



Merlin Rocket National Championships Lyme Regis Sailing Club 19 – 24 August 2018

*Organising Authority: Lyme Regis Sailing Club (LRSC)
in conjunction with the Merlin Rocket Owners' Association (MROA)*

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

The notation '[DP]' in a rule in the SI means that the penalty for a breach of that rule may, at the discretion of the protest committee, be less than disqualification.

1 RULES

- 1.1 The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing* and the RYA Racing Charter.
- 1.2 In Rule 40 'Personal Flotation Devices, this rule applies at all times while afloat. Flag Y will not be displayed on shore. This changes Rule 40.[DP]
- 1.3 In Rule 78.2 'Compliance with Class Rules add:
'The time limit for production or verification of the certificate shall be 1200 on Friday 24th August 2018. This changes Rule 78.2'

2 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located in the Club compound.

3 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted before 0900 on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 2000 on the day before it will take effect.

4 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 4.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed at the flagpole located in the Club compound.
- 4.2 Flag D with one sound means 'The warning signal will be made not less than 60 minutes after flag D is displayed. On days when racing is scheduled, competitors shall not launch until this signal is made. [DP]
- 4.3 When AP is displayed ashore '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 60 minutes' in RRS race signals AP.

5 SCHEDULE OF RACES

5.1 Dates of racing and number of races:

Date	First Warning Signal	Race Number	Trophy
Sunday 19 th August	12.55	1	Founders Trophy
Monday 20 th August	12.55	2 3	Beechers Cup Clyde Quaich
Tuesday 21 st August	12.55	4	West Country Trophy Crews' race
Wednesday 22 nd August	12.55	5 6	Howard Trophy Winter Trophy
Thursday 23 rd August	12.55	7	Ranelagh Trophy
Friday 24 th August	10.55	8 9	Top Hat Trophy Silent World Trophy

- 5.2 At the discretion of the race committee, one extra race per day may be sailed on any day, but the programme shall not become more than one race ahead of schedule and the change shall be made according to SI 3.
- 5.3 If a race is not completed by the end of the scheduled day, it shall be sailed on the next possible day, except that the race for the Ranelagh Trophy will be sailed on Thursday 23rd August unless fewer than 3 races have been completed by the end of Wednesday 22nd August.
- 5.4 A Crew's Race is scheduled for the afternoon of Tuesday 21st August. Helms shall be competitors who have crewed for the majority of time in the previous races at this event. Competitors may sail in boats other than the boat in which they have sailed in the previous races at this event.
- 5.5 To alert boats that a race will begin soon, the orange starting line flag will be displayed with multiple sound signals at least five minutes before a warning signal is made.
- 5.6 When more than one race is scheduled on the same day the warning signal for the second and any succeeding race will be made as soon as practicable after the finish of the preceding race.
- 5.7 On the last scheduled racing day for the series no warning signal will be made after 14:00 unless fewer than 3 races have been completed in the series.

6 CLASS FLAGS

The class flag will be International Code Flag 'O'.

7 RACING AREA

The racing area will be Lyme Bay.

8 THE COURSES

- 8.1 The diagram in Attachment 1 show the courses, including the course signals, approximate angles between legs, the order in which marks are to be passed, and the side on which each mark is to be left.

- 8.2 No later than the warning signal, the race committee signal boat will display the approximate compass bearing of the first leg from the middle of the start line.

9 MARKS

- 9.1 Marks 1, 3 and 4 will be black spherical buoys.
Marks 2S and 2P will be orange triangular buoys.
Mark 1a will be small yellow pillar buoy with a black band
New marks as prescribed in SI 12 :-Orange cylindrical buoys
New mark 1a as prescribed in SI 12 :-Small yellow pillar buoy with orange band
- 9.2 The starting marks for a line start will be a committee boat at the starboard end of the start line and a committee boat at the port end.
- 9.3 The finishing marks will be a committee boat at the starboard end of the line and a dan buoy with a blue flag at the port end of the line.

10 AREAS THAT ARE OBSTRUCTIONS

When sailing between the launching area and the racing area, competitors shall keep clear of vessels entering and leaving Lyme Regis harbour.[DP]

11 THE START

- 11.1 The starting line will be between staffs displaying orange flags on the starting marks.
- 11.2 Visual signals will be repeated on the port end boat. There will be no sound signals from the port end boat.
- 11.3 A boat that does not start within four minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes rules A4 and A5.
- 11.4 In an emergency, or adverse wind or current race committee starting vessels may use engines to assist in holding station.

12 CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

To change the next leg of the course, the race committee will lay a new mark, move the finishing line or move the leeward gate. When a new mark is laid, the original mark will be removed as soon as possible. When in a subsequent change a new mark is replaced, it will be replaced by an original mark.

13 THE FINISH

- 13.1 The finishing line will be between the staff displaying a blue flag on the committee boat and the port end finishing mark.
- 13.2 Alternative Finish Line
- After the first boat has finished, the race committee may set alternative finishing lines as follows:
- (a) When a committee boat displays flag W with two sounds, boats that have not yet rounded the nearby mark shall finish between this mark and the staff on the boat displaying flag W.
 - (b) When flag W is displayed near a mark that ends multiple legs of the course, separate finish lines exist and separate finishing orders will be recorded for each of these lines.
 - (c) When a boat finishes in accordance with this instruction, she shall be awarded a finishing place after all boats that have passed the nearby mark ahead of her before flag W was displayed.

- (d) Boats that have passed the mark before flag W is displayed, and have not retired from the race, but subsequently fail to finish, shall be awarded the average of the points for places available to them had they finished. This changes RRS A4.2.
- (e) The times specified in SI 15 will apply also at every flag W finish line defined by SI 13.2 (a).

13.3 In an emergency or adverse wind or current race committee finishing vessel may use engines to assist in holding station.

14 PENALTY SYSTEM

14.1 Appendix P will apply as changed by SI 14.2.

14.2 RRS P2.1, P2.2 and P2.3 are changed as follows:

(a) P2.1 First and Second Penalties. When a boat is penalized for the first or second times during the regatta under rule P1.2 her penalty shall be a One-Turn Penalty under rule 44.2. If she fails to take it she shall be disqualified without a hearing.

(b) P2.2 Third Penalty. When a boat is penalized a third time during the regatta, she shall promptly retire. If she fails to do so she shall be disqualified without a hearing and her score shall not be excluded.

(c) P2.3 Fourth and Subsequent Penalties. When a boat is penalized a fourth or subsequent time during the regatta, she shall promptly retire. If she does so her penalty shall be disqualification without a hearing and her score shall not be excluded. If she fails to do so her penalty shall be disqualification without a hearing from all races in the regatta, with no score excluded, and the protest committee shall consider calling a hearing under rule 69.2.

15 TIME LIMITS AND TARGET TIMES

15.1 The target time for each race will be:

- (a) 100-120 minutes for the leaders of the Ranelagh Trophy race (if run on a 1-race day).
- (b) 90 minutes for the leaders (1-race days)
- (c) 60 minutes for the leaders (2-race days).
- (d) 50 minutes for the leaders (if a 3-race day required)

Failure to meet the target time will not be grounds for redress. This changes rule 62.1(a).

15.2 The Mark 1 time limit will be 30 minutes. If no boat has passed Mark 1 within the Mark 1 time limit the race will be abandoned.

15.3 The time limit for each race will be twice the target time for that race.

15.4 Boats failing to finish, or cross an alternate finish line (see Si 13.2) within 20 minutes after the first boat sails the course and finishes will be scored Did Not Finish without a hearing. This changes rules 35, A4 and A5.

16 PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

16.1 Protest forms are available at the race office, located in the club compound. Protests and requests for redress or reopening shall be delivered there within the time limit.

16.2 The Exoneration Penalty and the RYA Arbitration procedures of the RYA Rules Disputes procedures shall apply. The outcome of an RYA Arbitration can be referred to a protest committee, but an arbitration cannot be reopened or appealed.

16.2.1 Exoneration Penalty

16.2.1.1 A boat that may have broken a rule of Part 2 of the Racing Rules of Sailing or rule 31 may, after finishing the race concerned and before the start of any related protest hearing, notify the race committee that she accepts an Exoneration Penalty – a 30% scoring penalty (SCP) calculated as stated in rule 44.3(c), except that the minimum penalty is three places and she shall not be scored worse than DNF. However, if the boat caused injury or serious damage or, despite taking a penalty, gained a significant advantage in the race or series by her breach her penalty shall be to retire.

16.2.1.2 When an Exoneration Penalty is accepted:

- (a) Neither the boat nor a protest committee may then revoke or remove the penalty.
- (b) The boat shall not be penalized further in a protest hearing when the protest committee decides that it was appropriate to the facts found and the applicable rules.

16.2.2 Advisory Hearing

When there is an incident that will not result in the lodging of a protest or a request for redress, a boat may request an advisory hearing and notify any boat involved in the incident. An adviser will then call a hearing to learn what may have happened and, provided all parties are willing to attend, will state whether any rule appears to have been broken, and by which boat. A boat may as a result notify the race office that she accepts an Exoneration Penalty when it applies to the incident, or choose to retire, but is not required to do so.

16.2.3 RYA Arbitration

16.2.3.1 When a protest is lodged, a boat may at the same time request RYA Arbitration, or the protest committee or race committee may offer it.

16.2.3.2 If the parties and a member of the protest or race committee agree that RYA Arbitration is suitable, an arbitrator (who may be that member of the protest committee) will call an Arbitration Hearing. When it is the arbitrator's opinion that a boat that is a party to the arbitration hearing has broken a rule for which the Exoneration Penalty is available, the party will be invited to accept that penalty and, if accepted, the protesting boat will be allowed to withdraw the protest, changing rule 63.1.

16.2.3.3 When there is not agreement to use RYA Arbitration or when, after RYA Arbitration, a protest is not withdrawn or the Exoneration Penalty is not applicable to the facts, there will be a normal protest hearing at which the arbitrator may be a member of the protest committee. Rules 66 and 70 (reopening and appeal, respectively) do not apply to an arbitration since this is not a protest committee decision or procedure. A boat may still accept an Exoneration Penalty at any time before the start of a protest hearing and receive its protection from further penalization. She may also retire.

16.3 The protest time limit is 90 minutes after the last boat has finished the last race of the day or the race committee signals no more racing today, whichever is later.

16.4 Notices will be posted no later than 30 minutes after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties. Hearings will be held in the protest room, located in the race office, beginning at the time posted. Hearings may begin before this time with the agreement of all parties.

16.5 Notices of protests by the race committee or protest committee will be posted to inform boats under rule 61.1(b).

16.6 A list of boats that, under SI 14.1, have been penalised for breaking RRS 42 will be posted.

16.7 On the last scheduled day of racing a request for redress based on a protest committee decision shall be delivered no later than 30 minutes after the decision was posted. This changes RRS 62.2.

16.8 A whistle signal (with no accompanying flag) made by a protest committee boat means: A member of the protest committee believes a boat has broken a rule. If no boat takes a penalty, the protest committee may protest a boat under RRS 60.3.

17 SCORING

- 17.1 Three races are required to be completed to constitute a series.
- 17.2 (a) When fewer than 5 races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores.
- (b) When from 5 to 8 races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.
- (c) When 9 races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her two worst scores.
- 17.3 To request correction of an alleged error in posted race or series results, a boat may complete a scoring enquiry form available at the race office.
- 17.4 The Crews Race will not form part of the scoring series.

18 SAFETY REGULATIONS

- 18.1 Competitors will be issued with tally numbers at registration.
- 18.2 All competitors shall collect wrist tally bands when their boat is moved from the dinghy park to the slipway. The tally bands must be worn around their right wrists at all times until their boat is returned to the dinghy park. [DP]
- 18.3 The time for a boat to "tally out" ends at the starting signal of her first race of the day, or, if later, when the boat is launched. The penalty for failing to "tally out" is for the first offence 5 places in her first race of the day, added to her score without a hearing. For a second offence, the penalty shall be 10 places. This changes rule 63.1.
- 18.4 The time to "tally in" finishes ten minutes after the last boat is ashore. The penalty for failing to "tally in" is for the first offence 5 places in her last race of the day, added to her score, without a hearing. For a second offence the penalty shall be 10 places. This changes rule 63.1.
- 18.5 If a competitor fails to "tally in or out" three times, on the third time the penalty will be DSQ from the race concerned without a hearing. This changes rule 63.1.
- 18.6 A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee as soon as possible and return their tally as soon as their boat is returned to the dinghy park. The boat shall complete a retirement declaration form at the protest desk on return ashore.[DP]
- 18.7 If the RNLI lifeboat is operating within the harbour or harbour mouth, competitors shall promptly respond to instructions from the harbour staff, lifeboat coxswain or beach master.

19 REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT

- 19.1 Except for the Crew's Race, substitution of competitors will only be allowed in accordance with the Notice of Race. [DP]
- 19.2 Where a boat uses equipment other than that presented for the pre-event measurement checks, approval shall be obtained from the race committee at the first reasonable opportunity. [DP]

20 EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

- 20.1 Prior to registration, each boat with its measurement certificate (including valid buoyancy endorsement) shall be presented for pre-event measurement checks.
- 20.2 A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules and sailing instructions. On the water, a boat can be instructed by a race committee equipment inspector or measurer to proceed immediately to a designated area for inspection.[DP]
- 20.3 The measuring authority referred to in rule 64.3(b) will be the RYA

21 OFFICIAL BOATS

21.1 Protest Committee boats will display a white flag with the word "Jury".

22 SUPPORT BOATS

22.1 Support personnel shall stay at least 100 metres outside areas where boats are racing from the time of the preparatory signal to start until all boats have finished or retired or the race committee signals a postponement, general recall or abandonment. The penalty for an infringement of this clause may include a penalty against boats connected with the infringing support boat. [DP]

23 TRASH DISPOSAL

Competitors shall not put trash in the water. [DP] Trash may be placed aboard support or official boats.

24 BERTHING

Boats shall be kept in their assigned places while they are in the dinghy park.[DP]

25 RADIO COMMUNICATION

Except in an emergency, a boat shall neither make radio transmissions while racing nor receive radio communications not available to all boats. This restriction also applies to mobile telephones.

26 PRIZES

Race prizes will be awarded in accordance with the SI 5.1, after racing each day. Overall prizes will also be awarded at the end of the event.

27 RISK STATEMENT

Rule 4 of the Racing Rules of Sailing states that: "The responsibility for a boat's decision to 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 and acknowledges that:

- (a) They are aware of the inherent element of risk involved in the sport and accept responsibility for the exposure of themselves, their crew and their boat to such inherent risk whilst taking part in the event;
- (b) They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and any other property whether afloat or ashore
- (c) They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to extent caused by their own actions or omissions;
- (d) Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate;
- (e) The provision of a race management team, patrol boats and other officials and volunteers by the event organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities;
- (f) The provision of patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances.
- (g) It is their responsibility to familiarise themselves with any risks specific to this venue or this event drawn to their attention in any rules and information produced for the event and to attend any safety briefing held for the event.

28 INSURANCE

Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £5 million per incident or the equivalent. Competitors will be required to sign a declaration to this effect at registration.

29 RIGHTS TO USE NAME AND LIKENESS

By participating in this event, competitors automatically grant to the organizing authority and the event sponsors the right, in perpetuity, to make, use, and show, at their discretion, any photography, audio and video recordings, and other reproductions of them made at the venue or on the water from the time of their arrival at the venue, until their final departure, without compensation.

30 USE OF ELECTRONIC VIDEO RECORDING EQUIPMENT

Competitors are permitted to use electronic video recording equipment whilst racing, provided that there is no output during racing. This modifies MROA Class Rule C.5.1 (a) in accordance with RRS 87. Output will not be admissible as evidence during any protest or redress hearing.

OTHER INFORMATION

There will be a competitor briefing on racing and safety on Saturday 18th August at 1930 in the LSC Clubhouse.

DRAFT

ATTACHMENT 1 – COURSES

Sausage/Triangle (ST) and Triangle/Sausage (TS)

COURSE	
ST2	Start – 1 – 1a – 2S/2P – 1 – 1a – 3 – 4 – finish
ST3	Start – 1 – 1a – 2S/2P – 1 – 1a – 3 – 4 – 1 – 1a – 2P – finish
ST4	Start – 1 – 1a – 2S/2P – 1 – 1a – 3 – 4 – 1 – 1a – 2S/2P – 1 – 1a – 3 – 4 – finish
COURSE	
TS2	Start – 1 – 1a – 3 – 4 – 1 – 1a – 2P – finish
TS3	Start – 1 – 1a – 3 – 4 – 1 – 1a – 2S/2P – 1 – 1a – 3 – 4 – finish
TS4	Start – 1 – 1a – 3 – 4 – 1 – 1a – 2S/2P – 1 – 1a – 3 – 4 – 1 – 1a – 2P – finish

