

# 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.*

## **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.

### **1. Entries**

- 1.1. 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.
- 1.2. Visitors are not eligible for Club trophies other than at Open Meetings
- 1.3. 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).
- 1.4. For class racing, solos with a 'Plan B' sail may opt to sail either with the solo class, or in the handicap fleet. If they choose to sail with the rest of their class, they will not be given any handicap when the results are calculated. For handicap and pursuit racing, they will be given Club and Pursuit numbers according to the sail they are using.

### **2. Notices to Competitors**

- 2.1. Notices to competitors will be posted either:
  - on the club website at least one week before the first race in which it will take effect, or
  - on the course board under the veranda at least 30 minutes before the first race in which it will take effect.

### **3. Changes in Sailing Instructions**

- 3.1. Any change to the Sailing Instructions will be posted either:
  - on the club website at least one week before the first race in which it will take effect, or
  - on the course board under the veranda at least 30 minutes before the first race in which it will take effect.

### **4. Schedule of Races**

- 4.1. Refer to the Events programme on the club website or event posters for race start times.

### **5. Class Flags**

<b>Class</b>	<b>Flag</b>
Solo	1
Handicap	Y
Junior/Rookie	D

### **6. The Course**

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

## 7. Marks

7.1. Marks are flags held in conical or spherical buoys. 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



7.2. The course is **defined by the flags** which are displayed on the marks. Usually single coloured flags will be in conical buoys and dual coloured flags will be in spherical buoys. However, this may not be the case all the time and the colour of the flag is the deciding factor.

## 8. The Start

8.1. 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.

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

Handicap  
Solo

8.3. When specifically defined in the race programme, Junior and/or Rookie fleets will start 2 minutes after the other fleet(s).

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

8.5. 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.

8.6. 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.)

8.7. 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.)

- 8.8. Boats waiting for a preparatory signal shall keep clear of the starting area and all boats who have been given their preparatory signal.
- 8.9. A boat shall not start later than 2 minutes after her starting signal.
- 8.10. 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.
- 8.11. General Recall
  - 8.11.1. 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.
  - 8.11.2. 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.

## **9. The Finish**

- 9.1. The finishing line will be shown on the course board as part of the course instructions.
- 9.2. 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.

## **10. Shortened Course Procedure**

- 10.1. The shortened course procedure will follow RRS 32.
- 10.2. 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 9.2 of these sailing instructions.
- 10.3. 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 in their class 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.
- 10.4. For handicap racing, it is not absolutely necessary for the leading boat to be finished first. At the OOD's discretion, it is permissible for the slower boats to be finished first, even if they have sailed fewer laps. The OOD should aim to manage a race that is fair to all competitors.
- 10.5. Young sailors  
Young sailors (aged under 18 on 1st November of the previous 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.

## **11. Time limit**

- 11.1. At the discretion of the OOD, boats failing to finish within 30 minutes of the first boat finishing may be scored DNF.
- 11.2. Juniors finishing as described in 11.5 above do not count as "first boat finishing"

## **12. Protests**

- 12.1. 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.
- 12.2. Protests will be heard in approximately the order of receipt after the completion of the race they affect.

### **13. Scoring**

- 13.1. Races will be scored as provided in Appendix A of the racing rules using the Low point system, modified as follows:
  - 13.1.1. 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.
  - 13.1.2. 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.
  - 13.1.3. DNC will not score and such races may not count towards a boat's series results.
- 13.2. 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 13.3. Any scores not included in this total shall be designated excluded.
- 13.3. The numbers of races to count in a series will be as follows:
  - 13.3.1. 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.
  - 13.3.2. 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.
  - 13.3.3. 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.
- 13.4. Ties of series score
  - 13.4.1. Ties on series score shall be broken according to RRS A8.1 and A8.2.
  - 13.4.2. If the tie still remains after the above procedure has been followed it shall stand.
- 13.5. Each event in the Club Championship series will be scored separately. The overall Club Championship will then be determined using the system described in 13.2, 13.3 and 13.4, with event scores replacing race scores.
- 13.6. All sailors on OOD/AOD/Rescue/galley duty shall be awarded "Duty Points" of 5 points for one race that is sailed on their duty day (provided they turn up for the duty). Duty points count towards all series results. For Club Championship events, the Duty Points allocated will initially give a qualifying position at the back of the fleet for that event, but this will then be converted manually into 5 points (5th place) to count towards the David Evans Trophy.
- 13.7. It is the responsibility of the OOD to allocate Duty Points in Sailwave for his/her race team on duty on any given day as this will not be done retrospectively.

### **14. Handicap Numbers**

- 14.1. Club handicap Numbers (CN) are allocated to each class of boat and 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.
- 14.2. These are published on the club notice board close to the signing on sheet, and in the OOD box to assist the OOD with pursuit races.
- 14.3. For any class not listed an appropriate Club Number will be provided by the Sailing Committee.
- 14.4. Note that CNs may change after our racing season has started, depending on when the RYA issue the year's list. In case of uncertainty, the numbers in black OOD box are to be used.
- 14.5. The Sailing Committee reserve the right to amend CNs during the season to reflect any changes recommended by the RYA or for any class where there is evidence to show it is unfairly handicapped (either positive or negatively) on our water.

### **15. Personal Bouyancy**

- 15.1. **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. Outside Assistance**

- 16.1. At the discretion of the OOD, a boat may continue to race after receiving assistance from the safety boat, e.g. to right after a capsized. This modifies RRS 41.
- 16.2. During Junior races, Rookie races, and for Silver racers in the Gold/Silver series, and at the discretion of the OOD during other races, coaching is permitted. This also modifies RRS 41.

## **17. Signing On and Declarations**

- 17.1. Prior to launching, all competing helms should sign on using 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.

## **18. Sail Numbers**

- 18.1. Every boat should be clearly identifiable by a number or marking on its sail.
- 18.2. 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.
- 18.3. 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.

## **19. Novice Sailors**

- 19.1. There is no specific eligibility criteria for those entering a Rookie race, which are scheduled specifically to encourage those who are less confident and/or experienced in racing. Any objection to an entry should be referred to the OOD on the day who will use their discretion to determine if a helm (and crew) is appropriate to take part in a Rookie Race. This can then be escalated to the Sailing Committee if required.
- 19.2. 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.

## **20. Junior Eligibility**

- 20.1. To be eligible for a junior race, competitors must be under 18 as at 1 November of the previous year, i.e. at the start of the club membership year.

## **21. Masters Eligibility**

- 21.1. To be eligible for a masters prize, competitors must be 65 or over on 1 November of the previous year, i.e. at the start of the club membership year.

## **22. Fishermen**

- 22.1. No boat shall sail closer to the shore 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.
- 22.2. The OOD will endeavour to mark the position of fishermen on the course board, but the onus is on each helm to comply with SI 21.1 above.

## **23. Pursuit races**

- 23.1. 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.
- 23.2. Starting
  - 23.2.1. Flag Y will be hoisted with one sound signal 4 minutes before the start of the first class/boat's start time, and flag P will be hoisted with one sound signal 2 minutes before the start of the first class/boat. Sound signals will be made at 30-second intervals commencing with the hoisting of Flag Y and should be stopped manually when the last class/boat start time has passed. At each sound signal the count on

the numerical indicator will be reduced by 1. The box will stop hooting automatically after number 100 disappears, but in consideration of our neighbours, should be stopped when the last class finishes or when there are large gaps between start times.

- 23.2.2. For Personal Handicap races, the OOD will have to manually sound the signal for boats with Starting Numbers less than 100.
  - 23.2.3. 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.
  - 23.2.4. Flag P will be lowered after the last class starts.
  - 23.2.5. Premature starters will be notified by one extra sound signal, and the OOD may identify the offending boat(s) by hailing, so long as they can identify all offending boats. This modifies RRS 29.1.
- 23.3. Finishing
- 23.3.1. 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.
  - 23.3.2. A boat finishes only when she is dismissed by the race officer motoring around the course or when flag P is lowered. Any boat which disregards this instruction may be scored DNF at the discretion of the OOD. This alters the definition of DNF for pursuit races only.
- 23.4. 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.

## **24. Replica Equipment**

- 24.1. In order to encourage racing at reasonable cost and thereby seen to be inclusive for all members, the use of non-standard equipment, including but not limited to spars, sails and fittings is permitted for club racing (not Open events) provided of course that the use of such equipment does not provide a speed/performance advantage over 'class legal' equipment.