

Smugglers Regatta

26th and 27th July 2025

Sailing Instructions

1 Rules

- 1.1 The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in the **Racing Rules of Sailing 2021-2024** and by the **RYA Racing Charter**.
- 1.2 **Harwich Haven Authority Bylaws will also apply.** Competitors should note in particular: *“A vessel which is not confined to the Deep Water Channel by reason of her draught shall keep clear of the Deep Water Channel when necessary to avoid impeding the movement of a vessel which is proceeding in, and by reason of her draught is confined to that channel.”* Note that keeping clear of the deep water channel may require boats to make a clear and obvious change of course away from the channel before they get to the channel, in order to make it clear to any approaching vessel that they are keeping clear (noting that visibility from the bridge of a large vessel may be restricted).
- 1.3 **The following local rule will also apply:** *“Any boat, even if capsized, whose hull or equipment makes contact with a moored yacht (excluding her mooring buoy) shall retire immediately unless she claims that she was wrongfully compelled to make contact by another boat, in which case she shall protest. (Fending off by crew or helm is permitted).”* If you have caused any damage to a moored yacht then you must report the name of the yacht to the RO once ashore .

2 Safety Regulations

- 2.1 **Each competitor shall wear a personal floatation device** (e.g. buoyancy aid or lifejacket) appropriate to their size and weight of at least CE 50 Newton standard or equivalent at all times when on the water, except briefly while changing or adjusting clothing or personal equipment. Wet suits and dry suits are not personal floatation devices.
- 2.2 **Any boat that wishes to go ashore or otherwise leave the race area before the end of racing** shall notify the race committee or the crew of an official support boat before doing so.
- 2.3 **All boats shall have a painter of adequate length**, or other means of securing the boat to a mooring buoy or to a support boat for towing, that is readily identifiable and accessible to the crew of a support boat.
- 2.4 **When a member of the race committee or its designated official considers that a boat, its equipment or a competitor may not be adequate for the current or expected conditions, or for any other reason associated with safety**, they may stop the boat launching, require it to return to shore or go to another location, require it to accept outside assistance, or require the competitor(s) to abandon their boat, in which case the boat or competitors concerned shall obey that instruction.
- 2.5 **Support boats may escort large vessels through the race area.** If a support boat is displaying a red flag then no boat shall pass between the support boat and the large vessel. The race committee may give warning of the approach of a large vessel by making five sound signals.
- 2.6 **Failure to comply with any safety regulation or instruction may result in disqualification, or the imposition of any other penalty as the race committee sees fit, without a hearing.** This changes Rule 63.1.

3 Communications

- 3.1 **Notices to competitors** will be posted on the course board at the rear of the race hut, or official notice board in the clubhouse foyer if wet.
- 3.2 There will be a **briefing for competitors** before racing which all competitors intending to race should attend, including the parents of competitors under the age of 18. Time of briefing on NOR 3.3Any **change to the sailing instructions** will be posted at least 15 minutes before the launch signal for the race or races affected.

4 Signals Made Ashore

4.1 **Signals made ashore** will be displayed on the black and white striped mast at the rear of the club race hut.

5 Schedule of Races

5.1 Racing will take place on each of the two days with the intention of sailing three races on Saturday and three races on Sunday (a total of 6 races for the series), but with the option of sailing more at the Race Officers absolute discretion.

5.2 On either Saturday or Sunday, at the Race Officer's absolute discretion, there will be a stand-alone pursuit race that will not count towards the overall results for the regatta.

5.3 The warning signal for the first start of the first race on each day will not be made until the Race Officer is satisfied that boats have had a reasonable opportunity to get to the starting area following the launch signal.

5.4 The warning signal for each start after the first in each start sequence will be made with or after the starting signal for the preceding start in the sequence.

5.5 Points scoring races on each day will normally be sailed 'back to back' (with no opportunity to return to shore between races), with the warning signal for the first start of each subsequent race being made as soon as practicable following completion of the previous race.

5.6 The RO once on the water and happy for boats to launch will radio ashore for someone to hoist a D flag and make two sound signals

6 Classes and Class Flags

6.1 The composition of racing classes and the class flags to be used will be announced at the competitors' briefing before racing on the first day.

7 Racing Areas

7.1 Racing will be on the River Orwell in the vicinity of the Royal Harwich Yacht Club. The race area(s) to be used on each day will be indicated at the daily competitors' briefing.

8 Courses and Marks

8.1 The course(s) to be sailed and description of marks to be used will be announced at the competitors' briefing before racing on first day and displayed on the course board on the committee boat. These courses may be marked a a letter

W for windward leeward

O for Olympic triangle sausage triangle each section counting as one lap

T for trapezoid

TL for trapezoid with outer loop

8 for figure of 8

If no letter then course May be drawn and listed on the board of the committee boat

8.2 The race committee may change the course to be sailed whilst afloat, in which case they will display the new course to be sailed on the course board on the committee boat and display flag L with one sound signal.

9 Areas that are Obstructions

9.1 No boat that is racing shall enter the area between the club hard (marked at its outer end by a red post) and the club marina, except to come ashore to effect repairs.

9.2 No boat that is racing shall sail inside the club marina (inside a line joining the outer ends of the pontoons), or between the club marina and the MDL marina, or inside the MDL marina.

10 The Start

10.1 Races will be started either in accordance with Rule 26 with the warning signal made 5 minutes before the starting signal, or at the Race Officer's discretion, he may employ a 3-2-1-Go sequence, which will change Rule 26. This will be made clear at the race day briefing.

10.2 The starting line will be between a mast displaying an orange flag on the committee boat at one end of the line and a dan buoy with orange flag as the outer distance.

10.3 Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall stay away from the starting area and first leg of the course, and keep clear of boats whose warning signal has been made, during the starting sequence for other classes. Only the race committee may protest a boat for a breach of this SI.

This changes rule 60.1.

10.4 In the event of a general recall the recalled class(es) will go to the end of the sequence of classes to start. A new warning signal for the recalled class(es) will be made with or after the starting signal for the last start in the scheduled sequence of starts, or with or after the starting signal for any previously recalled classes (whichever is later). This changes rule 29.2. Please all note for a second start after a general recall the RO May use a black or U flag

11 Change to the Next Leg of the Course

11.1 To change a leg of the course the race committee may move the original mark (or the finishing line) to a new position.

11.2 The race committee may not normally signal any change to the next leg of a course, but may direct a support boat to lead the fleet towards the repositioned mark. This changes rule 33.

12 The Finish

12.1 The finishing line will be between a mast displaying an orange flag on the committee boat at one end of the line and a Dan bouy displaying an orange flag as the outer distance.

12.2 Boats that have finished and cleared the finishing line shall thereafter stay away from the finishing area and course, and keep clear of all boats that are still racing. Only the race committee may protest a boat for a breach of this SI. This changes rule 60.1.

13 Shortening Course

13.1 The race committee may shorten the course of any race at any time for any reason. This changes rule 32.1.

14 Alternative Finish

14.1 At any time after the first boat has finished, the race committee may display flag W with three sound signals, in which case all boats still racing will be deemed to have finished at that time, with their finishing place for scoring purposes being determined by their position around the course at that time as assessed by the Race Officer (whose decision on the matter will be final and shall not be the subject of a request for redress – this changes rule 62.1), except in the case of boats in handicap classes whose finishing place for scoring purposes will be based on their elapsed time at the end of the previously completed lap. This changes rule A3.

15 Time Limits

15.1 There will be no time limits.

16 Penalties

16.1 The Exoneration Penalty and the Advisory Hearing and RYA Arbitration procedures of the RYA Rules Disputes Procedures will be available. See the Official Notice Board for details.

17 Protests and Requests for Redress

17.1 Protest forms will be available in the club race box. Protests and requests for redress or reopening shall be delivered there within the time limit, which will be 30 minutes after the last competitor has come ashore.

17.2 A notice will be posted on the official notice board as soon as practicable after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties. This is the notification required by rule 63.2. Advisory hearings, arbitration hearings and protest hearings may begin without a notice, including within the protest time limit, when the parties are available.

18 Scoring

18.1 The Low Point System of Appendix A will apply.

18.2 One race needs to be completed to constitute a series.

18.3 Discards

- (a) When fewer than 4 races have been completed a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores.
- (b) When 4 and above races have been completed a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.

18.4 In the Laser class, there will be separate prizes for each rig . There will not be an overall handicap

19 Replacement of Crew or Equipment

19.1 While racing, a boat shall only be helmed by one of the competitors listed on the entry form for that boat (although the competitor may be listed as either helm or crew).

19.2 While racing, a boat shall not be crewed by anyone other than a competitor entered for the event, but any competitor entered for the event may crew in any boat.

19.3 No boat shall use a sail displaying a sail number different to that listed on the entry form for that boat without first notifying the race committee in writing of the new sail number (or other identifying sail marking) and obtaining the race committee's consent to the new sail number (or other identifying marking).

20 Compliance with Class Rules

20.1 Boats need not comply strictly with class rules, and measurement or rating certificates will not be required. In particular, replica sails and equipment may be used, and sail numbers need not match the number of the boat. This changes rule 78.1.

20.2 Competitors shall however abide by the spirit of class rules, and in particular not seek to gain a competitive advantage through any breach of class rules.

20.3 Only the race committee may protest a boat for a breach of this SI. This changes rule 60.1.

21 Identification on sails

21.1 Boats need not comply with the requirements of Appendix G as regards class insignia, national letters and numbers on sails. This changes rule 77.

21.2 Boats will however be required to display a unique identifying marking on their sail.

22 Unofficial support boats

22.1 All unofficial support boats shall be at least 50m outside the race course at all times whilst racing is in progress, unless specifically requested to assist in the race area by the race committee. The race committee may impose any penalty they see fit on all competitors associated with an unofficial support boat that fails to comply with this SI.

22.2 Parents/guardians of competitors under 18 years of age are reminded that communication with competitors whilst racing is in progress constitutes outside assistance, which makes the competitor liable to disqualification from the race. Only members of the race committee and crews of official support boats may give advice and support to competitors whilst racing is in progress.

23 Prizes

23.1 Prizes will be awarded at the discretion of the race committee.

24 Risk Statement

24.1 Rule 4 of the Racing Rules of Sailing states: "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone."

Sailing is by its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event, each competitor (and in the case of competitors under 18 years of age their parents/guardians) 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, umpires and other officials and volunteers by the organiser does not relieve them 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.

25 Insurance

25.1 Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £5,000,000 per incident.