

# MERSEA WEEK 2009

## SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Note: These instructions **DO NOT** apply to the Round Mersea Island Race on Wednesday 19th August, which is organised by the West Mersea Yacht Club, nor to the Town Regatta on Saturday 22nd August which is organised by the Town Regatta Committee.

**PART A Applies to ALL Competitors**

**PART B Applies to Smacks & Cruisers only**

**PART C Applies to Dinghies and Mersea Fishermens' Open boats only**

## PART A

### General Rules

- A1 The 2009 - 2012 Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) the Notice of Race, the Sailing Instructions and Class rules shall govern all races.
- A2 RRS Fundamental Rule 4 Applies. The following will also apply:-  
The safety of a boat and her entire management, including insurance, shall be the sole responsibility of the owner/competitor racing the boat. These Sailing Instructions in no way limit or reduce this absolute responsibility.  
The race organisers shall not be liable for any loss, damage, death or personal injury, howsoever caused, to the owner/competitor, his skipper or crew, as a result of their taking part in the race or races. Moreover, every owner/crew warrants the suitability of their boat for the race or races.  
**NOTE.** Areas around the start line and other buoys may be busy with other boats that are also racing. Helms are warned to keep a good look out at all times and be aware of the possibility that other racing boats may be in the area. You are advised that racing rules continue to apply between boats racing in different classes, and that a protest against a boat in a different class is always possible.
- A3 **AMENDMENTS** - Amendments to these Sailing Instructions will be posted at the Race Centre, located in the Long Room at WMYC. The details of the amendment(s) may be announced from the Committee boat and by VHF on channel 77. Copies of any written amendments will be available from the Committee Boat and the Race Centre.
- A4 **INSURANCE** - Competing boats shall be adequately insured against Third Party Risks. An entrant who is not the owner of the boat being raced must make certain that the owners insurance extends to cover him/her. This defines the entry criteria in accordance with RRS Rule 75.
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- A5 **HANDICAPS** - All races are sailed under appropriate Handicaps. Competitors are required to supply full particulars of the boat entered including any known performance figures. Absence of such particulars may result in the boat being placed in a different event from that indicated by the competitor on the entry form and/or given an 'ESTIMATED' handicap.
- A6 The Committee reserves the right to place a boat in any appropriate class and to combine starts and classes where there are insufficient entries to warrant individual races. This defines the entry criteria in accordance with RRS75.
- A7 **STARTING ORDER** - The order of starting and starting times are given elsewhere in this programme and repeated in parts B and C of these instructions, together with starting flags.
- SIGNALS** - Visual signals will be flags displayed from the Committee boats. These will be in accordance with RRS Race Signals Section.
- A8 **STARTING RACES**
- RRS26 is changed. Races shall be started using the following signals. Times shall be taken from the visual signals; the absence of a sound signal shall be disregarded. Starting signals shall be made at ten minute intervals.

<b>Signal</b>	<b>Flag and Sound</b>	<b>Minutes before starting signal</b>
Warning	Class flag; one sound	5 minutes
Preparatory	Flag P; one sound	4 minutes
One Minute	Preparatory Flag removed one long sound	1 minute
Starting	Class Flag removed; one sound	0

- A9 **COURSE INFORMATION** - The asking for information or the receiving of information at any time shall not be grounds for protest under RRS41 (outside assistance) nor grounds for redress. RRS41 is amended thereby.
- A10 **RECALLS - INDIVIDUAL** - In the event of an individual recall Code Flag "X" will be displayed and one sound signal made in accordance with RRS Race Signals section. No recall numbers will be displayed and it is the responsibility of each boat over the line at the start to return and start correctly. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.

**RECALLS - GENERAL** - In the event of a general recall two sound signals will be made and the 'First Substitute' will be displayed. The warning signal for a new start for the recalled class shall be made one minute after the First Substitute is lowered (one sound signal) and the starts for any succeeding classes shall follow the new start.

A11 PROTESTS - These must be handed in at the Race Centre within the time limit defined in RRS61.3.

A12 POINTS SCORING SYSTEM - Points will be based on a boat's finishing position and calculated on the Scoring system as follows:-

Place	Points	Place	Points	Place	Points
1	100	11	70	21	58
2	94	12	68	22	57
3	90	13	66	23	56
4	86	14	65	24	55
5	83	15	64	25	54
6	80	16	63	26	53
7	78	17	62	27	52
8	76	18	61	28	51
9	74	19	60	29	50
10	72	20	59	30etc.	49etc.

A12a Did Not Compete - boats classified as DNC shall score zero points.

A12b Did Not Start – boats classified as DNS or OCS shall score zero points.

A12c Did Not Finish - boats classified as DNF, RAF or RET shall score the points for a last place plus one, or twentieth place whichever is greater.

A12d Rule Infraction - boats classified DSQ (disqualified) shall score zero points.

A12e In the event of two competitors achieving the same series points total, RRS Appendix A8 will apply.

A13 RESULTS - These will be displayed as soon as possible AFTER PRIZE GIVING at DSC and/or WMYC.

A14 NUMBER OF ENTRANTS - There must be at least two qualified starters for a race to commence. This defines the entry criteria in accordance with RRS75.

A15 PRIZES - No second prize may be awarded unless there are 4 or more qualified starters.

No third prize may be awarded unless there are 5 or more qualified starters.