

The Four Clubs River Series

Sailing Instructions 2011

1.0 Rules

1.1 Racing will be governed by the Racing Rules of Sailing 2009-2012 (RRS), except as any of these are changed by these Sailing Instructions.

2.0 Notices to Competitors.

2.1 Notices to the competitors will be available from the Committee Boat, and through VHF Ch. 37.

3.0 Changes to Sailing Instructions.

3.1 Any change to the sailing instructions will be available from the Committee Boat at least 30 minutes before the warning signal.

4.0 Signals made afloat.

4.1 Signals made afloat will be displayed on the Committee Boat.

5.0 Schedule of Races

5.1 The schedule of races is as follows:

Race 1, hosted by Royal Harwich Yacht Club, will be on SATURDAY, 7th May, Start time 1000 hrs.

Race 2 hosted by Shotley Sailing Club, will be on SATURDAY 21st May, Start time 1000hrs.

Race 3, hosted by Orwell Yacht Club, will be on SATURDAY 18th June, start time 1000hrs

Race 4, hosted by Pin Mill Sailing Club will be on SATURDAY 17th September, Start time 1000 hrs

6.0 Class Flags

6.1 Competing yachts shall fly their respective Club burgees from the backstay as a Class Flag.

8.0 The Course

8.1 Course Instructions. Course details are given on the Course Card. The number of the course to be sailed will be displayed from a board on the Committee Boat. The number will be displayed as soon as possible before the warning signal, but in any case not later than the warning signal.

11.0 The Start

11.1 Races shall be started using RRS Rule 26. except as changed by 11.2 below.

11.2 Starting sequence

Signal	Time before start	Flag	Sound
Warning	5 minutes	Flag 'A' displayed	One sound signal.
Preparatory	4 minutes	Flag 'P' displayed	One sound signal
One Minute	1 minute	Flag 'P' removed	One long sound signal.
Start	0	Flag 'A' removed	One sound signal

11.3 Starting Line.

The line is a transit of two posts on the South bank of the Orwell just downriver of the channel buoys 'Bay' and 'No4', the riverside post with an orange triangle top mark (apex up) and the rear post with black and white hoops and orange triangle top mark (apex down). The northern limit of this line is a Committee Boat, anchored or moored on the north side of the buoyed channel.

13.0 The Finish

13.1 Finishing Lines. See the Course Card for details.

15.0 Time Limits

15.1 The first yacht must finish within 5 hours. Any yacht that finishes after 17-00hrs will be deemed to have retired.

18.0 Safety Regulations

18.1 Check in. Competing Yachts shall identify themselves to the Race Officer on the Committee Boat at least 10 minutes before the start, and state the number of persons on board.

18.2 Yachts racing are to observe the International Rules for the Prevention of Collision at Sea and Ipswich Port Authority and Harwich Haven Authority Bylaws Nos. 18, 19, 44 and 50 "Yachts, cruisers and power boats shall not make use of the deep water channel or approaches to wharves, piers and jetties in such a way as to cause obstructions to large vessels using the Harbour." If a boat's engine has to be used while racing to avoid shipping, a declaration must be made at the end of the race; disqualification will not necessarily follow.

18.3 Yachts leaving harbour must leave the navigation buoys Pepys, College, Shotley Spit and Guard to Port. On returning to harbour, the above buoys must be left to Starboard. No yacht shall navigate within the deep-water channel to seaward of the Guard buoy.

18.4 Retiring boats shall inform the Race Committee as soon as possible.

18.5 Personal buoyancy must be carried for all crew members on board.

18.6 Handicapping is at the discretion of the Committee and will be based on Byron.

18.7 Protests must be presented in writing to the Host Club on the day of the race accompanied by a £10 fee. The protesting yacht must fly a red flag conspicuously and must attempt to inform the protestee. Protests will be heard by the Committee as soon after the race as possible.

27.0 Disclaimer of Liability

Competitors participate in the racing entirely at their own risk. See RRS Rule 4, Decision to Race. The organizing authority will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after racing.

28.0 Insurance. See Declaration on Entry Form.

Notes:

VHF Channel 37 will be monitored throughout the race.

Club Telephone Numbers: Royal Harwich YC 01473 780319: Orwell YC 01473 602288: Pin Mill SC 01473 780271: Shotley Sailing Club 01473 787500

Points:

The first three boats from each Club to complete each race in the series will attract points according to their overall position on handicap. Points will be awarded as follows: 1st – 1 point; 2nd – 2 points; 3rd – 3 points, and so on. All races to count, this changes RRS A4. Where fewer than three yachts enter from any one Club in any race, the absent yachts will be scored as; the number of entries on the day plus 3. Yachts retiring will be scored the number of entries on the day plus 1. Where only one yacht enters the race will be void.