



Merlin Rocket National Championships East Lothian Yacht Club 15 – 19 August 2021

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS (SIs)

The notation '[DP]' in a rule of the SIs means that a standard penalty may be applied by the Race Committee or the Technical Committee without a hearing, or a discretionary penalty applied by the Protest Committee without a hearing. This changes RRS 63.1 and A5

1 RULES

- 1.1 The event is governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing*.
- 1.2 A SailRacer GPS tracker will be carried for the purposes of running the SailRacer app. The location of the tracker in the boat is to be between the front edge of the forward king post and the aft edge on the centreboard in the raised position. Collection and return of the tracker each day is part of the tallying process, and is subject to the same penalty rules, as in SI 19.

2 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1 Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted before 0900 on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 2000 on the day before it will take effect.

3 COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

- 3.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located at the dinghy park if COVID rules allow this. They will also be posted on the online noticeboard located at <http://events.sailracer.org/eventsites/noticeboard.asp?eventid=220014>
- 3.2 After the first Notice to competitors has been posted, subsequent ones will be denoted by the appropriate numeral displayed with flag L.
- 3.3 The race office is located at the dinghy park.
- 3.4 [DP] 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 at the flagpole located at the dinghy park.
- 5.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 60 minutes' in Race Signals AP.
- 5.3 [DP] Boats shall not leave the shore until Flag D is displayed with one sound signal. The warning signal will not be made before the scheduled time or less than 60 minutes after flag D is displayed.
- 5.4 The course area will be indicated by displaying flag E or W under flag A.

6 SCHEDULE OF RACES

6.1

Date	First Warning Signal	Race Number	Trophy
Sunday 15 th August	12.55	1	Founders Trophy
		2	Beechers Cup
Monday 16 th August	12.55	3	Clyde Quaich
		4	West Country Trophy
Tuesday 17 th August	12.55	5 Crews Race	Silent World Trophy
Wednesday 18 th August	12.55	6	Top Hat Trophy
		7	Ranelagh Trophy
Thursday 19 th August	12.55	8	Winter Trophy
		9	Howard Trophy

- 6.2 One extra race per day may be sailed, provided that the event does not become more than two races ahead of schedule and the change is made according to SI 2.1.
- 6.3 If a race is not completed by the end of the scheduled day, it shall be sailed on the next possible day.
- 6.4 A Crew's Race is scheduled for the afternoon of Tuesday 17th August. Helms shall be competitors who have crewed for the majority of time in the previous races at this event. Competitors may sail in boats other than the boat in which they have sailed in the previous races at this event unless COVID restrictions prevent this.. This race does not count towards the Championship.
Any yellow flag penalties for breaches of RRS 42 given in the Crew's Race will not count towards the totting up procedure in SI 15.2.
- 6.5 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 five minutes before a

warning signal is made.

- 6.6 On the last scheduled day of racing no warning signal will be made after 1500 unless fewer than 3 races have been completed in the series.

7 CLASS FLAGS

- 7.1 The Class flag is International Code Flag 'O'.

8 RACING AREA

- 8.1 The racing area will be in the Firth of Forth off North Berwick.
Course E will be to the east of the harbour, towards Bass Rock.
Course W will be to the north west of the harbour between the islands of Craigleith and Lamb.

9 COURSES

- 9.1 The diagram in SI Addendum 1 shows 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.
- 9.2 No later than the warning signal, the race committee signal vessel will display the approximate compass bearing of the first leg.

10 MARKS

- 10.1 Marks 1, 3 and 4 will be orange pillar buoys.
Marks 2S and 2P will be orange pillar buoys marked with a black band.
Mark 1a will be a yellow spherical buoy.
- 10.2 The following marks are rounding marks: 1,1a,2P,2S,3,4
- 10.3 New marks, as provided in SI 13, are
New mark 1 will be an orange pillar buoy with a dark band.
New mark 1a will be yellow spherical buoy with a dark band.
- 10.4 The starting marks for a line start will be a race committee vessel at the starboard end of the start line and an orange spherical buoy at the port end.
- 10.5 The finishing marks will be a race committee vessel at the starboard end of the line and a red buoy with a blue flag at the port end of the line.

11 OBSTRUCTIONS

- 11.1 When sailing between the launching area and the racing area, competitors shall not interfere with vessels entering and leaving North Berwick harbour. [DP]

12 THE START

- 12.1 Races will be started using RRS 26 with the warning signal made 5 minutes before the starting signal.
- 12.2 The starting line is between a staff displaying an orange flag on the race committee vessel at the starboard end, and the course side of the port end starting mark.
- 12.3 It is intended that a race committee vessel will be anchored approximately 20m to port of the port end starting mark. This vessel and its anchor line ranks as an obstruction.

- 12.4 A boat that does not start within 4 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.1 and A5.2.
- 12.5 In an emergency, or adverse wind or current race committee starting vessels may use engines to assist in holding station.
- 12.6 If a start under RRS 30.4 is recalled or abandoned after the starting signal, the sail numbers of the boats that have been disqualified from the race under that rule shall be displayed on the race committee signal vessel for a minimum of 3 minutes before the next warning signal. A repeated sound signal will be made as the numbers are first displayed. This adds to RRS 30.4.

13 CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

- 13.1 To change the next leg of the course, the race committee will lay a new mark, move the finishing line or move the leeward gate. When a new mark is laid, the original mark will be removed as soon as possible. When in a subsequent change a new mark is replaced, it will be replaced by an original mark.

14 THE FINISH

- 14.1 The finishing line is between a staff displaying a blue flag on the finishing mark at the starboard end and the course side of the port end finishing mark.
- 14.2 Alternative Finish Line
- (a) When a race committee vessel boat displays flag W with two sounds, boats that have not yet rounded the nearby mark shall finish between this mark and the staff on the boat displaying flag W.
 - (b) When flag W is displayed near a mark that ends multiple legs of the course, separate finish lines exist and separate finishing orders will be recorded for each of these lines.
 - (c) When a boat finishes in accordance with this instruction, she shall be awarded a finishing place after all boats that have passed the nearby mark ahead of her before flag W was displayed.
 - (d) Boats that have passed the mark before flag W is displayed, and have not retired from the race, but subsequently fail to finish, shall be awarded the average of the points for places available to them had they finished. This changes RRS A5.2.
 - (e) Boats may also be finished using flag W between marks at the discretion of the race committee.
 - (f) The times specified in SI 16 will apply also at every flag W finish line defined by SI 13.2 (a) and 13.2 (e)
- 14.3 In an emergency, or adverse wind or current race committee finishing vessels may use engines to assist in holding station.

15 PENALTY SYSTEM

- 15.1 RRS Appendix P applies as changed by SI 15.2.
- 15.2 RRS P2.1, P2.2 and P2.3 are changed as follows:
- (a) P2.1 First and Second Penalties. When a boat is penalized for the first or second times during the regatta under rule P1.2 her penalty shall be a One-Turn

Penalty under rule 44.2. If she fails to take it she shall be disqualified without a hearing.

(b) P2.2 Third Penalty. When a boat is penalized a third time during the regatta, she shall promptly retire. If she fails to do so she shall be disqualified without a hearing and her score shall not be excluded.

(c) P2.3 Fourth and Subsequent Penalties. When a boat is penalized a fourth or subsequent time during the regatta, she shall promptly retire. If she does so her penalty shall be disqualification without a hearing and her score shall not be excluded. If she fails to do so her penalty shall be disqualification without a hearing from all races in the regatta, with no score excluded, and the protest committee shall consider calling a hearing under rule 69.2.

15.3 A whistle signal (with no accompanying flag) made by a protest committee boat means: A member of the protest committee believes a boat has broken a rule. If no boat takes a penalty, the protest committee may protest a boat under RRS 60.3.

15.4 A list of boats that have been penalized for breaking RRS 42 under Appendix P will be posted.

16 TIME LIMITS AND TARGET TIMES

16.1 The Mark 1 Time Limit, Race Time Limit (see RRS 35), and the Finishing Window are shown in the table below.

Mark 1 Time Limit	Race Time Limit	Finishing Window
30 minutes	Varied, see SI 16.5	20 minutes

16.2 If no boat has passed the first mark within the Mark 1 Time Limit, the race will be abandoned.

16.3 The Finishing Window is the time for boats to finish after the first boat sails the course and finishes. Boats failing to finish within the Finishing Window, and not subsequently retiring, penalized or given redress, will be scored Time Limit Expired (TLE) without a hearing. A boat scored TLE shall be scored points for the finishing place one more than the points scored by the last boat that finished within the Finishing Window. This changes RRS 35, A5.1, A5.2 and A10.

16.4 The target time for each race will be:

- (a) 100-120 minutes for the leaders of the Ranelagh Trophy race (if run on a 1-race day).
- (b) 90 minutes for the leaders (1-race days)
- (c) 60 minutes for the leaders (2-race days).
- (d) 50 minutes for the leaders (if a 3-race day required).

16.5 Failure to meet the Target Time will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 62.1(a).

17 HEARING REQUESTS

17.1 The protest time limit is 90 minutes after the last boat 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 Hearing request forms are available from the race office at the dinghy park.

17.3 Notices will be posted 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 at the location stated in the notice beginning at the time posted.

18 SCORING

18.1 The scoring system is as follows: RRS Appendix A.

18.2 3 races are required to be completed to constitute a series.

18.4 (a) When fewer than 5 races have been completed; a boat's series score is the total of her race scores.

(b) When from 5 to 8 races have been completed, a boat's series score is the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.

(c) When 9 or more races have been completed, a boat's series score is the total of her race scores excluding her two worst scores.

18.5 RRS 90.3e shall apply.

19 SAFETY REGULATIONS

19.1 Competitors will be issued with tally numbers at registration.

19.2 [DP] All competitors shall collect wrist tally bands from the dinghy park. The tally bands must be worn around their right wrists at all times until their boat is returned to the dinghy park.

19.3 [DP] The time for a boat to "tally out" ends at the starting signal of her first race of the day, or, if later, when the boat is launched. The penalty for failing to "tally out" is for the first offence 5 places in her first race of the day, added to her score without a hearing. For a second offence, the penalty shall be 10 places. This changes RRS 63.1.

19.4 [DP] The time to "tally in" finishes ten minutes after the last boat is ashore. The penalty for failing to "tally in" is for the first offence 5 places in her last race of the day, added to her score, without a hearing. For a second offence the penalty shall be 10 places. This changes RRS 63.1.

19.5 [DP] If a competitor fails to "tally in or out" three times, on the third time the penalty will be DSQ from the race concerned without a hearing. This changes RRS 63.1.

19.6 [DP] A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee at the first reasonable opportunity. Promptly after returning to shore, the boat shall complete a retirement declaration form, which is available at ELYC Clubhouse.]

20 REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT

20.1 [DP] Substitution of competitors is not allowed without prior written approval of the Race Committee and in accordance with the Notice of Race.

20.2 [DP] Substitution of damaged or lost equipment that was presented for the pre-event measurement checks, is not allowed unless authorized in writing by the Race Committee. Requests for substitution shall be made to the committee at the first

reasonable opportunity, which may be after the race.

21 EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

- 21.1 A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the 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.
- 21.3 Prior to registration, each boat with its measurement certificate (including valid buoyancy endorsement) shall be presented for pre-event measurement checks.

22 SUPPLIED BOATS

Does not apply

23 OFFICIAL VESSELS

- 23.1 Official vessels will be identified as follows: Protest Committee vessels will display a white flag with the word 'Jury'.

24 [DP] SUPPORT TEAMS

- 24.1 Team leaders, coaches and other support persons shall stay outside areas where boats are racing from the time of the preparatory signal for the first start until all boats have finished or retired or the race committee signals a postponement, general recall or abandonment.
- 24.3 Support person vessels shall be identified with an orange flag with the word 'Coach'.

25 TRASH DISPOSAL

- 25.1 Trash may be placed aboard official [or support person] vessels.

26 BERTHING

- 26.1 [DP] Boats shall be kept in their assigned places while in the dinghy park.

27 HAUL-OUT RESTRICTIONS

Does not apply

28 DIVING EQUIPMENT AND PLASTIC POOLS

Does not apply.

29 PRIZES

- 29.1 Race prizes will be awarded in accordance with the SI 5.1, after racing each day. Overall prizes will also be awarded at the end of the event.

30 RISK STATEMENT

- 30.1 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 £5 million per incident or the equivalent.

Addendum 1 – COURSES

Course	
ST2	Start – 1 – 1a – 2S/2P – 1 – 1a – 3 – 4 – finish
ST3	Start – 1 – 1a – 2S/2P – 1 – 1a – 3 – 4 – 1 – 1a – 2P – finish
ST4	Start – 1 – 1a – 2S/2P – 1 – 1a – 3 – 4 – 1 – 1a – 2S/2P – 1 – 1a – 3 – 4 – finish
ST5	Start – 1 – 1a – 2S/2P – 1 – 1a – 3 – 4 – 1 – 1a – 2S/2P – 1 – 1a – 3 – 4 – 1 – 1a – 2P – finish

