

Sailing Instructions

For the Topper Open 22/10/23

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

1. RULES

Racing will take place under the Racing Rules of Sailing 2021 – 2024 (RRS), the prescriptions of the R.Y.A., these Sailing Instructions, the rules of the Classes concerned and any notice to competitors subsequently issued by the Sailing Committee.

2. CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

2a General. The safety of a boat and her entire management including insurance shall be the sole responsibility of the owner/competitor racing the boat who must ensure that the boat and crew are adequate to face the conditions that may arise in the course of the race. Neither the establishment of these Sailing Instructions nor the inspection of the boat under these conditions in any way limits or reduces the absolute responsibility of the owner/competitor for the crew, the boat and the management thereof. The race organisers shall not be responsible for any loss, damage, death or personal injury however caused to the owner/competitor, skipper or crew, as a result of their taking part in the race or races. Moreover, it is the competitor's responsibility to decide the suitability of their craft to sail the course on Oulton's shallow and restricted waters without recourse to redress.

2b A boat sailing at WOBYC shall have third party insurance for a minimum of £2,000,000.

2c Entries for Open Regattas shall be registered with the race committee before the warning signal of the first race.

3. NOTICE TO COMPETITORS

Notices to competitors shall be posted at the Club House and may be reproduced on the club website.

4. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any changes to these Sailing Instructions or schedule of races shall be posted not less than one hour before the first race of the day on which they take effect.

5. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

Signals made ashore shall be displayed from the Club House signal mast.

6. SCHEDULE OF RACES

9:00 - Briefing, at the clubhouse, under the awning

10:00 - Topper 5.3 Race 1

10:05 - Topper 4.2 Race 1

11:00 - Topper 5.3 Race 2

11:05 - Topper 4.2 Race 2

12:00 - Topper 5.3 Race 3

12:05 - Topper 4.2 Race 3

Race 4 for both fleets will be 'back to back' with Race 3

7. CLASS FLAGS

To be confirmed at the briefing.

8. RACING AREA

The racing area shall be Oulton Broad and the adjoining waterways.

9. COURSE

9a. The course to be sailed shall be displayed at the starting line. Numbers with a green background to be left to starboard and numbers with a red background to be left to port. The number of rounds will be shown in white figures on a black background.

9b. When the first mark is prefixed by the letter X on a yellow background it shall not rank as a mark of the course on the first round.

9c. The inclusion of the letter F on a blue background in the course indicates a clubhouse finish, having rounded the mark preceding the F the prescribed number of times.

9d. The marks of the course are buoys, Which are numbered by their usual position around the broad 1 to 7 starting with No. 1 to the south of the clubhouse, then clockwise around the broad, with No.7 the furthest to the east.

On rare occasions the buoys could be out of order, in which case the buoy is identified by the number painted onto it. They are red/orange in colour. They may be moved to suit wind or tide conditions.

Mark 8 shall be light Blue and may be positioned anywhere in the racing area.

9g The marks of the course shall not be moved during a race. (Marks not currently in use may be moved during a race).

10. THE START

10a. RRS 26 shall apply

10b. Clubhouse start line.

This shall be an extension of a line passing through the orange signal mast on the Club House and the black and white pole on the quay. Limit marks (buoys with through poles) may be positioned approximately on the line. Boats shall pass between these buoys when starting.

10c. Committee Boat Start.

This is indicated by flying Code Flag Q from the Club House signal mast. The Committee Boat shall display an orange flag. The start line shall be a line through the black and white pole on the Committee Boat and the outer distance mark (buoy with through pole). An inner distance mark (buoy with through pole) may be positioned approximately on the line. To start, boats shall pass between these marks. Boats which pass between the inner distance mark and the Committee Boat at any time (after their preparatory signal) shall be disqualified.

10d. When a Class has a split start each boat may display a coloured streamer from the end of the boom, to signify which start they are in. Red – 1st; Yellow – 2nd. The streamer shall not be considered as part of the boat.

10e. Boats whose Preparatory signal has not been made shall keep clear of the starting area and of all boats whose preparatory signal has been made.

10f. A boat shall not start later than TWO minutes after her starting signal.

11. RECALLS

11a. RRS 29.1 shall apply except that the class flag shall be left at the dip. Code flag X shall not be flown. Sail numbers shall not necessarily be called.

11b. General Recalls. RRS 29.2 shall apply.

11c. RRS 30.2 (Z flag rule) shall not apply.

12. FINISH

12a For Fixed lap races finishing at the Clubhouse, the finish line is between the orange signal mast on the Clubhouse and the pole carrying three coloured discs on the opposite bank.

12b Fixed lap races started at the committee boat may be finished at the clubhouse finish line if F is in the course.

13 SHORTENING COURSE

13a. The course may be shortened at the discretion of the O.O.D.. This is indicated by code flag S above the class flag(s) accompanied by two sound signals.

13b. Code flag S flown from the club signal mast indicates a club line finish; the leading boat shall finish when she next crosses the finishing line while sailing the prescribed course.

13c. The course may be shortened at a mark of the course in which case a committee boat flying the shorten course flag shall be stationed close to a mark and the finishing line will be between the black and white pole on the committee boat and that mark; the leading boat shall finish when she next crosses this finishing line while sailing the prescribed course.

14. TIME LIMIT

In normal club racing (except for river races) if the leading boat does not complete the first lap of a race within 45 minutes, the race shall be abandoned.

15. PROTESTS

15a. Anyone intending to protest must inform the race team in the box before the start of the next race. Following that, protest forms must be filled out within 45 minutes of the last boat finishing the last race.

15b. Failure of attendance by parties or witnesses having been informed are not grounds for deferment of the hearing.

15c. The Exoneration Penalty and the Advisory Hearing and RYA Arbitration procedures of the RYA Rules Disputes Procedures will be available. See the Club Notice Board for details.

15d. Protests are subject to a £10 deposit, which will be returned if your protest is upheld.

16. SCORING

16a. The event shall be scored according to Appendix A, low points system, of the RRS.

17. SAFETY

17a. When racing, suitable personal buoyancy must be worn by all dinghy sailors and by junior sailors (under the age of 18) and keelboats must carry buoyancy aids or lifejackets in accordance with RRS 1.2.

17b. All competitors shall wear suitable personal buoyancy in the Winter season.

17c. All sailing boats less than 15m in length must abide by Broads Authority Navigation Byelaw 24 (1995): Sailing vessels must not impede commercial, passenger-carrying vessels greater than 15m in length, the Waveney Princess, for example.