



The RUTLAND CHALLENGE

For the JOHN MERRICKS TIGER TROPHY

Sailing Instructions

31st January and 1st February 2026

1. RULES

- 1.1 The event will be governed by the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) including the RYA prescriptions.
- 1.2 **The event is open to all centreboard and multihull classes with Great Lakes PY number 1340 and below.** Classes above this will be permitted to enter but will have to sail to PY 1340. Handicaps to be used will be Great Lakes as published on the Official Notice Board. New classes will be given a 'trial' handicap and may be subject to revision during the event. The event is also open to accepted RSC keelboat classes sailed by both RSC members and visitors (eg 2.4mr, Flying Fifteen, RS21, SB20, Squib and K1 and K6 etc). Any queries about acceptance of classes are subject to prior consent from the Organising Authority.
- 1.3 Attention is drawn to the requirement for all boats to sail according to their respective class rules, particularly regarding WEIGHT EQUALISING rules. However, class rules which permit pumping, rocking and ooching in certain wind conditions are suspended for the purposes of this event. Changes to penalty turns (rules 44.1 and 44.2) for Cats and Challengers will be retained for these classes.
- 1.4 Entries by persons under 18 years old must be counter-signed by their parents or guardians.
- 1.5 If there is conflict between the Notice of Race and the Sailing Instructions, the Sailing Instructions will apply.

2. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

- 2.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board situated in the wet bar at the eastern end of the Club House.
- 2.2 Race Control for purposes of results queries, signing on Sunday, protest forms etc will be situated at the "club reception" at the entrance of the clubhouse.

3. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 3.1 Any changes to the sailing instructions will be posted on the official notice board, one hour before the advertised start of the race or races concerned, except that any change in the schedule of races on Sunday will be posted by 7pm on Saturday.

4. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 4.1 Signals made ashore will be hoisted on the flagpole/halyards located on the Club balcony near the Race Hut at the western end of the clubhouse.
- 4.2 When Flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 30 minutes' in Race Signals AP.

SATURDAY - General Handicap

5. SCHEDULE OF RACES.

BRIEFING 11:00
Race 1 warning signal 12.25
Race 2 warning signal as soon as possible after Race 1.
Race 3 warning signal as soon as possible after Race 2.

6. CLASS FLAGS

- 6.1 Depending on boat numbers, there will either be 1 or 2 starts. This will be notified at the briefing.
 - All / Fast fleet – plain Yellow Flag
 - Slow fleet – plain Red Flag
- 6.2 Class allocations to fleets will be posted on the official notice board by 11:00hrs on Saturday if there are 2 starts.

7. RACE AREA

- 7.1 The area of the lake to be used for the series will be notified on the official notice board and at the

SUNDAY – Pursuit

SCHEDULE OF RACES.

BRIEFING 10:00
Pursuit Start 11.00
The start schedule for classes will be posted on the Official Notice board no later than 10:00 Sunday.

CLASS FLAGS

Numeral pennant 2 will be used to signal the first warning signal and the last starting signal.

RACE AREA

The race area may encompass any part of Rutland Water, within the limits of sailing.

briefing.

8. THE COURSES

8.1 Trapezoid course (see Attachment A). All boats will sail on the same course.

8.2 There will be no specified number of laps.

SATURDAY - General Handicap

8.3 Boats MUST sail through the Gate/Finish Line at the end of each lap (see Attachment A).

9. MARKS

9.1 The course marks will be YELLOW buoys.

9.2 Starting and finishing marks will be race committee boats and any attachments.

10. AREAS THAT ARE OBSTRUCTIONS

10.1 Fishing boats, water towers, Rutland Belle, mooring area at west side of clubhouse and launching pontoons are designated as obstructions.

11. THE START

11.1 Races will be started using rule 26.
An Orange flag will be raised 5 minutes before the first Warning signal.

If there are 2 fleets, the sequence will be:

min	Signal	Flag	Sound
- 5	Fast Warning	Yellow Up	One
- 4	Fast Prep	P,U,Z, Black Up	One
- 1	Fast 1 minute	P,U,Z, Black Down	One
0	Fast Start	Yellow Down	One
	Slow Warning	Red Up	One
+ 1	Slow Prep.	P,U,Z, Black Up	One
+ 4	Slow 1 minute	P,U,Z, Black Down	One
+ 5	Slow Start	Red Down	One

11.2 If there is a General Recall for a fleet, the sequence will continue with the next fleet starting. The recalled fleet's sequence will be immediately after the last fleet start

11.3 The start line will be between masts displaying ORANGE flags on Race Committee boats at each end of the line. Signals will be made from the committee boat at the starboard end of the line.

11.4 Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area during the starting sequence for other fleets.

11.5 A boat starting later than 4 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes RRS A4.

12. CHANGE OF NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

12.1 Legs will not be changed after the first boat has passed the starting mark for that leg. This changes RRS 33.

THE COURSE

The Course will be displayed on the Official Notice board no later than 10:15hrs on Sunday.

There will be no limit to the number of laps to be sailed. The duration of the race will be a fixed time as specified on the official notice board.

SUNDAY – Pursuit

MARKS

The course marks will be RSC club racing marks and/or YELLOW or BLACK buoys.

Starting marks will be a mast flying an orange flag on a race committee boat, and a dan buoy or committee boat flying an orange flag.

See 'The Finish' for finishing marks.

AREAS THAT ARE OBSTRUCTIONS

Fishing boats, Rutland Belle, water towers, mooring area at west side of clubhouse and launching pontoons are designated as obstructions.

THE START

Rule 26 is amended as below (based on a 120 min race) and times shall be taken from the SOUND signals; the absence or timing of a visual signal shall be disregarded.

Min	Signal	Clock	Flag	Sound
- 10	Warning	0 min	Num 2 Up	One
- 5	Prep.	0 min	P Up	One
0	1 st Start	0 min	P Down	One
+ 1	Next Start	1 min		One
+ 2	Next Start	2 min		One
+ 3	Next Start	3 min		One
Etc	Next Start			
	Last Start		Num 2 Down	

An Orange flag will be displayed at 5 minutes before the Warning signal.

A large digital clock on the committee boat will display the elapsed time from the start of the race, i.e. with 0 minutes and 0 seconds being the first start. Subsequent signals will be given at one minute intervals and classes will start at the count up times posted on the Official Notice Board.

The Start Line will be located near the RSC Clubhouse and will be between a mast displaying an orange flag on the Race Committee boat at the starboard end and the port end starting mark or committee boat displaying an Orange flag.

Boats may not enter the starting area until after the starting signal of the previous start.

There will be no time limit for boats starting after their scheduled start.

Rule 29.1 *Individual Recall* is amended such that Flag "X" will be displayed for a maximum of 30 seconds.

CHANGE OF NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

Marks will not be changed after the leading boat has passed them for the first time.

SATURDAY – General Handicap		SUNDAY – Pursuit	
13.	THE FINISH	13.	THE FINISH
13.1	The finish line will be between a staff displaying a BLUE flag on the Race Committee boat at the PORT end and a staff displaying a BLUE flag on a Race Committee boat at the STARBOARD end.	13.1	The finish line will either be:
		a)	Between two RIB's, flying flags, motoring contrary to the direction of the race leaders on the direct line between the two marks. To be awarded a finish place, boats must pass between these two Ribs
		b)	OR between a nearby mark of the course and a finishing boat. This boat may be displaying a blue flag if it has a flagpole.
13.2	The race will be finished by hoisting IC flag S with two sound signals from both Finish Committee boats. Once IC flag S is hoisted ALL boats will be finished the next time they cross the gate/finish line.	13.2	The race will finish in the time as specified on the official notice board and is calculated from the point the preparatory flag is lowered. Courses may not be shortened. Rule 32.2 is deleted.
13.3	After the first boats have finished, a boat may be finished on a leg if the Race Committee points IC Flag W at her. She should return to the starting area immediately. She will be given the number of laps and time she had completed the last time she crossed the finish line/gate. This changes RRS 28, 35, A4 and A5.	13.3	At the prescribed finish time, Two Long sound signals will be made by the Race Control Box, one of the finishing RIB's and the finish boats positioned near rounding marks to indicate the finishing time. So far as is possible, a long sound signal will be made by each finishing line boat to indicate the recording of subsequent finishers. NOTE: each finisher should make a record of the boat immediately in front and behind at the prescribed finish time for verification and signing off declaration (See below).
		13.4	After the finish time of the race , boats must not overtake others but must remain in their relative positions and continue to sail the course to the next rounding mark. Trackers will be used to assist in calculating boat positions at exact finish time of race. At and after the finish signal, boats must remain as near as possible to the straight line between the marks delineating the leg of the course which they are sailing.
		13.5	Boats which have crossed a finish line and been given a sound signal shall avoid passing through any other finish lines on their way back to shore to avoid being recorded twice.
		13.6	Within 20 minutes of coming ashore, each helm shall sign off at Race Control, to confirm their position at finish (record class and number of boat in front & behind them) and whether the rules were complied with or your boat retired.

14. TIME LIMITS

- 14.1 If no boat has passed Mark 1 within 30 minutes of the first fleet to be started, the race will be abandoned. Failure to meet the target time will not be grounds for redress.

15. PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

- 15.1 Protests and requests for redress shall be written on forms available at Race Control and delivered back there within the time limit.
- 15.2 The protest time limit is 60 minutes after the time of the last boat to finish. For races sailed back to back, the time limit will be 60 minutes from the last boat to finish the last race before returning to shore.
- 15.3 A schedule of protest hearings will be posted no later than 30 minutes after the protest time limit to inform competitors where and when there is a hearing in which they are party to a protest or named as witnesses.
- 15.4 Breaches of instructions 1.4, 11.4, and 18 will not be grounds for protest by a boat. This changes rule 60.1(a). Penalties for these breaches may be less than disqualification if the protest committee so decides.

16 RYA ARBITRATION

16.1 The RYA Arbitration system will be available. Appendix T will apply

16.2 For the purpose of RYA Arbitration, the Post Race Penalty will be 30%.

17. SCORING

17.1 General handicap races will be scored on the basis of corrected average lap times.

The pursuit race will place boats in the order in which they finished except that boats finished at a finish line boat will be awarded a position behind all boats finished further ahead on the course. Tracking will be used to ascertain each boat's finish position at the exact time of the finish of the race.

17.2 One race is required to be completed to constitute a series.

17.3 A boat's series score will be the total of her race scores. When three general handicap races have been completed, her worst general handicap score will be excluded. The Pursuit race is non-discardable.

18. SAFETY & RETIREMENT

18.1 All boats retiring, including retiring after finishing, shall sign the declaration sheet at Race Control.

19. PRIZES

19.1 Prize giving will take place as soon as possible after the finish of the last race in the wet bar .

20. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

20.1 Competitors participate in the event entirely at their own risk. See RYA Racing Rule 3, Decision to Race. The organizing authority will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the event.

21. LOCAL VARIATIONS

21.1 Competitors shall give reasonable clearance to fishermen. NOTE that they may be drifting. 50m clearance is recommended.

21.2 Boats shall not sail through moored boats in the East and West Creeks.

21.3 "Rutland Belle" has right of way at all times.

21.4 Boats must conform to the Anglian Water's "Check, Clean and Dry" regulations at Rutland Water in order to be allowed to sail in the event.

22. GPS Trackers – Selden SailJuice Series

To be included with the Selden Sailjuice series results, competitors must carry trackers onboard supplied by the Organising Authority.

The tracker should be collected from the Tracker Registration area before going afloat on each day and returned there after the day's racing within the protest time.

Failure to collect and carry a tracker will result in no Selden Sailjuice ranking points awarded. It may also result in a scoring penalty without a hearing of 10% on the first race of the day sailed - calculated as stated in RRS 44.3(c). This changes RRS 60.5 and A5.

Failure to return the tracker within the protest time may also result in a scoring penalty without a hearing of 10% on the last race of the day sailed - calculated as stated in RRS 44.3(c). This changes RRS 60.5(b) and A5.

Tracker finishing positions will be used to establish results in all Fleet races and Pursuit race.

Attachment A - Trapezoid Course

