

# FISHERS GREEN SAILING CLUB

## SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Revised November 2023

### 1) RULES

Racing will be governed by The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), the Equipment Rules of Sailing (ERS) and relevant class rules, except as any of these are changed by these Sailing Instructions or any Special Sailing Instructions (SSI) applicable to a particular event.

### 2) REGISTRATION PROCEDURE

- 2.1 Competitors to Open Meetings shall register by completing an entry form before racing.
- 2.2 Competitors for club racing shall be entered into a club event or 'points series' race once registered on the new members sheet in the clubhouse. Unidentified helms may be excluded from race results.

### 3) NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

Notices to competitors may be posted on the notice board following notification on social media when appropriate.

### 4) EVENT SPECIFIC CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any event specific change to the sailing instructions will be advised by the PRO at least 30 minutes before the race(s) concerned and notified to the membership via social media and Mail-chimp if appropriate.

### 5) RACE SIGNALS

Signals will be displayed in front of the clubhouse at a shore based starting position, or on the Committee Boat or other support boat.

### 6) SCHEDULE OF RACES

- 6.1 The schedule of club events and points series will be notified each year in the Sailing Programme. Any amendments will be notified to the membership via social media and Mail-chimp.
- 6.2 The scheduled time of the warning signal for the first race each day is 10:55 (7pm Wednesday evenings). If on Wednesday evenings, the OOD team can confirm that all members intending to race are in the course area and ready, the race may start earlier to save time. Proposed start times for Open Meetings will be given in the Notice of Race.
- 6.3 Several short hoots may precede the warning signal.

### 7) CLASS FLAGS

Class flags for Comet (Comet Pennant), Laser (D), Menagerie (M), Solo (R), are stored in the committee boat. Other fleets may be class supplied for open meetings.

### 8) THE RACING AREA

- 8.1 Racing will take place on Holyfield Lake. A map of the lake showing mark positions is appended to these instructions (Appendix 1).
- 8.2 Boats are not permitted to enter the bird sanctuary (bounded approximately by the chain of islands and white spherical buoys situated in the SW corner of the lake), or sail within 15 metres of the north and east shores of the lake (right hand side as viewed from the clubhouse facing the lake) when fishermen are present. Both areas are shown on the map. These areas are obstructions under RRS. The penalty for infringement is disqualification unless exonerated under RRS 64.1.
- 8.3. If weed growth is so extensive as to make an area of the lake un-navigable and the area can only be passed on one side it shall be deemed a continuing obstruction under the RRS.

### 9) COURSES

- 9.1 The course and number of laps will be displayed on the Committee boat, or at a shore based starting position.
- 9.2 A boat shall round a mark displayed on a red background to port and on a green background to starboard. The letter G on a black background indicates that boats shall sail through the start/finish Gate at the end of each lap.
- 9.4 The number of laps will be indicated by a white number displayed on a black background.
- 9.5 A course change before the start will be signalled by flag C and five sound signals. The timing of flag C will not provide grounds for a competitor to seek redress.
- 9.6 The moving of marks during a race will be signalled by flying flag C and making sound signals. The mark moved and direction of the move will be communicated by appropriate gestures and/or verbal instructions. This changes Rules 33a & 33b.

### 10) RACING MARKS

- 10.1 Course marks 1 through 12 including "W(est)" are blue with white identification characters.
- 10.2 Temporary marks may be of any colour and their locations may change between or during races.

- 10.3 An inner distance mark, if used, will be a white unnumbered buoy. The outer distance mark will be an orange unnumbered sausage buoy. A course mark may alternatively be used as an outer mark. A sausage buoy may be used as a mark of the course if competitors are so informed.

## **11) THE START**

- 11.1 Races will be started using Rule 26 (i.e. 5, 4, 1, GO).
- 11.2 For timing purposes, sound signals shall govern. This changes Rule 26.
- 11.3 The starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag or shape on the Committee Boat or the shore based starting position if used, and an outer distance mark.
- 11.3 An inner distance mark may be laid near the committee boat or shore end of the line if shore based. If an IDM is used, a boat starting shall pass between the inner and outer distance marks.
- 11.4 The warning signal for each succeeding class in a sequence of starts shall be made with the starting signal of the preceding class. (This will usually apply for open events).
- 11.5 A competitor trying to start later than 5 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start (DNS). This changes Rule A4.1.

## **12) GENERAL RECALLS**

For consecutive starts Rule 29.2 is modified as follows:

- 12.1. The "1st Substitute" (General Recall) Flag will be lowered 1 minute after the start signal of each recalled class. The recalled race will be started after the last scheduled start, and the warning signal (Class Flag) will be displayed at the starting signal for the last scheduled start.
- 12.2. When more than one race is recalled, the starts will be in the same order as the original sequence.
- 12.3. When the only race recalled is the last in the sequence Rule 29.2 will apply.

## **13 THE FINISH**

- 13.1. At the absolute discretion of the Race Officer, the average lap rule may be adopted for any race, where slower boats may be finished one or more laps early. (This is only possible if the start/finish line are the same).
- 13.2. The finishing line will be a transit line between a staff on the committee boat or shore-based position and either the rounding side of the nearby mark of the course, or an unnumbered orange finishing mark.
- 13.3. Flag S (Shorten) and 3 hoots when hoisted with Flag K (Yellow and Blue) indicates the immediate termination of the race. The last completed lap time will be used for each boat in calculating the PY corrected time for the race results. This finishing procedure is to be used only at the absolute discretion of the Race Officer on Wednesday evening series races.

## **14) PENALTIES**

- 14.1 Penalties for an infringement of the Rules shall follow the RRS with the following exception.
- 14.2 Infringements of Rule 42 shall be addressed under Appendix P1 and P2 of the RRS. Observers may include any member(s) of the Race Committee or Sailing Committee. This modifies Appendix P1.1.
- 14.3 If a competitor is considered to infringe Rule 42, the witnessing competitor shall hail Protest! and call for an Alternative Penalty. For a first infringement, the offender shall execute an Alternative (2-turn) Penalty as per RRS Rule 44. Any subsequent alleged infringement shall lead directly to a protest.

## **15) TIME GUIDE**

The time guide for any race will be 40 minutes. After that time, and at the discretion of the RO, nearby boats will be finished. Those who would unreasonably delay other activities will be retired and given scores one greater than the number of boats who did finish. This changes Rule 35.

## **16) PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS**

- 16.1 Protest forms are available from the office tray in the Clubhouse.
- 16.2 Protests shall be delivered to the Race Committee within the protest time limit which is 60 minutes after the last boat has finished the last race of the session. The same protest time limit applies to all protests by the race committee and to requests for redress. This changes Rules 61.3 and 62.2.
- 16.3 Competitors and witnesses will be informed within 60 minutes of the protest time limit of hearings in which they are named. Hearings will be held in or near the clubhouse.
- 16.4 Notices of protests by the race committee or protest committee will be posted to inform boats under Rule 61.1(b).
- 16.5 Protest arising on a Wednesday evening may be carried forward to the next club race day due to time constraints.
- 16.6 Video evidence is considered acceptable if agreed with the protest committee.

## **17) SCORING**

- 17.1 At least one third of the scheduled races must take place for a series to be valid. Decimal places are rounded off, eg, if 11 races were scheduled, then one third is 3.67 which is rounded off to 4 or more races required.
- 17.2 Of the races which are run, half that number shall count, rounded down to obtain the competitor's series score.
- 17.3 Points shall be awarded to the helm of any class competing in that class series.
- 17.4 A helm performing a Race Officer or OOD duty shall be entitled to claim average points for that days racing in any series.
- 17.5 A helm may change their boat to another of the same class at any time during a series without penalty. However, changing to a different rig in the case of Laser (ILCA) dinghies and RS Aero dinghies would apply a different handicap and is therefore not permitted within a single series.
- 17.6 The Club Championship "Bit O Teak & T" other Bit" shall be a series of 15 races taking the best 9 results to count.
- 17.7 Owners of vintage or classic boats may apply to the Sailing Committee to be allocated a Handicap Number consistent with the age and/or design of the boat, consulting with their Class Association or the CVRDA where appropriate. Such allocated number will be subject to annual review.
- 17.8 During the Sunset Salver series, the Sailing Committee shall assess the extent of weed growth and shorten the series if the weed is harming the performance of some classes more than others so as to make racing unfair. Points scoring shall only be counted up to the last official race sailed.
- 17.9 In a club points (class) series, all boats may share a common start in which case any individual class can have their own (class) series extracted from the overall results.
- 17.10 A single competitor cannot constitute a race.

## **18) SAFETY REGULATIONS**

- 18.1 Adequate personal buoyancy must be worn at all times when competitors are afloat. Wet or dry suits do not qualify as adequate personal buoyancy. This changes Rule 40.
- 18.2 All helms shall comply with instructions given by, or on behalf of, the Safety Officer (Water). Rule 4. The decision to race still applies.

## **19) EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT**

- 19.1 A boat shall comply fully with her Class Rules.
- 19.2 A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the Class Rules.

## **20) PRIZES**

- 20.1 For Open Meetings, prizes may be notified in the Notice of Race and be awarded in proportion to the number of entries.
- 20.2 For club series, prizes will normally be awarded to the first 2 helms/crews who qualify for the event of series.
- 20.3 For club trophy events prizes will normally be awarded to the first 3 helms/crews who qualify for the event.

## **21) DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY**

Competitors participate in racing & leisure sailing entirely at their own risk. Neither FGSC nor any class association will accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death, sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the regatta.

## **22) INSURANCE**

Participating boats shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £3,000,000.

## **23) POSTPONEMENT OF CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP RACES**

In order to avoid running Club Championship races when wind conditions are unsuitable for all classes, the Sailing Committee may agree to postpone that event to a later date. Wind conditions shall be assessed using the club weather station (display in the office) with particular reference to the 10 minute average wind speed. If the reading is less than 3 knots or greater than 20 knots the majority of the sailing committee present on the day can postpone the event whereby any racing held on the day will count towards the usual club long 'points' series. The Sailing Committee present shall communicate such re-scheduling to those members intending to sail, in a clear and conspicuous manner.

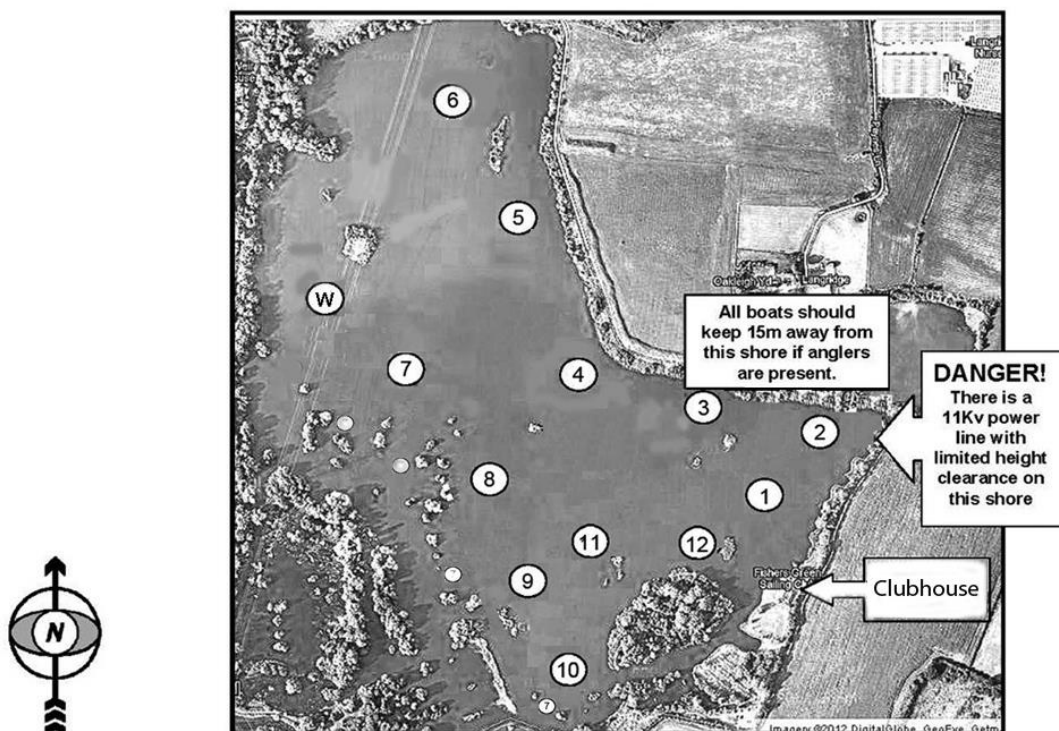
## **24) OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE**

In the event of a dinghy capsized or aground being assisted by the rescue team, she shall be allowed to continue the race and be given a finishing position. This changes RRS rule 41



## Appendix 1 to FGSC Sailing Instructions – December 2019

### View of Holyfield Lake showing approximate positions of Racing Marks



The Numeric Racing Marks are blue drums with white markings, and the sequence runs around the lake counterclockwise.

NB The area to the west of the islands and marked on the water by small white buoys is a bird sanctuary which is out of bounds. When anglers are present or there are fishing rods visible, you must keep 15 metres away from the north and east shores indicated.

## Appendix 2 – Record of amendments (since 2016)

Date	Rule	Summary/proposer
Spring 2016	Rule 15	New rule (Bill B)
	Rule 18.2, 18.4 & 18.6	New rules (GC)
	Rule 13.4	Finishing evening races - New ruling introduced. (Committee-All)
	Rule 18 – para 1	New text (Nick Y)
November 2016	Rule 24	Postponement of club championship races – new rule. (Bill B/ committee)
	Rule 7	Class flags amended (GC)
	Rule 10	New racing marks added (GC)
June 2017	Rule 12.1	Now 1 minute (GC)
	Rule 14	Penalties. RRS Rule 67 discontinued, therefore Appendix P invoked in its place for R42 penalties. (GC)
	Rule 18.3	Three tier method of resolving ties introduced. (GC/NY)
	Rule 9.2	Boats will round marks (GC)
	Rule 10.3	Use of sausage buoys. Marks now re-numbered. (GC)
November 2019	Rule 16.1 and 16.2	60 mins time limit and delivered to the race committee
	Rule 8.5	New rule making weed a continuous obstruction (GC)
	Rule 25	New rule for assistance from the rescue team (NY)
	Rule 4	Event specific changes only (GC)
	Rule 17.7	New rule to address weed growth (NY)
	Rule 7	Unused flags removed (GC)
	Rule 16.5	New rule introduced (RP)
	Rule 17.3	Rule 17.3 removed (CH/JS/DW)
November 2021	Rule 24	Communication to members clarified. (Committee-All)
	Rules 4 & 6	Referrals to social media introduced alongside refs to club noticeboard (GC)
	Rule 20 (old)	Deleted (GC)
	Rule 21 (now rule 20)	Revised to reflect current practice. (GC)
April 2023	Rule 13.2/3	Orange flag removed Rule 13.3 removed.(GC)
	Rule 11.6	Single start to become common practice unless turnout is exceptional. This rule effectively replaced by rule 17.9.
	Rule 14.3	Clarifying the policing Rule 42 with alternative penalty (GC)
November 2023	Rule 17.10	New Rule
	Rule 2.2	Signing-on sheets discontinued day to day. New members to identify themselves for the benefit of the race committee/score-keeper
	Rule 17.5	Rule now stating that members cannot change rig types during a competition