

Gill Grafham Grand Prix 43 (part of the Selden SailJuice Winter Series)

Sunday 8 February 2026

Sailing Instructions

1. RULES

- 1.1. The event is governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing 2025 - 2028*.
- 1.2. Entrants and authorised guests are temporary members of Grafham Water Sailing Club during the period of the event and shall comply with Club Rules and Bylaws. *Failure to observe these may result in exclusion from the club premises.*
- 1.3. RRS40.1 shall apply at all times when afloat.
- 1.4. RRS Appendix T shall apply.
- 1.5. No boats need display a protest flag.
- 1.6. GWSC Local Rule - Wet or dry suits must be worn whilst afloat.
- 1.7. Qualifying classes, handicaps and Fleet compositions will be posted on the online noticeboard (see 3.1 below) by 2000 on Friday 6 February
- 1.8. SAIL NUMBERS
A boat shall not race with an incorrect sail number unless she has notified the Race Committee at registration. Even when such confirmation is received the Race Committee does not have the authority to amend the requirements of class rules. As a result, a boat could be protested for failing to comply with class rules.

2. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1. Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted not less than 45 minutes before the start of any race affected.

3. COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

- 3.1. Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located at <https://www.grafham.org/online-noticeboard.html>. There will be a competitor briefing in the café at 0945.
- 3.2. The race office is located on the first floor of the club house, telephone 01480 810478 or 07943 196522, email office@grafham.org
- 3.3. From the first warning signal until the end of the last race of the day, except in an emergency, a boat shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats.

4. CODE OF CONDUCT

- 4.1. [DP] Competitors and support persons shall comply with reasonable requests from race officials.
- 4.2. [DP] Competitors and support persons shall handle any equipment or place advertising provided by the organizing authority with care, seamanship, in accordance with any instructions for its use and without interfering with its functionality.

5. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 5.1. Signals made ashore will be displayed on flagpole 2 on the foreshore in front of the Clubhouse.
- 5.2. When flag AP is displayed ashore '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 30 minutes' in the Race Signal AP.

6. SCHEDULE OF RACES

- 6.1. The warning signal for the first race for all fleets is scheduled to be at 1057. Races 2 and 3 for each fleet are scheduled to be sailed back-to-back with the preceding race.
- 6.2. No warning signal will be made after 1430hrs.

7. FLEET FLAGS

- 7.1. Fleets compositions will be defined in a separate notice as per SI1.7 above.
- 7.2. The Class flags are:

FLEET	FLAG
FAST	E



MEDIUM	R
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SLOW	G
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8. RACING AREA

- 8.1. The racing area for each fleet will be displayed on the Open Meeting Notice Board no later than 1 hour before the start of the first race. Racing areas are expected to be: Fast Fleet - west end, Medium Fleet and Slow Fleet – centre. To help identification, Committee Boats may display the relevant Fleet Flag until shortly before the orange starting line flag is displayed.

9. THE COURSES

- 9.1. The diagrams in SI APPENDIX 1 show the courses, including the approximate angles between legs, the order in which marks are to be passed and the side on which each mark is to be left.

10. MARKS

- 10.1. Marks are described in APPENDIX 1.

11. [DP] AREAS THAT ARE OBSTRUCTIONS

- 11.1. The following areas are designated as obstructions:
 - 11.1.1. The prohibited area at the West end of the water is an obstruction. Its boundary is a line of small yellow buoys forming its eastern boundary.
 - 11.1.2. Each fishing boat, and an area extending 20 metres in any direction from the fishing boat is a prohibited area and an obstruction.
 - 11.1.3. A safety boat in close attendance to a craft or competitor in difficulty is an obstruction and a prohibited area. Boats must not sail between the safety boat and the craft or competitor in difficulty.

12. THE START

12.1. Races will be started using a 3 minute sequence as follows:

Minutes before starting signal	Visual signal	Sound	Means
3	Class flag	One	Warning Signal
2	BLACK FLAG	One	Preparatory Signal
1	Preparatory flag removed	One long	One minute
0	Class flag removed	One	Starting signal

THE BLACK FLAG RULE (RRS 30.4) WILL APPLY FOR ALL STARTS

- 12.2. The starting line is between a staff displaying an orange flag on the committee boat at the starboard end and the course side of the port-end starting mark which will be an orange dan buoy displaying an orange flag. The port-end of the starting line may alternatively be a mast on a rib displaying an orange flag.
- 12.3. To alert boats that a race or sequence of races will begin soon, the orange starting line flag will be displayed with multiple sound signals at least one minute before the warning signal is made.
- 12.4. The Medium and Slow fleets have separate starts using the same racecourse. The Medium fleet will start first. The warning signal for the slow fleet will be not less than one minute after the Medium fleet start.
The starting order will not be changed.
- 12.5. A boat that does not start within 2 minutes of her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.1 and A5.2.
- 12.6. After a general recall the sail numbers of disqualified boats will be displayed on the race committee boat for at least three minutes. Multiple sound signals will indicate that the board has been displayed. For ILCA class boats only the last 4 digits of their number will be displayed unless there is a duplicate number.

13. CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE – does not apply

14. THE FINISH

- 14.1. The finishing line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the committee boat at the starboard end and the course side of an orange dan buoy displaying an orange flag at the port end
- 14.2. All boats will sail for approximately 40 minutes. At the end of this time and completely at the Race Officer's discretion TWO sound signals will be made and Flag S displayed to signify that the race is to be finished. Each boat will then finish as it crosses the finishing line at the end of the lap that it is sailing when the race is shortened. This changes RRS 32.

15. PENALTY SYSTEM

- 15.1. Rule 44.1 is changed for all boats in the Fast Fleet, and the Challengers in the Slow Fleet, so that the Two-Turns Penalty is replaced by the One-Turn Penalty. Rule 44.1 is not changed for boats in the Medium and Slow fleets where the Two Turns penalty applies to all classes except Challengers.
- 15.2. Boats that fail to pass through the upwind gate (see APPENDIX 1) will not be disqualified but will be credited only with the number of laps they have sailed correctly.

16. TIME LIMITS

- 16.1. If no boat has passed Mark 1 within 20 minutes, the race will be abandoned.
- 16.2. The target time for the first boat to finish in each race is 40 minutes. Failure to achieve this target time shall not be grounds for redress. Boats failing to finish within 20 minutes after the first boat sails the course and finishes will be scored Did Not Finish without a hearing. This changes RRS 35, A4 and A5.

17. HEARING REQUESTS

- 17.1. For each fleet the protest time limit is 45 minutes after the last boat in that fleet finishes the last race of the day or the race committee signals no more racing today, whichever is later. The time will be posted on the official notice board.
- 17.2. Protest forms are available from the office. Protest and requests for redress or reopening shall be delivered there within the protest time limit.
- 17.3. Notices will be posted on the official notice board no later than 30 minutes after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Hearings will be held as soon as possible. Alternatively, hearings may be held remotely and may be after the event, the parties involved will be advised by email of the arrangements. It is the responsibility of competitors involved in protests to ensure they are available at the prescribed time.

18. SCORING

- 18.1. The scoring system is APPENDIX A
- 18.2. For each fleet one race is required to be completed to constitute a series.
- 18.3. When fewer than three races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her races scores.
- 18.4. When three races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race score, excluding her worst score.

19. SAFETY REGULATIONS

- 19.1. [DP] A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee at the first reasonable opportunity by notifying the Race Office (office@grafham.org) no later than 30 minutes after the last boat finishes that race (or the last race before going ashore if races are sailed back-to-back).

20. REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT

- 20.1. Unless otherwise specified in class rules, for the series of races comprising this event only the helm named on the entry form will be eligible.
- 20.2. For two person classes:
 - 20.2.1. the registered helm may swap with the registered crew. Registered GWSC helms with discounted entries cannot swap with non GWSC crews without paying the full entry fee.
 - 20.2.2. the registered helm may sail with different crews.
 - 20.2.3. the registered crew may sail in the registered boat with a crew other than the registered helm but must seek approval of the Race Committee. This will be deemed a separate entry: no additional entry fee will be charged but their results cannot be combined with the registered helm's results.

21. EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

- 21.1. A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the relevant class rules, notice of race and sailing instructions.
- 21.2. [DP] When instructed by a race official on the water, a boat shall proceed to a designated area for inspection.

22. SUPPLIED BOATS – N/A

23. OFFICIAL VESSELS – N/A

24. (DP) SUPPORT VESSELS

- 24.1. Support vessels shall not be allowed.

25. TRASH DISPOSAL

- 25.1. Trash may not be placed aboard official vessels.

26. BERTHING

- 26.1. (DP) Boats shall be kept in their assigned places while in the boat park.

27. HAUL OUT RESTRICTIONS – Not used

28. DIVING EQUIPMENT AND PLASTIC POOLS – Not used

29. PRIZES

29.1. Prizes will be given to each of the fleet starts according to entry numbers. There will also be Spot Prizes

30. RISK STATEMENT

Rule 3 of the Racing Rules of Sailing states: 'The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone.'

Sailing is by its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event, each competitor agrees and acknowledges that:

- (a) They are aware of the inherent element of risk involved in the sport and accept responsibility for the exposure of themselves, their crew and their boat to such inherent risk whilst taking part in the event;
- (b) They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore;
- (c) They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions;
- (d) Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate;
- (e) The provision of a race management team, patrol boats and other officials and volunteers by the event organizer does not relieve them of their own responsibilities;
- (f) The provision of patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances;
- (g) It is their responsibility to familiarise themselves with any risks specific to this venue or this event drawn to their attention in any rules and information produced for the venue or event and to attend any safety briefing held for the event.

31. INSURANCE

31.1. Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £2 million per incident or the equivalent.

32. OTHER INFORMATION

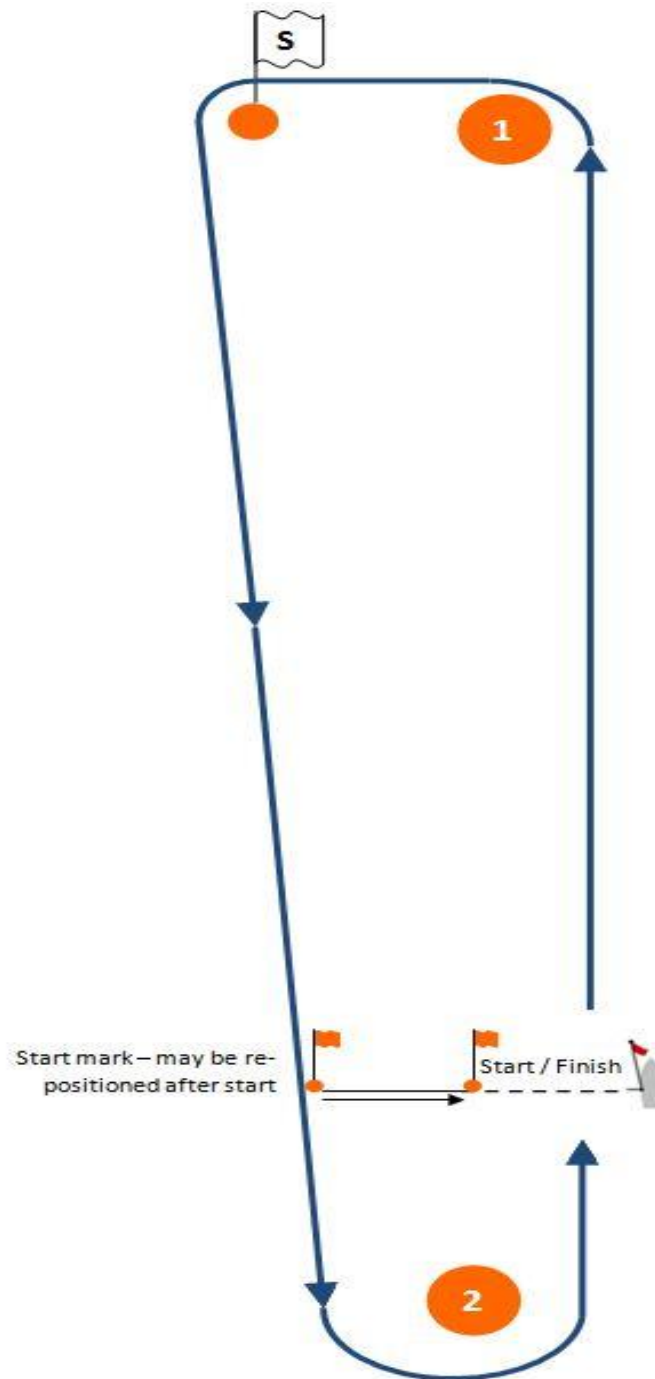
32.1. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 32.1.1. The safety flags below are displayed on the flag pole near the coxswains shed.
- 32.1.2. A RED FLAG – no launching, if afloat together with a long sound signal from shore the lake is closing in 30 minutes and you must be ashore within this period. Repeated sounds, come ashore immediately.
- 32.1.3. A RED YELLOW FLAG means the water is closed with exceptions, see the monitor or notice boards in the Café about exceptions
- 32.1.4. A BLUE AND WHITE FLAG experienced windsurfers only (wind at 28kts or higher)
- 32.1.5. A BLACK FLAG indicates that wet or dry suits must be worn at all times whilst afloat
- 32.1.6. A BLUE AND GREEN FLAG indicates the presence of BLUE GREEN ALGAE in the reservoir and care should be taken whilst afloat and during launching and recovery of boats.

32.2. EMERGENCY MEETING POINT

- 32.2.1. If you are involved in an emergency and you need to go to or direct others (including an emergency service such as an ambulance) to the Emergency Meeting Point at the Coxswain's Shed **52° 17.49 N, 000° 18.85 W**. Should aid be needed elsewhere on site, club staff and/or volunteers will divert resources there.
- 32.2.2. If you call an emergency service, you **must** inform a Staff Member (Coxswain or Office) so that GWSC can invoke its Emergency Protocol.
- 32.2.3. Grafham Water Sailing Club, Chichester Way, Perry, Cambridgeshire PE28 0BU
- 32.2.4. Telephone 01480 810478 or 07943 196522

APPENDIX 1 – FAST FLEET COURSE



Mark rounding order - Start - 1 - S - 2 – Start/Finish and repeat

The Start/Finish line is an obstruction when sailing downwind. After starting, boats must not pass through the Start/Finish line in a downwind direction.

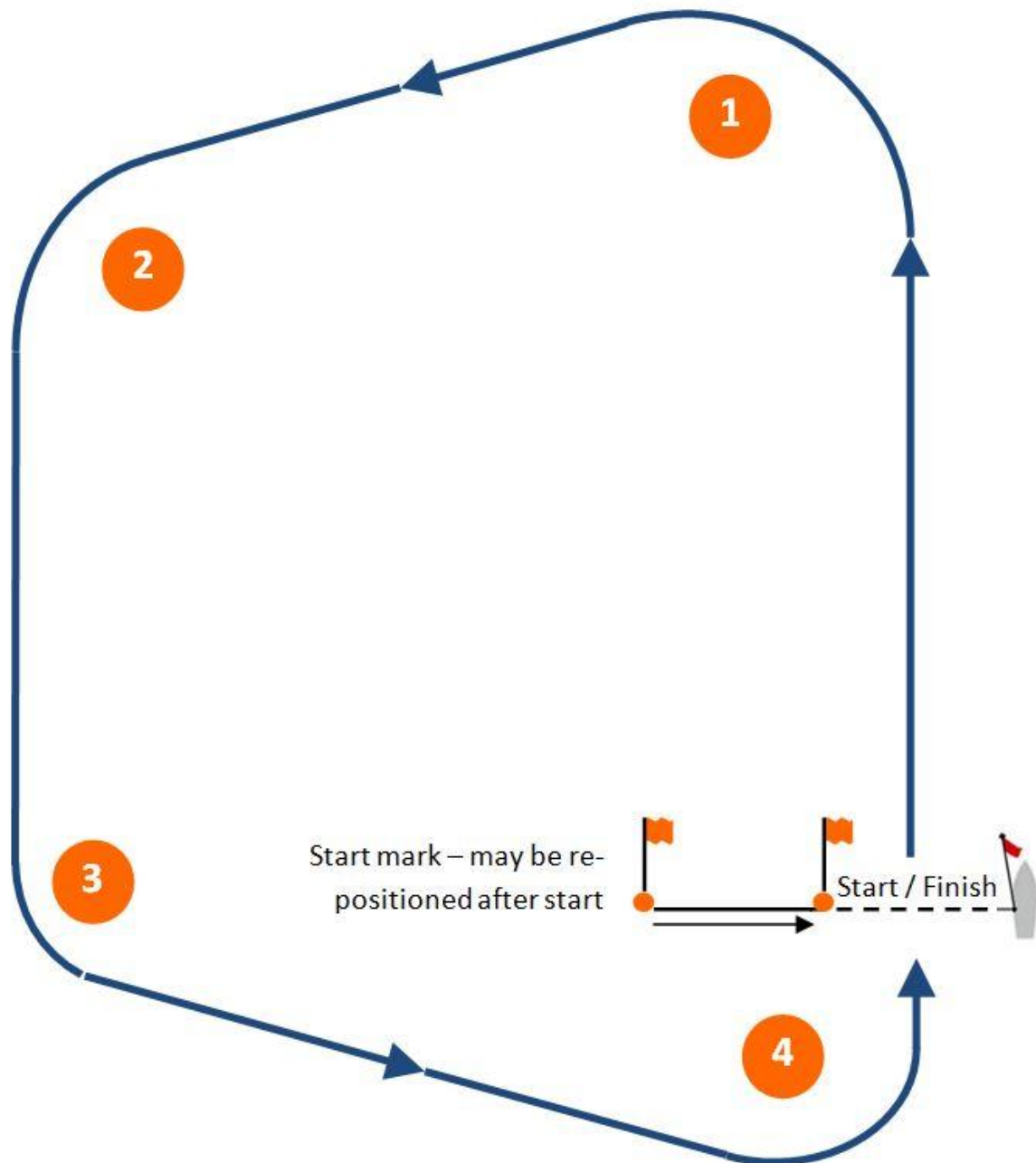
MARKS

Marks 1 and 2 will be ORANGE pillar buoys.

Mark S will be an Orange Dan Buoy with a white flag.

The Start/Finish line outer limit will be an Orange Dan Buoy with an ORANGE flag. (but see SI 12.2)

APPENDIX 1 – MEDIUM AND SLOW FLEET COURSE



Mark rounding order - Start - 1 – 2 - 3 – 4 – Start/Finish and repeat

The Start/Finish line is an obstruction when sailing downwind. After starting, boats must not pass through the Start/Finish line in a downwind direction.

MARKS

Mark 1 will be YELLOW WITH A CHEQUERED BAND pillar.

Marks 2, 3 & 4 will be YELLOW WITH A GREEN BAND pillar buoys

The Start/Finish line outer limit will be an Orange Dan Buoy with an ORANGE flag (but see SI 12.2)