channel 37(M1)** for races involving shoreline starts. Boats with radios should keep radio watch from 15 minutes before the start and throughout the race.
- 2.4 Neither failure by the race committee to transmit by VHF the information referred to in SI 2.2, nor errors, omissions or delay in doing so or the failure by a boat to receive or hear such VHF transmissions will be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 60.1(b) and 62.1(a)

3. Changes to Sailing Instructions

Any change to the sailing instructions made ashore will be posted by 0900 on the day it will take effect, except any changes to the schedule of races will be posted by 2000 on the day before it will take effect.

4. Signals Made Ashore

- 4.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed at the club flagstaff.
- 4.2 Flag AP over AP with two sound signals means racing is postponed and boats are requested not to leave the harbour. The warning signal of the first class to start will be made not less than **45 minutes** after one AP is removed with one sound.
- 4.3 When flag Y is displayed ashore, rule 40 applies at all times. Personal Floatation Devices shall be clearly visible to other boats and the race committee. This changes RRS Part 4 preamble. Only the race committee may protest for infringing 4.3

5. Schedule of Races

Schedules of races and warning signal times are in Part 2 or in the Part 1 Appendix.

6. Class Flags

The following Code (IC) or Naval Numeral (NN) warning flags apply unless flags with class insignias are used instead:

IRC Rated Class_____IC flag 1*	Sigma 33_____IC flag E
Club Handicap Class_IC flag A*	Sigma 38_____NN flag 1
Bembridge OD Class_ Class Insig	Sonar_____IC flag T
Contessa 32_____IC flag G	Sonata_____IC flag F
Daring_____IC flag O	Squib_____NN flag 9
Dragon_____IC flag D	Sunbeam_____IC flag V
Etchells_____IC flag E	Sunsail 40____NN flag 7
Folkboat_____IC flag F	Swallow_____IC flag K
Flying15_____NN flag 6	Twelve Metre – IC flag 3
Hunter 707_____NN flag 7	Victory_____IC flag Z
J 80_____IC flag H	XoD_____IC flag W
Laser SB3_____NN flag 2	Yarmouth OD__IC flag 4
Nicholson 32_____NN flag 3	1720_____NN flag 5
Redwing_____IC flag R	Six Metre_____NN flag 2

*and/or Flags 2 & 3 and B & C for any IRC Rated and Club Handicap sub-divisions respectively.

7. Racing Area

If not indicated by VHF, the starting area will be displayed in the shore course frame of the organising club, by the means of a letter, number or symbol of a fixed Solent racing mark near to where the committee boat will be located. See SI 10 for restrictions.

8. The Course

The course will consist of a series of fixed marks or a combination of fixed and laid marks or laid marks only. The course will be displayed in a frame near the starting line by exhibiting the code for the marks listed to be rounded in the order of rounding reading, if on two rows, from top left to bottom right. Alternatively or in addition, the course may be announced on the designated VHF channel before the warning signal and repeated after the warning signal and will use the mark names or two digit representations of the marks listed. On shore line starts, if more than one round is set the Outer Distance Mark (ODM) shall be deemed to be a passing mark:

- 8.1 An **orange** or **red** letter, number, symbol or background indicates the mark shall be left or rounded to **port**.
- 8.2 A **yellow** or **green** letter, number, symbol or background indicates the mark shall be left or rounded to **starboard**.
- 8.3 When **two** or **three** diamonds are shown, the course displayed before the diamonds shall be sailed **two** or **three** times respectively; then proceed to any mark(s) shown after the diamonds. In the case of **two** times a colon (:) may be displayed instead of two diamonds.
- 8.4 Unless 8.7 applies, when a **Start/Finish Line** hash symbol '#' is displayed in any colour as part of the course, boats shall pass between the main committee boat and the outer distance mark of the finish line.
- 8.5 When a **Spreader Mark** symbol '↔' is displayed in any colour, boats shall round the mark which is laid up to approx 500 metres from the windward mark at approx 90° to the wind, on the required side.
- 8.6 When a **Leeward Gate** symbol '••' is displayed in any colour as part of the course, boats shall sail between the leeward gate marks from the direction of the previous mark and round either mark.
- 8.7 **Laid Courses:** The course will be signalled by the **code letter(s)** shown on the page entitled 'Laid Courses', regardless of the colour of the letter and SIs 8.1 and 8.2 will not apply. The course to be sailed and order of rounding is shown below each diagram, in some courses together with the number of times. Leave all marks to port

unless an 'S' indicates to starboard. Marks shown in brackets () will not be laid unless the designated symbol in 8.5 and 8.6 above is displayed with the code letter.

9. Marks

Marks will either be selected from the fixed navigation buoys or racing marks listed in these sailing instructions or be specially laid inflated orange, black or yellow and black marks described on VHF.

10. Course Restrictions and Obstructions

10.1 Boats shall comply with Associated British Ports Notice to Mariners No 3 of 2011: The Moving Prohibited Zone in the Precautionary Area which shall rank as an obstruction for the purposes of RRS 19 and 20. Boats shall avoid close quarters with any commercial vessel noting SI 1.4, 1.5, 1.6 and 10.4.

10.2 Boats, in whatever direction they are racing, shall not pass:

- (i) north of the barrier off Durns Point, east of Lymington.
- (ii) north of Horse Sand Fort

10.3 Boats shall not anchor or kedge in the Cowes harbour fairway and in the area between Stone Point and Gurnard Bay as indicated on the racing chart in these sailing instructions and on Admiralty Chart 2040. Gas and water pipes, telephone and electricity cables carrying 133,000 volts lie on the sea bed.

10.4 Boats starting from Cowes shall keep a good look out for ferries and commercial traffic when starting across the Cowes harbour fairway as marked on BA chart 2793. Rule 9 parts (b) and (d) of the International Collision Regulations should be complied with at all times as follows:

(b) A sailing vessel shall not impede the passage of a vessel which can safely navigate only within a narrow channel or fairway.

(d) A vessel shall not cross a narrow channel or fairway if such crossing impedes the passage of a vessel which can safely navigate only within such channel or fairway. The latter vessel may use the sound signal prescribed in Colreg Rule 34(d) if in doubt as to the intention of the crossing vessel.

10.5 The race committee may set courses that do not permit boats to sail rhumb line courses between marks, particularly over the central Solent Bramble Bank. This shall not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 62.

11. The Start

11.1 Starting Alert

To alert boats that a race or a sequence of races will begin soon from a committee boat, an orange flag may be displayed with one sound for five minutes before the warning signal is displayed. Between races starting from a committee boat, IC flag AP or R may be displayed with two sounds and removed one minute before the warning signal with one sound. This adds to RRS Race Signals.

11.2 Starting Lines General

The starting line in use is indicated in Part 2 on the inside front cover and the shore line may be defined in Part 3 on the inside back cover. Boats shall start by passing between the inner limit mark, if laid, and the ODM. If the ODM is further used as a mark of the course, it will be identified by the appropriate symbol or name and shall be left on the required side. If a red or green flag is displayed before the warning signal of a shore line race, boats shall start to the eastward or westward respectively.

11.3 Committee Boat Line

The starting line is between a staff bearing a orange flag on the main committee boat and an outer distance mark which is the nearby navigation buoy or racing mark or inflated mark or a staff bearing an orange flag on a boat such that the starting line is approximately at right angles to the wind direction.

11.4 Obstructing the Starting Line

Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall keep clear of the starting line and all boats whose warning signal has been made.

11.5 Individual Recalls

Sail numbers of individually recalled boats may be may be hailed or displayed from a committee boat and/or broadcast on VHF as soon as practical.

11.6 Late Starting

A boat starting later than fifteen minutes after the last starting signal of a sequence will be scored DNS. This changes RRS A4.

12. Change of Course after the Start

Adding to RRS 33, the race committee may display (or radio) the course to be sailed, in accordance with SI 8, for the remainder of the race which may be longer or shorter. If a '#' is displayed boats shall proceed directly to the **Finish Line** from that mark. However, changing Race Signals flag 'C' and RRS 33, the position of any laid inflated mark(s) may be adjusted by up to approximately plus or minus 10 degrees relative to the previous laid mark(s) and up to approximately 500 metres to windward or leeward without the signalling of code flag C or + or -.

13. The Finish

13.1 Shore Line: The shore finishing line is defined in Part 3.

13.2 Committee Boat Line: The finishing line is between the staff or halyard displaying an orange flag on a committee boat and the ODM of the Start/Finish Line or the last mark of the course.

14. Penalty System

RRS 44.1 is changed so that the Two-Turns Penalty is replaced by the One-Turn Penalty.

15. Time Limit

Unless otherwise amended in writing or orally in accordance with SI 2.2 the race time limit is 5 hours and day time limit is 18:00 (17:00 on the last day of a regatta), which ever is the earlier.

15.1 Changing RRS 35, the race committee may award a finishing position or DNF to any boat not finishing within 30 minutes (on corrected time if applicable) after the first boat finishes to enable further race(s) to be sailed or racing to be concluded.

15.2 Changing RRS 35, should no boat finish by the time limit, the result of the race may be determined from the previous time the start/finish line was crossed or the order of boats at a rounding mark or their position at the time limit.

16. RYA Arbitration, Protests and Requests for Redress

RYA Arbitration will be available. The procedure is described at the following link: <http://www.rya.org.uk/SiteCollectionDocuments/Racing/RacingInformation/RacingRules/RYA%20Rules%20Disputes%20Best%20Practice%202010.pdf>. The exoneration penalty will be a 25% scoring penalty in accordance with RRS 44.3 (c). Arbitration, protests and requests for redress should be submitted on forms available from the race committee or the clubhouse and shall be delivered within 90 minutes (60 minutes on the last day of a regatta) of the time of the last boat to finish the last race of the day in her class. Contact mobile numbers should be included on the form. Protests and requests for redress will follow the procedures outlined in paragraph 16 of RRS Appendix L.

17. Scoring

The scoring will be RRS Appendix A unless changed by the Notice of Race or by the class.

18. Retirements

Boats shall notify retirements to the race committee at the earliest opportunity. Boats with VHF may use the designated channel.

19. Results

Results will be posted on the club notice board or website as soon as possible after the last boat has finished.

20. Chartered Boats

Chartered or hired boats shall not be able to seek redress in the event of gear or equipment failure.

21. Support Boats

Coaching and support boats shall stay outside areas and extreme lay lines where boats are racing from the time of the preparatory signal for the first class to start until all boats have finished or the race committee signals a postponement, general recall or abandonment.

Part 1

Appendix

Cowes Keelboat Classes Shore Line Regattas

<i>Class</i>	Warning Signal Times	
	<i>Sat</i>	<i>Sun and Mon</i>
International Etchells*	1245*	1145*
Daring	1255	1155
International Dragon	1305	1205
XoD*	1320*	1220*
International Flying15*/Sonar*	1330*	1230*

* Only if requested by the class to the organising club of the day

The **Notices of Race** for the Talisker Cowes Keelboat Series are published on the website at www.cowes.co.uk and at www.cowesonline.org and the results are published at: <http://cowes.result.vg/public/regattaindex>.