

MERSEA WEEK

11th – 16th August 2019

Notice of Race

1. Organising Authority

The races are organised jointly by West Mersea Yacht Club and Dabchicks Sailing Club known as the Joint Organising Authority.

2. Rules

The races will be governed by the rules as defined by The Racing Rules of Sailing 2017-2020, the RYA prescriptions thereto, the 2019 IRC Rules Parts A, B and C (if racing under IRC), this Notice of Race, the Sailing Instructions and any Appendices issued.

3. Race Committee

The Joint Organising Authority has appointed the Mersea Week Committee as the Race Committee for the Mersea Week Regatta (RRS 89.2 (c)).

4. Advertising

All boats and their crews shall comply with ISAF Regulation 20, the Advertising Code.

5. Eligibility

The Regatta is open to boats owned by or chartered to a member of any RYA recognized Yacht Club or Sailing Club of the following classes:-

5.1 **Sportsboats**

A Sportsboat is defined as:-

- A keelboat with a valid 2019 IRC rating of 1.100 or less.
- A maximum Length (HL) of 9.5 meters.
- A displacement to length ratio (DLR) of 160 or less.
- Boats outside these limits may be accepted at the sole discretion of the Mersea Week Committee.
- This Class will race under IRC. A boat racing in this fleet must be in possession of a valid 2019 IRC certificate. A copy of the certificate must be lodged with the Sailing Secretariat of WMYC or the Mersea Week Committee. Competitors must immediately advise any alteration of the TCF during the week to Mersea Week Committee.
- Owners of all yachts sailing under IRC one-design certificates are reminded that, under IRC rules 13.7 and 22.4.1, they are required to comply with their respective class rules.
- IRC Rule 22.4.2 will not apply. There will be no limitations on crew number or weight except as required for boats rated as one-designs, which shall comply with IRC Rule 22.4.1.

5.2 **Smacks**

The handicaps used will be those issued by the local Smacks Handicap Committee.

5.3 **IRC Cruisers**

A boat racing in this fleet must be in possession of a valid 2019 IRC certificate. A copy of the certificate must be lodged with the Sailing Secretariat of WMYC or the Mersea Week Committee. Competitors must immediately advise any alteration of the TCF during the week to Mersea Week Committee.

- Owners of all yachts sailing under IRC one-design certificates are reminded that, under IRC rules 13.7 and 22.4.1, they are required to comply with their respective class rules.
- IRC Rule 22.4.2 will not apply. There will be no limitations on crew number or weight except as required for boats rated as one-designs, which shall comply with IRC Rule 22.4.1.

5.4 **Local Handicap Cruisers**

The handicaps used will be those issued by the Joint Handicap Committee. These handicaps are subject to amendment by the Joint Handicap Committee during the course of the week.

5.5 **Classic Yachts**

- The Mersea Week definition of a Classic Yacht for the purposes of this event, this should be a Mono-Hull yacht of a 'Classic Yacht' style and constructed of any material either (a) built before 1975 or (b) built after 1975 but which in the opinion of the Committee has the style and appearance of a 'Classic Yacht'. The Committee reserves the right to refuse any entry for the Classic Yacht event which in their opinion fails to comply with the spirit of a 'Classic Yacht'. Such entries may race in other appropriate classes.
- The handicaps used will be those issued by the Joint Handicap Committee. These handicaps are subject to amendment by the Joint Handicap Committee during the course of the week.

5.6 **White Sail Cruisers**

- Competitors in the White Sail Class must comply with the White Sail Appendix to the 2019 Mersea Joint Sailing Instructions.
- This Class will sail under the NHC progressive handicap system and in accordance with the NHC rules.

- All entrants which have already competed in White Sail racing at West Mersea in 2018 or 2019 will start from their current NHC handicap number.
- All other entrants will start from the relevant NHC base handicap.
-

5.7 National Sonata Class

This class will race as a one design class and in accordance with the 2019 National Sonata Class rules. **5.8**

Mersea Fisherman's Open Boats

- This Class will also be governed by the Class Rules and safety regulations of the Mersea Fisherman's Open Boat Association. For details please contact:-Mark Farthing (Chairman) – Tel 07730110728
- The handicaps used will be those issued by the Mersea Fisherman's Boat Association.

5.4 Dinghies

- This class is open to boats of any recognized monohull dinghy class.
- The handicaps used will be the RYA Portsmouth Yardstick System (Dinghy Classes).

5.5 Helms

- Dinghies and MFOBs must be helmed by the person in whose name the entry has been accepted.
- If the helm is aged under 12 he or she must have competed in the outside or Optimist Gold fleet of Cadet Week 2019.

6. Class Divisions

The divisions, if any, of all classes will be at the sole discretion of the Mersea Week Committee.

7. Entry

- 7.1. Eligible competitors may enter by completing the entry form, (available to download from the event website) and sending it together with the required fee to the West Mersea Yacht Club no later than 14.00hrs Saturday 3rd August 2019.
- 7.2. Alternatively, competitors may enter online by paying the appropriate fee and completing the online entry form available on the event website www.merseaweek.com. Online entries must be received by midday Saturday 3rd August 2019.
- 7.3. Fees are shown on the Entry Form and on the event website.

8. Schedule of Events

One race per day is scheduled for each class. Details of start times etc. are set out in the Sailing Instructions.

9. Sailing Instructions

Sailing Instructions for all classes are available on the event website www.merseaweek.com and will be available together with competitors' race packs from the race office in West Mersea Yacht Club from 1900 hrs. Saturday 10th August and from 0830hrs each race day.

10. Risk Statement

RRS Rule 4 states 'The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone.'

Sailing is by its very nature an unpredictable sport and therefore inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event, each competitor agrees and acknowledges that:

- 10.1. 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;
- 10.2. They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore;
- 10.3. They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions;
- 10.4. Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate;
- 10.5. 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;
- 10.6. The provision of patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances; and
- 10.7. For cruiser & smack classes they are responsible for ensuring that their boat is equipped and seaworthy so as to be able to face extremes of weather; that there is a crew sufficient in number, experience and fitness to withstand such weather; and that the safety equipment is properly maintained, stowed and in date and is familiar to the crew.

11. Disclaimer of Liability

- 11.1. 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.
- 11.2. Parents or Guardians of people under the age of 18 must be confident in their child's ability to sail in the prevailing conditions and without support services. They should not permit their child to start or to continue to race if they are in any doubt as to their child's ability.

12. Safety of Boat and Crew

- 12.1. Competitors sailing in sportsboat and cruiser fleets must, before racing, deposit a Safety Declaration (contained within the entry form and on the event website) with WMYC or the Mersea Week Committee.

12.2. All Cruisers and Sportsboats shall carry the following safety equipment:

- Lifejackets for all crew members; it is strongly recommended that all persons on board be required to wear a lifejacket in appropriate conditions.
- Lifebuoy
- EPIRB and/or handheld VHF or Coastal flares pack - 2 red hand held flares and 2 orange smoke flares, all to be in date.
- Fog horn
- Echo sounder
- Fire extinguisher
- Anchor, 2m of chain and a minimum of 30m cable.
- First aid kit.
- Marine compass.
- Manual bilge pump, permanently fitted and operated from cockpit.
- Stout bucket & lanyard.
- VHF radio.
- Bolt croppers or other effective means of cutting rigging.
- Heaving line & towing line.
- A sharp strong knife securely restrained and readily accessible from the deck or cockpit.

12.3. Smacks and Classic Yachts & Gaffers are not required to carry these items but it is strongly recommended that they do so.

12.4. MFOBs must comply with the specific safety requirements set out in the MFOB Sailing Instructions 2019:

Mandatory Items

- Lifejackets or buoyancy aids for all crew members
- A suitable anchor and warp
- A bucket
- Adequate buoyancy, with the aim of keeping the boat in an upright position when swamped.
- A painter 1.5 times length of boat with a float tied to the end.

Recommended Items

Hand Flares

Assistance

The nearest boat to any capsize must stand by and give assistance if necessary with due consideration for safety at all times.

Manual Means of Propulsion

In the event of gear failure all efforts should be made to return to a safe mooring under own power.

Therefore a manual means of propulsion should be carried i.e. oars and rowlocks or sculling oar.

12.4. MFOB and Dinghy Fleets Tally-on/Tally-off

All skippers must tally-on and tally-off before and after each race.

13. Support Boats

13.1. The Mersea Week Committee will provide Support Boat services for Dinghy and MFOB classes.

13.2. The provision of Support Boats does not relieve the boat of its responsibilities.

13.3. Support Boat Services may be withdrawn at any time without prior notice due to stress of weather, mechanical breakdown, shortage of crew, or other unforeseen contingency.

14. Insurance

Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £2,000,000 per event or the equivalent.