

CARDIFF BAY CHANNEL FLEET

January 2024

Sailing Instructions for Cruiser Club Series Racing Outside 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 ABP Port of Cardiff and the Cardiff Harbour Authority regulations and Notices to Mariners will apply.

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 the IRC classes failing to obtain a valid certificate by their entry into a series will be deleted from that series, subject to RRS 78.2. A discretionary period of 3 weeks may be granted to a yacht which has applied for an IRC certificate

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 M.

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.

Unless otherwise specified races will be 'Around the Cans' (RTC) starting between approximately 2 hours and 30 minutes before High Water. Other race types will include Race over Low Water (RoLW) starting between approximately 1 and 2 hours before Low Water and a Low Water Race (LWR) also starting approximately 2 hours before Low Water.

7. Courses

"Round the Cans" course will use navigation marks and islands in the upper Bristol Channel. Laid inflatable marks may be included.

The course details, including start and finish lines, which may be different, will be announced over the VHF before the warning signal.

Fleets may have different courses

Depending upon the numbers waiting to start, fleets may be grouped together or started as individual fleets

No course will be less than 5nm over the ground for a faster fleet and 4nm for a slower fleet.

8. Starting & Finishing Procedures

Starts will be on the fixed line from Penarth Yacht Club. RRS 26 and 29 are modified in that no visual signals will be used and the operation of rule 30 will be announced over the VHF at the preparatory signal rather than by the I, Z or Black flags.

The Race Officer shall give notice of the 5 minute signal and count down from 5 seconds to that signal by VHF.

The PYC start line is a transit between the red triangle on the building gable above the bridge deck and the flagstaff. The outer distance mark is the orange buoy known as 'PYC ODM'. For Races over Low Water (RoLW) and Low Water Races (LWR), Mid Cardiff will be used as the ODM and the starting transit will be as previously described. If the ODM is not available, the Race Officer will give instructions regarding the start line to the Fleets before the 5 minute signal.

The PYC finish line will normally be a line between the red triangle and the ODM, but for Races over Low Water (RoLW) and Low Water Races (LWR) the finish line will be between the red triangle and Mid Cardiff in which instance all yachts must call 'Cardiff Bay Yacht Club Race Control' on VHF ChM1 as they approach the finish line.

9.0 Shortened Courses

Courses may be shortened by the Race Officer by VHF. No sound or light signal will be used. In the event of a 'lap type course' the number of laps to be completed will be given. The course may be shortened at any mark of the course by the Race Officer. That mark will then be passed as originally prescribed. Having passed or rounded the mark Competitors will return direct to the finish line, missing out any other marks designated in the original course. The Race Officer may, for the purpose of clarification, give the direction in which they should cross the finishing line but in the absence of such an instruction and if the last turning mark is Mid Cardiff the finishing line will be crossed from North to South..

10. Time Limits

No yacht may start more than 30 minutes after her starting signal.

For a Low Water Race (LWR) or Channel Race - 6 hours

For a Race over Low Water (RoLW) - 4 hours.

For a 'Round the Cans' type course over High Water or on the first 3 hours of the ebb tide- 3 hours.

Courses may be shortened as appropriate to ensure that the majority of the fleet can finish inside the time limits, in accordance with rule 32.1(c).

11. Protests

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

11.1 Boats intending to protest are requested to inform the race officer as soon as possible by radio etc. Protests shall then be delivered in writing to the race officer, member or delegate of the race committee within 3 hours of the end of racing for the day.

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 race card published on the club website.

13 Results

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

Results may be calculated using the times of a previously completed part of the course.

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 Commercial Shipping

Commercial Shipping must not be impeded under any circumstances; this applies particularly in restricted waters. Inside the limits of the Port of Cardiff merchant vessels must be regarded as being constrained by their draft.

Failure to observe this rule may result in a Race Officer protest. In the event of serious breaches yachts may be scored DND from all races on the day of the incident.

15 Penalties at the time of an incident

Penalty turns shall be taken in accordance with RRS 44.

Race Committee

The race committee will be the Sailing \committee of CBYC as appointed from time to time and chaired by the Sailing Secretary