

RS Class Associations

GENERAL SAILING INSTRUCTIONS 2020

for UK National Tour events and Inland, Spring, Summer, Winter, Southern, Northern, Scottish, Youth & Junior, and End of Season Championships/Regattas

Organising Authority – RS Class Associations in conjunction with various yacht and sailing clubs

The notation [DP] in a rule in the Sailing Instructions means that the penalty for a breach of that rule may, at the discretion of the protest committee, be less than disqualification.

1 RULES

The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing* and the rules of the individual classes.

2 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

Notices to competitors will be posted on the Official Notice Board as defined in Event Appendix for each event.

3 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any changes to the Sailing Instructions will be posted at least one hour before the advertised start time of the race or races concerned; except that any change to the schedule of races shall be posted by 2000hrs on the day before it will take effect.

4 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

4.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed at the location described in the Event Appendix.

4.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore '1 minute', in 'Race Signals' is replaced with 'not less than 30 minutes'. This changes the meaning of AP in RRS Race Signals.

5 FORMAT OF RACING

5.1 The RS National Tour events and Championships/Regattas will usually comprise a maximum of 6 races for a two-day event. The schedule of races will be specified on the UK RS Class Association websites at <https://rs-association.com> under 'Events' and on the official notice board.

5.2 No more than 6 races will be sailed in any one day.

5.3 At the discretion of the Class Representative and the Race Committee some of the following days' races may be brought forward to allow for any inclement weather forecasts.

5.4 In the event of a race being recalled, restarted, re-sailed or abandoned the next race sailed will be that race with subsequent races being sailed thereafter in their scheduled order.

6 CLASS FLAGS

The class flags will be as follows:

RS100	Red flag with black RS100, or numeral pennant 1
RS200	Yellow flag with black RS200, or numeral pennant 2
RS300	Light blue flag with black RS300, or numeral pennant 3
RS400	Violet flag with black RS400, or numeral pennant 4
RS500	Green flag with black RS500, or numeral pennant 5
RS600	Pink flag with black RS600, or numeral pennant 6
RS700	Grey flag with black RS700, or numeral pennant 7
RS800	White flag with black RS800, or numeral pennant 8
RS Vario	White flag with pink RS VO, or pennant V

7 RACING AREAS

The racing area will be as shown on the official notice board or in the event appendix.

8 THE COURSES

- 8.1 The diagram(s) in the event appendix will show the course(s), the order in which marks are to be passed and the side on which each mark is to be left. Courses will also be displayed on the official event notice board.
- 8.2 If a course has a gate and one of two gate marks is missing and has not been replaced as described in RRS 34 then the remaining mark shall be rounded to port. This changes RRS 34.
- 8.3 The number of laps to be sailed will be indicated on the Committee Boat for each fleet, either displayed on a notice board or by displaying the appropriate numeral pennant.

9 MARKS

The course marks will be described in the event appendix.

10 THE START

- 10.1 The starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the starting mark at the starboard end and the course side of the port-end starting mark.
- 10.2 When a limit mark is laid near the Committee Boat it is a starting limit mark that shall be left to starboard when starting.
- 10.3 Boats whose preparatory signal has not been made are reminded of their obligations not to interfere with boats that are racing as set out in RRS 24.1.
- 10.5 A boat starting later than 4 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes RRS A4 and A5.
- 10.6 When there are more than 50 entries in one class, or if the fleet specifically requests it, one of two alternative start procedures may be used as follows:
 - i) The race committee may choose to use a gate start. If so, flag G will be displayed

from the committee boat and Appendix C to these SIs will apply. This changes RRS 26.

- ii) At the discretion of the Class Committee, competitors in that class may be split into flights and racing will be organised as per Appendix D. This changes RRS 26.

Competitors will be advised at the briefing if gate starts or flights are to be used and a notice to this effect will be posted on the official notice board.

11 CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

To change the next leg of the course, the race committee will move the original mark (or the finishing line) to a new position. Event Appendix may change this to use Change Marks.

12 THE FINISH

The finishing line will be between a staff displaying a blue flag on the committee boat and the course side of the finishing mark described in the event appendix.

13 PENALTY SYSTEM

- 13.1 For all fleets except the RS200 and RS Vareo RRS 44.1 is changed so that the two-turns penalty is replaced by the one-turn penalty.

- 13.2 For the RS100/RS300/RS400/RS600/RS700/RS800/RS Vareo fleets, RRS 31 is changed so that marks other than starting and finishing marks may be touched without penalty.

14 TIME LIMITS

- 14.1 The time limit for any fleet shall be 75 minutes.
- 14.2 Boats failing to finish within 15 minutes after the first boat in any fleet sails the course and finishes will be scored Did Not Finish without a hearing. This changes RRS 35, A4 and A5.
- 14.3 In addition to the procedure for shortening course in RRS 32, the race committee may also award a finishing score to a boat that is still racing by displaying to her, from a committee vessel (which may be in motion), flag W with one sound signal. A boat so notified is no longer required to sail the course (changing RRS 28.1), shall stop racing and shall return to the starting area, or return ashore if there is no more racing. A finishing score under this Sailing Instruction will be the score she would have received had she sailed the course and finished within any time limit, without gaining or losing any place.

15 PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

- 15.1 Protest forms are available from the Race Office. They shall be delivered there within the appropriate time limit.
- 15.2 For each class, the protest time limit is one hour after the last boat in that class finished the last race of the day.
- 15.3 Notices will be posted no later than 30 minutes after the expiry of the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. It shall be the responsibility of competitors to check the notice board for such notices, obtain their copy of the protest form and make sure that they and their witnesses attend the hearing. Protests will be held in the protest room described in

the event appendix.

- 15.4 Where a Class Judge, a National Judge, International Judge or Official Arbitrator is appointed to an event the Exoneration Penalty and the Arbitration Hearing and RYA Arbitration procedures of the RYA Rules Disputes Procedures will be available. See official notice board for details.
- 15.5 For infringements of the rules other than in Part 1 and Part 2 of the RRS, the protest committee may award a lesser penalty than disqualification.
- 15.6 Breaches of Sailing Instructions 21 and 22 will not be grounds for a protest by a boat. This changes RRS 60.1(a).

16 SCORING

- 16.1 2 races are required to be completed to constitute a series.
- 16.2 (a) When fewer than 4 races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores.
- (b) When from 4 to 7 races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.
- (c) When 8 or more races have been completed, a boat's score will be the total of her race scores excluding her two worst scores.
- 16.3 To request correction of an alleged error in the posted race or series results, a boat may complete a scoring enquiry form available at the race office. If a request for correction is rejected the time limit for requesting redress for the alleged error will run from the time that the rejection is advised to the competitor.

17 SAFETY REGULATIONS

- 17.1 Competitors shall wear a personal flotation device (pfd), at all times, whilst afloat except when changing or adjusting clothing or personal equipment. This changes RRS 40. Wetsuits or drysuits are not considered to be adequate as a pfd.
- 17.2 Wetsuits or drysuits must be worn by all competitors between 1st November and 30th April inclusive.
- 17.3 When the race committee considers that a boat or competitor is in difficulty it may instruct the boat or competitor to accept outside help, retire or sail ashore.

18 REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT

- 18.1 Substitution of competitors will not be allowed without prior written approval of the race committee.
- 18.2 Where event results are combined to form a tour or circuit then only the results scored by the same helm will count, results from a different helm shall not be combined, even when helming the same boat.
- 18.3 Substitution of damaged or lost equipment will not be allowed unless authorised by the race committee. Requests for substitution shall be made at the first reasonable opportunity.

19 SAIL NUMBERS

Under exceptional circumstances, the Race Committee may permit a boat to use sails carrying a sail number other than that required by RRS 77 and RRS Appendix G. Such

permission is only valid if sought in writing before use.

20 EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

- 20.1 A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules and sailing instructions.
- 20.2 When Class Association-approved scales are provided at the event, competitors in classes with performance equalisation shall be measured in accordance with the Class Rules before racing in the event but not more than 24 hours before the first scheduled start. The measurements and the corresponding rack and corrector weight settings shall be recorded on the form provided, available to view by all competitors, and will apply for the duration of the event. If a helm or crew is substituted during the event, the new sailor will be measured before racing and the boat's rack and corrector weight settings adjusted and recorded to suit.

21 ADVERTISING

When provided by the organising authority, competitors shall make every reasonable effort to display event sponsors promotional items on their boat and sails as directed. If sponsor promotional items come off whilst racing, competitors must obtain replacement items from the OA before the start of racing the following day, if the Association has sufficient stocks available. [DP]

22 SUPPORT BOATS [DP]

- 22.1 All support boats shall clearly display identification supplied by the OA at all times while afloat.
- 22.2 Support boats, team leaders, coaches and other support personnel shall stay at least 150m outside the race area from the time of the preparatory signal until all boats have finished or the race committee signals a postponement, general recall or abandonment.

23 TRASH DISPOSAL

In addition to RRS 55 Competitors and their support persons shall not drop trash in the dinghy park. Trash may be placed aboard race committee vessels. [DP]

24 RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

Except in an emergency a boat that is racing shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data transmissions that is not available to all boats.

25 RISK STATEMENT

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

Sailing by its nature is 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 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.
- (g) It is their responsibility to familiarise themselves with any risks specific to this venue or this event drawn to their attention in any rules or information produced for the venue or event and to attend any safety briefing held for the event.

26 INSURANCE

Each participating boat shall be adequately insured with valid third-party liability insurance.