



MERSEA WEEK 2024

Sunday 18th to Friday 23rd August 2024

Sailing Instructions

The races are organised jointly by West Mersea Yacht Club (WMYC) and Dabchicks Sailing Club (DSC) known as the Joint Organising Authority

The Sailing Instructions for Mersea Week 2024 are in three parts:

- *Part A – Competitors taking part in Round-the-Cans Racing*
- *Part B – Competitors taking part in Windward/Leeward Racing*
- *Part C - Dinghies and MFOB Racing*

Competitors should make sure that they are aware of the racing that they are doing each day of the week and refer to the correct Part. See Notice of Race Section 8 for details.

Competitors should read both sections such that they are aware of what is happening each race day.

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS PART A

Course Area A

Round-the-Cans Races

(Smacks, Cruisers & Keelboats)

These Sailing Instructions are for Competitors taking part in racing on Course Area A

The notation '[NP]' in a rule of the Sailing Instructions (SIs) means that a boat may not Protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1(a).

1. RULES

- 1.1. The event is governed by the rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing and the 2024 IRC Rules Parts A, B and C if racing in the IRC Class.
- 1.2. RRS Appendix T, Arbitration, will apply.
- 1.3. Where there is a conflict between the Notice of Race and the Sailing Instructions, the Sailing Instructions shall prevail. (This changes RRS 63.7).

2. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1. Any change to the Sailing Instructions or schedule of races will be posted before 19:00 on the day before it will take effect.

3. COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITOR

- 3.1. Notices to competitors will be posted on the Official Notice Board which is at Official Notice Board and will also be duplicated on a board in the Race Office.
- 3.2. The Race Office is located in the Long Room at West Mersea Yacht Club.
- 3.3. On the water, the Race Committee intends to communicate with competitors on VHF Radio Channel 77. Competitors wishing to communicate with the Race Committee should do so on VHF Ch 77 call sign Molliette.
- 3.4. Competitors are strongly advised to monitor the race channel, particularly after they leave their mooring each day, before and during the start of each race. Failure to hear a transmission are not grounds for redress.
- 3.5. [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 or receive voice or data transmissions that is not available to all boats.

4. CODE OF CONDUCT

- 4.1. Competitors and support persons shall comply with any reasonable request from an event official. Failure to comply may be misconduct. Reasonable actions by event officials to implement protocols or legislation, even if they later prove to be unnecessary, are not improper actions or omissions. [DP]
- 4.2. Competitors and support persons shall place advertising provided by the organising authority with care, seamanship, in accordance with any instructions for its use and without interfering with its functionality.

5. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 5.1. Signals made ashore will be displayed on the flagpole on the main mast outside the WMYC.
- 5.2. When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 45 minutes'. This changes Race signal AP.

6. REGISTRATION

- 6.1. Times and location

DATE	OPEN	CLOSE	LOCATION
17/08/2024	17:30	19:00	WMYC Long Room
18/08/2024	08:00	-	WMYC Long Room

7. IDENTIFICATION

- 7.1. All vessels should be easily identified by a registered Sail Number displayed on the Mainsail or on the Bow of the vessel. If the vessel has no Sail Number, entry will be accepted but to ensure that they can be identified, they should have a board displayed with the vessel name when registering their participation before the start and when crossing the finish line.

8. SCHEDULE OF RACES

- 8.1. Race Area A will be for boats racing around the cans. Race Area B will be for boats racing windward/leeward courses.
- 8.2. It is the intention of the Organising Authority that the IRC Class and the National Sonata Class will race two windward/leeward races on 19/08/2024 and 22/08/2024. On 18/08/2024 and 23/08/2024 they will race one round-the-cans and on 20/08/2024 they will race two round-the-cans races.
- 8.3. All other classes will race Round-the-Cans races every day.
- 8.4. When racing Round-the-Cans the scheduled time of the WARNING SIGNAL for the first race each day is:

EVENT NO	CLASS	TIME	WARNING SIGNAL
1	IRC Class (Race 1)	10:55	Class Flag A
2	National Sonata Class (Race 1)	11.05	Class Flag B
3	Smacks	11:15	Class Flag C
4	Classic Yachts & Gaffers (Group A)	11:25	Class Flag D

EVENT NO	CLASS	TIME	WARNING SIGNAL
5	Local Handicap (Group A)	11:35	Class Flag E
6	White Sail (LH)	11:45	Class Flag F
7	Classic Yachts & Gaffers (Group B)	11:55	Class Flag G
8	Cruisers Local Handicap (Group B)	12:05	Class Flag H
9	IRC Class (Race 2)	ASAP	Class Flag A (See SI7.2 & SI7.4)
10	National Sonata Class (Race 2)	ASAP	Class Flag B (See SI7.2 & SI7.4)

ASAP – As soon as possible after Race 1 finishes – listen on VHF 77 for instructions

- 8.5. Competitors should be aware that when IRC and Sonata Classes are not racing Round – the – Cans there is NO change to the Schedule for other classes (e.g. Warning signal for Smacks will be 11:15 everyday).
- 8.6. When a fleet is racing on Course Area B Sailing Instructions Area B shall apply.
- 8.7. To alert boats that a race or sequence of races will begin soon, the Committee Vessel will display an orange starting line flag with one sound signal at least five minutes before the first warning signal is made
- 8.8. On the last scheduled day of racing, no warning signal will be made after 15:00.

9. RACING AREAS

- 9.1. The racing area of Course area A will be the Blackwater Estuary with the Start Boat anchored in the vicinity of the Nass Beacon.

10. OBSTRUCTIONS [DP]

- 10.1. Boats shall keep more than 100 metres away from vessels over 100 metres in length, vessels at anchor or vessels displaying Flag A (indicating divers in the water). These areas are obstructions as defined in the Rules.
- 10.2. There is an exclusion zone at approximately 51° 45.00N 000° 56.00E. The zone is clearly delineated by yellow marker buoys. No competitor may enter this zone at any time; any competitor identified in breach of this instruction will be disqualified without a hearing.

11. THE START

- 11.1. LOW WATER Competitors are reminded to check the low water times each day to ensure that they can arrive at the start line in reasonable time for their start.
- 11.2. REGISTER PARTICIPATION – On arrival at the racing start area, vessels shall register their participation by passing close to the Committee Vessel on the non-start line side and make themselves known to the Race Committee and receive an acknowledgement before starting.
- 11.3. Races will be started by using RRS 26 with each Class warning signal made five minutes before the Class starting signal.
- 11.4. Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall keep clear of the start line during the start sequence of the previous fleets. [DP]

12. START LINE (RACE AREA A)

- 12.1. The starting line will be one of the clubs starting lines - defined as a line between the Main Mast of the Committee Vessel flying an orange flag, moored to the Committee Vessel mooring buoy (approximately 200m to the southwest of the Nass Beacon) and the course side of the Starting Outer Limit Mark displayed on a board on the Committee Vessel.
- 12.2. Board displays 'S' then Outer Limit Mark 'S' will be used as the starting mark - (yellow buoy with a Black flag - OLMS) moored approximately 150 metres to the south of the Committee Vessel.
- 12.3. Board displays 'E' then Outer Limit Mark 'E' will be used as the starting mark - (yellow buoy with a Red flag - OLME) moored approximately 150 metres south-east of the Committee Vessel.
- 12.4. Board displays 'W' then Outer Limit Mark 'W' will be used as the starting mark - (yellow buoy with a Green flag - OLMW) moored approximately 150 metres south-west of the Committee Vessel.
- 12.5. Which start line to be used shall be decided by the Race Officer and displayed on the Committee Vessel board, this information may also be transmitted on VHF Channel 77 using the call sign 'Molliette', a minimum of 15 minutes before the start of the first event and may be repeated before each event start.

13. INNER LIMIT MARK

- 13.1. No Inner Limit Mark will be laid; however, a Guard Buoy will be deployed to protect the Committee Vessel. Any vessel passing or attempting to pass between the Guard buoy and the Committee vessel shall be disqualified without a hearing. This changes RRS 63.1.

14. STARTING RACES

14.1. RECALLS

- 14.1.1. INDIVIDUAL - In the event of an individual recall Code Flag 'X' will be displayed, and one sound signal made in accordance with RRS 29.1. The Race Committee may, using the specified VHF Radio Channel, give the sail numbers or names of yachts affected. They may also give the information that those yachts have returned correctly. This does not change the responsibility of each yacht to start correctly and failure to broadcast the information will not be grounds for redress (RRS 62 is amended thereby). Failure to return and start correctly will result in being scored OCS.
- 14.1.2. GENERAL - In the event of a general recall two sound signals will be made and 'First Substitute' flag will be displayed in accordance with RRS 29.2. The warning signal for a new start for the recalled Class shall be made one minute after the 'First Substitute' is removed (accompanied by one sound signal) and the start for any subsequent classes shall follow the new start.

14.2. COURSES FOR RACE AREA A

- 14.2.1. The course to be sailed will be identified by a Number displayed on a board hung as near as possible from the south side of the Committee Vessel. The number refers to the Mersea Week Courses printed on the 2024 Mersea Week Course Card available from the [Official Notice Board](#) and in the competitor's pack.
- 14.2.2. The Course will be displayed as soon as possible for the Class concerned, but in any case, the number displayed at the preparatory signal is the course for that Class. RRS 27.1 is amended thereby. The number of the course may also be broadcast on VHF Ch 77. Details of the race marks used for the courses are given in SI 30.

14.3. CHANGE OF COURSE FOR ROUND-THE-CANS RACING

- 14.3.1. RRS 33 is changed. Should a Race Committee Vessel, positioned at a turning mark, display code flag C and make continuous sound signals, then the course has been changed as follows: -
- 14.3.2. Round the mark at which a Committee Vessel displaying code flag C is positioned as required by the course being sailed, then:-
- 14.3.3. If the original finishing direction was Westerly; leave MG Buoy to port, then proceed to the finish line and finish in a Westerly direction; OR
- 14.3.4. If the original finishing direction was Easterly; leave No.14 Buoy to starboard, then proceed to the finish line and finish in an Easterly direction.

15. THE FINISH

- 15.1. The Finish Line is between the main mast of the Committee Vessel displaying a Blue Flag, moored to the Committee Vessel mooring buoy, (approximately 200m to the South-West of the Nass Beacon) and the Southern Outer Limit Mark (OLMS). The OLMS is a yellow buoy with a black flag, moored approximately 150 metres to the South of the Committee Vessel.

16. PENALTY SYSTEM

- 16.1. RRS Appendix T will apply as modified below:
- 16.1.1. A boat may accept a Post Race scoring penalty of 30% only up to the end of the Protest Time limit by completing a penalty acceptance form available in the Race Office. This changes RRS Appendix T.1 (a & b).
- 16.1.2. A boat accepting a Post Race Penalty after an arbitration hearing shall be penalised 40%. This changes RRS Appendix T.1 (b).

17. TIME LIMITS

17.1. The time limits are as follows:

EVENT	TIME LIMIT FOR FIRST BOAT TO FINISH	TIME LIMIT FOR THE REST OF FLEET TO FINISH AFTER THE FIRST BOAT HAS FINISHED	APPLIES TO
Multi Race Day – Race 1	2 hours	60 mins	Smack Class when SI 17.3 applies
		30 mins	All other Classes when SI 17.3 applies IRC & Sonata Classes when SI 8.2 applies
Multi Race Day – Race 2	2 hours	60 mins	Smack Class when SI 17.3 applies
		30 mins	All other Classes when SI 17.3 applies IRC & Sonata Classes when SI 8.2 applies
Single Race Day	4 hours	90 mins	Smack Class only
		60 mins	All other Classes

- 17.2. Any boat failing to finish within these time limits or by 17:30 each day, whichever is earlier, will be scored TLE (Time Limit Exceeded). This changes rules 35, A5 and A10.
- 17.3. If it is necessary, due to a postponement, to run two races on the same day for all classes, the first race will be the advertised race for that day and may be shortened at any race mark in the given course. The Committee Vessel at the shortened finish may not be the Committee Vessel that started the race.
- 17.4. Once the first race has been finished competitors should return to the normal start area ready to start the second race. The second race of the day will replace a previously postponed race and will start using the same class order as soon as possible after the first race has finished.

18. HEARING REQUESTS

- 18.1. In addition to RRS 61.1(a) (Hail Protest) a boat intending to Protest should notify the Committee Vessel immediately upon finishing the race or retiring and await acknowledgement. A red flag does not have to be displayed. Changes RRS 61.1(a).
- 18.2. Protests/Redress shall be lodged online via the online Jury System located at [Protest form](#) and requests for redress or reopening shall be delivered there within the appropriate Protest time limit using the online form available. Paper copies may be available in the Race Office.
- 18.3. The Protest time limit for each class is 90 minutes after the last boat of each class has finished the last race of the day or after flag AP over A is displayed ashore.
- 18.4. A Hearing/Arbitration Schedule will be posted on the [Official Notice Board](#) as soon as possible after a protest has been lodged, but not later than 30 minutes after the end of Protest Time to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Hearings will be heard in the order specified on the Hearing Schedule. Parties and witnesses are required to be available at the time stated on the Hearing Schedule. It is the responsibility of each party to ensure their witnesses are available.
- 18.5. Notices of Protests by the Race Committee or Protest Committee will be posted to inform boats under RRS 61.1(b) hearings.
- 18.6. On the last scheduled day of racing, a request for redress based on a PC decision shall be delivered no later than 20 minutes after the decision was posted. This changes RRS 62.2.

19. SCORING

- 19.1. As per NoR 13.
- 19.2. A competitor may submit a request to review a boat's score online at [scoring queries](#).

20. SAFETY REGULATIONS [DP, NP]

- 20.1. A boat that retires from a race shall notify the Committee Vessel as soon as possible.
- 20.2. Before starting and after finishing, boats in the Smack, Cruiser & Keelboat Classes shall keep clear of boats that may still be racing including those in the Dinghy and MFOB Fleets.

21. EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

- 21.1. A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the Class Rules and Sailing Instructions. On the water or ashore, a boat can be instructed by an equipment inspector to proceed immediately to a designated area for inspection. A boat shall comply with any reasonable request made by an Equipment Inspector. [DP]

22. OFFICIAL VESSELS

- 22.1. The Committee Vessel for Course Area A is a white Dufour 38 Classic "Blue Horizon" and will have the call sign "Molliette" on VHF Channel 77.

23. TRASH DISPOSAL

- 23.1. Trash must be taken ashore and disposed of in appropriate rubbish bins or taken home.

24. BERTHING [DP]

- 24.1. Boats shall be kept on their assigned moorings.

25. HAUL OUT RESTRICTIONS

N/A

26. DIVING EQUIPMENT AND PLASTIC POOLS

N/A

27. PRIZES

- 27.1. Categories are displayed on the official Notice Board.
- 27.2. Daily Prizes will be awarded by category.
- 27.3. Overall Prizes will be presented at final prizegiving.
- 27.4. Where separate prizes are presented for Smack Fast and Slow Classes, White Sail Classes or any other Class that in the opinion of the Mersea Week Committee should be given separate prizes, the winners of each group will be calculated by reference to the overall results of each Class.
- 27.5. To qualify for the Sonata East Coast Championship Trophy the boat/owner shall be a member of the Sonata Class Association.

28. RISK STATEMENT AND DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

See NoR 17.

29. INSURANCE

See NoR 18.

30. MARKS

30.1. The racing marks are yellow can shaped buoys that may additionally have a black flag. They are identified by their sponsor's name and or their number. The course may also use navigation buoys as Marks of the Course.

RACE MARKS 2024				
WMYC MARK NUMBER	MARK NAME	SPONSOR	FLAG COLOUR	APPROXIMATE POSITION
1	DAVONPORT KITCHEN & HOME	Richard Davonport	Black Flag	51-45.81N 00-56.22E
2	MICRO SCOOTERS	Micro Scooters Ltd	Black Flag	51-45.21N 00-56.63E
3	TOLLESBURY SALTINGS	Tollesbury Saltings Ltd	Black Flag	51-45.09N 00-52.86E
5	BOWLINE MARINE ELECTRONICS	Jack Trollope	Black Flag	51-44.91N 00-53.90E
6	FIDUCIA WEALTH	Fiducia Wealth Management	Black Flag	51-45.73N 00-58.97E
10	COLNE YACHT CLUB	Colne Yacht Club	Black Flag	51-44.82N 00-59.41E
12	RODNEY HILL	Jill Hill	Black Flag	51-44.46N 00-52.98E
14	PUSH ENERGY	Push Energy	Black Flag	51-45.45N 00-53.91E
17	MILLERMOTORGROUP.COM	Miller Motor Group Ltd	Black Flag	51-45.21N 00-55.11E
18	WALDEGRAVES	Waldegraves Holiday Park	Black Flag	51-45.60N 00-57.60E
MG	JOHN MUNNS YACHT SURVEYOR	John Munns Yacht Surveyor	Black Flag	51-45.60N 00-55.47E
OLM (S)	DABCHICKS	Dabchicks Sailing Club	Black Flag	51-45.60N 00-54.56E
OLM (E)	NO NAME	No Sponsor	Red Flag	51-45.70N 00-54.76E
OLM (W)	STREETS WHITTLES	Streets Whittles Chartered Accountants	Green Flag	51-45.65N 00-54.38E
COMMITTEE BOAT MOORING	NO NAME	NO Sponsor	No Flag	51-45.77N 00-54.66E

END OF PART A SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

