

FOSSC Sailing Instructions for Club Racing

Safety

The safety of a boat and her entire management including insurance shall be the sole responsibility of the owner / person in charge who must ensure that the boat and crew are adequate to face the conditions that may arise in the course of the race. Neither these sailing instructions nor any inspection of the boat limits or reduces the absolute responsibility of the owner / person in charge for the crew, the boat and her management. The race organisers shall not be responsible for any loss, damage, death or personal injury howsoever caused to the owner / person in charge or crew, as a result of their taking part in the race or races. Moreover, every owner / person in charge warrants the suitability of the boat for the race or races.

1. Rules

The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), the prescriptions of the RYA and class rules will govern races except when any are changed by these sailing instructions.

2. Entries

2.1 Any boat approved by the Sailing Committee with a valid measurement certificate and covered by third party insurance of at least £3,000,000 may be raced by a sailing member of the Club. Points will be awarded to the helm and not the boat. However, for Club Championship series, the same class of boat / size of sail must be sailed for all qualifying races in a single series. Different boats / sail sizes may be sailed for different series and still count towards the helm's overall Club Championship position.

2.2 Visitors are not eligible for Club trophies other than at Open Meetings

2.3 The Club By Laws define the dinghies which can be sailed at FOSSC. At the time of publishing these SIs, club racing is restricted to boats with a PY of 1000 or higher, and to non-asymmetric boats. The exception to the latter is our own club Fevas. The restrictions are in place due to the small size of the lake/racing area (asymmetric boats tend to take different lines downwind and bowsprits can be intimidating for other sailors in such a small space).

3. Notices to Competitors

Notices to competitors will be posted on the course board located under the veranda.

4. Changes in Sailing Instructions

Any change to the Sailing Instructions will be posted 30 minutes before the time of the first race on the day it will take affect.

5. Schedule of Races

Refer to the Club programme or event posters for race start times.

6. Class Flags

Class	Flag
Laser	L
Solo	1
Handicap	Y

7. The Course

The course will be displayed on the course board under the veranda no less than 15 minutes before the start of the race.

8. Marks

Marks are orange conical or spherical buoys carrying coloured flags. Approximate positions and colours are:

Mark Position	Flag Colour
NW corner	Yellow
N shore	Yellow/Green
NE corner	Green
E shore	Green/White
SE corner	White
S shore	Red/White
SW corner	Red
W shore	Red/Yellow



9. The Start

9.1 The warning signal will be given 4 minutes before the start signal and the preparatory signal 2 minutes before the start signal. This changes RRS 26.

For class racing, classes will start at 2-minute intervals in the following order:
Handicap, Laser, Solo.

9.2 The starting line will be indicated on the course board as part of the course instructions.

9.3 The starting line will be between the red and white pole on the committee boat / hut and a mark or buoy carrying a red and white pole.

9.4 If an inner distance mark is used, boats shall start between this mark and the outer distance mark. (The inner distance mark may not lie on the starting line.)

9.5 If an inner distance mark is used any boat passing between the committee boat/hut and inner distance mark during the starting sequence shall be disqualified. (It is permissible to pass between the inner distance mark and the committee boat during subsequent laps.)

9.6 Boats waiting for a preparatory signal shall keep clear of the starting area and all boats who have been given their preparatory signal.

9.7 A boat shall not start later than 2 minutes after her starting signal.

9.8 Premature starters will be notified by one extra sound signal, the OOD may identify the offending boat(s) by hailing, so long as they can identify all offending boats. This modifies RRS 29.1.

9.9 General Recall

When a General Recall is required due to boats being over the start line when the sound signal for the start of the race is given, RRS 29.2 is modified such that the start for the recalled fleet will follow 2 minutes after the last scheduled start. If there are no succeeding classes the class will start 2 minutes after their original start time.

When a General Recall is required for any other reason (e.g. to remove bias from the start line), the warning signal for the recalled class shall be made one minute after the First Substitute is removed (one sound), and the starts for any succeeding classes shall follow the new start.

10. The Finish

10.1 The finishing line will be shown on the course board as part of the course instructions.

10.2 The finish line will be between the mast on the committee boat / hut and a buoy carrying a red and white pole, or a mark of the course.

11. Shortened Course Procedure

11.1 The shortened course procedure will follow RRS 32.

11.2 RRS 32.2 is replaced by:

If the race committee signals a shortened course procedure the finishing line shall be that as described in rule 10.2 of these sailing instructions.

11.3 If flag F is flown with the shortened course signal or on its own at the finish line all boats will finish at the end of the lap they are on once the first boat has finished. Positions will then be determined by average lap times. *Flag F will only be used when all boats will then have sailed an integer number of laps.* This changes RRS 32.

11.4 Young sailors

Young sailors (aged 15 and below on Jan 1st of the calendar year) may, prior to the race warning signal, elect to finish a Sunday series Handicap race (not club championship events) after at least 30 minutes of racing and at the conclusion of a full lap. The flag signal for such a shortened race will be Flag 'J'. Though it will be the responsibility of the young sailors who wish to be finished early to make themselves known to the OOD prior to the race warning signal, the OOD should remind the participants to do so and the procedure for finishing. (See the notes for OOD's for details on how to calculate their results.) Junior sailors opting to complete a shortened course should fly a streamer from the top of their mast to assist the OOD in identifying them as an early finisher.

12. Time limit

At the discretion of the OOD, boats failing to finish within 30 minutes of the first boat finishing may be scored DNF.

Juniors finishing as described in 11.4 above do not count as "first boat finishing"

13. Protests

13.1 Protests shall be written on forms available from the Race Officer and returned to the Race Officer within 30 minutes of the last boat's finishing time.

13.2 Protests will be heard in approximately the order of receipt after the completion of the race they affect.

14. Scoring

Series will be scored as provided in Appendix A of the racing rules using the Low point system, modified as follows:

14.1 DNS, OCS, DNF and RTD will score one more than the number of boats that came to the starting area, except in Club Championship events where they will score one more than the total number of competitors in the event. DSQ will score 2 more than the number of boats that came to the

starting area except in Club Championship events where they will score 2 more than the total number of competitors in the event. DNC will not score and such races may not count towards a boat's series results.

14.2 A boat's series score shall be the total of her best n scores, where n is the number of races to count, defined in 14.3. Any scores not included in this total shall be designated *excluded*.

14.3 For series with an even number of races completed, the number of races to count shall be half the total number of races completed plus one. For series with an odd number of races completed, the number of races to count shall be half the total number of races rounded up to the nearest whole number.

For Club Championship events and Open Meetings, the number of races to count shall be one less than the number of races completed, except when 2 or fewer races have been sailed, when all races will count.

14.4 Ties of series score

Ties on series score shall be broken according to A8.1 and A8.2.

If the tie still remains after the above procedure has been followed it shall stand.

14.5 Each event in the Club Championship series will be scored separately. The overall Club Championship will then be determined using the system described in 14.2, 14.3 and 14.4, with event scores replacing race scores.

14.6 Handicap Racing

Club handicap Numbers (CN) are based on the RYA Portsmouth Yardstick Scheme for the current year. The Portsmouth Yardstick numbers are used for non spinnaker boats and the Portsmouth Yardstick numbers plus 20 for spinnaker boats.

These are published on the club website, on the club notice board close to the signing on sheet, and on a laminated sheet in the OOD box to assist the OOD with pursuit races. For any class not listed an appropriate Club Number will be provided by the Sailing Committee.

Note that CNs may change after our racing season has started, as PYs are not updated by the RYA until April. In case of uncertainty, the numbers in black OOD box are to be used.

15. Personal Floatation Devices

Life-jackets or other adequate personal buoyancy shall be worn at all times when on the water and on the jetties. This modifies RRS 40.

16. Signing On and Declarations

Prior to launching, all competing helms should sign on on the sheet provided just inside the clubhouse door near the course board. Declarations are only required for boats who fail to finish for any reason the race, and should be made within 30 minutes of the last boat finishing the race.

17. Sail Numbers

Every boat should be clearly identifiable by a number or marking on its sail.

Where the displayed sail number does not match the boat's sail number it is the responsibility of the helm to inform the race officer before the race and make any corrections necessary.

Where two boats have sails with the same number, it is the responsibility of the helm with the incorrect sail number to inform the race officer and to add sufficient markings to avoid any confusion over which boat is sailed by which helm. Failure to do so may result in the helm being DSQ.

18. Novice Sailors

Novice sailors (of any age) may fly a streamer from their masthead to make clear to others that they are inexperienced and to treat them with due consideration. Junior sailors opting to sail a shortened handicap course (Sundays) should fly a streamer to aid the OOD in identifying them as early finishers.

19. Fishermen

No boat shall sail closer than 20 metres except within the launching area bounded by the two jetties. Boats may hail for room to keep clear as if it was an obstruction. This amends RRS 19.

20. Pursuit races

20.1 Duration

The duration of pursuit races is approximately 1 hour. Each boat sails for a time in minutes equal to half her Starting Number (SN). The SN is calculated by dividing the Club Handicap Number (CN) by 10 and rounding to the nearest whole number.

Note that CNs may change after our racing season has started, as PYs are not updated by the RYA until April. In case of uncertainty, the numbers in black OOD box are to be used.

20.2 Starting

Flag Y will be hoisted with one sound signal 4 minutes before the start of the first class and flag P will be hoisted with one sound signal 2 minutes before the start of the first class. Sound signals will be made at 30-second intervals commencing with the hoisting of Flag Y and ceasing when the last class starts. At each sound signal the count on the numerical indicator will be reduced by 1. In consideration of noise nuisance to our neighbours, sound signals may be turned off when there are no boats starting.

A boat shall start at the sound signal 30 seconds after her starting number appears on the numerical indicator, i.e. as her starting number is removed. Flag P will be lowered after the last class starts.

20.3 Premature starters

Premature starters will be notified by one extra sound signal, the OOD may identify the offending boat(s) by hailing, so long as they can identify all offending boats. This modifies RRS 29.1.

20.4 Finishing

For pursuit races, at the designated finishing time flag P will be hoisted at the start line or on the committee boat and one long sound signal will be made, accompanied by orange flashing lights if the pursuit box has been used. Alternatively, the OOD may choose to use a whistle to signal the end of the race. After this signal boats shall continue to sail the course, maintaining their finishing position. Boats should note the identity of the boats next in front of and behind them.

A boat finishes only when she when she is dismissed by the race officer motoring around the course or when flag P is lowered.

20.5 Disputes

If two or more boats in contention at the finish disagree with the positions recorded by the race officer, the race officer may take the following action:

- (a) If the boats can agree their relative positions these shall be taken.
- (b) If the boats cannot agree their relative positions the race officer may take advice from other boats that were racing and decide the positions on the basis of this information.
- (c) If the above procedures fail to resolve the dispute, the boats involved shall all be scored the average of the positions that they would have occupied.
- (d) If the race officer has followed the above procedure his decision shall not be subject to protest.