

# *Orkney Sailing Club*

## Racing - rough guide 2008

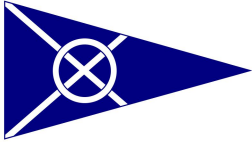
Sailors intending to take part in club 'Points' and Regatta racing should be familiar with the "Standard Sailing Instructions" and "Racing Rules of Sailing" which are set out in the ISAF Rule Book. They also need to be aware of how OSC has modified/simplified the standard instructions to create our own starting procedure and special rules for racing in Kirkwall Bay. We recommend you buy a rules guide or read it off the web at the RYA or ISAF websites so that you know the rules and understand the background to our own procedures. OSC Sailing Instructions can be viewed or downloaded from the website; click on 'publications'.

For weekly Points Racing the Club uses a set of orange spherical or can buoys, with black identification numbers painted on each, as racing marks and these are laid in fixed positions around Kirkwall Bay such that the Starting officials can choose a course appropriate to the prevailing wind direction. There are two sets of courses, one for dinghies and one for yachts, which can be viewed or downloaded from the club website – click on 'publications'. It is the decision of the Starters/Timekeepers to choose the appropriate course and is not for debate by competitors.

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, so it's not a good idea to sail about around the west end of the line – blocking their view! Also, take care to avoid any fishing keep boxes/moorings which may be set near the start area.

OSC operates a 3 minute preparatory period before the "gun" which is the actual start of racing. The commencement of the starting sequence is advised by a sound signal and a rotating beacon 30 seconds before the lights go on at the 3 minute point which is signalled by one flag raised and three spotlights in a horizontal row on the starters cabin with one light extinguished as each minute passes. A "gun" is not used – the start moment is defined by the lowering of the flag and extinguishing of the last of the lights. If the starters are short handed there may be no flag signal.

The starters/timekeepers procedures are set out below so that sailors fully understand the starting sequence and what may be going on in the starters cabin.



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### TIMEKEEPER'S DUTIES AND PROCEDURES

#### SET COURSE(s)

- Check wind direction and set course numbers
- Put dinghy course number on board and draw on course
- Inform yachts of course number by broadcast (not same as dinghies)

#### GETTING READY

- Test lights and sound
- Check radio switched on and on channel M1 (37A)
- Test radio
- Get watches out and test
- Check start line and adjust if necessary

#### REGISTER NAMES OF THOSE SAILING

Juniors, Dinghies, Catamarans & Yachts (Yachts may register via radio)

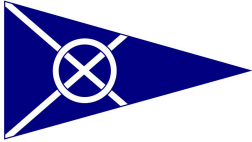
#### START SEQUENCE

4:00	mins to go	START timer
3:30		sound and rotating beacon ON
3:20		sound OFF
3:15		rotating beacon OFF
3:00		3 lights ON, flag UP
2:00		1 <sup>st</sup> light OFF
1:00		2 <sup>nd</sup> light OFF
0:00		3 <sup>rd</sup> light OFF & START watch, flag DOWN

#### Collect the Times

#### Compute the Results

#### Publish results to the website



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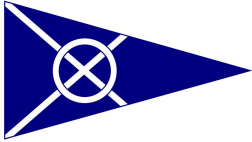
### Other matters

**Starting times:** Points Racing is on Thursday evenings during the summer and Sunday afternoons in the shorter days of spring and autumn – see the website to know which. The first race start is usually the yachts (to get them out of the way on their longer courses!) and is a 19.00 “gun” for evening sessions or a 14.00 “gun” for Sunday afternoons – the starters/timekeepers will not delay starts to wait for latecomers so if you want to race make sure you are on the water in plenty of time! See the next page for the schedule of points series’ and other events, plus, don’t forget to check on the website as it will be updated as the season progresses.

**Handicaps.** For points racing the Club operates a rolling handicap system designed to encourage competitive racing among a mixed fleet. Essentially this means that slower boats are assisted with an easier handicap while faster boats are penalised. The system computes changes to a maximum of +/- 5% of a boat’s known PY or CYCA number and the handicap is amended incrementally within those limits after every race. This leads to closer times and encourages slower sailors or beginners to improve while not allowing faster sailors to rest on their laurels. The system is governed entirely by computer programme without human intervention to ensure fairness. For those wanting a tutorial about the minutiae of the rolling handicap system please see the file on the club website (kindly donated to OSC by FYCA). For open events (regattas and other races) the CYCA standard handicap system is used. Handicap declaration forms can be downloaded from the website.

**Results.** The timekeepers compute the results after the racing session has finished and publish them on the website later that evening. If they are really efficient they may even be available in the club after racing - but no promises.

Do not obstruct the start/finish area by manoeuvring in the area if you are not part of the next start or have finished your race, and do not block the timekeepers’ view of the line.



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### **The Points Series', the Regattas and other races**

- Spring Onion Series** Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April – Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May (Prize giving on Sat Evening)
- Early Summer Series** Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May – Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June (8)
- Round Shapinsay Race Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June
- Mid Summer Series** Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July – Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> July (5)
- Kirkwall Regatta Pursuit Race Friday 1<sup>st</sup> August  
Regatta Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> August  
Average Lap Race Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> August
- Late Summer Series** Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> August – Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> September  
(Could be Sundays)
- Port to Port Race Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August
- Round Gairsay Race Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> August
- Kemp Cup Regatta Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September
- Iceberg Series** Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September – Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October (Prize in evening)