

**Howth Yacht Club
2016 Club Racing**

Sailing Instructions 2016

1. Rules.

- (a) Racing will be governed by the Racing Rules of Sailing (“RRS”) 2013 - 2016. In the event of a conflict between this Notice of Race and the Sailing Instructions, the Sailing Instructions shall prevail. The Irish Sailing Association prescriptions will apply.
- (b) IRC crew limitation and weight limitation Instructions are waived for all Cruiser classes.
- (c) It is prohibited for a yacht to listen to Race Management “Private” VHF channels after having left the mooring/Marina until the end of the race. This may be grounds for a protest under RRS 2 (Fair Sailing).
- (d) One-design boats shall be governed by the relevant Class Rules
- (e) Non-Spinnaker class boats shall use only one headsail at any time (i.e. drop one headsail before setting another). This changes RRS 50.1.
- (f) The Irish Sailing Association prescriptions will apply and can be found at: <http://www.sailing.ie/Portals/0/Racing%20Section/Rules/ISA%20Prescriptions%202009-12.pdf>
- (g) In the event of a conflict between this Notice of Race and the Sailing Instructions, the Sailing Instructions shall prevail.

2. Management of Races

- (a) Club races shall be arranged by the Sailing Committee, which shall appoint a Race Officer (R.O.) who shall be responsible for the management of the races in respect of course selection, signals and recording times. The R.O. shall have power to postpone or abandon starts for any reason.
- (b) The decision of the R.O. shall be final in all matters connected with the times at which boats cross the starting or finishing line. A request for redress is, however, permitted.
- (c) Where relevant, information may be transmitted on VHF radio. Channel M (37A) shall be used.
- (d) There shall be no race unless two or more boats rank as starters by sailing in the vicinity of the starting area as defined in Instruction 20 for pier starts and Instruction 21 for Committee Boat starts, between their warning and starting signals.
- (e) A boat that infringes a rule at or near the finishing line and retires shall notify the R.O. of its retirement as soon as possible.

3. Race Schedule

The Sailing Committee has power to alter the Racing Schedule, Times and Sailing Instructions during the season. Any such alteration shall be posted on the Club Notice Board not less than two hours before the start time of the first race so affected. This alteration will be indicated by displaying Code Flag L on the flagpole at the top of the marina bridge. If deemed necessary, the change will be notified by post to all owners affected who have paid entrance fees for races so affected except where modified by these Instructions and any amendments thereto.

Tuesdays (J80s and Puppeteers)

Series 1:	3 rd May – 7 th June	(6 Races)
Series 2:	14 th June – 19 th July	(6 Races)
Series 3:	26 th July – 30 th August	(6 races)
Mini:	15 th August – 30 th August	(3 Races)

Prize Categories: J80 Scratch, Puppeteers Scratch & Handicap

Saturdays Pier Racing (Non-Spinnaker)

Summer Series: 7th May – 27th August (16 Races)
Excludes Lambay Races (4th June) and Aqua D-H Race (13th August)
The Gibney Classic (9th July) shall count towards the Sat N-S Series.
Prize Categories: IRC and HPH (Non-Spinnaker)

Tuesdays & Saturdays (Howth Seventeens)

Series 1: 3rd May – 4th June (10 Races)
Series 2: 7th June – 16th July (12 Races)
Series 3: 19th July – 30th August (13 Races)
Mini: 16th August – 30th August (3 Races)

Prize Categories: Scratch and Handicap
Stuttard Cup (Scratch) & President's Salver (Handicap):
24th May, 28th June, 16th August
(No Club Racing on 4th June – Lambay Races)

Wednesdays (Class 1 & J80s, 2, 3 and White Sails)

Series 1: 4th May – 8th June (6 Races)
Series 2: 11th June – 20th July (6 Races)
Series 3: 27th July – 31st August (6 Races)
Mini: 17th August – 31st August (3 Races)

Prize Categories: IRC and HPH
Bridge Trophy (Class 3 HPH) & Fitzgerald Cup (Class 3 IRC):
18th May, 6th July, 10th August

Saturdays (Squibs)

Series 1: 7th May – 28th May (4 Races)
Series 2: 11th June – 16th July (6 Races)
Series 3: 23rd July – 27th August (6 Races)

Prize Categories: Scratch and Handicap
Noel Casey Trophy (Squibs Scratch):
11th June, 23rd July, 13th August
(No Club Racing on 4th June – Lambay Races)

4. Race Times

- (a) Races will be started as per RRS 26 with the warning signal given 5 minutes before the starting signal.
- (b) Starting times are as follows:

Class	Flag	Start
Tuesday – Committee Boat Starts		(Series 1 and Series 3)
Puppeteer 22	A	1915
J80	No. 2	1920

Tuesday – Pier Starts		(Series 1 and Series 3)
17-Footer	C	1905
Squib	K	1910

Tuesday – Committee Boat Starts		(Series 2)
Puppeteer 22	A	1915

17-Footer	C	1920
Squib	K	1925
J80	No. 2	1930

Tuesday – Pier Starts (30th August)

Puppeteer 22	A	1845
17 Footer	C	1850
Squib	K	1855

Wednesday – Committee Boat Starts (4th May – 24 August)

Class 3	No. 3	1910
Class 1, 2 and J80	No. 2	1920
Non-Spinnaker Cruiser	No. 4	1925

Wednesday – Pier Starts (31st August)

Class 3	No. 3	1840
Class 1, 2 and J80	No. 2	1850
Non-Spinnaker Cruiser	No. 4	1855

Saturday – Pier Starts

Non-spinnaker Cruiser	W	1410
Puppeteer 22	A	1425
17-Footer	C	1430
Squib	K	1435

Sunday – Pier Starts (Special Races)

Class 3	No. 3	1040
Puppeteer 22	A	1045
17-Footer	C	1050
Squib	K	1055

5. Courses

(a) Courses will be chosen by the R.O. from the Course Cards. Separate tables of courses are provided for Tuesdays – Series 1 and Series 3 Pier Start Races. These course tables, together with the procedures for displaying courses for pier starts, form part of these Sailing Instructions.

(b) RRS 27.1 is changed as follows: - The course board(s) shall be displayed for each class following its warning signal and shall be displayed for not less than 4 minutes before the start.

(c) Should the R.O. determine that a triangular or windward/leeward course be required lines 40 or 50 will be selected from the course card.

(d) In the event of the R.O. deciding to shorten a race on either a “Line 40” or “Line 50” course but have a fleet (or fleets) finish at the Finishing Line (as opposed to at a Mark in compliance with RRS 32.2a), a boat stationed at the last mark to be rounded shall display flag V and make repeated sound signals as the boats round it. After rounding, the boats shall then proceed directly to the Finishing Line and finish. If flag V is displayed on its own then all Classes racing shall have their course shortened. Where the display of flag V is accompanied by one or more Class flags then all Classes whose flag(s) are displayed shall have their course shortened. When the boat displaying flag V is in the vicinity of Marks 1 and 2, the last mark rounded by Classes whose course is shortened shall be Mark 2. This changes RRS 32.

6. Navigation Marks / Obstructions

(a) The navigation marks in and around Howth Sound shall be left as follows after a boat’s starting signal:

South Rowan Buoy: to be passed to the south and west.

Howth Mark: not a mark on any course.

Finish Mark: to be passed to the south

Rowan Rocks Buoy: to be passed to the east and south.

Spit Mark: to be passed to the north and east (except when used as rounding mark on Pier Start Course Card)

Where the Thulla Mark is described as a mark on the course, it shall be passed to the south.

(b) Any part of Ireland's Eye capable of being touched by a boat, while racing, is designated as an obstruction to sea room.

(c) The attention of competitors is drawn to the existence of many underwater hazards in the vicinity of Ireland's Eye, Howth Sound and over the Spit Bank. Should they choose to sail amongst these hazards, they do so at their own risk. The Club accepts no responsibility for the consequences of any such deviation from the set courses.

(d) Temporary Data buoys have been placed north of Ireland's Eye. Data buoys are treated as Obstructions, as defined by the RRS. RRS 19 applies to boats racing nearby these data buoys. Any contact with a Data buoy, no matter how minor, should be notified to the Sailing Committee within 24 hours.

7. Description of Marks

The marks are as specified on the relevant course card.

8. Starting Area - COMMITTEE BOAT STARTS

(a) The starting area is defined as being an imaginary line drawn from the Island Mark, to the Cush Mark, to the West Mark, to the Viceroy Mark, to the Island Mark.

(b) Boats shall keep clear of the starting line until their warning signal.

Boats having started shall keep clear of the starting line while other starts are in progress.

9. Starting Area – PIER STARTS

(a) The starting area is defined as being bounded by an imaginary line drawn from the new lighthouse to the South Rowan Buoy, to the Howth Mark, to the elbow of the East Pier.

(b) No boat shall enter this area between the time of the warning signal for the first of the series of starts and that class's warning signal.

(c) The R.O. may lodge a protest against a boat that enters the starting area, as defined in Instruction 9 (a), between the time of the warning signal for the first of the series of starts on the day and the boat's warning signal.

10. Start Line - COMMITTEE BOAT STARTS

(a) The starting line shall be between the red and white pole/mainmast on the Committee Boat and an Outer Distance Mark, an orange buoy, which shall be left to port when starting. The R.O. may adjust the starting line up to three minutes before the start of a race. This changes RRS 27.2.

(b) Following a General Recall, the recalled class shall immediately sail clear of the starting area. The new Warning Signal for the recalled class shall be the Starting Signal of the last class in the published sequence. This changes RRS 29.2

(c) Should flag D be displayed at the East Pier starter's hut, Committee Boat and/or the Committee Boat and/or the marina bridge, accompanied by one sound signal, pier starts and relevant Instructions will be substituted for offshore committee boat starts.

11. Start Line - PIER STARTS

(a) The starting line shall be one of the following, identified by a letter A, B or C displayed on the starter's hut/Committee Boat :-

Starting Line A: A line between the red vertical line on the starter's hut and the South Rowan Buoy.

Starting Line B: A line between the red vertical line on the starter's hut and Finish Mark F or the red and white pole/mainmast on the Committee Boat.

Starting Line C: A line between the red vertical line on the starter's hut and the Howth Mark.

(b) For all west going starts, boats shall pass to the south of the South Rowan Buoy.

(b) For all east going starts, boats shall pass south of the Finish Mark (F). Should Mark F be missing, flag H will be displayed and boats shall pass south of the Howth Mark.

12. Finishing Line – COMMITTEE BOAT

(a) The finishing line shall be a line between the red and white pole/mainmast on the Committee Boat displaying a blue flag and an orange Finish Mark, which shall normally, **but not necessarily**, be left to port.

(b) Unless the course is shortened, the finish line is located approximately upwind of the last fixed mark on the course.

(c) Unless the course is shortened, the finish line for **one design** keelboat classes is between the red and white pole/mainmast of the Committee Boat, displaying a blue flag, and situated in the area marked "Tuesday Night Finish Area" on the Course Card and an orange Finish Mark which shall normally, **but not necessarily**, be left to port.

13. Finishing Line - PIER

(a) The finishing line shall be between the Finish Mark F and the red vertical line on the East Pier starter's hut.

(b) Should the Committee Boat be on station at the Finish Mark F then the finishing line shall be between the red and white pole/mainmast on the Committee Boat displaying a blue flag and the red vertical line on the East Pier starter's hut.

14. Sail Numbers

RRS 77 is amended as follows: - Every boat shall show the number under which it is entered on each side of its mainsail, genoa (if relevant) and on its spinnaker (except 17-Footers). Should an owner wish to sail under a different sail number, notice shall be given to the R.O. before the warning signal of the race concerned. Notice shall be given in each instance of such alteration. Failure to comply with this requirement shall result in the boat being treated as a non-starter. This instruction shall constitute "prior warning" as required by RRS Appendix G4.

15. Cruiser Class Identification

Cruisers shall fly the pennant of their class on the backstay while racing. Those not doing so from their warning signal shall be treated as non-starters. Those not doing so as they finish shall be deemed to have retired. This changes RRS 90.3.

16. Time Limits

(a) A boat shall not start later than 15 minutes after her valid starting signal.

(b) The time limit for each keelboat race is as follows:

Dates	Time Limit
May	2115
June, July	2130
August 2 – 10	2045
August 17 – 31	2030
Saturday May – August	1730
Sunday May - August	1300

(c) Provided a keelboat finishes within the time limit, it shall be extended by 15 minutes (Saturdays 30 minutes) for that class.

17. Abandonment / Postponement

Abandonment before the starting signal/ postponement shall be as per RRS 27.3. Flag signals will be made from the Committee Boat, starter's hut or the top of the marina bridge, as relevant.

18. Abandonment after the Start

Abandonment of a race after the start shall be as per RRS 32.1.

19. Finishing a Race

(a) Boats having finished shall not recross their own finishing line in the opposite direction except for some unavoidable cause. Any so doing may be penalised. Only the R.O. may lodge a protest.

20. Shortened Course

The R.O. may at his discretion decide to shorten a race. The procedure will be either:

(a) A Finish Boat will be positioned at the mark on the course at which the race is to be finished. Flag S will be displayed and two sound signals made as the leading boat approaches the mark at which the race is to be finished. Boats shall finish between the Finish Boat and the relevant mark. Flag S displayed alone signals that all races not yet finished are shortened, flag S over class flag(s) signals that races for the relevant classes are shortened.

(b) For courses that prescribe a leg passing up or down the Sound, the R.O. may decide to shorten the race using the East Pier finishing line. Flag S will be displayed and two sound signals made as the leading boat approaches the finishing line. Flag S displayed alone signals that all races not finished are shortened. Flag S over class flags signals that races for the relevant classes are shortened.

(c) When courses 40x and 50x are in use, special procedures for shortening course are detailed in 5(d) above and on the Course Card.

21. Scoring System

(a) The scoring system shall be as per RRS Appendix A – Low Point System.

(b) One discard is allowed for every four races completed.

22. Protests

(a) All protests shall be signalled in accordance with RRS 61.1(a). However, the exemption for boats of hull length less than 6 metres shall not apply.

(b) Protests and Requests for Redress shall be written on an official Protest Form (available in the document holder in the Clubhouse hallway or downloaded from www.isaf.org or the Club website www.hyc.ie) and left in the protest box in the Clubhouse hallway or may be sent by email to results@hyc.ie. The Protest Form shall be received within 24 hours of the end of the race concerned.

(c) Protests for keelboat classes will be heard in the Clubhouse at 1930 on Thursday in the week next after the race concerned. Where this is not possible, an alternative arrangement will be notified to the protestor and protestee.

(d) Protest Panels will be prepared for each evening at the start of the season and will be displayed on www.hyc.ie. Members of the Protest Panels shall be drawn from names supplied by Class Captains and/or nominated by the Sailing Committee. Panel members shall ensure their availability on the appointed evening. Where required panel members may change places with other panel members. Any changes shall be advised to the Club Protest Convenor.

23. Safety

(a) The attention of all competitors is drawn to RRS Fundamental Rule 1.1. "Helping Those in Danger". If appropriate, the provisions of RRS 62 may be invoked.

- (v) All boats with VHF radios are required to keep a listening watch on Channel 16 when at sea. It is strongly recommended that every keelboat carries a VHF radio.
- (b) Open boat entrants are referred to relevant class regulations.
- (c) Competitors in all classes shall wear lifejackets or suitable personal flotation devices at all times. Wet suits and dry suits are not suitable personal flotation devices.
- (d) Boats shall keep clear of Race Committee vessels (committee boat, mark laying boats, patrol boats) from the time the Committee Boat is on station prior to starting racing.

24. Boat Assisting

- (a) The Sailing Committee shall appoint an Assistant Race Officer and a designated boat to provide two suitable and knowledgeable adults who shall be on the committee boat not later than one hour before the first scheduled warning signal.
- (b) Boat Assist crews shall remain on duty until relieved by the R.O.
- (c) Should the nominated boat(s) fail to fully comply with these Instructions, it (or the owner's current boat, if relevant) shall be scored Disqualification Not Excludable (DNE) for the mid-week race in the week following (Tuesday or Wednesday as relevant). The allocation of the designated boat is based on positions in the previous year's race results and the owner of the boat of that year is responsible for providing helpers.
- (d) For Tuesday evening pier starts, the designated Assistant Race Officer will act as Race Officer. The onus is on the two classes, Squibs and Howth 17s, to provide at least two helpers who should be present at the East Pier Starter's Hut at least 30 minutes before the first scheduled warning signal.

25. "Starred" Races

A Class Captain, in consultation with the Honorary Sailing Secretary, may request that a Club race, previously scheduled, be "starred". This request must be made in writing and received by the Honorary Sailing Secretary at least 72 hours before the scheduled start of the race concerned. Notice of races starred under this procedure will be displayed on www.hyc.ie at least 48 hours before the scheduled starting time.