

## **Access Class Association (UK) SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

To be used at all Open Meetings and Championships in the UK  
(subject to any locally issued supplementary Sailing Instructions)

### **1. RULES**

Racing will be governed by The Racing Rules of Sailing 2009-2012 (RRS), the prescriptions of the RYA and the Special Class Rules of the Access Class Association (UK), except as modified by these Sailing Instructions.

### **2. CONDITIONS OF ENTRY**

The safety of a boat and her entire management including insurance shall be the sole responsibility of the owner/competitor racing the boat who must ensure that the boat and crew are adequate to face the conditions that may arise in the course of a race. Neither the establishment of these sailing instructions nor any inspection of the boat under these conditions in any way limits the absolute responsibility of the owner/competitor for his crew, the boat and the management thereof. The race organisers shall not be responsible for any loss, damage, death or personal injury howsoever caused to the owner/competitor, his/her skipper or crew, as a result of their taking part in the races. Moreover, every owner/competitor warrants the suitability of his/her boat for the races. Boats used in ACA(UK) events must have a minimum of £3Million Third Party liability insurance.

### **3. PERSONAL SAFETY**

Adequate personal buoyancy shall be worn at all times whether afloat or in the vicinity of the pontoons or jetties. Flag Y will not be displayed. This changes RRS 40. The wearing of wet or dry suits is recommended, but these do not constitute adequate personal buoyancy.

N.B. Some organising clubs will also require helpers to wear personal buoyancy when on pontoons or jetties.

### **4. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS**

4.1. Notices to competitors will take the form of a briefing by the Race Officer to be held ashore prior to racing.

4.2. Any changes to these Sailing Instructions will be notified at the event briefing.

4.3. In conveying information and signalling, special consideration shall be given to the needs of sailors with special needs, be they physical, intellectual, emotional or sensory disabilities.

### **5. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE AND AFLOAT**

Signals made afloat will be displayed on the Committee Boat.

The Answering Pennant (AP) and two sound signals means the race is temporarily postponed. At the end of any postponement AP will be lowered with one sound signal. The next warning signal will normally be made one minute after AP is lowered.

### **6. THE COURSE**

6.1. Course Instructions – Courses will be advised at the briefings by the Race Officer before the racing.

6.2. Lead Boat – A lead boat wearing flag L may be deployed in front of the fleet to indicate the course. It will normally only lead for the first lap of the first race to start.

6.3. Zone at marks – The zone for all ACA(UK) events will be 3 hull lengths as defined in the RRS. Note that RRS Rule 18 has been changed from 2009.

6.4. Moving a mark – When it is necessary and possible, the Race Officer may either move the position of a mark, or lay a substitute mark after the start. This change will be made clear by the lead boat or another safety boat.

6.5. Missing mark – RRS Rule 34 may be used and could involve a new mark or boat displaying Flag M, together with repetitive sound signals.

## 7. STARTS

7.1. Races will be started as described in RRS Rule 26.

7.2. Racing will be organised in four classes with three starts as follows:-

- **Liberty (Special Class Flag –White on purple);**



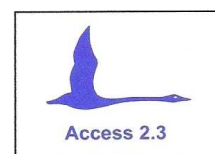
- **303[two-person] (Special Class Flag – White on red);**



- **303[single-person] (Special Class Flag – Red on white);**



- **2.3 (Special Class Flag – Blue on White).**



**The 303 classes will be combined in one start with both class flags used together.**

7.3. The start line will be as defined at the briefing.

7.4. After a start sequence has commenced, boats not involved in the start under way shall keep clear of the start area. Failure to do so risks disqualification.

7.5. Starting Times - Intended starting times may be described in the Notice of Race and will be confirmed at the pre-race briefing. Two, or exceptionally three, race sequences may be held “back-to-back” in any racing period.

7.6. Individual Recalls. These will be made in accordance with RRS Rule 29.1 using Flag X with one sound signal. It is the responsibility of every boat over the line to return across the line and restart properly, but efforts will be made by the Committee Boat and support boats to notify such boats that they should return.

7.7. General Recalls. These will be signalled in accordance with RRS Rule 29.2 using Flag ‘First Substitute’ and two sound signals, amended as follows:-

- All boats in a recalled class must retire well behind the start line.
- In the event of a General Recall for the Liberty and/or 303 classes, their starting sequence(s) will recommence only after the start of the 2.3 Class.
- The Warning signal for a new start will be made 1 minute after the First Substitute is removed with 1 sound signal or, in the event of a class being relegated to start after the 2.3 class, at the same time as the Starting signal for the 2.3 class.

## 8. FINISHING

8.1. Finishing Line. The finishing line will be as defined at the briefing.

8.2. Time Limit. The race length should be approximately 30 minutes for the leading boat in TT meeting races and 40 minutes for National Championship races. The time limit for other boats will be 15 minutes after the

finishing time of the leading boat in their class, unless otherwise indicated at the pre-race briefing, or by the Race Officer who may use his/her discretion.

At the expiry of the time limit, boats which have not finished shall score one point more than the last boat to finish within the time limit. This amends RRS A4.2. If no boat in a particular class is likely to complete the race within 1 hour, the Race Officer may abandon the race in accordance with RRS Rule 32 using Flag N over the appropriate class flag and three sound signals.

8.3. Shortening Course. The Race Officer may shorten the course in accordance with RRS 32 using Flag S over the appropriate class flag(s) and two sound signals. The race may be finished at any point of the course by creating a new finish line which shall be either the previously designated finishing line or between a boat flying an S flag and a mark of the course or a specially laid mark.

## **9. PENALTIES**

The penalty for breaking a rule of Part 2 of the RRS, including touching a mark of the Course, is to make ONE turn in the same direction including one tack and one gybe while keeping clear of all other boats. This amends RRS Rule 44.1.

## **10. PROTESTS**

10.1. RRS Rule 61.1(a) requires a hail of 'PROTEST' by any boat intending to make a protest. This will only be waived if no crew member of the protesting boat is physically able to make such a hail. See International Access Class Rule H.4.9. (all Access classes).

10.2. Those with right of way need to take into consideration possible delayed reaction times and possible limited manoeuvrability of other Access sailors. Protest Committees will take this into consideration when hearing a protest involving right of way rules. See International Access Class Rule H.4.2. (all Access classes).

10.3. Protests shall be notified to the Race Officer or other shore based official within 30 minutes of coming ashore and a written protest lodged within 1 hour of coming ashore.

10.4. The helmsman of a competing boat which is the subject of a protest and who, on coming ashore and taking advice, decides that he or she has indeed infringed a rule of Part 2 of the RRS may agree to take a points penalty equivalent to two places in the relevant race. Agreement to take this 2 point penalty must be done within the time limit set in the Sailing Instructions for the lodging of a formal written Protest. In event of two or more infringements by the same boat, a penalty of 2 points must be taken for each infringement. This will not affect the points awarded to other competitors in the race. If a penalty is taken by a boat protested against, the Protest will not be heard.

## **11. OUTSIDE HELP**

RRS 41 is modified to permit any boat to receive help from a support boat for any reason other than for additional propulsion. To request help, arms should be raised and lowered, or repeated blasts made on a whistle, or an approved hand held flag should be waved until acknowledged by a support boat. Any boat being aground or on a lee shore and then pulled off by a safety boat shall not be penalised ON THE CONDITION that no advantage is given to the competitor in making progress towards the next mark of the course.

**12. DECLARATIONS** No declarations shall be required.

## **13. SCORING SYSTEM**

The 'Low Point' scoring system, RRS Rule 90.3 and Appendix A shall apply, except as amended at 8.2 above. The completion of one race will be sufficient to constitute a series. In a race series of four or more races a boat's worst score will be discarded.

## **14. LOCAL RULES**

Any Local Rules are deemed to be part of these Sailing Instructions. Details shall be made available at the pre race briefing.

## **15. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS**

Retirement from a race. A competitor wishing to retire must inform the Race Officer or a safety boat of their intentions before leaving the racing area. If communication is not possible, he/she should make every effort to inform the appropriate event official at the earliest possible time after coming ashore.

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**Access Class Association (UK)**