



# Orkney Sailing Club

THE GIRNEL, HARBOUR STREET, KIRKWALL, ORKNEY, KW15 1LE. TEL: 01856 872331

## OSC Sailing Instructions - Yachts

### **1.0 RACING**

- 1.1 Racing will be governed by The Racing Rules of Sailing, the prescriptions of the RYA, except as changed by these sailing instructions.
- 1.2 Where specific, additional instructions are required for passage races, pursuit races, regattas, etc, these shall be issued at the pre-race briefing, and will supplement these standing instructions

### **2.0 SAFETY**

- 2.1 The safety of a boat and her entire management shall be the responsibility of the person in charge, who must ensure that the boat and crew are adequate for the conditions that may arise in the course of the race.
- 2.2 Personal buoyancy shall be worn by all crew members whilst racing.
- 2.3 All boats shall have valid Third Party insurance cover to a minimum value of £1,000,000.
- 2.4 VHF channel "M1" [37A] shall be used for all race communications, and shall be monitored by all yachts, club safety craft and Race officers.
- 2.5 Each boat shall advise the Race Officer of their intention to take part before the race starts – early notification is requested to ease the officials work load. Yachts should do this by VHF during routine club races, and shall confirm their name, sail number, and the number of persons on board.
- 2.6 Any boat retiring from a race shall advise the Race Officer as soon as possible by VHF.

### **3.0 COURSES**

- 3.1 Courses shall be selected by the Race Officer based on wind direction, and announced to competitors by VHF prior to the starting signals..
- 3.2 Appendix A shows the standard Yachts course options based on the fixed race marks laid by the club. These marks are orange in colour and have black identification numbers painted on each.
- 3.3 The race Officer will determine the number of laps based on the expected weather conditions, and may shorten the race if required. The selected course, and any decision to shorten a course will be notified by VHF.
- 3.4 Number 4 buoy, off the point near the Salmon factory indicates a shallow area, and all boats are required to pass to the East of this buoy at all times.



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## 4.0 STARTING LINE

- 4.1 The start/finish line is set just off Hatston slip in an approximately East/West orientation designed to be viewed from the starters hut in the compound. The width of the line is indicated by 2 orange buoys.
- 4.2 Rule 30.1 always applies, the 'Round-an-End' rule.
- 4.3 Competitors are requested to keep clear of the line before and after racing to avoid restricting the view of the Race Officers, particularly when other classes are starting or finishing.
- 4.4 Competitors are advised that shellfish "keep boxes" often obstruct the starting area, and are strongly advised to keep a good lookout for floating boxes and associated mooring lines.

## 4.0 STARTING SIGNALS

- 5.1 All starting signals are made from the Race Officer's cabin in the compound. The procedure is based on a 3 minute sequence as follows:
  - a] Pre start warning sound signal [air horn for 10 seconds] and rotating orange beacon [for 15 seconds] started 30 seconds before the official start sequence.
  - b] 3 minute start sequence begins with a flag hoisted from the Race officer's cabin, and 3 bright spot lights switched on.
  - c] 2 minutes before the start, the 1<sup>st</sup> light is switched off.
  - d] 1 minute before the start, the 2<sup>nd</sup> light is switched off.
  - e] Start signal is given by flag coming down and 3<sup>rd</sup> light is switched off.
- 5.2 The Race Officer will attempt to contact any yacht[s] which crosses the line before the starting signal by VHF.

## 5.0 FINISHING

- 6.1 All races will finish in the direction from the last mark of the course, as shown on the course sheets in Appendix A.
- 6.2 All yachts shall keep clear of the line after finishing. They should not re-cross the line, nor obstruct the view from the Race officer's cabin.

## 6.0 SCORING

- 7.1 All races shall be scored using the "Low Points System" as per Appendix A of The Racing Rules of Sailing. e.g. 1 point for 1<sup>st</sup> place, 2 points for 2<sup>nd</sup> place etc. Boats



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which did not start or did not finish a race will be scored 1 more point than the total number of boats entered in the series.

- 7.2 Results will be posted on the club website. Where possible, a printed copy will be available at the club after racing.
- 7.3 The number of discards in each series will depend on the number of races sailed as follows:
- |          |                           |
|----------|---------------------------|
| 1 to 4   | Races sailed – discard 0  |
| 5 to 7   | Races sailed – discard 1  |
| 8 to 13  | Races sailed – discard 2  |
| 14 to 23 | Races sailed – discard 4  |
| 24 to 35 | Races sailed – discard 8  |
| 36 +     | Races sailed – discard 12 |

## 7.0 HANDICAPS

- 8.1 Handicaps are based on the CYCA handicap system. Each yacht is encouraged to apply for their own handicap, but in the absence of an individual handicap, the Race Officer may allocate a number based on the published figure for a similar vessel using the club handicap declaration form, available from the club website.
- 8.2 OSC use the RYA “Rolling Handicap” system during club “Points Series” to encourage close racing between members at all levels. This system allows for a maximum variation of +/- 5% of each boat's standard handicap, based on the achieved performance during club racing. Adjustments to handicaps are applied incrementally in accordance with RYA guidelines, with handicaps being adjusted after each qualifying race. Variations to handicaps are published on the club's website along with all race results. See the Club website for more detail on the operation of the rolling handicap system.

## 8.0 PROTESTS

- 9.1 Protests shall be managed in accordance with Part 5 of The Racing Rules of Sailing. Competitors are reminded of the requirement to inform the “protestee” under rule 61.
- 9.2 Protests must be submitted using the RYA Protest Form [copies are available from the Race Officer], within 2 hours of last boat finishing.
- 9.3 The Orkney Sailing Club reserves the right to delay protest hearing until the following day if required in order to assemble an appropriate hearing committee.