



Merlin Rocket 75th National Championships

North Berwick

15 - 19 August 2021

Organising Authority: East Lothian Yacht Club Ltd (ELYC)
in conjunction with the Merlin Rocket Owners' Association (MROA)

NOTICE OF RACE

1. RULES

- 1.1 The event is governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing and the RYA Racing Charter.
- 1.2 Any amendment to this Notice of Race will be posted on the Merlin Rocket class website no later than 1st July 2021.
- 1.3 The Exoneration Penalty and the Advisory Hearing and RYA Arbitration of the RYA Rules Disputes procedures shall apply (for information on the procedures, go to www.rya.org.uk/go/rulesdisputes). The outcome of an RYA Arbitration can be referred to a protest committee, but an arbitration cannot be reopened or appealed.
- 1.4 As allowed by the Merlin Rocket Owners Association and RRS 87, Class Rule C.5.1 (a) (1) is deleted and replaced with the following: C.5.1 FOR USE AT 2021 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS.
 - (i) Any device which correlates and/or stores any of the following; heading, time or vmg is prohibited, except for this event a SailRacer GPS tracker is permitted to be carried for the purposes of running the SailRacer app.
- 1.5 Sail numbers are not required on spinnakers

2. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1 Sailing Instructions (SI) will be available from the MROA class website no later than 1st August 2021.
- 2.2 At the discretion of the Organising Authority, Draft Sailing Instructions may be released earlier on the MROA Class website.

3. COMMUNICATION

- 3.1 The official noticeboard location will be published with the Sailing Instructions and may be online if COVID restrictions are in force.
- 3.2 [DP] Except in an emergency, a boat that is racing shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communications not available to all boats.

4. ELIGIBILITY & ENTRY

- 4.1 The regatta is open to boats of the Merlin Rocket class with a valid measurement certificate and whose helm is a current member of the MROA at the time of the regatta.
- 4.2 **The maximum entry is limited to 60 boats (Amended 16/06/2021)**
- 4.3 Eligible boats may enter by submitting a completed entry form and paying the appropriate entry fee via the SailRacer website or links from the MROA website.
- 4.4 Entry will close on 1 August 2021. Later entries may be accepted subject to payment of an additional fee.
- 4.5 Helms and crews less than 18 years of age during the event shall submit signed Parent/Guardian Declarations at the time of entry.

5. ENTRY FEES

NoR 2021 V2.35 nd tidyup

5.1 Entry Fee per boat:

Loyalty Bonus (2019 Champs Entrants) (Form received and deposit paid by 21 st June 2021)	£225
Standard Entry – Form received and deposit paid on or before 1 st August 2021	£250
Late Entry – Form received and/or paid from 2 nd August 2019	£300
Entry Discounts (deduct from fees above): - only one category/entry:	
Helm 25 years or under (on 1 st day of racing)	£50
Older boats (Sail Number 3603 and below)	£50
First time helms (not competed at a Merlin Nationals as helm or crew before)	£50

5.2 Any fee paid for pre-registration shall be deducted from the above.

6 CREW LIMITATIONS

6.1 Class rules apply

7. ADVERTISING

7.1 Advertising shall comply with WS Regulation 20 and the Merlin Rocket Class Rules.

7.2 Boats may be required to display event-supplied competitor advertising as per the Class Rule C.4.1.

7.3 The area of mainsail below the bottom batten shall be reserved for advertising by the event sponsor.

8 QUALIFYING SERIES AND FINAL SERIES

Does not apply

9. EVENT SCHEDULE

Day	Date	Warning signal (Not before)	Event
1	Saturday 14 th August	09:00-17:00 10:00-17:15 18:30	Equipment inspection Registration Briefing (Details of how these will work will be published before the event. Registration may be completed online and the briefing streamed online if COVID restrictions are in force)
2	Sunday 15 th August	09:00-11:30 12:55 ASAP after race 1	Late registration Race 1 – Founders Trophy Race 2 – Beechers Cup
3	Monday 16 th August	12:55 ASAP after race 3	Race 3 – Clyde Quaich Race 4 – West Country Trophy
4	Tuesday 17 th August	12:55 ASAP after race 5	Race 5 – Silent World Trophy Crews Race
5	Wednesday 18 th August	12:55 ASAP after race 6	Race 6 – Top Hat Trophy Race 7 – Ranelagh Trophy
6	Thursday 19 th August	10:55 ASAP after race 7	Race 8 – Winter Trophy Race 9 – Howard Trophy Prizegiving

		17:00	(This may be streamed online with only prize winners in physical attendance if COVID restrictions are in force)
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No warning signal will be made after 14:00 on Thursday 18 August 2021 unless fewer than three races have been completed in the series.

10. EQUIPMENT INSPECTION

- 10.1 Boats may be subject to pre-event measurement checks at the times prescribed in NoR 9 'Event Schedule'.
- 10.2 Additional measurement checks may be carried out at any time during the event.
- 10.3 The measuring authority is the Royal Yachting Association.
- 10.4 Entrants will be required to produce a valid RYA Measurement Certificate at Inspection and Registration.

11 CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

- 11.1 RRS 50.1 applies

12. VENUE

- 12.1 Racing will take place off North Berwick in the Firth of Forth.

13. COURSES

- 13.1 Example courses are at Appendix 1.
- 13.2 The **expected** target time for race duration will be;
 - (a) 70 minutes for the leaders (1-race days or the Ranelagh race if ran on a two race day)
 - (b) 60 minutes for the leaders (2-race days)
 - (c) 50 minutes for the leaders (if 3-race day required).

14 PENALTY SYSTEM

- 14.1 Appendix P shall apply as modified by the Sailing Instructions .

15. SCORING

- 15.1 The Scoring System is as follows:
 - (a) Three races are required to be completed to constitute a series.
 - (b) When fewer than five races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores.
 - (c) When five or more races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.
 - (d) When nine races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her two worst scores.
- 15.2 The Crews' Race, if sailed, will not form part of the scoring series.

16 SUPPORT PERSON VESSELS.

- 16.1 [DP] Support boats shall register at the race office at the time prescribed in NoR 5 and shall be responsible for payment of their launching fees direct to the Harbourmaster.
- 16.2 [DP] Support boats shall be conspicuously identified and shall remain clear of racing, as specified in the Sailing Instructions, unless specifically directed by the RO.
- 16.3 [DP] All support boats shall carry a VHF radio capable of receiving radio communications from the Race Committee on channel 37 (M1).
- 16.4 The Jury boat will display white flag carrying the word 'Jury'

17 CHARTERED OR LOAN BOATS

Does not apply

18. BERTHING/LAUNCHING

- 18.1[DP] Boats shall be berthed on their launching trollies in their assigned places in the boat park.
- 18.2 It is intended that launching and recovery will be the beach in West Bay. Boats must maintain 20m distance from the harbour entrance as the fairway is used by commercial boats.

19. HAUL_OUT RESTRICTIONS

Does not apply

20 DIVING EQUIPMENT AND PLASTIC POOLS

Does not apply

21 PRIVACY STATEMENT

21.1 The personal information you provide to the organising authority will be used to facilitate your participation in the event. If you have agreed to be bound by the Racing Rules of Sailing and the other rules that govern the event (the rules), the legal basis for processing that personal information is contract. If you are not bound by the rules, the legal basis for processing that personal information is legitimate interest. Your personal information will be stored and used in accordance with the organising authority's privacy policy. When required by the rules, personal information may be shared with the RYA, your national authority and/or World Sailing. The results of the event and the outcome of any hearing or appeal may be published.

22. RISK STATEMENT

22.1 RRS 3 states: 'The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue to race is hers alone.' By participating in this event each competitor agrees and acknowledges that sailing is a potentially dangerous activity with inherent risks. These risks include strong winds and rough seas, sudden changes in weather, failure of equipment, boat handling errors, poor seamanship by other boats, loss of balance on an unstable platform and fatigue resulting in increased risk of injury. **Inherent in the sport of sailing is the risk of permanent, catastrophic injury or death by drowning, trauma, hypothermia or other causes**

23 INSURANCE

23.1 Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third –party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £3,000,000 per incident or the equivalent

24 . PRIZES

24.1 Prizes will be awarded as follows:

Yachting World Trophy	The helm of overall winning boat
City of Plymouth Trophy	The winning crew sailing the same boat throughout the event.
Daily trophies	See section 9
Abererch Trophy	First helm aged 45 or over
Draycote Water Spring Series Trophy	First helm aged 55 or over
Anniversary Trophy	First Helm aged 20 or under
King Cup	First boat with an aggregate age between helm and crew of 49 or under.
Centennial trophy	First boat with a combined age between helm and crew of 100 or over.
Grafham Goblet	First crew aged 18 or under
Minima Trophy	First female competitor sailing in the same boat throughout the championship.

Amazons cup	First female helm.
Neil Henderson Cup	First helm and crew related by birth or marriage sailing in the same boat throughout the championship
Ball and Chain Trophy	First boat sailed by a couple not married or related by birth.
Heavyweights prize	First helm and crew with a combined weight of 26 stone (165kg) or more sailing in the same boat throughout the championships.
Triangle Team Trophy	Club scoring the lowest total points with their best three boats sailed by the same three helms throughout the championships
Buttercup Trophy	Lowest placed boat having completed all qualifying races in the series (ie all races sailed)
Old boats prize	First boat with sail number 3603 or below.
Looe Board	Most cheerful competitors as judged by the host club.

Where qualification for a trophy is age dependant, ages are to be taken as on the 15th August 2021.

Should the entry exceed 30 boats, the fleet will be split into Gold, Silver and Bronze fleets and the following trophies awarded:

Jack Holt Plate	Winning boat in Silver fleet
Maurice Cockerill Trophy	Winning boat in Bronze fleet.

Sparkling wine will be awarded to the first 21 boats to finish the Ranelagh Race.

Glassware will be awarded at the discretion of the organising authority, details to be published with the sailing instructions.

25 FURTHER INFORMATION

25.1 COVID 19

25.1a [DP] Competitors and support persons shall comply with any reasonable request from an event official. Failure to comply may be misconduct. - Reasonable actions by event officials to implement COVID-19 guidance, protocols or legislation, even if they later prove to have been unnecessary, are not improper actions or omissions.

25.1b In the event of a cancellation due to circumstances beyond the control of the Organising Authority any financial liability is limited to the entry fee paid.

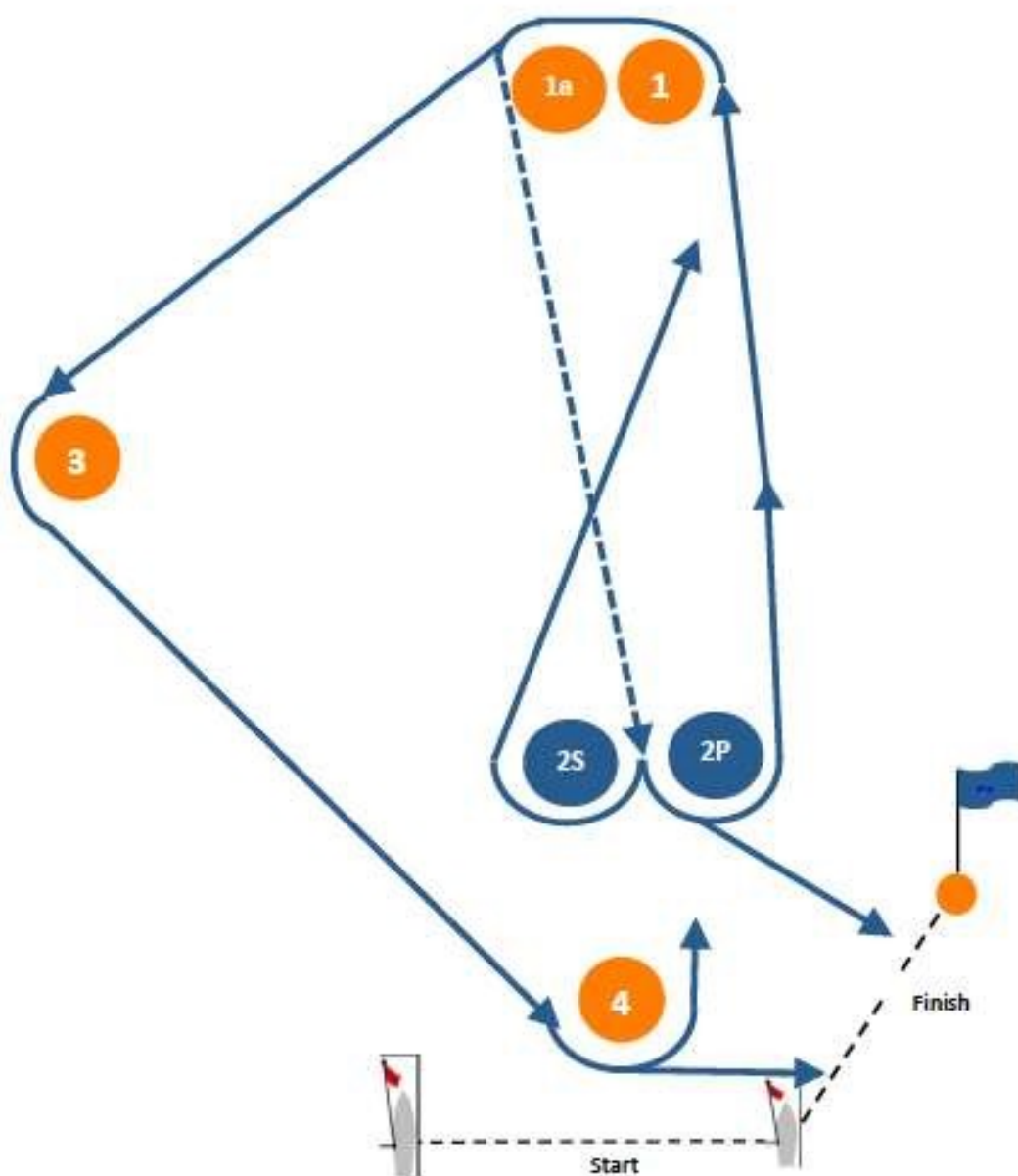
25.2 WEBSITES

SailRacer website: www.sailracer.co.uk

Merlin Rocket class website: <http://www.merlinrocket.co.uk>

COURSES

Sausage/Triangle (ST)



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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR COMPETITORS

COVID 19 Information.

This is a rapidly evolving situation and could change at any time. Competitors are advised to check the booking terms and conditions for their accommodation regarding cancellation before booking. We hope to provide a full championship week both on and off the water. To enable us to make decisions regarding some items normally published in the NOR we have decided to delay publishing them until the SIs by which time things will hopefully be clearer.