

CARDIFF BAY CHANNEL FLEET

January 2024

Sailing Instructions For Cruiser Club Series Racing Inside the Barrage

1. Safety and Responsibility

1.1 Yacht racing can be dangerous. The attention of owners, skippers and crew is drawn to RRS Fundamental Rule 4: "A yacht is solely responsible for deciding whether or not to start or to continue racing". The safety of a yacht and her crew is the sole and inescapable responsibility of the owner or owner's representative who must do their best to ensure that the yacht is fully found, thoroughly seaworthy and manned by an experienced crew who are physically fit to face bad weather. They must be satisfied as to the soundness of the hull, spars, rigging, sails and all gear. They must ensure that the safety equipment is properly maintained and stowed and that the crew know where it is kept and how it is to be used.

1.2 Cardiff Bay Yacht Club accept no responsibility or liability for loss of life or injury to members or others, or for the loss of, or damage to, any vessel or property.

1.3 The owner and crew will be held jointly responsible for the conduct of the yacht's crew before, during and after a race. Misconduct may result in both owner and crew being excluded from future races and render a yacht liable to disqualification.

1.4 Yachts must hold a valid and current boat insurance which covers them for third party claims of up to £3,000,000 for the entire period of the series.

1.5 Crew members' attention is drawn to RRS 1.2 life-saving equipment . . . "Each competitor is individually responsible for wearing personal flotation devices adequate for the conditions."

1.6 No yacht may carry an anchor that overhangs its bow

1.7 Transom mounted outboard motors must be either stowed within the yacht or left in the vertical position while racing

1.8 The Cardiff Harbour Authority regulations and Notices to Mariners will apply

1.9 The skipper is responsible for ensuring their boat is equipped and seaworthy so as to be able to complete the race course; that the skipper and crew are of sufficient number, experience and fitness to complete the race course safely; and that the safety equipment is properly maintained, stowed and in date and the crew know how to use it.

1.10 The fact that yachts are scrutinised, or otherwise inspected by the race

organisers, does not reduce the responsibilities of the yacht and/or skipper set out in any other part of these Sailing Instructions or Notice of Race.

1.11 All yachts shall consider the area occupied by swinging moorings as an exclusion zone whilst racing and progressing to and from the race course. Incursions into the exclusion zone, other than to take up or leave a mooring, may result in the disqualification of the offending yacht from the relevant race at the discretion of the OD.

2. Rules

2.1 The racing will be organised by Cardiff Bay Yacht Club and governed by these sailing instructions, The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), the prescriptions of the RYA, and the rules of the IRC, except as any of these are changed by these sailing instructions.

2.2 The series are designated Category C as described in the ISAF Advertising Code.

2.3 RRS Rule 52 does not apply with regard to autopilots only.

3. Eligibility

3.1 Yachts shall be self-righting, single hull vessels.

3.2 All yachts are required to display any sponsor's stickers or flag as provided.

3.3 Yachts shall have a valid rating or handicap certificate for the class they wish to enter.

3.4 Yachts entering IRC classes and failing to supply a valid certificate at the time of entry into a series will be deleted from that series, subject to RRS 78.2.

3.5 It is a condition of entry that competing yachts shall permit scrutineers to check the validity of handicaps against certificates and/or class rules. Yachts may also be scrutinised to ensure compliance with 1.1. All yachts must display their correct sail numbers or sail number boards or have name boards prominently displayed.

3.6 Failure to pay the Race Fee within two weeks of a yacht's first start shall result in previous races being counted DNC. Failure to pay a race fee after the yacht's third start will result in disqualification and entry into any subsequent series will not be permitted until the fees due are paid.

3.7 Providing there are sufficient registered yachts, racing will be organised into Fleets.

3.8 Yachts will be allocated to fleets as the Race Committee see fit.

4. Radio Communication

4.1 All yachts must carry a working VHF radio and monitor Ch M1 while in the starting area and for the duration of the race.

4.2 Final course details and other information for competitors will be given by the race officer over VHF Radio. Normally channel M1 will be used. In the event of a problem with this then Channel 72. If possible the race officer will also announce this over Channel M1.

4.3 Yachts should refrain from communicating with the race officer or each other on the race channel between the warning signal and the start, except on matters of safety or unless contacted by the race officer.

5. Notices to Competitors and Changes in Sailing Instructions

Notices to Competitors and Changes in Sailing Instructions will be displayed on the club website at www.cbyc.co.uk and/or communicated by the Race Officer on VHF Ch M1.

6. Schedule of Races

The schedule of races will be displayed on the Club website.

7. Courses

Courses will be laid courses. Typically, a windward - leeward course with a spreader mark at the windward mark will be laid. A committee boat will be positioned approx a third of the way up the course. An outer distance mark will be laid on the port beam of the committee boat. The start/finish line will be an imaginary line between the committee boat and the ODM. The colour and general location of the marks may be announced by the race officer on Ch M1. All marks should be left to Port. All boats must pass through the start/finish line on each windward leg. Racing will be continuous until finished. The race will normally be of 60 minutes duration for the slowest boat.

8. Starting & Finishing Procedures

8.1 Races will be started in accordance with RRS 26 and 29 except that flag signals will not be used.

8.2 The start and finish line is between a mast on the committee boat and a laid outer distance mark.

8.3 Depending on the boats racing the NHC fleet will be given an individual start and further class starts will be at the discretion of the OD.

8.4 The starting signal for one fleet will serve as the warning signal for the next fleet.

8.5 Sound signals or VHF communication take precedence over flag signals.

8.6 All other signals will be given over the VHF without visual or sound signals.

8.7 The race results may be calculated using the times from a previously completed lap.

8.8 Lapped boats may be finished having completed fewer laps and their time calculated from the average time of previously completed laps.

10. Time Limits

No yacht may start more than 10 minutes after her starting signal.

The time limit on a race is 1.5 hours.

11. Protests

11.1 Boats intending to protest are requested to inform the race officer as soon as possible by radio. Protests shall then be delivered in writing to the race officer, member or delegate of the race committee within 1 hour of the end of racing for the day.

Official protest forms will be available behind the bar in the CBYC Clubhouse.

11.2 Protests where there has been no contact

All Protests where there has been no contact will be decided by Arbitration, subject to 11.2(a). Arbitration shall replace the protest hearing required under RRS 63. A Protest Mediator or his designated substitute will decide if the protest is valid. Each party being protested shall then provide a written response to the Protest within 24 hours of being supplied with a copy of it. The Protest will be decided on the basis of the written Protest form and the reply from each party protested. The Protest Mediator shall have total discretion as to whether further evidence (including witness evidence) may be submitted. The Protest Mediator shall have total discretion as to whether to convene a hearing to hear further evidence. The decision will be final.

11.2(a)

If having read the evidence the Protest Mediator considers that the matter should be put to a full Protest Committee, he shall decide accordingly and have full discretion.

11.3 Protests where there has been contact

Protests where there has been contact will be decided by a Protest Committee in accordance with RRS 63

11.4 Penalty for Protests decided by Arbitration

Any party found to have infringed a rule shall not be disqualified but shall incur a 25% place penalty subject to a minimum of 3 places.

No penalty shall result in a score which would exceed that of a Disqualification.

Application of a penalty shall not affect the place or score of other boats.

Any decision shall be final.

12. Scoring & Discards

12.1 The low point scoring system, in accordance with RRS 90.3, will be used.

12.2 Yachts scoring DNF or RET will score points for the number of starters in the race + 1. All other yachts not classified (i.e. DSQ, OCS etc) will score points for the maximum number of boats in any one race in the series + 2.

12.3 Yachts still racing at a race time limit will be awarded an equal share of the available points had they all completed the course. If there are no finishers then no points will be awarded.

12.4 Discards. Discards will be allowed in accordance with the published race card on the club website.

13 Results

Results will be displayed on the Cardiff Bay Yacht Club website as soon as possible after the race.

If a race officer has entered a boat in the race series and if by performing race duties the race officer's boat has been rendered unable to compete then the race officer's boat will be awarded a third place. This position will be in addition to the third place achieved by an actual competitor in the race.

14 Penalties at the time of an incident

Penalty turns shall be taken in accordance with RRS 44.

Race Committee

The Race Committee shall be the Sailing Committee of CBYC as appointed from time to time and chaired by the Sailing Secretary