



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.

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS PART C

Dinghies & MFOBS

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.
- 1.2 Where there is a conflict between the Notice of Race and the Sailing Instructions, the Sailing Instructions shall prevail. (This changes RRS63.7).

2. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1 Any change to the Sailing Instructions will be posted not less than 30 minutes before flag D is displayed, except that changes to the 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 online at [ONB](#).
- 3.2 The Race Office is located In the Long Room at West Mersea Yacht Club.

- 3.3 [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.
- 3.4 There are two WhatsApp Groups:
- Competitor WhatsApp Group which will be used for general information concerning the week
 - Dinghy and MFOB Competitor Tally WhatsApp Group used exclusively for Tally on and off
- 3.5 Dinghy Sailing Instructions or Course Cards should be printed by the competitor if required.
- 3.6 A list of official links is given at the end of these sailing instructions.

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 If supplied, 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 for all classes will be displayed on the flagpoles 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.
- 5.3 Flag D with one sound means the safety fleet is prepared and on the water. Boats are asked not to leave the slipway until this signal is made. [DP]. When Flag D is removed with one sound signal this means that the safety fleet has been stood down.

6 SCHEDULE OF RACES

- 6.1 Registration

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

- 6.2 The scheduled time of the warning signal for the first race each day is:

CLASS	18/08/24	19/08/24	20/08/24	22/08/24	23/08/24
Dinghy Slow Handicap	12:00	12:00	12:00	12:00	12:00
Dinghy Medium Handicap	12:06	12:06	12:06	12:06	12:06
Dinghy Fast Handicap	12:12	12:12	12:12	12:12	12:12
Dinghy Performance	12:18	12:18	12:18	12:18	12:18
MFOB	12:30	12:30	12:30	12:24	12:24

- 6.3 The scheduled number of race's each day is:

RACES	18/08/24	19/08/24	20/08/24	22/08/24	23/08/24
Dinghy Slow Handicap	1	2	1	2	1
Dinghy Medium Handicap	1	2	1	2	1
Dinghy Fast Handicap	1	2	1	2	1
Dinghy Performance	1	2	1	2	1
MFOB	1	2	1	2	1






- 6.4 To alert boats that a race or sequence of races will begin soon, the orange starting line flag will be displayed with one sound at least five minutes before the first warning signal is made.
- 6.5 Each day succeeding races will be started as soon as practicable after the finish of the previous race.

6.6 On the last scheduled day of racing, no warning signal will be made after 15:00.

DATE	EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
18/08/2024	Dinghy / MFOB Competitor Briefing	09:45	WMYC
Daily	Prizegiving	19:30	Alternating Clubs

7. CLASS FLAGS

The class flags for each class will be as follows:

FLEETS	CLASS FLAG	INTENDED START SEQUENCE (MAY CHANGE)
Dinghy Fast Handicap		May start in any order
Dinghy Medium Handicap		May start in any order
Dinghy Slow Handicap		May start in any order
Performance Dinghies		May start in any order
MFOB All		May start in any order

8 RACING AREAS

8.1 The racing area will be the Blackwater Estuary and the surrounding creeks.



9 COURSES

9.1 The diagrams in SI Appendix A show the course options to be sailed with the order in which the marks are to be passed and the side on which each mark is to be left.

9.2 The approximate bearing of Mark 1 may be displayed on the Committee Vessel.

9.3 Courses for MFOB Races may be described using the [Racing chart for dinghies and MFOBs](#) and displayed on the Committee Vessel.

10. MARKS

Marks 1,2,2s,2p,3 will be orange tetrahedron buoys	
Mark 1 for Performance, Fast Handicap, and MFOB classes will be a yellow cylinder buoy	
The starting mark will be either an official boat displaying an orange flag or an orange pin buoy	
The finishing mark will be either an official boat displaying a blue flag or an orange pin buoy	

11. OBSTRUCTIONS [DP]

- 11.1 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.
- 11.2 [DP] [NP] 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.

12. THE START

- 12.1 Races will be started by using RRS 26 with the warning signal made five minutes before the starting signal.
- 12.2 The starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the signal vessel and the course side of the starting mark.
- 12.3 A boat that does not start within four minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.1 and A5.2.
- 12.4 Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall remain a minimum of 100 metres from the start line during the start sequence of the previous fleets [DP].

13. CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

- 13.1 To change the next leg of the course, the Race Committee will move the original mark.
- 13.2 Minor mark moves, up to approximately 150m in any direction, may be made without signalling the change. This changes RRS 33.

14. THE FINISH

- 14.1 The Finishing Line will be between a mast displaying blue flag on the Finish Committee Signal Vessel and the Finishing Mark.
- 14.2 Race duration is intended to be the target time for that class, at the discretion of the Race Committee. When a race is to finish, the Race Committee will signal a shortened course in accordance with RRS 32.2. All boats racing on that course will finish the next time they pass through the gate/finishing line. The first boat to be finished may not necessarily be the leading boat.

15. PENALTY SYSTEM

- 15.1 Dinghy and MFOB Classes RRS 44.1 is changed so that only one turn, including one tack and one gybe, is required.
- 15.2 Boats that fail to pass through the upwind gate (see courses) will not be disqualified but will be credited only with the number of laps they have sailed correctly.

15.3 RRS Appendix T will apply as modified below:

15.3.1 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 [Penalty Report](#). This changes RRS App T.1 (a & b).

15.3.2 A boat accepting a Post Race Penalty after an arbitration hearing shall be penalised 40%. This changes RRS App T.1 (b).

16. TIME LIMITS

16.1 The time limits and target times are as follows:

CLASS	TIME LIMIT	MARK 1 TIME	TARGET	FINISHING
Dinghies	70 minutes	20 minutes	50 minutes	20 minutes
MFOB (1 Race)	90 minutes	20 minutes	70 minutes	20 minutes
MFOB (2 Race)	70 minutes	20 minutes	50 minutes	20 minutes

16.2 If no boat has passed Mark 1 within the Mark 1 time limit the race will be abandoned. Failure to meet the target time will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 62.1(a).

17. HEARING REQUESTS

17.1 In addition to RRS 61.1(a) (Hail Protest) a boat intending to Protest should notify the Start Signal Boat immediately upon finishing the race or retiring and await acknowledgement. The display of a red flag is not required. This changes RRS 61.1 (a).

17.2 Protests/Redress shall be lodged online via the online Jury System located at [File a protest](#). Protests and requests for redress or reopening shall be delivered there within the appropriate time limit using the online form available.

17.3 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.

17.4 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.

17.5 Notices of Protests by the Race Committee or Protest Committee will be posted to inform boats under RRS 61.1(b) hearings.

17.6 On the last scheduled day of racing, a request for redress based on a Protest Committee decision shall be delivered no later than 20 minutes after the decision was posted. This changes RRS 62.2.

18. SCORING

18.1 As per NoR 13.

18.2 The scores will be calculated on an average lap time basis where the result of each race will be calculated on the number of laps sailed against elapsed time for each boat.

18.3 A competitor may submit a request to review a boat's score online at [scoring queries](#).

19. SAFETY REGULATIONS [DP, NP]

19.1 A boat that retires from a race shall notify the Committee Vessel as soon as possible. A declaration form is available online which must be completed by competitors when ashore through this link [Penalty Reports](#).

19.2 A safety tally system will be in operation.

19.2.1 The tally control point will be Bridge.

19.2.2 Competitors shall individually check-out before racing by personally going to the WhatsApp link and giving their sail number and name together with the number of persons on board and advise they are going racing.

19.2.3 Competitors shall individually check-in immediately on returning to shore by personally going to the WhatsApp link and giving their sail number and name together with the number of persons on board and advise they are ashore. This must be done no later than 10 minutes after the boat has come ashore or tied to its mooring.

19.2.4 The penalty for failing to check-out or check-in as instructed above will be subject to a discretionary penalty of 20% added to the boats best series score for that day, without a hearing. This changes RRS 63.1 and A5.

- 19.3 RRS 40.1 always applies on the water.
- 19.4 Boats wishing to sail ashore before the end of the days racing shall not do so unless authorised by an Official Boat. The Official Boat will instruct boats in the procedure for returning ashore.
- 19.5 Boats shall follow the instructions of the Official Boat. Infringements will be reported to the Race Committee, which may protest the boat.

20. REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT

- 20.1 Substitution of damaged or lost equipment will not be allowed unless authorised by the Race Committee. Requests for substitution of equipment shall be made to the Committee at the first reasonable opportunity.
- 20.2 A Competitor may submit a request online at Equipment substitution.

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. SUPPLIED BOATS

N/A

23. OFFICIAL VESSELS

- 23.1 Official vessels are defined as Signal Boat, Finish Boat, Mark Layers, Safety Boats, Jury Boats.
- 23.2 The Committee Vessel will be either Centenary or Omar listening on Channel 06.
- 23.3 Safety Boats may carry competitors drinks, snacks, or spares, at the discretion of the driver/crew of the safety boat. Do not leave any bags on the Committee or Finish Boat.

24. SUPPORT

- 24.1 All support and coach boats shall register with the event in advance by email to the Race Office.
- 24.2 Support Boats will comply with the support boat regulations as defined in the Sailing Instructions.
- 24.3 Support person vessels shall be allowed and shall be expected to act as part of the safety fleet if requested to do so by the Race Committee.
- 24.4 Support boats shall be controlled within the race area, they will not be free to roam up and down the course during racing, further details will be included within the Sailing Instructions.
- 24.5 All support boat helms shall attend all the safety briefing.
- 24.6 Support boats should not tow competitors without the permission of the Race Officer or Safety Officer.
- 24.7 Each support boat is required to carry a VHF Radio capable of transmitting and receiving all international ship-to-ship channels. RRS 37 shall apply.
- 24.8 Support boat drivers and crews shall wear a personal flotation device securely fastened at all times when afloat except briefly while changing or adjusting clothing or personal equipment. Wet suits and dry suits are not personal flotation devices.
- 24.9 When the support boat engine is running, coach/support boat drivers shall be connected to a device that will stop the engine if the boat driver falls out the boat or is otherwise not in control of the boat.
- 24.10 Each coach/support boat is required to carry an anchor and line suitable for anchoring in 25 meters depth of water, a tow line, compass and device for making sound signals.
- 24.11 Official, Patrol and Support person vessels may be required to be marked with an appropriate coloured flag and shall comply with instructions from the Event Safety Officer.
- 24.12 [DP] Team leaders, coaches and other support personnel including relatives of competitors who are not official, patrol or support person vessels shall not be in the racing area, nor shall they communicate with any competitors, from the time of the preparatory signal for the first race until the last boat returns to shore. The penalty for failing to comply with this requirement will be at the discretion of the Protest Committee and may be less than disqualification for all boats associated with the support personnel who do so.
- 24.13 For the purposes of this rule, the racing area shall be defined as not less than 300m from any boat that is racing, and this shall specifically include an area not less than 200m immediately to Leeward of the finish line for any race.

25. TRASH DISPOSAL

- 25.1 Trash may be placed aboard support person vessels. All should be disposed ashore or at home.
- 25.2 All plastic containers (used for food or liquid) afloat shall be identified by Sail Number, Name or both [DP] [NP].

26. BERTHING [DP]

- 26.1 Boats shall be kept in their assigned places whilst in the boat park or their assigned moorings.

27. HAUL OUT RESTRICTIONS

N/A

28. DIVING EQUIPMENT AND PLASTIC POOLS

N/A

29. PRIZES

- 29.1 Categories are displayed on the Official Notice Board.
- 29.2 Overall Prizes will be presented after the event.

30. RISK STATEMENT

See NoR 17.

31. INSURANCE

See NoR 18.

WhatsApp Links

MW 24 MFOB & Dinghy Tally
WhatsApp group

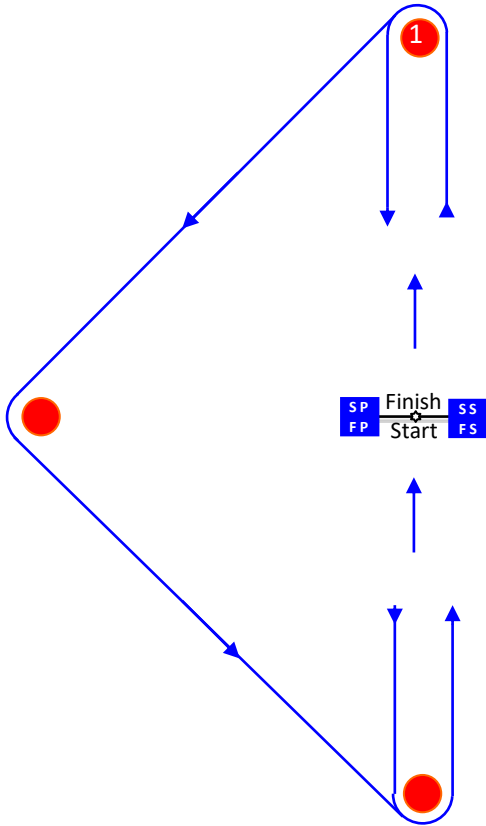
Broadcast MFOB/ Dinghy
WhatsApp group



APPENDIX A - THE COURSE DIAGRAMS

Triangular course start finish on beat

T

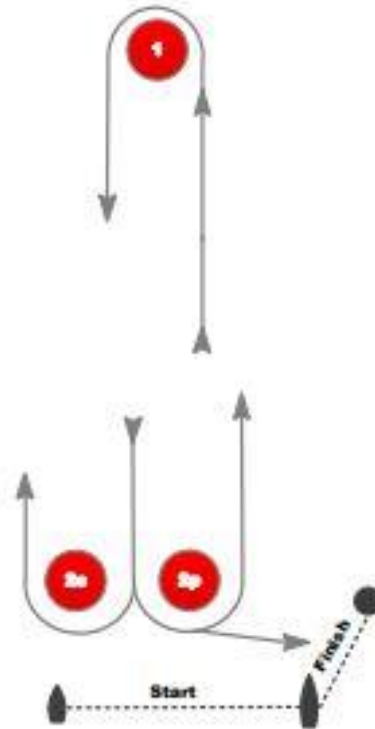


Course: Triangular course start finish middle of beat

Signal	Mark Rounding Order (TFL= Through Finish line)
T	Start – 1(P) – 2(P) – 3(P) –TFL- 1(P) – 3(P) – TFL-1(P) -2(P) – 3(P) – TFL- 1(P) – 3(P)-Finish

Windward/Leeward Course

L	Course: Windward/Leeward with reaching finish
Signal	Mark Rounding Order
L2	Start-1(P)-2S/2P-1(P)- 2(P) -Finish
L3	Start-1(P)-2S/2P-1(P)- 2S/2P-1(P)- 2(P) -Finish
L4	Start-1(P)-2S/2P-1(P)- 2S/2P-1(P)- 2(P) -2S/2P-1(P)- 2(P) -Finish



END OF SAILING INSTRUCTIONS