

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS FOR WEST HIGHLAND YACHTING WEEK 2009

1 RULES

The regatta will be governed by the Rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing and the IRC, and CYCA handicap requirements.

2 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

Notices to competitors will be posted at the Race Office which will be situated as follows:

p.m. Friday 31 July	Canal entrance, Ardrishaig
a.m. Saturday 1 August to a.m. Sunday 2 August	In front of Craobh Marina Office
p.m. Sunday 2 August to a.m. Wednesday 5 August	North Pier, Oban
p.m. Wednesday 5 August to a.m. Friday 7 August	Ledaig Pier, Tobermory
p.m. Friday 7 August	North Pier, Oban

3 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Except as amended below for the Feeder Races, any alteration to the Sailing Instructions will be signalled by displaying Flag L at the Race Office and alterations will be posted at the Race Office at Craobh Marina, Oban or Tobermory at least 2 hours before the start of the first race of the day. At Oban, the committee may display copies of changes in the marina offices at Kerrera and Dunstaffnage, and at Oban Sailing Club. When it is necessary to make last minute alterations to the Sailing Instructions, such alterations will be communicated by the hoisting of Flag L on the starting vessel, and by being broadcast on the appropriate VHF Channel (see SI 20). It is then the responsibility of those in charge of boats to acquaint themselves with the alterations before starting.

For the Feeder Race from Inverkip, Flag L will be displayed on the Inverkip Marina flagpole and notices will be posted on the racing notice-board outside the Marina office. Flag L will also be displayed on the starting vessel as described above.

For the Feeder Race from Oban, Flag L will be displayed on the Oban Sailing Club flagpole and notices will be posted on the notice-board in Oban Sailing Club.

For the Feeder Race from Gigha, Flag L will be displayed only on the starting vessel.

4 RACES

The Series will consist of six days of racing, Sunday 2 August to Friday 7 August. The feeder races on Friday 31 July and Saturday 1 August will not count towards the Points Series. On Tuesday 4 August and Thursday 6 August the fleet will race in two divisions: THE TUNNOCKS FLEET comprising Classes 1, 3, 5, 7, 8 and 10, and THE ARGYLL FLEET comprising Classes 2, 4, 6 and 9. The fleets will race on separate courses.

5 ENTRIES

In order for a boat to compete, the completed entry form must first be accepted by the organising authority.

6 SAIL RESTRICTIONS – ARGYLL FLEET

The following restrictions shall apply during the Points Series to boats in the Argyll Fleet: No spinnakers shall be allowed, and any headsail flown shall comply with Rule 50.4. Additionally all headsails shall be attached to a permanent forestay (or forestays in the case of a cutter) along the whole luff. Sails flown loose luffed are not permitted. Only one headsail may be flown at any one time from any forestay, except when changing sail so long as both headsails are on the same stay and are hoisted together for the shortest possible time consistent with changing sail. Mizzen staysails are not permitted. These restrictions shall not apply during Feeder Races.

7 CLASSES

In Feeder Races all boats shall race in a single class using CYCA handicaps. On all other days boats shall race in the following **provisional** classes:

Class 1	: IRC handicaps 0.970 and above	Pennant 1
Class 2	: Restricted Sail class for CYCA handicaps 10.0 minutes and below, and appropriate handicaps allocated by the Committee	Pennant 2
Class 3	: CYCA handicaps 11.0 to 13.75 minutes	Pennant 3
Class 4	: Restricted Sail class for CYCA handicaps 10.25 to 13.75 minutes, and appropriate handicaps allocated by the Committee	Pennant 4
Class 5	: CYCA handicaps 14.0 to 15.5 minutes	Pennant 5
Class 6	: Restricted Sail class for CYCA handicaps 14.0 to 16.0 minutes, and appropriate handicaps allocated by the Committee	Pennant 6
Class 7	: CYCA handicaps 15.75 to 19.0 minutes	Pennant 7
Class 8	: CYCA handicaps 19.25 to 28.0 minutes	Pennant 8
Class 9	: Restricted Sail class for CYCA handicaps 16.25 to 28.0 minutes, and appropriate handicaps allocated by the Committee	Pennant 9
Class 10	: CYCA handicaps 10.75 minutes and below	Pennant 0

Class divisions will be confirmed on the regatta website - www.whyw.co.uk on or before 24 July. They will also be published in the printed List of Entries available at the on-site Race Office from Friday 31 July, and will be displayed at the Race Office.

8 SAIL NUMBERS AND PENNANTS

Rule 77 and Appendix G, and ORC Special Regulation 4.01 shall not apply. All boats shall display a sail number on the mainsail, easily identifiable from the Official Boats, and this is the number to be shown on the entry form. Sail numbers on all headsails and spinnakers shall be the same as those on the mainsail, unless previously authorised by the Committee.

Whilst racing, all boats shall display on their backstay, or other prominent position aft, the numeral pennant allocated to their Class (minimum size 6" x 18").

9 THE START

Rule 26 will apply. Class 10 will start with Class 3; otherwise Classes will start at 5 minute intervals (except the Argyll Fleet, i.e. Restricted Sail Classes on Tuesday 4 and Thursday 6 August) with signals and order of starting as specified for each day. However, where classes are amalgamated, start times will be amended to avoid a gap in the starting programme. Such alterations will be notified in accordance with SI 3.

Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area during the starting sequence of other classes.

Where there has been a long postponement, to alert boats that a starting sequence will begin soon, Flag T will be hoisted with one sound signal, five minutes before the first Warning Signal. Flag T will be lowered at the first Warning Signal.

Competitors should note that on some days there will be two separate start lines with overlapping start times, and should ensure that they attend the appropriate starting line for their class.

In the event of adverse weather or tide the starting area may be moved up the course, past a mark or marks of the course, and that mark or marks will then no longer be valid.

For the Passage Races on Sunday 2 August, Monday 3 August, Wednesday 5 August, and Friday 7 August, in certain wind directions an inflatable mark may be laid approx. three quarters of a mile to windward of the Starting Line. This shall be the first mark of the course. Its use shall be signalled before the first Warning Signal by the hoisting of Flag W together with a RED or GREEN Flag, indicating whether the Mark shall be left to port or starboard.

10 LATE STARTING

A boat arriving late in the starting area may remain under power after her preparatory signal under Rule 42.3(h) provided that, after stopping her engine, she takes a Two-Turns Penalty in accordance with Rule 44.2 on the pre-start side of the starting line or its extensions and after the starting signal is made. Such a boat shall keep clear of all other boats until she has completed her turns and has started.

In the Feeder Races, a boat starting later than 30 minutes after her starting signal and, in all other races, a boat starting later than 15 minutes after the valid start of the last class to start in that sequence will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes Rules A4 and A5.

11 RECALLS

Individual Recalls: The Race Officer MAY broadcast individual recall numbers on VHF Channel 77, or on Channel 72 for the Argyll Fleet, i.e. Classes 2, 4, 6 and 9, when they are racing on a separate course. Failure to announce sail numbers will not be grounds for redress.

General Recalls: In alteration to Rule 29.2, the normal starting sequence will NOT be interrupted by a General Recall. The new Warning Signal for the Start that has the General Recall will be the Start Signal for the last class in the normal sequence. The Race Officer MAY broadcast General Recalls. In alteration of Rule 30.3, sail numbers for yachts that have broken this Rule will not be displayed but shall be broadcast on the relevant VHF Channel. It is the responsibility of competitors to monitor this Channel for all starts when Rule 30.3 is in force.

A fast launch or launches flying the "First Substitute" MAY patrol ahead of the class recalled to indicate the General Recall.

12 SHORTENING COURSE

When the shorten course signal is displayed by an Official Boat at or near a mark of the course or an inflatable mark laid for the purpose, not necessarily a previously defined mark of the course, then boats shall finish the race between that mark and the Official Boat. This alters Rule 32.2.

If the course is to be shortened for certain classes only, then the numeral pennants indicating those classes will be hoisted as well as Code Flag S. A fast launch or launches flying Flag S, or Flag S and appropriate numeral pennants, MAY patrol ahead of the class or classes for which the course is shortened, to indicate the Shortening of Course.

The Inverkip to Ardrishaig Feeder Race has special rules – see the specific instructions for that day's race.

13 THE FINISH

On finishing, boats shall immediately clear and keep clear of the finishing line. Each boat when finishing shall ensure that her sail number is clearly visible to the Race Committee. In case of doubt, after finishing she shall hold or alter course, trim her sheets or gybe so that her sail number can be distinguished. Boats are required to note their own finishing times and the names or sail numbers of the boats finishing immediately ahead and astern.

See also SI 24 regarding Official Boats not anchored.

14 TIME LIMIT

If one boat in a class finishes within the time limit prescribed for the race, that time limit is then extended by a further 30 minutes for all other boats in that class. Boats failing to finish within the time limit, or extended time limit if applicable, will be scored Did Not Finish without a hearing. This changes Rules 35, A4 and A5. If no boat within a class finishes within the time limit then the race for that class will be abandoned. For the Tunnocks Fleet on Tuesday 4 August and Thursday 6 August, Race 1, special provisions apply.

15 RETIRALS

During the **Feeder Races**, any boat retiring from a race prior to or after finishing shall communicate the fact to the Race Committee, as soon as possible, in accordance with the instructions given for the race.

During the **Points Series**, boats retiring should contact any Official Boat attached to their fleet to notify such retiral or, alternatively, contact may be made by VHF (see SI 20) or phone 07717 083 472.

16 POINTS SERIES SCORING

The Series will be scored as provided in Appendix A4.1 of the Rules - Low Points System, except as amended by the Sailing Instructions. Boats entering the Points Series shall enter all the races of the Series. Six days of racing are scheduled, of which three days are required to be completed to constitute a Series. For the Points Series each boat's score will be the sum of her scores for all races except that if 5 or more races are completed in a class, each boat shall exclude her worst score. Feeder Races on Friday 31 July and Saturday 1 August will not count towards the Series.

For the Tunnocks Fleet on Tuesday 4 August and Thursday 6 August a boat's score in each race will count towards the Points Series. However, for the purpose of awarding trophies and prizes, a boat's score will be the sum of her scores in both races. If only one race is completed then the score for that race will give the result. In the event of a Tie, Appendix A8.2 shall be used.

17 PENALTY SYSTEM

Boats which race but RETIRE or DO NOT FINISH within the time limit will score the points equal to the number of STARTERS, plus one. This does not apply to boats to which the special provisions of SI 14 apply.

Boats scored ON COURSE SIDE of starting line or DISQUALIFIED will score the points equal to the number of STARTERS, plus two.

Boats which are entered but DO NOT COME to the starting area will score the points equal to the number of ENTRIES, plus three.

18 PROPULSION

All competitors shall regard the waters used for the Points Series racing as a "Narrow Channel" and shall observe the International Regulations for the Prevention of Collision at Sea 1972, Rule 9b, which states: "A vessel of less than 20 metres in length or a sailing vessel shall not impede the passage of a vessel which can safely navigate only within a narrow channel or fairway."

An engine shall be used when appropriate to avoid collision, or in a grave emergency. Full details of this incident shall be given to the Protest Committee who, after a hearing, may impose a penalty. If the Race Committee observes a boat obstructing the passage of a power driven vessel in a narrow channel, it may proceed against the yacht under Rule 60.2.

19 STORED POWER

Rule 52 will not apply to this regatta in respect of anchoring and sail handling gear, but it shall remain in force for steering gear.

20 RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

Competitors are advised to listen on VHF Channel 77, or on Channel 72 for the Argyll Fleet when they are racing on a separate course, for announcements concerning the races, including Individual Recalls. A watch will normally be kept on these Channels and Channel 16 during the course of races.

21 MINIMUM EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

Competitors are reminded of the Minimum Equipment Regulations as defined in the Notice of Race.

22 PROTESTS, REQUESTS FOR REDRESS AND RYA ARBITRATION

Protest forms are available at the Race Office. Protests shall be delivered there within the protest time limit.

Protest time will begin when the Race Officer (or his representative) comes ashore. Flag B fully hoisted at the Race Office with one sound signal means "Protest Time has begun". When lowered half way, it means "There are less than 30 minutes remaining before protest time ends". When lowered, it means "Protest Time has ended".

Protests shall be lodged in accordance with Rule 61. In the Feeder Races they shall be delivered in writing to the Race Office up to one hour after the protesting boat finishes. In all other races they shall be delivered in writing to the Race Office up to one hour after the commencement of the Protest Time, the time of which is displayed at the Race Office. The same protest time limit applies to all protests by the race committee and protest committee and to requests for redress. This changes Rule 61.3 and 62.2. Where necessary, times and locations of protest hearings shall be posted at the Race Office and the Protest Committee will endeavour to arrange for notices to attend meetings to be delivered by Official Boat. Failure to deliver such notices will not be grounds for redress. Protests will be heard as soon after the time expiry as possible. All parties should ensure that they are aware of timings and location of hearings. Boats aware that they are involved in a protest must ensure that they contact the Race Office in person, by VHF on the appropriate race Channel, or by phoning the Protest Committee Administrator on 07770 791 844.

On the last day of the Series a request for reopening a hearing shall be delivered:

- (a) within the protest time limit if the party requesting reopening was informed of the decision, or the decision relevant to the redress request was posted, in either case on the previous day;
- (b) no later than 30 minutes after the party requesting reopening was informed of the decision on that day, or in the case of a request for redress from a decision of the protest committee, no later than 30 minutes after the decision was posted.

This changes Rule 62.2 and 66.

Breaches of Sailing Instructions 8, 13, 15, 18, 23 and 24 will not be grounds for protest by a boat. This changes Rule 60.1(a).

RYA Arbitration: The Exoneration Penalty and the RYA Arbitration Rules Disputes procedures of the RYA Rules Disputes Procedures will be available. Details available in the Race Office or from:

<http://www.rya.org.uk/assets/racing/RYA%20Rules%20Disputes%20Best%20Practice%202009-2.pdf>

23 ADVERTISING

Advertising may be displayed in accordance with the ISAF Code 20. Boats may be required to display advertising chosen and supplied by the organisers.

24 OFFICIAL BOATS

Committee boats and other craft officially in attendance will, where practicable, display the third substitute of the International Code. **Competitors should make themselves aware of the identity of all Official Boats**, which may not be at anchor and may require to manoeuvre suddenly. The term 'Official Boat' includes any dinghy, RIB or buoy attached to the main vessel.

When an Official Boat is on station at the starting line or other mark of the course, she will also fly Code Flag J and boats shall keep clear of her.

25 RESULTS

Provisional results will be posted as soon as possible after the finish of each race. They will be displayed at the Race Office sited as above.

26 SCALE OF PRIZES

Number of entries: 1 to 5 (1 prize) 6 to 9 (2 prizes) 10 and over (3 prizes)

27 DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

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

28 INSURANCE

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

INFORMATION FOR COMPETITORS

Anchoring/Berthing/Harbour Restrictions: To maintain good relationships with other harbour users, and to ensure the smooth running of the event, the following points should be noted:

Mooring: Boats shall not moor alongside private vessels, nor pick up private moorings, without the owner's consent.

Oban: Free access to the lifeboat berth at Port Beag shall be maintained at all times. Boats shall not impede nor obstruct any Official Boat at or in the vicinity of the North Pier and, to allow commercial vessels room to manoeuvre, shall not anchor in the rectangle formed by the north side of the North Pier and "The Oban Times" slip, 100 yards to the north. Competitors shall respect the requirements of the Cardingmill Bay Moorings Association by not anchoring amongst the moored boats off Oban Sailing Club. There are 15 visitors moorings situated off Oban Sailing Club. The pontoon at Dungallan Park is available for landing and uplifting of crew and equipment, but not for overnight berthing. Competitors should be aware of the Oban Harbour Users Code of Practice.

Tobermory: In recent years considerable alterations have been made to the layout of anchoring and mooring areas in Tobermory Bay. Competitors shall make sure they only anchor in the designated area, and clear of the fairways leading to all piers and pontoons.

Weather Forecasts: Forecasts will be displayed at the Race Office daily.

Oban Sailing Club: Open for teas/coffees, cereal, toast & showers 0700-0900 Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday. Showers & bar open after racing whilst fleet is in Oban. On final night, club closes at 1930. To comply with the licensing laws, all bona fide competitors will be made temporary members of the OSC for the duration of the Week. However, owners/skippers should note that this temporary membership does not constitute compliance with Rule 75.1.

List of Entries: The Race Office will be open at Craobh Marina from early Saturday morning. Please collect your list of entries, etc. from the Race Office as early as possible to avoid the considerable congestion that builds up.

Canal Charges: For competitors in West Highland Yachting Week, British Waterways has put together a selection of attractive licence terms. Study the enclosed leaflet to work out which is the best deal for you. To obtain any of these special prices, when making payment present your boat's Canal card (enclosed with these Sailing Instructions if appropriate). You are encouraged to make use of the advance licences system which will considerably speed up the process of entering the canals. Use the form enclosed, or visit their website – www.scottishcanals.co.uk

Craobh Marina Charges: Craobh Marina is offering half-price berthing for competing boats for the night of Saturday 1 August. The enclosed voucher should be used when making payment.

Oban Marina Charges: Oban Marina is also offering special berthing rates for competing yachts.

Discipline: The particular attention of **ALL** participants is drawn to Rule 69 which will be vigorously enforced.

NOTE: In the interests of public safety and the reputation of the sport, all competitors are asked to respect the various Bye-laws relating to the consumption of alcohol out of doors, and the legislation relating to smoking.