

# GENERAL SAILING INSTRUCTIONS FOR RACING AT GOUROCK

**1 RULES** Races shall be governed by the Racing Rules of Sailing.

**2 AMENDMENTS**

Any amendment to these instructions will be by written notice posted on the Main Notice Board in the Clubhouse.

**3 HANDICAP AND MEASUREMENT CERTIFICATES**

**HANDICAP CLASSES FOR EVENING POINTS**

There will be three Handicap Classes defined as follows using CYCA Handicaps.

Class I 0 - 18.50

Class II 18.75 - 21.00

Class III 21.25 and over

**NB** Separate definitions exist for Saturday and Sunday events. The relevant appendix should be studied prior to any race.

All Handicap Yachts shall have a valid CYCA Handicap issued individually to that yacht and it's current owner. Yachts not having a Handicap should apply to the CYCA office. A temporary Handicap may be issued subject to payment of the appropriate fee and submission of the Application Form. This will remain in force subject to review until the Handicap Committee awards an appropriate Handicap.

Class Measurement Certificates may be required to be produced.

If a yacht's handicap is changed during a Series she shall remain in the Class in which she completed her first race of the Series and the new handicap will apply to subsequent races.

Prizes may be withheld until this is done.

**4 STARTING SYSTEM**

RRS 26 will apply

**5 SOUND & VISUAL SIGNALS**

**5.1** The number and/or letter of the course to be sailed will be displayed on the battery and will be white on a black ground.

**5.2** The Standard Course Table will apply except where the Race Instructions specify an alternative. Unless stated otherwise, marks shown in capital letters will be **LEFT TO STARBOARD** and those in lower case will be **left to port**.

**6 STARTING LINE**

The Starting Line will be between the orange pole on the Clubhouse (east side) and outer Mark 'Z' as indicated in the Standard Course Table. At all starts an inner limit mark may be moored on or near the line; this mark shall be left on the opposite hand to the outer distance limit mark.

Start mark Z, when this mark has not been laid all starts will use E or e.

**7 FINISHING LINE**

The Finishing Line will be between the orange pole on the Clubhouse and Mark 'E' as indicated by the final letter of the round defined in the Standard Course Table.

**8 RECALLS**

For the purpose of interpreting RRS 30.1 the water between the Inner Limit Mark, if laid, and the shore will rank as the inner extension of the Starting Line.

**9 LATE ARRIVAL**

In alteration to RRS 42.1 any yacht arriving late in the vicinity of the Starting Line may remain under power or tow after the preparatory signal for her class provided that, after stopping her engine, or casting off the tow, she carries out two full 360° (720°) turns on the pre-start side of the line or its extensions. While doing so, the yacht shall keep clear of any other yachts until she has completed her turns and is on proper course.

**10 PENALTIES FOR BREAKING RULES OF PART 2**

In alteration to RRS 44 the penalty is reduced to a 360° turn.

**11 LONE YACHT AT START**

A yacht appearing at the start alone in her class will not be given a race in her class. No points will be awarded.

**12 KEEPING CLEAR OF YACHTS RACING**

In addition to RRS 22 yachts shall keep clear of the Starting Line when other classes are manoeuvring for their starts and after finishing shall ensure that yachts still racing are not hampered.

**13 TIME LIMIT**

In addition to RRS 35, if by the "Fixed Time Limit" no yacht in a class has finished, but one or more yachts have completed one or more rounds, then the results will be taken from the position of the yachts at the end of the last completed round. Until the expiry of the 'Fixed Time Limit' all yachts are racing. If, however, no yacht has completed one round, then the race will be considered to be abandoned. If one or more yachts have completed one or more rounds before the 'Fixed Time Limit', then the 'Time Limit' will be extended as specified for all other yachts in that Class to finish the same number of rounds to qualify for points or prizes.

If any yachts are considered by the Race Officer to be still racing at the 'Fixed Time Limit', two guns will be fired and the Class flags of those Classes eligible to continue racing during the 'Extension' will be hoisted; If by the completion of the 'Extension', any yachts are still considered to be racing, then two guns will be fired and all flags lowered.

**14 POINTS SYSTEM**

Appendix RRS Appendix A4.1 - The Low Point Scoring System will apply.  
Discards will apply as indicated in each set of Race Instructions.

**15 SAFETY REGULATIONS AND INSURANCE**

In addition to RRS 1.2, all yachts shall carry an anchor and warp, a tow line, two flares (one smoke) and a bailing device each of which shall be of a type and size suitable for the purpose for which they are intended. Each yacht shall carry adequate Third Party Insurance.

The current RYA recommendation is at least £2,000,000.

**16 PROTESTS**

In alteration to RRS 61.3 protests shall be lodged with the Race Committee immediately after the finish of the race and will be heard in the Clubhouse as soon as possible thereafter.

**17 CLYDEPORT OPERATIONS LIMITED (COL) RESTRICTIONS**

**NARROW CHANNELS** Attention is drawn to the International Regulations for the Prevention of Collision at Sea, 1972. Particular notice should be taken of Rule 9b which states 'a vessel of less than 20 metres in length or a sailing vessel shall not impede the passage of a vessel which can safely navigate only within a 'Narrow Channel or Fairway'. The Course Charts contained in the Appendices show 'Recommended Channels' marked as dotted lines. Whilst racing or on passage in the Firth of Clyde north of Cumbrae Head yachts must regard any such 'Recommended Channels' as a 'Narrow Channel' within the meaning of the IRPCS 9b.

Furthermore Clydeport Operations Limited has decreed that any waters of the Firth of Clyde where vessels by virtue of their size, draught, speed or proximity to land, hazards and other vessels are unable to manoeuvre freely must be regarded as a 'Narrow Channel'. This also applies in waters of the Queen's Harbour. Clydeport Operations Limited waters are to the south and west and Queen's Harbour waters to the north of a line from Rosneath Point to a point approximately halfway between Craigendoran Pier and Ardmore Head, (Admiralty Chart 1994 refers). Whilst racing, any yacht which is unable for reasons of lack of wind or other cause, to sail clear of a large power driven vessel shall start her engine and/or paddle in order to clear and thereafter shall report full details to the Race Committee. Competitors are reminded of the Clydeport Operations Limited Byelaw which prohibits yachts and other craft from manoeuvring within 100 metres of any ferry terminal. Particular regard shall be paid to this when in the vicinity of the Caledonian MacBrayne and Western Ferries facilities at Gourock, Dunoon, McInroy's Point and Hunter's Quay.

**18 LIABILITY**

The safety of a yacht and her entire management, including civil responsibility to third parties, shall be the sole responsibility of the owner/competitor racing the yacht. The establishment of these Sailing Instructions in no way limits or reduces the complete responsibility of the owner/competitor for the crew, the yacht or its equipment and the management thereof.

The Royal Gourock Yacht Club disclaims any and every responsibility for any loss, damage, injury or inconvenience to persons, yachts or associated aspects howsoever arising, directly or indirectly, ashore or afloat, from their policy, rules or ruling during the races and related activities.

**19 NOTES ON V.H.F.**

The Race Committee may maintain a watch on Channel 37, primarily for safety purposes.

Competitors are reminded that requesting information on course or any aspect of the sailing instructions will be considered an infringement of RRS 41.

**20 RETIRALS**

Helmsmen of yachts which retire are asked to inform the Race Officer by calling at the Clubhouse or by telephoning the office as soon as they get ashore. Tel No: 01475 632983.

**21 TROPHIES & PRIZES**

These shall be as shown in the Trophy List. The number of prizes for 2nd, 3rd etc., shall be based on the number of competitors.