

THORPE BAY YACHT CLUB

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS 2025 – June edition

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.

2.1a A change of class or sail configuration within that class will be treated as a separate entry for the series

2.1b A change of sail, spars, hull or appendages shall not be deemed as a separate entry for the series

2.1c For double (or more) handed boats, crew may be substituted within a series, this will not be treated as a separate entry so long as 1 of the original crew entered in the series remains onboard.

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 £3,000,000 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 drysuits 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

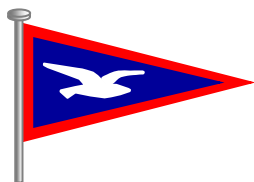
Under exceptional circumstances and by prior arrangement, the Race Committee may permit a yacht to use sails carrying a distinguishing number other than that required by rule 77.

2.7 Declaration Form.

It is the responsibility of the helmsman of each yacht to ensure that its departure and return are recorded on the White 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, DNF or RTD as appropriate. **Failure to sign off may result in disqualification.**

2.8 Cadet Declaration

Cadets will sign on and tick the column showing they are a Cadet Entry



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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


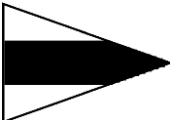
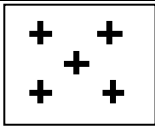


Signals made ashore will be displayed using flags on the shore box gantry or using boards on the front of the shore box. For postponements displayed on shore, the warning signal will be made 1 minute after removal unless at that time the race is postponed again or abandoned.

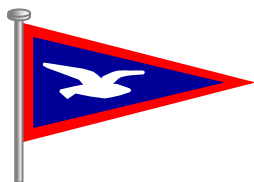
6. SCHEDULE OF RACES

The details of Trophy races and particular race series and start times are noted in the Club's Programme. At the race officers discretion, a minimum number of 6 boats (of any class or mix of classes) will be required for any race to go ahead.

7. CLASS OR FLEETS

The Class/Fleets and warning flags will be: -

Class or Fleet	Definition		Visual Signal
Windward/Leeward	Fast Catamarans PN < 850 Asymmetric monohull PN < 930 Foiling Classes		D
Dart 15	Dart 15 or any catamaran > PN 850		D
Monohull	All Monohull > PN 930 (except Finn)		3 rd substitute
Cadets	All Boats Sailed by cadet members under 18yrs		3 rd substitute
Sandhopper			NNO
Cruisers	For Trophy Races – Cruiser = start + 3 Mins		W
General Handicap mass start	All boats For Yantlet Trophy & Benfleet Shield W/L = start + 30 Mins		R



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8. RACING AREA

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

9.0 THE COURSE

9.1 The Course – Committee Boat Starts – Club Series Racing

The Committee Boat should be used for all Club Series Racing (other than in 9.2) as the start and finish boat. **It should be positioned to ensure that a port hand course should always be used.**

Special Marks may be used at the Race officer's discretion. If the Club's permanent marks are to be used (including any special marks), Code Flag J will be flown from the Committee Boat and the numbers of the marks to be used by all classes will be displayed on the Committee Boat's Starboard side. If a longer course is set for the Windward leeward class, their marks will be displayed on the Port side.

9.2 The Course – Shore Box Starts – Club Series Racing

Shore Box starts are to be used **only** when:

- a) The Committee Boat is in use for an Open Event other than club racing
- b) The Committee Boat is unusable and is agreed with either the Rear Commodore or Sailing Secretary
- c) For Mid-Week, Winter and Icicle Series or when noted in the Club Calendar 2025.

If racing is to be conducted from the Shore Box an orange flag will be flown from the shore box gantry. The course or courses will be designated for each separate class (even if the courses are the same) on the blackboard at the West end of the Bosun's Hut.

9.3 The Course – Mass start

For a Mass Start (Trophy Races and Midweek Series) the same course must be sailed by all competitors.

A Port handed Course should be used for trophy races.

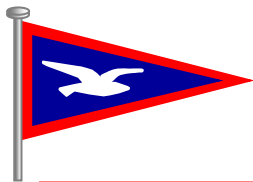
Please check the Club Calendar to determine which course should be used: Windward/Leeward, Triangle and Trapezoid. Please contact rearcommodore@tbyc.org for confirmation.

In all cases, the course will be described or confirmed as to be indicated on starboard side of the Committee Boat, on the blackboard at the west end of the Bosun's hut or in separate supplementary sailing instructions.






9.4 The Course – All races

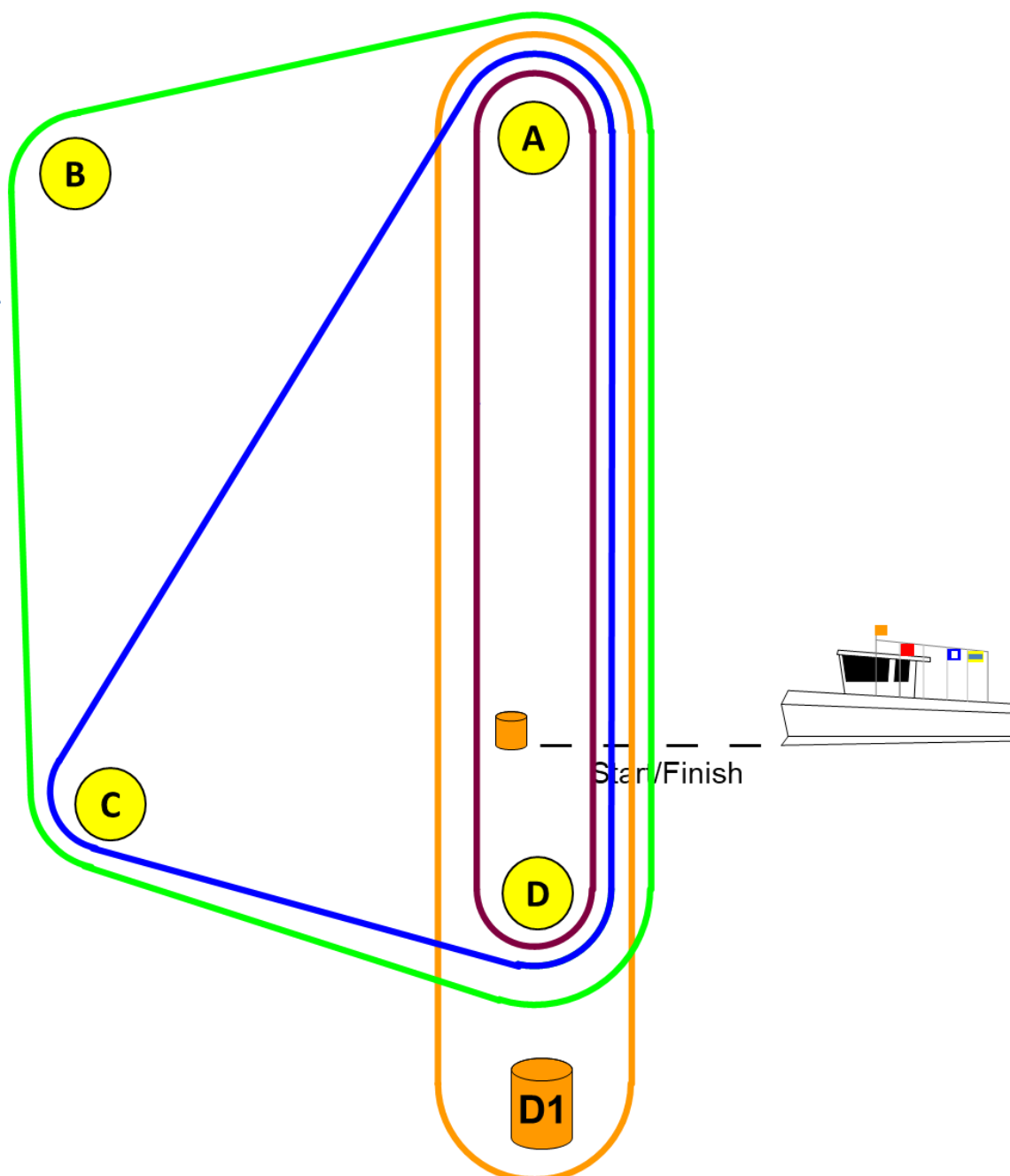
Number of Rounds - If the number of rounds is not signalled in advance, then after an appropriate sailing time has elapsed; approximately **45-60 minutes** when 2 races are sailed back-to-back or approximately **90 - 120 minutes** for a single race, International Code Flag S, or the S Board or both, will be displayed accompanied by two sound signals. In the case of all fleets and trophy races boats will be finished when they next pass through the finish line. This changes rule 32.1.

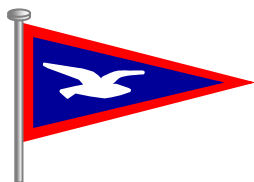
All boats must pass through the start/finish gate on every lap; boats not doing so will be counted DSQ.



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Windward Leeward	- A, D1	
Dart 15	- A, B, C, D	
Mono and Cadet Sat	- A, D	
Mono and Cadet Sun	- A, C, D	
Sandhopper	- A, D	





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Marks A and D (D1) will be displayed on the port side of the committee boat.

For the Windward Leeward Class: Marks A, D1 (D) will be displayed on the Port side of the Committee Boat.

Mark A is the intended windward mark and mark D1 (D) is the intended Leeward mark.

The start/ finish line shall be crossed each time when sailing between mark D1 (D) and mark A but shall not be crossed on the downwind leg (A to D1 (D)).

Please note: Mark D1 should be a large inflatable buoy.

Marks A, B C & D will be displayed on the starboard side of the committee boat.

For the Dart 15's: A, B, C, D

Mark A is the intended windward mark, Mark B the second mark, Mark C the third mark and Mark D the fourth mark. The start/finish line shall be crossed each time when sailing between mark D and mark A.

For the Monohull: A, D (Windward / Leeward) on Saturday A, C, D (Triangle) on Sunday.

Mark A is the intended Windward mark, Mark C is the intended wing mark and Mark D is the intended Leeward mark. The start/finish line shall be crossed each time when sailing between mark D and mark A but shall not be crossed on the downwind leg (A, D).

For the Cadets: A, D (Windward / Leeward) on Saturday A, C, D (Triangle) on Sunday.

Mark A is the intended Windward mark, Mark C is the intended wing mark and Mark D is the intended Leeward mark. The start/finish line shall be crossed each time when sailing between mark D and mark A but shall not be crossed on the downwind leg (A, D).

For the Sandhopper Class: A, D

A Windward/Leeward Course. Mark A is the intended windward mark and Mark D is the intended leeward mark. The start / finish line shall be crossed each time when sailing between Mark D and Mark A but shall not be crossed on the downwind leg.

10. COURSE MARKS

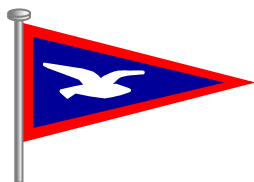
Unless otherwise indicated on the blackboard at the West end of the Bosun's hut, special marks will be orange or yellow inflatable marks. In course descriptions special marks will be designated by the letters 'Sp'.

Fixed club marks are numbered/lettered yellow or orange round buoys.

Distance Mark is not to be used as a Mark of the Course except as part of the start/finish line and gate.

Navigational marks may also be used as course marks.

The outer distance mark for the start/gate/finish line from the Committee Boat will be an orange or yellow inflatable mark which may be moved (i.e the line shortened) after the start.



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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 (3,2,1 Start):

Windward Leeward & Dart 15	Published start time
Monohull & Cadets	Published start time + 3 minutes
Sandhopper	Published start time + 6 minutes
Cruisers	Published start time + 9 minutes

Trophy Races and Midweek Series races have a Mass Start as follows:

All Boats (3,2,1 Start)	Published start time
Crusiers	Published start time + 3 minutes
Windward Leeward for Yantlet Trophy & Benfleet Shield	Published start time + 30 minutes

Visual signals may be in the form of Flags or Boards.

For Shore Box starts, the start sequence 'flags' will be displayed on boards on the front of the shore box. Flags on the gantry should **not** be used for the start sequence.

11.2 Starting Line – Committee Boat Start

The starting line is defined as the line between the mast on the Committee Boat and an outer starting mark of the orange inflatable cylindrical type. Should an inner distant mark be laid near the committee boat, boats must pass between this mark and the outer starting mark.

11.3 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.

11.4 Boats shall keep clear of the starting area except during their own starting procedure.

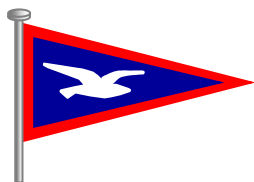
11.5 At the discretion of the Race Officer, a boat starting later than 2 minutes after her starting signal may be scored Did Not Start. This changes rule A4.

11.6 If a General Recall is required. The fleet recalled will restart immediately with the fleet(s) behind going into sequence after the recalled fleet has started. To re-start the recalled fleet there may need to be a postponement in order to re-start the fleet.

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



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13.1 Finishing Line – Shore Box Start

The finish line, unless otherwise specified, will be as for the start line. but including East mark if available

13.2 Finishing Line – Committee Boat Start

Unless otherwise specified the finishing line will be as for the start line which should be shortened after the start

13.3 Boats that have finished must, as far as practicable, keep clear of the finish line.

13.4 At the RO's discretion a class may be finished separately to the rest of the fleet by displaying Code Flag S with the relevant class flag underneath. In this instance only this class will be finished

13.5 Cadets may, at the Race Committee discretion have their course shortened and finished at any mark using code flag Y from a safety boat or at the committee boat.



14. TIME LIMIT

14.1 Time Limit –Series Races

A boat which fails to finish the course within thirty minutes of the first yacht of her class, or within 180 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 Time Limit – Other Races

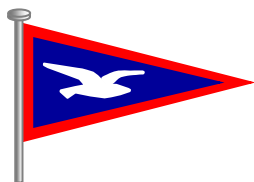
A boat which fails to finish the course within four hours of the start may, at the discretion of the Race Officer, be deemed to have retired and will be shown as DNF. This changes rule 35.

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 their intent to protest and the parties concerned should ascertain the time and place of the hearing before leaving. Protests should but not necessarily, be held the same day.

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.



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16.2 Where necessary results will be calculated based on 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 Trophy Races (except pursuit races) shall also count as a series race in the Spring, Summer or Autumn series in which the Trophy Race occurs.

16.6 The Dart 15 Sunripe Sprint Super Sunday Series is a series of up to 12 races over the whole season as indicated in the sailing programme and is a tandem series for Sprint 15s. Sprint 15 times/results will be taken from the respective tandem programmed series or trophy race. Five races shall be completed to constitute a valid series. Each boat's series score will be the total of her race scores, discarding her worst scores equal to one-third of the number of races sailed, rounded down to a whole number.

16.7 The Sandhopper 6 Series is a series of up to 6 races over the whole season as indicated in the sailing programme and is a tandem series for the Sandhoppers. Sandhopper times/results will be taken from the respective tandem programmed series or trophy race. Four races shall be completed to constitute a valid series. Each boat's series score will be the total of her race scores, discarding her worst scores equal to one-third of the number of races sailed, rounded down to a whole number.

16.8 Crews who have entered the series races can claim average points for a race if they are undertaking any of the club race duties (except Duty Officer) on that day. Average points (RDG1) can be claimed by "signing on" indicating "Duty" 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. A boat must complete a minimum of 4 races in a specific series to be counted for prizes.

17.2 All Trophy Races: A Prize will be awarded to the 1st boat in each class – Windward/Leeward, Dart 15, Monohull, Cadets, Sandhopper, Cruiser – on each trophy race where more than 3 boats in a class have started the race.

17.3 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 has the right, in perpetuity, to use and show any photography, audio and video recordings, and other reproductions of them made at the venue, without compensation.