

Tollesbury Cruising Club

RACING INSTRUCTIONS

These rules are based on the 2005-2008 RYA Racing Rules of Sailing, but adapted to suit our Club's style of racing

1 Rules

1.1 Races will be sailed under the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) the RYA prescriptions thereto, the Notice of Race, and these Sailing Instructions.

2 Notices to Competitors

2.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board of the club and its web site.

3 VHF Transmission

3.1 The transmission or receiving of information at any time before, during or after the Sailing Instructions, matters affecting the management of the Race, or all or part of the course to be sailed, shall not be grounds for protest under RRS Rule 41 (Outside Help) nor grounds for redress under RRS Rule 62. Since information regarding the race may be broadcast on VHF Channel 17 (or other Race Channel as advised), competitors are strongly advised to monitor that channel before and during the race.

4 Club Flags

4.1 All competitors are requested to fly the Club Flag, and ensigns must be taken down to indicate that you are racing.

5 The Start

5.1 The starting sequence for all races will be in accordance with RRS Rule 26. However it should be noted that our committee boat may not have the facility to undertake Flag Signals, then in which case we will use Sound Signals only i.e.:

SIGNAL	FLAG & SOUND	MINUTES TO START
Warning	TCC Flag hoist & one sound	5
Preparatory	Code Flag 'P' hoist & one sound	4
1 Minute	Code Flag 'P' down & one long sound	1
Start	TCC Flag down & one sound	0

5.2 The countdown sequence will be broadcast on VHF Channel 17. This broadcast will be advisory only; competitors should refer to the start signals.

5.3 It is the responsibility of each boat to inform the Committee Boat of its intention to race and the number of crew onboard at least 15 minutes before the start.

5.4 If you commit a foul, e.g. cross the start line too soon, hit another boat, or hit the starting mark, then you must return to the start line and turn your boat through 360 degrees TWICE. The onus is on you to obey the rule; do not rely on the Committee Boat to penalise you.

5.5 All engines must be switched off, at least 10 minutes before the start time.

6 The Start Line

6.1 The start line will be between the mainmast of the Committee Vessel and the Defined mark in the Notice of Race.

6.2 When the Committee Vessel is on station at the start line she will display a prominent Flag.

6.3 Competitors shall start in the direction of the first designated mark of the course.

7 The Race

7.1 You must follow the nominated course and round all marks on the designated side, and in the correct order.

7.2 If you touch a mark you must complete one 360 degree turn (well away from other boats, and NOT round the race mark).

7.3 If you pass the wrong side of a mark, you must go back and round on the correct side.

8 Retiring

8.1 If you wish to retire from the race, please call the Committee Boat on Channel and indicate this by flying your ensign again.

9 The Finish

9.1 The finish line will be as defined in the Notice of Racing.

9.2 The Committee boat will give you one sound signal and record your time. Occasionally when we are unable to have a committee boat you may be asked to take your own time. Please use the time as given by your GPS receiver and please be honest!

10 Time Limits

10.1 RRS Rule 35 is hereby amended: -

The time limit for all races will be 6 hours. This means that any Boat finishing within the time limit shall make the race valid. However any other Boat not completing the course in a further 2 hours will be deemed to have retired.

10.2 All boats retiring must inform the OOD on VHF Channel 17.

11 Protests and Requests for Redress

11.1 Boats wishing to protest or seek redress shall verbally inform the OOD aboard the Committee Vessel as soon as possible after finishing or retiring.

11.2 In the spirit of sportsmanship it is requested that protests are to be avoided.

12 Handicap System

12.1 The handicaps used for "club only" races will be based upon the RYA Portsmouth Yardstick, as issued by Byron Software, or by a Trial Number where a Class is not listed. These will be adjusted, periodically from the race performance data, to allow for Crew Skill Factor as defined in the RYA Portsmouth Yardstick Scheme, thus allowing all competing boats, an equal opportunity to win.

12.2 For inter-club races the handicaps used will be based upon the RYA Portsmouth Yardstick, and as issued by Byron Software.

13 Safety Equipment

13.1 All boats shall carry the following safety equipment:-

- a) Lifejacket for each crew member.
- b) Lifebuoy.
- c) 2 RED flares and 2 ORANGE SMOKE flares.
- d) Fog horn.
- e) Echo Sounder.
- f) Fire extinguisher readily available.
- g) Anchor, 2M of chain and a minimum of 30M cable.
- h) Safety harnesses, one for each crew member.
- i) First-Aid kit.
- j) Compass - marine type properly installed and adjusted.
- k) Manual bilge pump permanently fitted and operable from the cockpit
- l) Stout bucket and lanyard.
- m) VHF Radio.
- n) GPS Receiver.
- o) Bolt croppers or any means of cutting the rigging.
- p) Heaving line and towline.
- q) All boats should be capable of shortening sails in a seaman-like manner according to the prevailing conditions.

This list represents a minimum and is not the basis of any definitive safety at sea recommendation by the organising authority

13.2 The organising authority reserves the right to board any boat before or after any race to check safety equipment. Any boat found not to comply, may be disqualified from the race.

14 Disclaimer of Liability

14.1 Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. See RRS Rule 4, Decision to Race.

14.2 The organising authority will not accept any liability for material damage or Personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the Race.

14.3 The Race Organisers shall not be liable for any loss, damage, death or personal injury howsoever caused to the owner/competitor, as a result of their taking part in the race or races.

14.4 Moreover every competitor warrants the suitability of his boat for the race. A boat is entirely responsible for its own safety, whether afloat or ashore, and nothing whether in the Notice of Race or Sailing Instructions or anywhere else, reduces this responsibility.

14.5 It is for boats to decide whether it is fit to sail in the conditions in which it will find itself. By launching or going to sea, the boat confirms that it is fit for those conditions and that its crew is competent to sail and compete in them.

14.6 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 including the Organising Authority, the Race Committee, and The Race Officer, etc.

15 Insurance

15.1 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.