



Organised by Howth Yacht Club CLG

Saturday 15th September to Saturday 20th October

Sailing Instructions

1. Rules

1.1 The races shall be governed by the current Racing Rules of Sailing (Rules), Irish Sailing Prescriptions, the Notice of Race and these Sailing Instructions (SI) and any changes thereto. In the event of a conflict, the Sailing Instructions shall prevail.

1.2 Competitors in races for One Design classes shall comply with their relevant Class Rules. Competitors in IRC and ECHO handicap classes shall comply with the Rules of those handicapping systems

1.3 Boats competing in Class 4 and Class 5, in both IRC and ECHO divisions, shall be subject to the following headsail Rule:

Boats shall use only one headsail at any time (i.e. drop one headsail before setting another). This changes RULE 50.1.

2. Measurement –

A measurer(s) competent in the measurement of boats in each one design class and handicap system may be appointed by the Organising Authority to the Race Committee. The Race Committee may order measurement checks on any boat which enters and comes to the race area at any time during the event. A boat which the Race Committee requires to be measured shall be present at a time and place specified by the Race Committee.

3. Notice to Competitors –

Notices to competitors will be posted on the Official Notice Board located in the archway beside the Marina Office.

4. Changes to Sailing Instructions

Changes to Sailing Instructions will be posted not later than two hours before the scheduled start of the first race so affected. Flag L displayed on the flagpole at the top of the marina bridge denotes that a change of Sailing Instructions has been made.

5. Signals Made Ashore –

Signals made ashore will be displayed on the flagpole at the top of the marina bridge. When flag AP is displayed ashore “one minute” is replaced with “not less than 45 minutes” in race signal AP. This changes RULE “Race Signals”. Boats are requested not to leave the harbour until flag AP is lowered.

6. Schedule of Races

6.1 Offshore Committee Boat Starts

Saturdays 15th, 22nd and 29th September, 6th and 13th October

<i>First Warning Signal</i>		<i>1400</i>
<u>Class</u>	<u>Flag</u>	<u>Start</u>
Cruiser Class 1	No. 1	1405
Cruiser Class 2	No. 2	1410
Non-Spinnaker 4	No. 4	1415
Non-Spinnaker 5	No. 5	1420

Saturday 20th October

<i>First Warning Signal</i>		<i>1300</i>
<u>Class</u>	<u>Flag</u>	<u>Start</u>
Cruiser Class 1	No. 1	1305

Cruiser Class 2	No. 2	1310
Non-Spinnaker 4	No. 4	1315
Non-Spinnaker 5	No. 5	1320

OFFSHORE COMMITTEE BOAT STARTS

Start Vessel: Star Point, VHF Ch. 77

A Starting Area –

The starting area will be North of Ireland's Eye.

B Starting Line –

The starting line shall be between an orange outer distance mark (to be passed to port) and a red/white pole (or mainmast) on the Committee Boat which will display a white flag.

C Starting Signals –

Starts shall be in accordance with Rule 26.

D Course Designation –

"Fixed Mark" Courses shall be designated by numerals displayed on boards on the Committee Boat. The course applicable to each race will be displayed for not less than 4 minutes before its start. This changes RULE 27.1. Marks are described by letters on the Offshore Committee Boat Course Card. **A windward mark, Z (BLACK inflatable) will be laid approximately to windward of the starting line. This is the first mark on all courses.**

E Courses –

Courses shall be as per the special Offshore Committee Boat Course Card for the Autumn League, which forms part of these Sailing Instructions. Windward/Leeward courses will be as shown on the attached the Appendix with special courses for Non-Spinnaker classes.

F Finishing Line –

The finishing line shall be in the vicinity of Mark Q (Rowan Rocks Cardinal Mark) and shall be between an orange spherical buoy and a red/white pole (or mainmast) on the Committee Boat which will display a white flag. For Windward/Leeward courses, the finishing line, unless shortened, will be upwind of the leeward mark.

6.2 Inshore Committee Boat Starts

Saturdays 15th, 22nd and 29th September, 6th and 13th October

<i>First Warning Signal</i>		1400
<u>Class</u>	<u>Flag</u>	<u>Start</u>
Cruiser Class 3	3	1405
A Taste of Racing*	J	1410
Puppeteer	A	1415
Squib	K	1420
17 Footer	C	1425

Saturday 20th October

<i>First warning Signal:</i>		1300
<u>Class</u>	<u>Flag</u>	<u>Start</u>
Cruiser Class 3	3	1305
A Taste of Racing*	J	1310
Puppeteer	A	1315
Squib	K	1320
17 Footer	C	1325

* "A Taste of Racing" refers to the club J80s

On days when two races are sailed, if there are no starters in any fleet for the second race, that fleet's start will be omitted from the sequence and all subsequent starts shall be brought forward accordingly. This will be announced on VHF Ch 69

INSHORE COMMITTEE BOAT STARTS

Start Vessel: Sea Wych, VHF Ch. 69

A Starting Area –

The starting area will be North West of Ireland's Eye.

B Starting Line –

The Starting Line shall be between an orange outer distance mark (to be passed to port) and a red/white pole or the mainmast of the Committee Boat which will display an orange flag.

C Starting Signals –

Starts shall be in accordance with Rule 26.

D Course Designation –

"Fixed Mark" Courses shall be designated by numerals displayed on boards on the Committee Boat. The course applicable to each race will be displayed for not less than 4 minutes before its start. This changes RULE 27.1. Marks are described by letters on the Inshore Committee Boat Course Card. **A windward mark, Z (YELLOW inflatable) will be laid approximately to windward of the starting line. This is the first mark on all courses.**

E Courses –

Courses shall be as per the special Inshore Committee Boat Course Card for the Autumn League, which forms part of these Sailing Instructions. Windward/Leeward courses will be as shown on the attached Appendix.

F Finishing Line –

The finishing line is located in the vicinity of the Spit Mark (S) and the South Rowan Buoy (R) and shall be between a spherical orange Mark F and the main mast (or red/white pole) on the adjacent Committee Boat displaying an orange flag.

For Windward/Leeward courses, the finishing line, unless shortened, will be upwind of the leeward mark.

6.3 Eight races are scheduled for all classes.

One race on each of the following Saturdays, **15th, 22nd September, 13th and 20th October.**

Two races are scheduled for Saturdays, **29th September and 6th October** with formats to be decided on the day.

6.4 Should a race be cancelled for weather reasons, that race will be resailed on the following Saturday (weather permitting) along with the scheduled race for that day. Should both races scheduled for 30th September be cancelled, ONE of those races will be rescheduled for the following Saturday along with the scheduled race for that day (Windward/Leeward courses). Should the race on Saturday 20th October be cancelled, the Race Committee will consider running that race on Sunday 21st October. In this case, the Sailing Instructions for Saturday 20th October shall apply.

6.5 The type of course to be sailed each day will be determined by the Race Committee and will be communicated to sailors by means of a signal made ashore on the flag pole at the top of the marina bridge and will be repeated on the committee boat.

ICF "R" will indicate that a "Round the Cans" race will be sailed.

ICF "W" will indicate that a Windward/Leeward race will be sailed.

This signal will be displayed not less than 2 hours before the Warning Signal.

If both types of course are to be sailed on one day, both flags will be displayed ashore. Each committee boat will display the appropriate flag for the next course to be sailed before the first warning signal for that race.

6.6 The Starting Time Limit shall be **5 minutes**.

7. Re-crossing Start/Finish Lines –

Boats, having started and cleared their starting line, shall not re-cross that line whilst starts are in progress. Boats shall not cross any other starting line whilst starts are in progress.

The Protest Committee may penalise a boat for failing to comply with this Sailing Instruction with a score of its discretion, including DNE.

8. Finishing Time Limit –

The Time Limit for all races is **1730**. In the event of a postponement and/or general recall the time limit for races so affected shall be extended by the time the start is delayed. If a boat finishes a race within this limit, the time limit for her class shall be extended by 45 minutes in that race. A boat which fails to finish within the time limit will be scored DNF. This changes Rule 35 and A4.1.

On days when two races are sailed, the time limit for each race shall be **15 minutes** from the time of the first finisher in each class.

9. **Protests** –

Protest forms are available at the Race Office. Protests, requests for redress or reopening shall be delivered to the Race Office within the Protest Time Limit for that fleet, which will be posted on the Official Notice Board. The Protest Time Limit for the Inshore fleet is 60 minutes from the time of finish of the last boat in the Inshore fleet. Similarly, the protest time limit for the Offshore fleet is 60 minutes from the time of the finish of the last boat in the Offshore fleet. Notices of protests by the Race Committee will be posted to inform boats. This changes Rule 61.1(b). The protest flag exemption for boats less than six metres shall not apply. This changes Rule 61.1(a) (2).

10. **Protest Hearings** –

Protest hearings will be held each day after racing. A schedule of protest hearings will be posted on the Official Notice Board 15 minutes after the protest time limit. The listing of a boat on this schedule shall constitute informing her of a hearing under Rule 63.2. Parties involved shall be present with their witnesses at the time and place indicated on the schedule. On the last day of racing (scheduled for 21st Oct.) a request to reopen a hearing shall be delivered to the Protest Committee not later than 30 minutes after the party was informed of the decision. This changes Rule 66.

11. **Scoring** –

The Low Point scoring system of Appendix A will apply. When four or more races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.

12. **Navigation Marks and Obstructions** –

See the special Offshore and Inshore Committee Boat Course Cards

13. Tides	Date	H.W.	Height	L.W.	Height
	15/09	16.20	3.60m	09.50	0.70m
	22/09	11.00	3.50m	16.50	1.00m
	29/09	14.50	3.90m	08.20	0.50m
	06/10	10.10	3.80m	15.50	0.80m
	13/10	15.00	3.80m	08.30	0.60m
	20/10	09.50	3.30m	15.40	1.30m

14 **Radio Communications** –

Competitors are advised to keep a listening watch on VHF Channel 77 for Offshore Committee Boat, Channel 69 for Inshore Committee Boat where information relevant to racing may be broadcast. Should this information be broadcast, it shall not constitute outside assistance and shall not be the subject of any protest or claim for redress. Failure to broadcast this information shall not be the basis for any claim for redress. The Squib class Rules are amended by this Sailing Instruction to allow use of VHF radio.

Competitors who retire from a race shall inform the Race Committee promptly by radio on Channel 77 or 69, as appropriate. Competitors without radio should inform the Race Office on coming ashore.

15 **Safety** -

Competitors participate entirely at their own risk, see Fundamental Rule 4 "Decision to Race". Open boat entrants are referred to relevant class regulations. **The wearing of suitable personal floatation devices in all boats is strongly recommended at all times.**

The responsibility for the safety of competing boats and their crews lies solely with the said competitors.

Howth 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.

16 **Insurance** –

Each participating boat shall be insured with adequate, valid, third party liability insurance.

GENERAL

When entering/leaving Howth Harbour, stay on the right hand side of the fairway and harbour entrance i.e. always pass port to port. Also, Howth Sound is a restricted channel and accordingly boats shall not impede trawlers.

The attention of all participants is drawn to the car parking regulations in the vicinity of the Club. These are rigidly enforced by the Harbour Authority.

Competitors are granted temporary membership of Howth Yacht Club on race days of the Autumn League, subject only to the provisions of the Club Rules for withdrawing or withholding said membership.

Appendix to Sailing Instructions

S.I. 6.5 refers to the option available to the Race Committee to set a Windward/Leeward course. Should this option be chosen, Flag “W” will be displayed ashore and afloat.

Course Diagram:

NOTE: Offset Marks
may be laid

 “Outer” Windward Mark 1(Black)

 “Inner” Windward Mark 1(Yellow)

   Start/Finish Line

 “Inner” Leeward Mark 2(Yellow)

 “Outer” Leeward Mark 2(Black)

For Inshore fleets:

Cruisers 3, Taste of Racing and Puppeteers use **Outer** Windward and Leeward marks (Black)

Howth 17s and Squibs use **Inner** Windward and Leeward Marks (Yellow)

For Offshore fleets:

Cruisers 1 and 2 use the **Outer** Windward and Leeward marks (Black)

Non Spinnaker classes 4 and 5 use **Inner** Windward and Leeward marks (yellow).

Where Windward/Leeward courses are chosen, the S.I.s are changed as follows:

ADD S.I. 6.6 If Flag “V” is displayed with repeated sound signals at a mark of the course, boats shall sail directly from that mark to the finish line.

REPLACE S.I.s 6.1 D & 6.2 D with: The number of rounds for each class will be displayed on the Committee Boat not later than the Preparatory Signal for that class.

REPLACE S.I.s 6.1 E & 6.2 E with: The course will be as described in the Appendix.