

Club Racing Handbook

One-Design Keelboats & Cruisers

Incorporating Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions



2019

*Sponsored by Marine Suppliers
West Pier, Howth*

Harbour Usage Rules

1. There is a speed limit of 5 knots in the harbour.
2. When entering and leaving the harbour your boat must keep to the right-hand side of the fairway and harbour entrance, i.e. always pass other vessels approaching, travelling in the other direction, 'port to port'.
3. Boats shall not impede trawlers in the Sound and harbour entrance.

Sailing Instructions 2019

1. Rules.

- (a) Racing will be governed by the Racing Rules of Sailing ("RRS") 2017 - 2020. In the event of a conflict between the Notice of Race and the Sailing Instructions, the Sailing Instructions shall prevail. This changes RRS 63.7
- (b) IRC crew limitation and weight limitation Instructions are waived for all Cruiser Classes.
- (c) It is prohibited for a boat to listen to Race Management "Private" VHF channels after having left the mooring/Marina until the end of the race. This may be ground 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 prescriptions will apply and can be found at: www.sailing.ie

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 races 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. For Committee Boat starts Channel 77 shall be used. For Pier starts Channel 69 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 8 for Committee Boat starts and Instruction 9 for Pier starts, between their warning and starting signals.
- (e) A boat that 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 email or text message to all owners affected who have entered races so affected.

4. Race Times

Starting times are as follows:

Class	Flag	Start
Tuesday – Committee Boat Starts (Series 1 and Series 3)		
Puppeteer	A	1915
Squib	K	1920
Taste of Racing J80	J	1925

Tuesday – Pier Starts (Series 1 and Series 3)

Howth 17	C	1905
----------	---	------

***Due to very low tides on 2nd July start times will be 15 minutes later.
Time limits will be extended by the same amount on these dates.***

Tuesday – Committee Boat Starts (Series 2)

Puppeteer 22	A	1915
Squib	K	1920
Howth 17	C	1925
Taste of Racing J80	J	1930

Tuesday – Pier Starts (20th August – 3rd Sept))

Puppeteer	A	1845
Squib	K	1850
Howth 17	C	1855
Taste of Racing J80	J	1900

Wednesday – Committee Boat Starts (1st May – 14th August)

Class 1, 2	No.1 & No. 2	1910
Class 3	No. 3	1915
Non-Spinnaker Cruiser	No. 4	1920

Wednesday – Pier Starts (21st August – 4th Sept.)

Class 1, 2	No.1 & No.2	1845
Class 3	No. 3	1850
Non-Spinnaker Cruiser	No. 4	1855

Saturday – Pier Starts

Non-spinnaker	W	1410
Puppeteer	A	1430
Squib	K	1435
Howth 17	C	1440

5. Courses

(a) Courses will be chosen by the R.O. from the Course Cards. Separate tables of courses are provided for Tuesdays and Wednesdays Committee Boat starts and for Series 1, Series 3 and Mini Series 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 is required lines 40 or 50 will be selected from the relevant 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 32.2(a)), 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.

7. Description of Marks

The marks are as specified on the Technical Sheet for the 2019 Course Cards.

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) Boats shall keep clear of the starting line until their 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 RRS27.2.

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. Where a number of Classes have had General Recalls,

their new Warning Signals shall be made as per the original scheduled sequence. This changes RRS 29.2

(c) Should flag D be displayed at the East Pier Starter's Hut, 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.

(c) 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) Unless the course is shortened, 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. Boats shall normally leave the Finish Mark to port when finishing but, where conditions require, the Race Committee may place it so that boats leave it to starboard. In all circumstances, boats finishing shall cross the line from the direction of the last mark of their course.

(b) For Series 1 and 3 the finish line for One Design keelboat Classes **may** be located approximately upwind of the last fixed mark on the course.

(c) For Series 2 the finish line shall be situated in the area marked "Tuesday Night Finish Area" on the Course Card.

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 a 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 changed 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 Howth 17s). 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 may 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 may be treated as non-starters. Those not doing so as they finish may 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
April, May	2115
June, July	2130 (S.I. 4: July 2 nd – add 15 minutes)
July 30 – August 7	2045
August 13 – Sept. 4	2030
Saturday April – September	1730
Sunday April - 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

Flag signals will be made from the Committee Boat, Starter’s Hut or the top of the marina bridge, as relevant.

18. 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.

19. Shortening Course

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.

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

20. 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.

21. Protests

(a) All protests shall be signalled in accordance with RRS 61.1(a). However, the exemption from flying a red flag for boats of hull length less than 6 metres shall **not** apply. This changes RRS 61.1(a)(2).

(b) Protests and Requests for Redress shall be left in the protest box in the Clubhouse hallway or may be sent by email to results@hyc.ie. The Protest shall be received within 24 hours of the end of the race concerned.

Protest forms may be downloaded from

<https://www.sailing.ie/Portals/0/World-Sailing-RRS-2017-2020-protest-forms.pdf>

(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.

22. Safety

(a) The attention of all competitors is drawn to RRS Fundamental Rule 1.1. “Helping Those in Danger”.

(b) All boats with VHF radios are required to keep a listening watch on Channel 16 when at sea.

(c) Open boat entrants are referred to relevant Class regulations.

(e) Competitors in all Classes shall wear lifejackets or suitable personal flotation devices at all times, except when adjusting clothes. 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.

23. Class Assisting

(a) The Sailing Committee shall appoint an Assistant Race Officer and a designated class 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) Class Assist crews shall remain on duty until released by the R.O.

(c) For Pier Starts in Series 1 and 3 the onus is on the Howth 17 class 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.

24. "Starred" Races

A Class Captain 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.