

Newtownards Sailing Club

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS (SIs) 2021

1 RULES

- 1.1 Racing will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) and individual Class Rules.
- 1.2 The prescriptions of the RYA will apply.
- 1.3 RRS Racing rules may be subject to change: Details of such are in the individual SI's below.
- 1.4 All crew members shall be members of Newtownards Sailing Club or shall be signed into the visitors' book prior to racing.

2 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located in the foyer of Newtownards Sailing Club.

3 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted before 1800 on a day one week before it will take effect.

4 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 4.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed at the main flag-pole at Newtownards Sailing Club.

5 SCHEDULE

- 5.1 Dates of racing: Club points racing starts on Opening Day which is Sunday 11th April 2021 and ends on Sunday 14th November 2021.
- 5.2 The Club sailing calendar is posted on the club website and the notice board in the Club Foyer. Series dates are:

Spring Series	11 th April	to	24 th June
Summer Series	27 th June	to	5 th September
Autumn Series	12 th September	to	14 th November

NB The Autumn Series will be an open event.

6 START TIMES AND CLASS FLAGS

<i>Class</i>	<i>GP14</i>
<i>Flag</i>	<i>Class Flag A</i>
<i>Evening Start</i>	<i>19.30 Sharp!</i>
<i>Afternoon Start</i>	<i>14.30 Sharp!</i>
<i>Number of races</i>	<i>Two</i>

Novice, Bronze Fleet, Classic and other dinghy classes shall start on the 1 minute signal.

RACING AREA AND COURSE MARKS

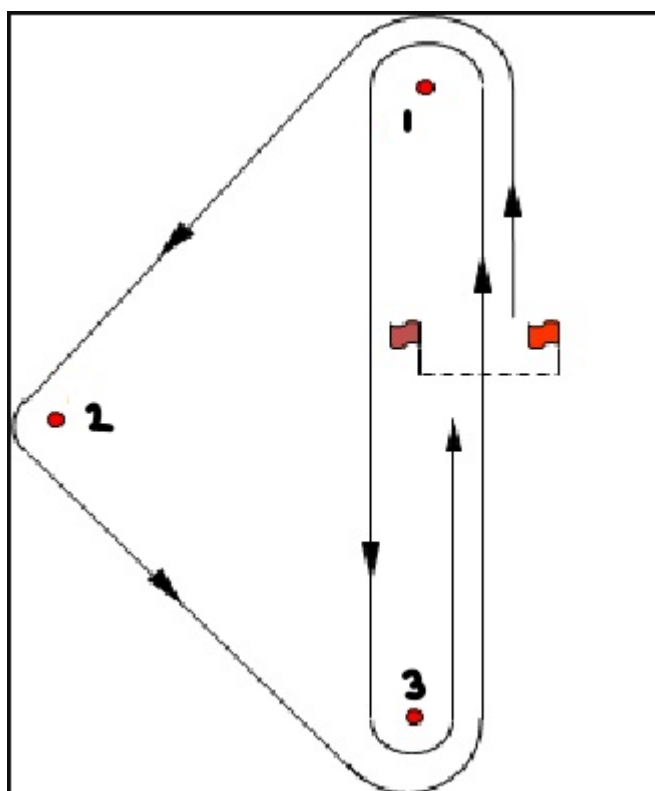
The Racing area and the Course Marks are described in Addendum A.

THE COURSES

Courses will be variations on the old Olympic standard, or Windward / Leeward

The course to be sailed will be indicated by a letter displayed by the committee boat:

- A: Triangle, Triangle, Sausage, Beat **1-2-3-1-2-3-1-3-Finish**
- B: Triangle, Triangle, Beat **1-2-3-1-2-3- Finish**
- C: Triangle, Sausage, Beat **1-2-3-1-3-Finish**
- D: Sausage, Sausage, Sausage, Beat **1-3-1-3-1-3- Finish**
- X: Triangle, Sausage Triangle, Beat **1-2-3-1-3-1-2-3- Finish (Olympic Course)**



Courses may be shortened at the discretion of the Race Officer. When a course has been shortened the Race Officer will lay an appropriate finish line, raise the finish flag and sound two hoots on the horn

THE START

The starting line will be set by the race officer and shall be between the committee boat mast and a temporary spherical mark or a fixed pipe.

Visual starting signals shall be made at 5, 4, 1 and 0 minute intervals and may be accompanied by sound signals

Preparatory signal (1) – 5 minutes before the start the class flag will be displayed alongside the Course Board

Preparatory signal (2) – 4 minutes before the start the preparatory Blue Peter will be raised.

One Minute – 1 minute before the start the Blue Peter will be lowered. Novice, Bronze Fleet, Classic and other dinghy classes may start on the 1 minute signal.

Start – The Class flag A will be lowered and the horn hooted.

10 THE FINISH

The finishing line will be between the committee boat mast and a windward mark, unless the race officer has determined and advised an alternate mark in the case of a shortened course.

11 TIME LIMITS

11.1 Evening Races – Finish Time for last race 21.15.

11.2 Afternoon Races – Finish Time for last race 17.15

11.3 A boat that completes a course after the time limit will be scored Did Not Finish. This amends RRS 35.

12 PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

12.1 RYA Arbitration is available for all Club Races.

12.2 If parties to a rules dispute agree to use RYA Arbitration to resolve the dispute, the decision of the Rules Advisor shall be final.

12.3 Protest forms are available in the club office. Protests and requests for redress or reopening shall be delivered there within the appropriate time limit.

12.4 For each class, the protest time limit is 48 hours after the last boat has finished the last race of the day.

13 SAFETY REGULATIONS

13.1 A boat that retires from a race should notify the Race Officer as soon as possible.

13.2 Competitors in all Dinghy Classes shall wear personal flotation devices at all times when afloat except briefly while changing or adjusting clothing or personal equipment. This changes RRS 40.

14 RADIO COMMUNICATION

Except in an emergency, a boat shall neither make radio transmissions while racing nor receive radio communications not available to all boats. This restriction also applies to mobile telephones.

15 RISK STATEMENT

RRS 4 states: "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue to race 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:

- (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 competitors 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.

16 INSURANCE

Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £2,000,000 per event or the equivalent.

Addendum A - Race Officer Guidelines & Course Details

Arrive to the club no later than 6.30 pm, for a 7.30pm start for evening races or 1.30 for a 2.30 start for afternoon races.

Give yourself time to set the course but remember the race **MUST** start sharp at these times, if not a postponement flag must be displayed.

Before you go out on the water:

- ❖ Read the sailing instructions and this document.
- ❖ Check the weather forecast.
- ❖ Bring the safety box, OOD box and appropriate number of Racing Marks/ buoys.
- ❖ Bring a handheld VHF
- ❖ Check the wind speed with the anemometer in the foyer.

Safety issues before you go out on the water

Make sure the OOD box has the following:

- ✓ A laminated copy of these instructions
- ✓ A laminated results sheet or paper if no other alternative.
- ✓ A chino graph pen or pencil
- ✓ A fog horn
- ✓ Replacement fog horn gas canister
- ✓ Stopwatch

Flags: Class Flag A “1” flag, Blue Peter “2” Flag. Both flags will be kept on poles and kept with the rest of the race officer equipment.

Time Keeping: It is important that competitors keep good time, do not wait to start the race if there are a minimum of three boats already waiting, it is up to the other competitors to be on time.

If we are not consistent then we will end up getting too late.

1. Make sure there is a sufficient rescue boat/dinghy ratio for the conditions.
2. Carry out a radio check on all RIBs
3. Ensure every RIB has a fully equipped safety box
4. Ensure every RIB has sufficient fuel
5. RECORD ALL SAIL NUMBERS OF DINGHIES BEFORE THEY GO OUT ON THE WATER
6. If you believe the wind to be over 30 knots, you may either hoist code flag AP on the club flag pole (indicating a postponement if you believe the wind speed might decrease), or you may hoist code flag N (indicating racing cancelled for the evening). Dinghy races should not normally start in over 30 knots
7. When you are satisfied all rescue boats are ready, and have all sail numbers recorded, you may release sailors from the slip way
8. Always ensure there is **ONE RIB** on standby

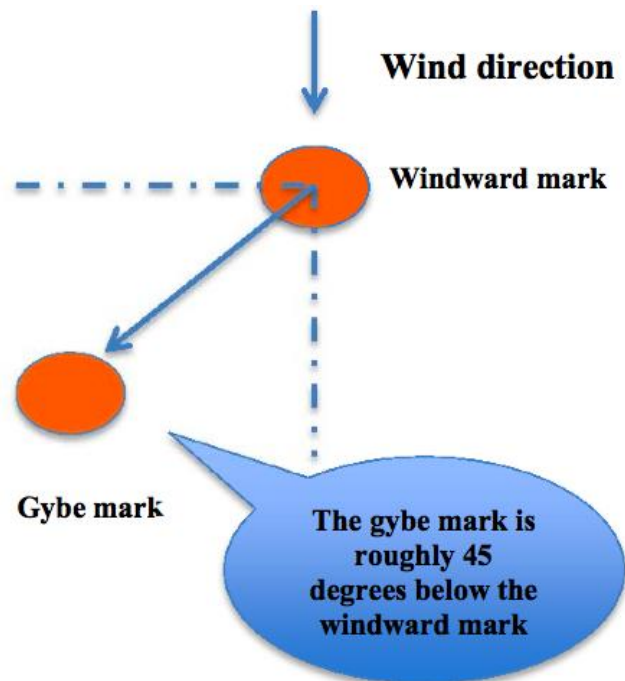
Race area and setting the course

The race area will be the area outside the moorings. The racecourses shall be variations on the old Olympic format or Windward / Leeward (see Sailing Instructions for details). Aim to have races lasting 45 minutes. **The preferred course is "O"**; however, courses A, B and C may be used depending upon conditions. Course D (windward leeward) is used by exception in light wind conditions

- Wherever possible seek to use the clubs fixed marks (Pipes numbered 1, 2, 3 & 4.)
- Drop the anchor of the rescue boat/ committee boat in an area that is spacious enough to allow a triangle sausage course.
- The committee boat acts as the RIGHT HAND MARK OF THE START LINE
- Wind direction Windward mark Note the windward mark is directly upwind from the committee boat

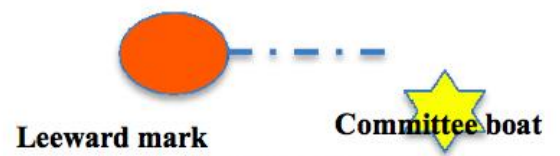
To set the windward mark

- Committee boat- Use a flag on a stick to identify where the wind direction is.
- Once you have found the wind direction, inform a rescue boat of where you want them to lay the mark, and how far away it is to be (this is fine tuning).
- Once again, for those race officers less experienced, it is perfectly acceptable to ask a dinghy sailor how long the windward leg should be.
- Be in radio contact with the mark laying boat, and advise them of where exactly you would like the mark laid.



To set the leeward mark

- The leeward mark also acts as the left end of the start line (the committee boat being the right end)
- Ensure the line is long enough to enable all boats to start. If in doubt, ask the dinghy sailors if it is too long/short
- **The start line should be unbiased:** both ends of the line should be equally far from the windward mark



For an unbiased line:

- ✓ Put your right arm straight out in front of you.
- ✓ Put your left arm straight out to your left side.
- ✓ Your arms and body will form a right angle.
- ✓ With your right arm straight in front of you, line it up with the windward mark.
- ✓ Look left along your left arm: this is where the leeward mark should be.

To set the Gybe mark

- The gybe mark should be positioned to the left of the windward mark (as viewed from the committee boat), about halfway between the windward mark and leeward. It should therefore complete the triangle
- It is roughly 45 degrees below the windward mark.
- The length of the legs (windward mark – gybe mark, and gybe mark to leeward mark) should be sufficiently long for the conditions.
- Inform the rescue boat the general position to lay the mark, and then hail them on VHF to fine tune your position.

Start Sequence

- Five minutes before the start raise the class flag and hoot the horn. Display the appropriate course letter card (see sailing Instructions)
- At Four minutes raise the Blue Peter and hoot the horn
- At One Minute lower the Blue Peter and hoot the horn. This is the start for Bronze, Novice, Classic and t for Silver and Gold fleet.

In order to help novice sailors judge the time call out when 30 seconds to the start, 20 seconds and then count down the last 10 to zero.

Individual Recall

Some boats may be “OCS” or “on course side” before the start. If this is the case, once you have sounded the horn for the start and raised/dropped flags, you must make one sound with the horn and call out the sail number/s of those boats that were over.

General Recall

If the majority of the fleet are over, once you have sounded the horn for the start, sound the horn again - twice in quick succession and announce “General Recall”. You will need to restart the entire fleet

After the start and at the finish

Once the races are underway, avoid impeding progress of the dinghies and be aware that the wash of the RiB can cause considerable disruption in calm conditions.

The finish will be on the upwind leg, and the finish line is between the start/finish or windward mark and the committee boat. Therefore the committee boat should set an unbiased finish line square to the windward mark and of sufficient length for the final leg.

On finishing, record the sail number of the boat and its position. For every boat that finishes, sound the horn once. For boats that were over at the start but did not redeem themselves by dropping below the start line, do not provide a finish horn and record their sail number as “OCS” on the results sheet.

For boats that have not sailed the course properly (i.e. missed a mark etc.), they too do not get a hoot at the finish. In this instance, record their sail number as “DSQ” on

the results sheet.

Note that boats may be subject to a protest from another boat(s). This will not affect their finishing order, but any boat that wishes to protest another boat must inform the committee boat of their intention to protest a sail number as soon as possible after they finish a race. This means that a boat cannot decide to protest a boat at the end of race 2 for an incident in race 1.

What to do in case of wind shifts

If there is a shift in the wind, you may need to move the marks slightly. If it is a very big shift you may decide to shorten the course and finish boats early in order to reset the course for the next race. Use the shorten course procedures laid out below.

YOU CANNOT RELAY A MARK WHEN A BOAT IS CLOSE TO THE MARK AND IS SAILING TOWARDS IT. However, if boats are sufficiently far away from the mark (use your judgement to make sure the boat in question will not be penalized by sailing farther than competitors behind them), try to relay it as quickly as possible.

What to do for shortening the course

If the wind speed drops, shifts dramatically, or has been low for the duration of the race, you can shorten the course and finish the fleet at a mark of your choosing. Identify where the lead boat of the fleet is, and decide upon a race mark in front of them for which you wish to finish the race at.

Drop your anchor by the mark, to create a finish line. Ensure it is long enough to allow a group of boats alongside each other to finish. As the lead boat approaches sound the horn twice and announce "shortened course". This informs the fleet of the course being shortened, and the finish line having moved to its new position. Record the finishing boats as laid out in the finishing procedures of this document.

Starting new races

There will be two races per day. After the last boat has been finished and its sail number recorded, try to start the new race as soon as possible. If you need some time to re-lay the course and settle yourself before the next race, do not feel rushed: better a few minutes delay than doing something wrong. Carry out the starting sequence as detailed above.

After all two races are over

- Make sure there is rescue cover until all dinghies have recovered at the slip.
- Collect temporary marks.
- Check again to ensure there are no boats left in the race area before heading in.
- Dinghy Sailors will help to recover and hose down the RiB.
- **Important remember to issue Race Results to the appropriate Committee Member to update the Club Race Results.**
- **ONCE ASHORE, CHECK THE NUMBER OF BOATS THAT RECOVERED MATCHES THE NUMBER OF BOATS THAT LAUNCHED**