



MERSEA WEEK 2026



Sailing Instructions **Dinghies & MFOBS** **Sunday 9th to Friday 14th August 2026**

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

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 RRS 63.7).

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 in the Long Room at WMYC.
- 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 or receive voice or data transmissions 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 used exclusively for Tally on and off.
- 3.5 Dinghy Sailing Instructions and 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 visibly displayed at the front of 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 will fly from the Fisherman's Shed at the top of the causeway.
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 (*Not Open 12/08/26*)

Date	Open	Close	Location
08/08/26	17:30	19:00	WMYC Long Room
09/08/26 – 14/08/26	08:30	15:00	WMYC Long Room

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

Class	09/08/26	10/08/26	11/08/26	13/08/26	14/08/26
MFOBs Slow	12:00	12:00	12:00	12:00	12:00
MFOBs Fast	12:05	12:05	12:05	12:05	12:05
Dinghy Slow & Medium Handicap	12:15	12:15	12:15	12:15	12:15
Dinghy Fast & Performance Handicap	12:20	12:20	12:20	12:20	12:20

6.3 The scheduled number of races each day is as follows but this may change on the day:-

Races	09/08/26	10/08/26	11/08/26	13/08/26	14/08/26
MFOBs ALL Fleets	2	2	2	2	1
Dinghy Slow Handicap	2	2	2	2	1
Dinghy Medium Handicap	2	2	2	2	1
Dinghy Fast Handicap	2	2	2	2	1
Performance Dinghy	2	2	2	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
08/08/26	Dinghy and MFOB Competitor Briefing	17:00	DSC
Daily	Prizegiving	19:30	Alternating clubs

7. CLASS FLAGS

7.1 The class flags for each class will be as follows:-

Fleets	Class Flag	Intended Start sequence (may change)
MFOBs Slow (H)		May start in any order
MFOBs Fast (W)		May start in any order
Dinghy Slow & Medium Handicap (O)		May start in any order
Dinghy Fast & Performance Handicap (Z)		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 Sailing Instructions Appendix A & B 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** Courses for MFOB Races MAY be described using the [Racing chart for dinghies and MFOBs](#) and displayed on the Committee Boat.



10. MARKS

- 10.1** Marks 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 will be orange tetrahedron buoys.
- 10.2** Mark 2 for Fast and Performance handicap classes will be a yellow cylinder buoy.
- 10.3** The starting mark will be an orange pin buoy.
- 10.4** The finishing mark will be 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. HANDICAPS

- 13.1** All boats (including MFOBs) must have a bona fide handicap agreed by the entry closing date which is on Sunday 2nd August at Midday.

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. If a race is shortened, the Race Committee will signal a shortened course in accordance with RRS 32.2. When the 'S' flag and class flag for Fast and Performance handicap are displayed, all boats to sail to mark 3p, 6p, 5p – FINISH. When the 'S' flag and class flag for Slow, Medium and all MFOBs are displayed, all boats to then sail to 5p, - FINISH.

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** RRS Appendix T will apply as modified below:-
- 15.2.1** 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).
- 15.2.2** 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	Target Time	Finishing Window
Dinghies	90 minutes	70 minutes	40 minutes
MFOBs Slow	90 minutes	70 minutes	40 minutes
MFOBs Fast	90 minutes	70 minutes	40 minutes

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

16.3 Finishing window is time for all boats to finish after first boat finishes.

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 PC 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.

19. SAFETY REGULATIONS [DP, NP]

19.1 A boat that retires from a race shall notify the Committee Boat as soon as possible.

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 10 points added to the competitors nett series score, after race scores and discards have been calculated. 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 day's 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 boats. 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

- 22.1 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 Boat will be "Sailing Yacht Carmina" listening on Channel 72.
- 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. TRASH DISPOSAL

- 24.1 Trash may be placed aboard support person vessels. All should be disposed ashore or at home.
- 24.2 All plastic containers (used for food or liquid) afloat shall be identified by sail number, name, or both. [DP/NP]

25. BERTHING [DP]

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

26. HAUL OUT RESTRICTIONS

- 26.1 N/A

27. DIVING EQUIPMENT AND PLASTIC POOLS

- 27.1 N/A

28. PRIZES

- 28.1 Categories are displayed on the official noticeboard.
- 28.2 Overall prizes will be presented after the event.

29. RISK STATEMENT

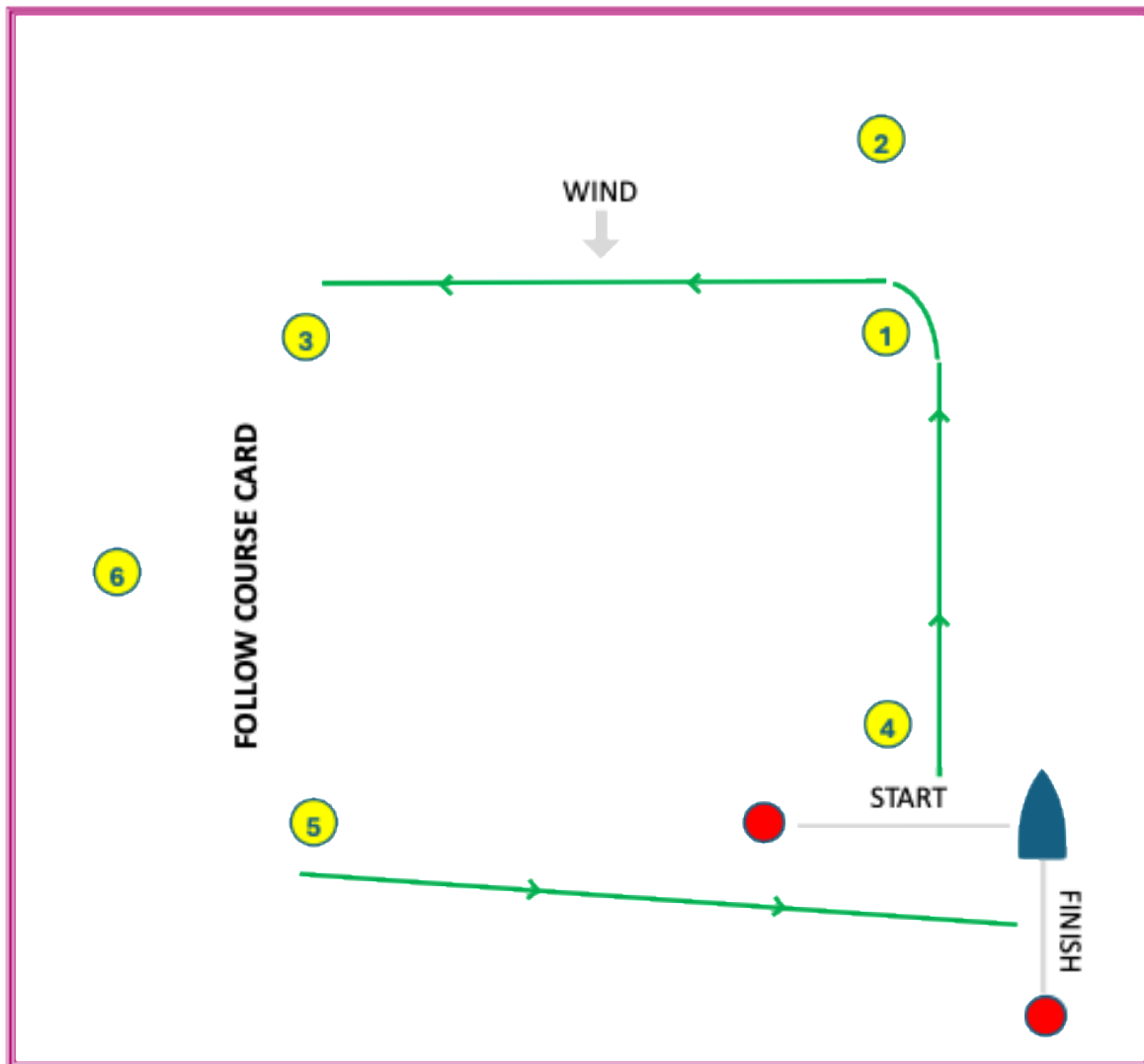
- 29.1 See NOR 17.

30. INSURANCE

- 30.1 See NOR 18.



APPENDIX A MFOB's/SLOW/MEDIUM HANDICAP



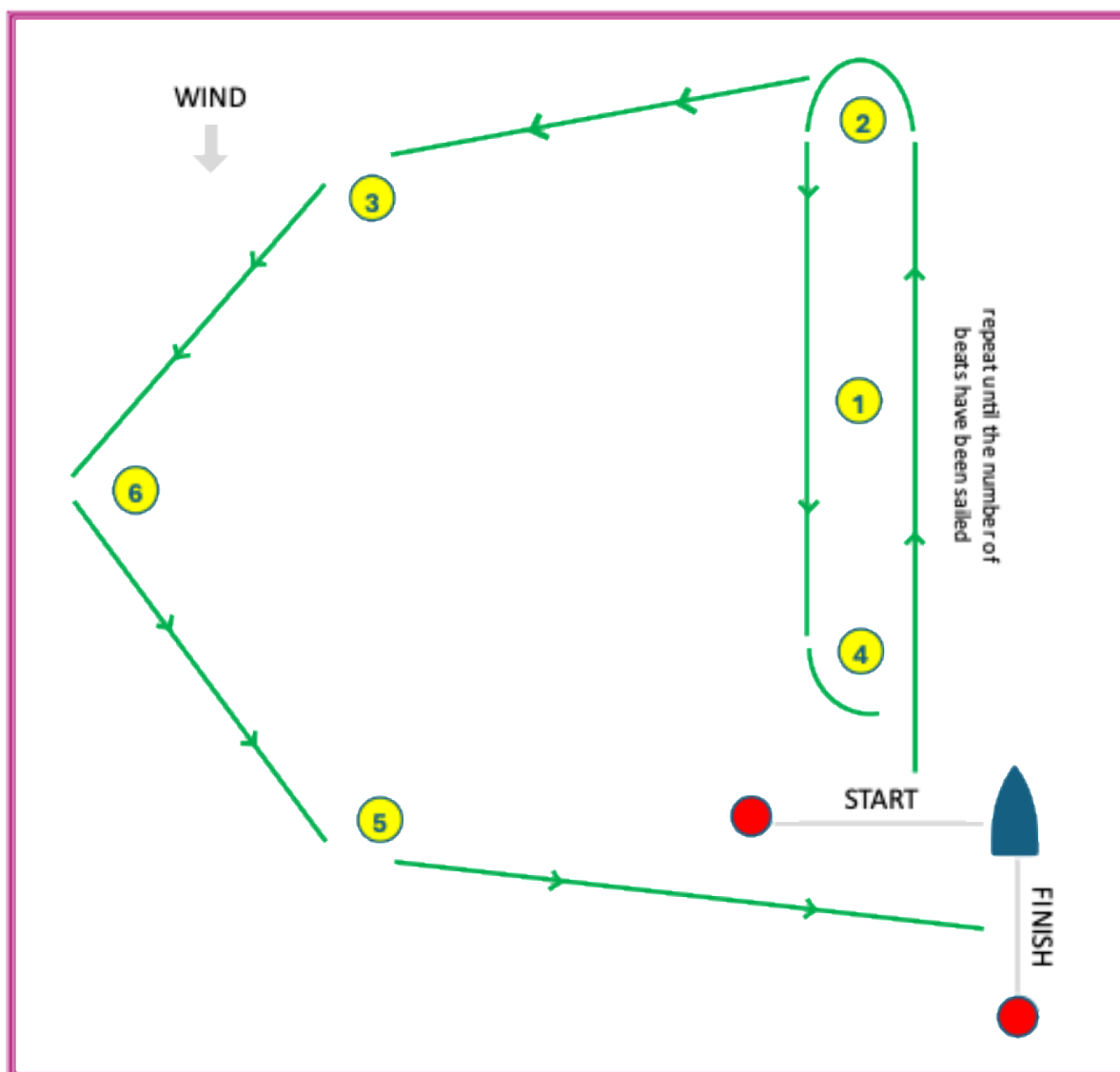
The course number will be displayed on the Committee Boat on a number board at the warning signal of each fleet.

To Finish, sail through the Finish Line set off the stern of the Committee Boat. **PLEASE NOTE** there may be a DSC Finish option, described below.

Course Displayed	MFOB's/SLOW/MEDIUM HANDICAP
1	Start – 1p , 3p , 6p, 5p – Finish
2	Start – 1p , 3p , 5p , 3p , 6p , 5p – Finish
3	Start – 1p , 3p , 5p , 3p , 6p , 5p , 3p , 6p , 5p – Finish
4	Start – 1p , 3p , 5p , 3p , 6p , 5p , 3p , 6p , 5p , 3p , 5p – Finish
DSC FINISH	Finish may be displayed on blackboard as “DSC – Finish” Course above – through normal Finish Line followed by Bobbys (P), Besom Creek, DSC Finish Line



APPENDIX B FAST/PERFORMANCE HANDICAP



All marks to be left to PORT.

The course number (and **number of beats** to be sailed) will be displayed on the Committee Boat on a number board at the warning signal of each fleet.

The **first beat commences from the start line** and all subsequent beats then commence from the respective leeward mark (Mark 4 in the diagram above).

To Finish, sail through the Finish Line set off the stern of the Committee Boat.

Course Displayed	FAST/PERFORMANCE HANDICAP
1	Start – 2p , 4p , 2p , (number of beats) 3p , 6p , 5p - Finish



Dinghy / MFOB
Tally On/Off



Dinghy Broadcast

