



THORPE BAY YACHT CLUB

WINTER AND ICICLE SERIES

General Handicap and Cadet Class Sailing Instructions 2016/17

1 RULES

Racing will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing, the prescriptions of the RYA, the appropriate class rules, these sailing instructions, the Thorpe Bay Yacht Club Sailing Programme, and any supplementary sailing instructions issued.

2. ENTRIES

2.1 Eligibility

Races will be open to Club members and approved affiliates only. Any helmsman signing the declaration form and sailing a race will be deemed to have entered the series. A change of class will be treated as a separate entry. An additional entry fee will be charged for the winter series racing which will be open to visiting yachts.

2.2 Disclaimer of Liability

Competitors participate entirely at their own risk. See Rule 4, Decision to Race. 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 racing.

2.3. Insurance

Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third party liability insurance with a minimum of £2,000,000 per event or equivalent

2.4 Personal safety

Rule 40 is changed, flag Y will not be used. Competitors shall wear a personal flotation device (PFD) whilst afloat. Wetsuits and dry suits are not adequate personal buoyancy. For winter series racing suitable clothing must be worn. A full wetsuit is a minimum requirement. Failure to wear a PFD will result in disqualification except briefly while changing or adjusting clothing or personal equipment as prescribed in rule 40.

2.5 Measurement or Rating Certificates

Before a yacht is eligible to race, where applicable her valid measurement or rating certificate shall be available for inspection by a member of the sailing committee

2.6 Distinguishing Numbers

Under exceptional circumstances and by prior arrangement, the Race Committee may permit a yacht to use sails carrying a distinguishing number other than that required by rule 77.

2.7 Declaration Form.

It is the responsibility of the helmsman of each yacht to ensure that its departure from the slipway or beach and its subsequent return are recorded on the Declaration Form provided at the top of the slipway or in the Bosun's Hut, whether or not the yacht starts or completes the race. Helmsmen must sign-off within one hour of finishing the race, or within one hour of finishing the last race of the day if races are sailed back-to-back. If more than one race is scheduled helmsmen must sign-off separately for each race they completed, or indicate DNS or DNF as appropriate. **Failure to sign off will result in disqualification.**

3. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located in the clubhouse lobby.

4. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any changes to these sailing instructions will be posted for at least one hour prior to the amendment taking effect. Such notice will be posted on the official notice board located in the Clubhouse lobby.

5. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

Signals made ashore will be displayed using flags on the shore box gantry or using boards on the front of the shore box.

6. SCHEDULE OF RACES

The details of races and their starting times are contained within The Clubs sailing programme and The Club web site.

7. CLASSES:

All races within the Winter and Icicle Series will be under a general handicap with a mass start. Cadets will generally sail a shorter length course, starting with the main General Handicap fleet.

Fleet	Definition	Visual Signal
General Handicap and Cadet mass start	All boats	R

There will be four individual classes within this used for tandem results alongside the main General Handicap series:

Fast Monohulls with a PN <1099. (excluding Laser)

Slow Monohulls with a PN >1099 (including Laser PN 1091)

Fast Catamarans with a PN <715.

Slow Catamarans with a PN >716.

Cadets will be defined as all those entrants under 18 at the start of the series entered specifically in the Cadet winter series. Entries are not transferable between General Handicap and Cadet Classes.

8. RACING AREA

The racing area is located on the River Thames Estuary to the south of the Clubhouse.

9 THE COURSE

9.1 The Course - Shore Box Start

9.1.1 Signal

Racing is to be conducted from the shore box and an orange flag will be flown from the shore box gantry.

9.1.2 Courses

For these Shore box starts, the General Handicap course layout, where possible will be trapezoid shape and the Cadets a course shorter in length. In all cases the course layout will be described/displayed on the blackboard at the west end of the Bosun's hut.

9.3 The Course – Mass start

For these Mass Start General Handicap (Winter/Icicle series and Trophy Races), the same course must be sailed by all General Handicap competitors. The Cadet class will be set a shorter course.

9.4 The Course – All races

Number of Rounds - If the number of rounds is not signalled in advance, then after an appropriate sailing time has elapsed (approximately 30 minutes when 2 races are sailed back-to-back, or approximately 60 minutes for a single race) International Code Flag S will be displayed on a board on the race box accompanied by two sound signals. In the case of single class fleets the leading boat of a class will be finished when it next passes through the finish line and following boats will be finished when they have completed the same number of rounds as the leading boat of their class. In the case of handicap fleets and trophy races boats will be finished when they next pass through the finish line. This changes rule 32.1.

Cadets will usually be set a specific number of laps displayed on the blackboard at the west end of the Bosun's hut but will be subject to shortened course procedure using code Flag S.

A coloured flag will be flown from the Race Box to indicate the way in which marks will be rounded: red – round marks to port; green – round marks to starboard. All boats must pass through the start/finish gate on every lap; boats not doing so will be counted DSQ.

10. COURSE MARKS

Unless otherwise indicated on the black board at the West end of the Bosun’s hut special marks will be orange or yellow inflatable marks. In course descriptions special marks will be designated by the letters ‘Sp’. The Cadet buoy may be used and will be designated by the letter ‘C’.

Fixed club marks are numbered/lettered yellow round buoys.

If the Distance Mark is to be used as a mark, it will be shown as ‘D’.

The Distance Mark is usually comprised of two club permanent marks (one denoted as “E” and the other denoted as “W”) and a vertical pole with a green conical top. All three parts of the Distance Mark must be rounded every time it is included as a mark of the course, except at the start of a race using a shore box start procedure when the Distance Mark is only the vertical pole with a green conical top.

Navigational marks may also be used as course marks.

11. THE START

11.1 Starting Procedure

The starting procedure will be in accordance with rule 26, modified so that signals are made at 1 minute intervals in the following order:-

For a published start time of T, the sequence of flags is:

Time	Flags	Sound	Meaning
T – 3	Display R	One	Warning Signal
T – 2	Display P	One	Preparatory Signal
T – 1	Remove P	One	One Minute Signal
T	Remove R	One	Start For All Boats

The start sequence ‘flags’ will be displayed on boards on the front of the shore box. Flags on the gantry will not be used for the start sequence.

Winter and Icicle Series General Handicap and Cadet races have a Mass Start as follows:

All Boats	Published start time (T)
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11.2 Starting Line – Shore Box Start

The starting line will, unless otherwise specified, be a line through the Clubhouse transit mark and the vertical mark on the Race Officers’ box and will be limited by the Distance Mark Pole.

11.3 At the discretion of the Race Officer, a boat starting later than 2 minutes after her starting signal may be scored Did Not Start. This changes rule A4.

12. SHORTEN COURSE AND ABANDONMENT

12.1 At the discretion of the Race Committee an abandoned race may be cancelled, re-sailed or decided on the result when a majority of starting yachts last completed a round.

13. THE FINISH

13.1 Finishing Line – Shore Box Start

The finish line, unless otherwise specified, will be as for the start line but including East or West marks.

14. TIME LIMIT

14.1 Time Limit

A boat which fails to finish the course within 45 minutes of the first yacht of her class, or within 120 minutes of the start, may, at the discretion of the Race Officer, be deemed to have retired and will be shown as DNF. This changes rule 35.

14.2 At the Race Officer's discretion, a boat that exceeds the time limit may be deemed to have finished on the last occasion it passed through the finish line. This changes rule 35.

15 PROTESTS

15.1 Protest forms are available at the Race Officer's box. Protests shall be delivered to a member of the Race Committee within the protest time limit. For each class, the protest time limit is 60 minutes after the last boat has finished the last race of the day. Protestors shall inform the protestee of the protest and the parties concerned should ascertain the time and place of the hearing before leaving.

16 SCORING

16.1 Results for handicap races will be calculated on the Portsmouth Yardstick handicap scheme, using PY numbers published by the RYA or approved by the Sailing Committee. Club points series results for multihull fleets may use an alternative handicap system which will be declared in advance of the series and a notice to identify which system is to be used will be displayed on the official notice board located in the clubhouse lobby.

16.2 Where necessary results will be calculated on the basis of average lap times. 'Same PN adjustment' will not be applied in series races but may be applied at the discretion of the Race Committee in Trophy Races. This changes Appendix A.

16.3 The number of races scheduled in a series is defined by the TBYC Sailing Programme. Three races shall be completed to constitute a valid series. Each boat's series score will be the total of her race scores, discarding a number of her worst scores equal to one-third of the number of races sailed, rounded down to a whole number.

16.4 Club series are a long series of races and the score for DNC will be decided by the Race Committee. This changes Appendix A of the rules.

16.5 Helms who have entered the series races can claim average points for a particular race if they are undertaking any of the club race duties on that day. Average points can be claimed by indication on the Declaration Form on the day.

17 PRIZES

17.1 Prizes will be awarded for Club races at the discretion of the Sailing Committee. In the event of a tie any perpetual trophy awarded will be shared.

17.2 The dates and times of prize giving will be published in the sailing programme or displayed on the notice in the Club entrance hall.

18 PHOTOGRAPHY/ VIDEO RECORDINGS

18.1 In entering any event under these sailing instructions an entrant must accept that the club may take photographs and video of the races and associated activities and which may be published.