



**Mermaid
National Championships 2024**
1st - 4th August 2024

&

**Howth 17-Footer
National Championship 2024**
2nd, 3rd, (& 4th) August 2024

Organising Authority (OA) is Howth Yacht Club

Sailing Instructions

1. RULES

Racing will be governed by the current Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) (2021-24) the prescriptions of the Irish Sailing the specifications, rules & regulations of the Mermaid Sailing Association/Howth 17 Class Association, these Sailing Instructions (SIs) and any amendments thereto.

2. COMMUNICATIONS TO COMPETITORS

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

The Race Committee (RC) may draw attention to Race Signals given on the Race Committee Vessel and communicate other information on VHF at any time. The RC will transmit on Channel 77 or other such channel as may be displayed on the Race Committee Vessel. Failure to transmit or to receive such communication will not be grounds for redress by a boat. This changes rule 62.1(a).

[DP] While racing, from the first warning signal until the end of the last race of the day, except in an emergency, a boat shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats.

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 'D' 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 'D' is lowered. This SI changes RRS 'Race Signals'.

5. SCHEDULE OF RACES - MERMAIDS

Date	Event	Time
Wed. 31 st July	Equipment Inspection Launching	12:00 – 20:00 12:00 – 20:00
Th. 1 st August	Briefing Practice Race Warning Signal Race 1 and Race 2	10:00 11:55 Immediately after Practice Race
Fri. 2 nd August	Race 3 Warning Signal Race 4 Crew's Race	10:55 Immediately after preceding race Immediately after preceding race
Sat. 3 rd August	Race 5 Warning Signal Race 6	11:25 Immediately after preceding race
Sun. 4 th August	Race 7 Warning Signal Race 8	10:55 Immediately after preceding race

One Practice race, Eight Championship races and one Crew's race are scheduled. 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.

No race will be started after 15:00 on Sunday 4th August, except for postponements, general recalls and abandonment of a race where the first warning signal was made before 15:00.

SCHEDULE OF RACES – HOWTH 17s

Date	Event	Time
Fri. 2 nd August	Briefing Race Warning Signal	17:30 18:55 One race scheduled
Sat. 3 rd August	Race Warning Signal Subsequent races	10:25 Immediately after preceding races Three races scheduled
Sun. 4 th August	Racing will take place on Sunday if two races have not been completed by Saturday.	

	Race Warning Signal Subsequent races	10:25 Immediately after preceding races
--	---	--

Four races are scheduled.

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 “E” 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 4th at the discretion of the Race Committee.

No race will be started after 15:00 on Sunday 4th August, except for postponements, general recalls and abandonment of a race where the first warning signal was made before 15:00.

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.

For the Howth 17s only, the Blue Flag Rule will apply. No boat shall sail through the Start/Finish Line when the Blue Flag is flying, except to finish. Failure to comply may lead to disqualification without a hearing.

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 Orange marks. Mark O will be a red spherical bouy.

10. THE START

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

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

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 & 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 she 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 “F” 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 a red and white striped pole displaying an Blue Flag on the committee vessel and a red spherical mark.
Competitors should note that the start mark for the next race may already be laid.

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". 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. HEARING REQUESTS

Protests, Requests for Redress and Scoring Inquiries must be submitted online, within the protest time limit, at

https://www.racingrulesofsailing.org/events/9365/event_links?name=mermaid-and-howth-17-national-championships

The protest time limit is 60 minutes after the last boat has finished the last race of the day finishes the last race of the day or the race committee signals no more racing today, whichever is later. The time will be posted on the official noticeboard.

https://www.racingrulesofsailing.org/events/9365/event_links?name=mermaid-and-howth-17-national-championships

Notices will be posted online, within 15 minutes of the protest time limit, to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Hearings will be held in the Centenary Room on the second floor of the clubhouse.

Notices of protests by the RC or Protest Committee will be posted online to inform boats under Rule 61.1(b)

On the last day of the regatta, a request for reopening a hearing shall be delivered: -

- (a) Within the protest time limit if the party requesting reopening was informed of the decision on the previous day;
- (b) no later than 30 minutes after the party requesting reopening was informed of the decision on that day. This changes Rule 66.

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 three or fewer races are completed, all scores shall count. If between four and seven races are completed, a boat's worst score will be excluded from her total score. If eight races are completed, a boat's two worst scores will be excluded from her total score.
Howth 17s: If three or fewer races are completed, all scores shall count. If four races are completed, a boat's worst score will be excluded from her total score.

In the Mermaid fleet, three races shall be completed to constitute a series.

In the 17s fleet, two races shall be completed to constitute a series.

18. SAFETY

All competitors shall wear adequate personal flotation devices at all times when afloat, except briefly while changing or adjusting clothing or personal equipment. Dry suits and wet suits are not adequate personal flotation devices. This changes Rule 40.

[NP] [DP] A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee at the first reasonable opportunity. The boat must ensure this communication is acknowledged.

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. RISK STATEMENT

Rule 3 of the Racing Rules of Sailing states: "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone."

Sailing is by its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event, each competitor agrees to and acknowledges the risk statement as included in the Notice of Race."

22. INSURANCE

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

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

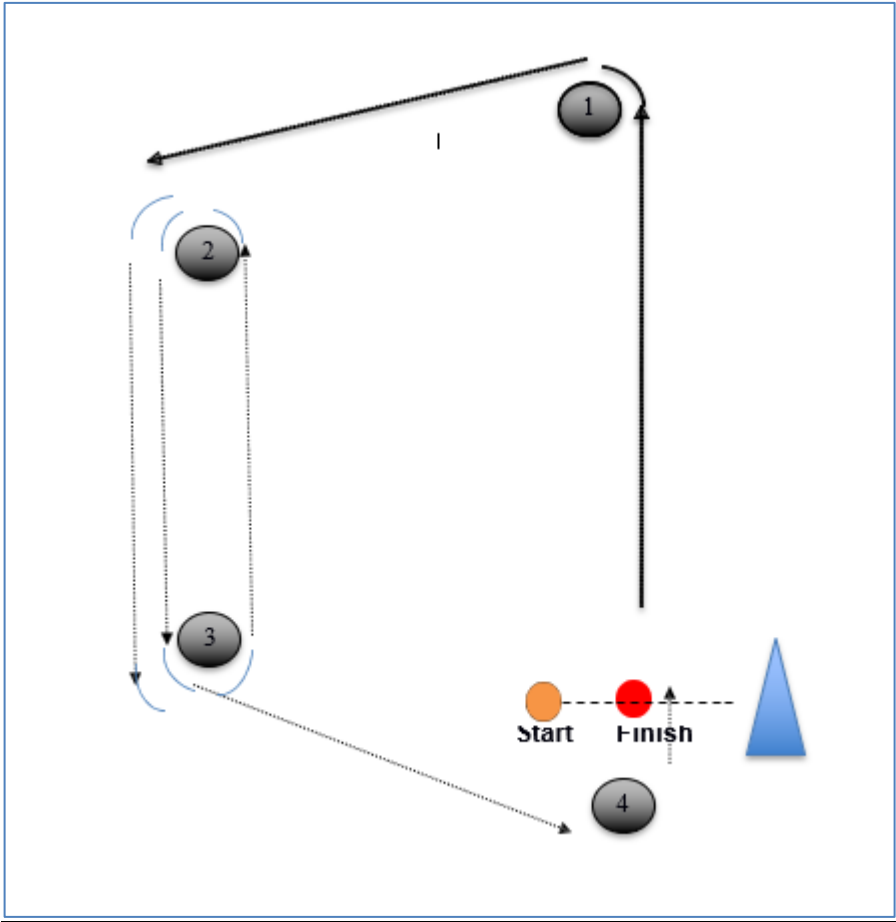
All competitors will be granted Temporary Membership of Howth Yacht Club for the duration of the event.

G. TIDE TIMES

Thursday 1st HW 10:12 - Friday 2nd HW 11:11 - Saturday 3rd HW 11:56 - Sunday 7th HW 12:36

Appendix 1 Courses

Trapezoid Course, Designated by International Code Flag "T"



Olympic Course, Designated by International Code Flag “O”

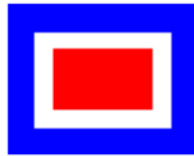


Start

Finish



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



Start



Finish

