



Mermaid
National Championships 2016
4th, 5th, 6th, & 7th August 2016

&

Howth 17 Footer
National Championship 2016
5th, 6th, & 7th August 2016

Organising Authority is Howth Yacht Club

Sailing Instructions

1. RULES

Racing will be governed by the current Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) (2013-16) the prescriptions of the ISA, the specifications, rules & regulations of the Mermaid Sailing Association/Howth 17 Class Association, these Sailing Instructions (SIs) and any amendments thereto.

2. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

Notices to competitors will be posted on the official regatta notice board located in the archway beside the Marina Office.

3. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS OR SCHEDULE

Any changes to the SIs will be posted not later than 90 minutes prior to the scheduled start of the first race on the day it will take effect, except that any change in the schedule of races will be posted by 20.00 hrs. on the day before it will take effect, subject to the provisions of SI 5. It is the sole responsibility of each competitor to ensure that they have apprised themselves of any such alterations.

4. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

Signals made ashore will be displayed on the flagpole at the top of the marina walkway.

When Int. Code Flag 'F' is displayed ashore no boat shall leave the confines of the harbour. The warning signal for the next race will be made not less than 30 minutes after Code Flag 'F' is lowered. This SI changes RRS 'Race Signals'.

5. SCHEDULE OF RACES - MERMAIDS

Seven Championship races and one Crew's race are scheduled. The warning signal for Race One is 14:00 on Thursday August 4th with Race Two to commence as soon as possible after the completion of Race One. The warning signal for the Race Three is 13:00 on Friday August 5th with Race Four to commence as soon as possible after the completion of Race Three. The Crew's Race will commence as soon as possible after the completion of Race Four. The warning signal for the Race Five is 11:30 on Saturday August 6th with Race Six to commence as soon as possible after the completion of Race Five, and Race Seven will commence as soon as possible after the completion of Race Six.

The Race Officer may hold more than the scheduled number of races on any day if it is deemed appropriate. This will be indicated by displaying International Code Flag "A" on the Committee Boat while the last scheduled race is being finished.

If the race schedule is incomplete racing may be held on Sunday August 7th at the discretion of the Race Committee.

SCHEDULE OF RACES – HOWTH 17s

Five races are scheduled. The warning signal for Race One is 18:55 on Friday August 5th. The warning signal for Race Two is 10:30 on Saturday August 6th. Race Three and subsequent race(s) will commence as soon as possible after the completion of the previous race.

The Race Officer may hold more than the scheduled number of races on either day if it is deemed appropriate. This will be indicated by displaying International Code Flag “A” on the Committee Boat during the finish of the last scheduled race.

If the race schedule is incomplete, racing may be held on Sunday August 7th at the discretion of the Race Committee.

6. **FLAGS**

The Class Flag for the Mermaids will be International Code Flag “G”.

The Class Flag for the Howth 17s will be International Code Flag “C”

7. **SAILS AND SAIL NUMBERS**

Only certified sails shall be used. Except as permitted by this SI, boats shall use their correct sail numbers which shall be clearly readable on both sides of the mainsail. RRS G4 shall not apply. Permission to sail under any other number shall be sought in writing from the Race Committee before the crew going afloat and will be granted only in exceptional circumstances.

8. **THE COURSE**

The course will be either Windward/Leeward, designated by flying International Code Flag “W”, Olympic style course, designated by the flying of International Code Flag “O” or Trapezoid, designated by flying International Code Flag “T”

The Windward/Leeward course will be laid as per Appendix 1

After starting the marks shall be rounded to port in the following order:- 1 – 2 – 3 - 1 – 2 – 3 - Finish

The Olympic course will be laid as an approximately equal-sided triangle.

After starting the marks shall be rounded to port in the following order:- 1 – 2 – 3 – 1 – 3 – 1 – 2 - 3 - Finish.

The Trapezoid course will be laid as an approximate trapezoid with two parallel sides. The number of rounds will be indicated displaying a number on the side of the committee boat from approximately four minutes before the start to approximately one minute after it.

For the **Mermaid Fleet**, on course “1”, after starting the marks shall be rounded to port in the following order:- 1 – 2 – 3 – 2 – 3 – 4 - Finish. On course “2”, after starting the marks shall be rounded to port in the following order:- 1 – 2 – 3 – 2 – 3 – 2-3- 4 - Finish.

For the **Howth 17 Fleet**, on course “1”, after starting the marks shall be rounded to port in the following order:- 1 – O(offset) – 4 – Finish. On course “2”, after starting the marks shall be rounded to port in the following order:- 1 – O(offset) – 4 – 1 – O – 4 – Finish.

8.2 Change of Course

For a minor adjustment to the configuration of the course, the Race Committee will relocate the mark(s). This will not be signalled. This changes RRS 33.

For a significant change of course, the Race Committee will lay new marks. This change will be signalled in accordance with RRS33 before the leading boat has begun the leg, although the new mark(s) may not yet be in the new position(s).

Any mark to be rounded, after rounding the moved or new mark(s) may be relocated without further signalling.

See Appendix 1 for Course Diagrams

8.3 Howth 17s Friday evening course

The course for Race 1 for the Howth 17s will be per HYC Pier Start Course Card. No Top Sails will be allowed in Race 1.

9. MARKS

Marks 1, 2, 3, & 4 will be black inflatable marks. Mark O will be a red spherical bouy.

10. THE START

Races will be started by using RRS 26. For races 3, 4, & 5 for the Howth Seventeens & Races 5, 6, & 7 for the Mermaids, the starting signal for the Mermaids may be the warning signal for the Howth 17s.

The starting line will be between a red and white striped pole on the committee boat and an outer limit mark which will be a pillar mark.

If Flag U has been displayed as the preparatory signal, no part of a boat's hull, crew or equipment shall be in the triangle formed by the ends of the Starting line and the first mark during the last minute before her starting signal. If a boat breaks this rule and is identified she shall be disqualified without a hearing but not if the race is restarted or resailed or postponed or abandoned before the starting signal. This changes RRS 26 and RRS 63.1.

10.1 Starting Time Limit

A boat starting later than 10 minutes after her starting signal will be scored DNS, Did Not Start. This changes RRS A4.1. & A5.

11. SHORTENING COURSE

The course may be shortened for any reason at the discretion of the Race Officer in accordance with RRS 32.2. Should he wish to shorten a race to finish at the start/finish line (the boats having finished one or two rounds), it will be signalled by displaying code flag "V" from a Rib to close to any Mark on the course, accompanied by repeated sound signals. Boats shall then sail directly to the start/finish line and cross it in the direction from their last mark. This changes the RRS Race Signals.

12. THE FINISH

The Finishing Line shall be between the mast of the Finish Boat and a red spherical mark.

13. TIME LIMIT

Any boat which fails to finish within 15 minutes of the first boat in her own fleet to finish shall be scored "Did Not Finish". The time limit for the leading boat in each fleet shall be 1 hour and 30 minutes. This changes RRS 35.

The last boat(s) in the Mermaid fleet may be offered finishing positions prior to reaching the finish. Acceptance of same is at the competitor's discretion.

14. PROTESTS

In addition to the obligations in RRS 61, protesting boats shall, immediately after finishing, inform the Race Committee member on the Finishing Boat of the sail number(s) of boats protested against. Protest forms will be available from the Race Office and all protests shall be delivered to the Race

Office within Protest Time. A schedule of Protest Hearings will be posted on the Official Notice Board as soon as practicable each day.

15. PROTEST TIME

Protest Time limit will be 2 hours after the last boat in the relevant fleet to finish in the last race of the day. The closing time for protests will be displayed on the Official Notice Board. Where the parties to a protest are available and willing to commence the hearing before the expiry of the time limit, the Race Committee should facilitate that process.

16. SCORING SYSTEM

The Low Point Scoring System in RRS Appendix A4.1 will be used but the following changes will apply.

- (a) A boat that does not finish, or retires prior to the expiration of the Protest Time, shall score one more point more than the number of boats that started.
- (b) A boat that does not start, or is disqualified, shall score one point more than the number of boats that were entered.
- (c) Discards. Mermaids: If four or fewer races are completed, all scores shall count. If five or more races are completed, a boat's worst score, apart from scores deemed 'DNE', may be excluded from her total score.
Hoth 17s: If three or fewer races are completed, all scores shall count. If four or more races are completed, a boat's worst score, apart from scores deemed 'DNE, may be excluded from her total score.

In both fleets, three races shall be completed to constitute a series.

18. SAFETY

Competitors participate entirely at their own risk see Fundamental Rule 4, Decision to Race and the ISA Safety Booklet.

The responsibility for the safety of competing boats and their crews lies solely with the said competitors. Hoth Yacht Club and/or the Organising Committee will not accept any liability for material damage, personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with, prior to, during or after racing.

Boats shall keep clear of race committee vessels (committee boats, mark laying boats and patrol boats), from the time the committee boat is on station, prior to starting racing.

Personal buoyancy shall be worn at all times when afloat. This changes RRS 40. Wet or dry suits are not acceptable as substitutes.

19. INSPECTIONS

The Race Committee or an Official appointed by the Race Committee may inspect any competing boat at any time and any boat found not to be in compliance with the Rules of the relevant Class Association may be debarred from further competition until the offending matter has been rectified. If any races have already taken place the boat may at the discretion of the Protest Committee and the relevant Class Association, be disqualified from any or all of such races. This changes RRS 64.3(a).

20. SUBSTITUTION

The Race Committee is authorised to permit, if the Class Association approves, a competitor to substitute another boat if his/her own boat has been damaged in transit or during racing. Crew substitution shall be at the sole discretion of the Race Committee.

21. COMMUNICATION

The Race Officer may communicate with the Howth 17 fleet on channel 37.

INFORMATION FOR COMPETITORS

A. RESPONSIBILITY

The Organising Club, its Officers and agents, accept no responsibility for any damage to boats or for personal injury occurring while afloat. Competitors' attention is drawn to RRS Fundamental Rule 4, especially in relation to races being run in adverse weather conditions.

B. STORAGE OF BOATS

Storage for Mermaids will be available on the Club Marina. Neither the Club nor the Class Associations accept responsibility for boats or property left on Club property.

C. SECURITY

All competitors should note the necessity to secure their valuables before going afloat.

D. MEMBERSHIP

All competitors will be granted Temporary Membership of Howth Yacht Club for the duration of the event.

E. WEATHER FORECAST

The weather forecast will be posted daily on the Official Notice Board.

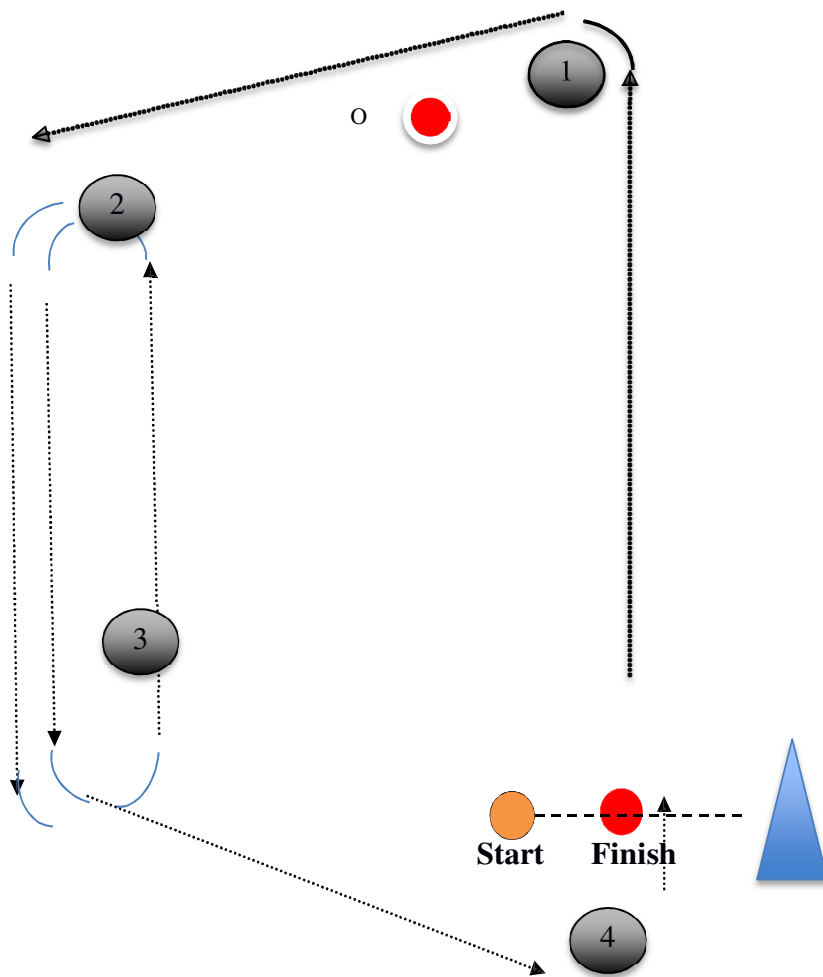
G. TIDE TIMES

Thursday 4th HW 13:25 - Friday 5th HW.14:03 - Saturday 6th HW 14:41 -
7th HW 15:18

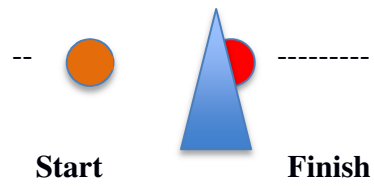
Sunday

Appendix 1 Courses

Trapazoid Course, Designated by International Code Flag “T”



Olympic Course, Designated by International Code Flag “O”



Windward/Leeward Course, Designated by International Code Flag “W”

