

# **PORTCHESTER SAILING CLUB**

## **Sailing Instructions for Dinghy Racing 2009**

### **1 Rules**

Racing will take place under the current Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), the prescriptions of the RYA, these sailing instructions and the appropriate class rules. For Handicap Racing, where conflict may arise, the Racing Rules of Sailing shall take precedence.

### **2 Conditions of Entry**

#### **2.1 General**

- 2.1.1 A boat is entirely responsible for her own safety whether afloat or ashore and nothing whether in the Notice of Race or Sailing Instructions or anywhere else reduces this responsibility.
- 2.1.2 It is for a boat to decide whether she is fit to sail in the conditions in which she will find herself. By launching or going to sea, the boat confirms that she is fit for those conditions and her crew is competent to sail and compete in them.
- 2.1.3 The boat is required to hold adequate insurance and in particular to hold insurance against third party claims in the sum of at least two million pounds.
- 2.1.4 Nothing done by the organisers reduces the responsibility of the boat nor will 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 include the organising authority, club and its officers, the race committee, the race officer, patrol boats and beachmasters.
- 2.1.5 The provision of patrol boats does not relieve the boat of her responsibilities.

#### **2.2 Signing On**

Before the start of a race the helmsman must sign on at the Start Hut or as directed. Failure to do so shall result in no finishing time being taken. Signature on entry form or by keyboard entry into computer program signifies acceptance of these conditions. A minor shall race only if a copy of a signed parental consent form is in the start hut.

### **3 Safety**

#### **3.1 Personal Flotation Device**

All competitors shall wear an adequate Personal Flotation Device for dinghy racing. Wet suits or dry suits do not constitute an adequate Personal Flotation Device.

#### **3.2 Patrol Craft**

The race starting procedure shall not commence unless the safety boat with a minimum of 2 adults aboard is afloat. Any patrol craft is under the direction of the Race Officer and the decision to prioritise assistance to competitors above boats and equipment shall be final.

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### **4 Communications with Competitors**

#### **4.1 Notices to competitors**

Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board, or on a sheet appending these rules. The official notice board is normally the course board in or around the Starting Hut, but a committee boat may also display an official notice board.

### **5 Course Instructions**

#### **5.1 Course**

The course to be sailed will be displayed on the official notice board, along with a description of the marks to be used. Unless a number of laps are stated, the course should be sailed until the race is finished by shortening the course. In this event when handicap racing, results will be calculated using the average lap times.

#### **5.2 Change to Position of Marks During a Race**

The race committee may move one or more of the course marks during a race. If possible, an official boat will indicate the new course to competitors, but no other signals will necessarily be made. This changes rule 33.

### **6 Starts**

#### **6.1 Class Flags**

The class flag will be flag "H". When a separate start for Juniors is signalled, the class flag will be flag "J".

#### **6.2 Starting Line - Club Line**

The starting line is defined as the projection of a line through the mast on the starting platform, and green pile no 76. There are no limit marks.

#### **6.3 Starting Line - Committee Boat**

The starting line is defined as a line between the main mast of the committee boat and an outer starting line mark defined in the sailing instructions for that race. An inner limit mark may be laid adjacent to the committee boat. This will be a mark of the course. A boat passing between the Inner Limit Mark and any part of the vessel it guards after the preparatory signal shall be disqualified.

### **7 Contact with Moored Boats**

Any boat coming into contact with a moored boat whilst racing shall report the incident to the owner of the boat and to the Race Officer. Failure to do so may result in disqualification from the race concerned.

### **8 Finishing**

#### **8.1 Finishing Line - Committee Boat**

The finishing line will be between the main mast of the committee boat and a course mark.

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### **8.2 Finishing Line – Club Line**

The finishing line is defined as the projection of a line through the mast on the starting platform and green pile no 76.

### **8.3 Shortening Course**

When shortening course, individual fleets may be shortened by displaying a board identifying the fleet that is finishing, along with flag “S”. The fast handicap fleet board carries the letter “F”, slow handicap the letter “S”, and the Junior fleet the letter “J”.

### **8.4 Time Limit**

The time limit will be 2½ hours except for races starting after 1800 when the limit will be 2 hours. All boats finishing within this time will get their finishing positions. If no boat finishes within the time limit the race will be abandoned. This alters rule 35.

## **9 Protests**

Protests shall be presented to the Race Officer within 1 hour of the last boat completing the last race of the day.

## **10 Declarations**

Declarations are not required. Boats retiring from a race shall inform the Race Officer if possible.

## **11 Scoring**

### **11.1 Handicap Racing**

The RYA Portsmouth Yardstick Scheme as will be used, subject to a 3% acceleration from the published number. The reference point for the acceleration shall nominally be 1060 (fast/slow handicap split), with fast handicap boats having their numbers decreased, and the slow boats having their numbers increased, in relation to the published Portsmouth Numbers. Figures for boats without a published Portsmouth Number will be set by the Sailing Committee.

### **11.2 Adjustments to Handicaps**

The Sailing Committee may, at its absolute discretion, adjust handicaps as it sees fit, and propose any timescales for the changes if appropriate.

### **11.3 Scoring System**

Any number of races constitutes a series.

### **11.4 Discards**

For race series the number of discards for a series is half the number of races in the series rounded down less one. For example an 11 race series will have 5½ discards rounded down to 5 then less one to give 4 discards.