



Royal Ulster Yacht Club

Sailing Instructions

Thursday Evening Club Racing

1st May – 4th September 2025

1 Rules & Classes

Racing will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing 2025 – 2028, the RYA prescriptions, and the appropriate class rules. Cruiser handicap classes will sail IRC and/or YTC and a copy of their appropriate valid certificates shall be lodged with the Honorary Sailing Secretary before commencing racing. Whitesail classes will have results calculated under the YTC system.

2 Starting Times, Class Flags and Starting Procedure

Signals will be made at three-minute intervals. After the first preparatory signal, code flag 'P' shall be left displayed until the last class starts and the hoisting of the Class code flag will be the preparatory signal for the class and the warning signal for the next class.

In amendment of RRS 26 the start times and procedure will be as follows:

	Class Flag	Thursdays
Warning Signal		19:00
Preparatory Signal		19:03
IRC 1 (IRC \geq 0.970) & YTC Unrestricted	1	19:06
IRC 2 (IRC $<$ 0.970) & YTC Unrestricted	2	19:09
Whitesail (YTC)	3	19:12
ILCA7/Laser Std & ILCA 6/Laser Radial	5	19:15
ILCA 4/Laser 4.7 & Topper	J	19:18
Large Dinghy (PY < 1200)	R	19:18

3 Identification

Class flags shall be displayed from or near the back stay on IRC/YTC 1, IRC/YTC 2, YTC and Whitesail Cruisers.

4 Courses

4.1 In amendment of RRS 27.1, the course for each class will be displayed with, or as soon as possible after the preparatory signal for that class. The course to be sailed will be displayed on numeral boards displayed on the front wall of the battery. These boards will have either a RED or GREEN backgrounds indicating how the marks are to be rounded (leaving them to port or starboard, respectively). Second and subsequent rounds may be sailed and will be displayed as above when the leading boats approach the finish of the previous round(s). See appendix A for approximate positions of the club racing marks.



- 4.2** Two buoys ('A' & 'B') will be laid to the South-West and North-East, respectively of the red starting line buoy and approximately in line with that buoy. The buoys 'A' and 'B' have no significance when starting. At the end of a round, or when Finishing, the Start/Finish (SF) line shall be crossed only in the direction that it was crossed when starting. When crossing the SF line West to East marks 'A' and 'B' shall be left to port. When crossing the SF line East to West marks 'B' and 'A' shall be left to starboard. When a boat finishes (in accordance with the definition) the second of the two buoys ('A' or 'B' as appropriate) no longer has a required side.
- 4.3** When code flag 'W' is displayed at the marina and the RUYC battery, this will indicate a committee boat start from Mark 9. If no flag is displayed, the starts will be from the RUYC battery.
- 4.4** When code flag 'W' is displayed, the start line will be between Mark 9 and a committee boat displaying an orange pole with an orange flag. The start line will be between mark 9 and the orange pole. The Warning Signal, Preparatory Signal for each class will be signal flags. The signals will be repeated on the RUYC battery. Sound signals will be made on the committee boat.
- 4.5** The number of the first mark to be rounded will be displayed on a board on the committee boat, a Red (port) or Green (starboard) Flag will indicate the direction of rounding. After rounding this mark, boats will cross the finish line. Marks 'A' & 'B' will be marks of the course and 'A', 'B' & F will be left to the same hand as the first mark, Port or Starboard. On passing through the finish line, the course for Round 2, and any subsequent rounds, will be displayed on the battery wall as outline in SI 4.1 above.
- 5** **Battery Starts, Starting Line**
The Starting Line will be between a red buoy (shown as 'F' in appendix A) and a white pole with a X top mark in front of the battery
- 6** **Starting Time limit**
A boat that does not start within SIX minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. The changes RRS A5.1 & A5.2.
- 7** **Finishing**
The finishing signal shall be code flag 'S' displayed on its own if all classes are to finish, or with class flags if only the classes designated by those flags are to finish. In amendment to RRS 32.2 sound signals will not normally be made when displaying this signal.
The finishing line will be a red buoy (shown as 'F' in appendix A) and a white pole with an X top mark in front of the battery.
- 8** **Recrossing the finishing line**
Boats that have already finished shall not re-cross the finishing line.



9 General Recalls

In amendment to RRS 26 and 29.2, a class subject to a general recall shall take as its preparatory signal the lowering of the class flag for the last class shown in SI 2. If a second or subsequent class is subjected to a general recall, its preparatory signal will be the lowering of the class flag of the preceding recalled class.

10 Time Limits

The time limit will be 21:30 during May, June & July and 21:00 in August & September. In amendment to RRS 35, if a boat in any class finishes within the time limit, the time limit will be extended by 30 minutes for other boats in that class. If the final round is not completed within the time limit by the leading boat of a class, the finishing time of the penultimate round for that class will be taken and points awarded accordingly.

11 Protests

Protests shall be lodged with the race officer or Hon Sailing Secretary within 1 hour of the finishing time of the last boat in the class involved finishing.

12 Safety

The attention of competitors is drawn to the requirements of RRS 1.2 & 40.1 in respect of personal flotation devices. In amendment of RRS 40.1 all persons in the Multihull and dinghy classes shall wear personal flotation devices at all times whilst afloat.

13 Series and Discards

The Early Season Series will run from 1st May 2025 until 26th June 2025 (9 races). If fewer than four races are sailed no discard will be awarded. If 8 or more races are sailed two discards will be awarded.

The Late Season Series will run from 3rd July 2025 until 4th September 2025 (10 races). If fewer than four races are sailed no discard will be awarded. If 8 or more races are sailed two discards will be awarded.

The overall series will run from 1st May 2025 until 4th September 2025 (19 race). Discards for the overall series will be as follows:

fewer than 4 races zero discards, 8 or more races, two discards, 12 or more races three discards & 19 races sailed four discards

14 Insurance

Each participating boat shall be insured with a valid 3rd party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £3,000,000.

15 Likeness

By participating in one or more of the events described, I grant to the Royal Ulster Yacht Club the right in perpetuity to make, use and show, from time to time at their discretion, any motion or still pictures of me without compensation.



16 Risk Statement

Rule 3 of the RRS states: “the responsibility for a boat’s decision to participate in a race or to continue to race is hers alone”. Sailing by its very nature is an unpredictable sport and therefore inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event, each competitor agrees and acknowledges that:

- (a)** They are aware of the inherent element of risk involved in the sport and accept responsibility for the exposure of themselves, their crew and their boat to such inherent risk whilst taking part in the event;
- (b)** They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore;
- (c)** They accept responsibility for injury, damage or loss to the extent caused, by their own actions or omissions;
- (d)** Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate;
- (e)** The provision of a race management team, patrol boats and other officials and volunteers by the event organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities;
- (f)** The provision of patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances.



Appendix A.

