1.0 RULES

1.1 Racing will take place under the current Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), the prescriptions of the RYA, these sailing instructions and the appropriate class rules.

2.0 CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

2.1 The safety of a yacht and her entire management including insurance shall be the sole responsibility of the owner/competitor racing the yacht who must ensure that the yacht and the crew are adequate to face the conditions that may arise in the course of the race. Neither the establishment of these sailing instructions nor the inspection of the yacht under these conditions in any way limits or reduces the absolute responsibility of the owner/competitor for his crew, his yacht and the management thereof. The race organisers shall not be responsible for any loss, damage, death or personal injury however caused to the owner/competitor, his skipper or crew, as a result of their taking part in the race or races. Moreover, every owner/competitor warrants the suitability of his yacht for the race or races.

A yacht belonging to a member shall be deemed to have entered a race if she starts or competes in that race or ranks as a starter.

2.2 If requested, a valid measurement certificate shall be presented to the race committee.

2.3 Yachts may be measured before or after any race at the discretion of the race committee.

2.4 Under exceptional circumstances, and provided that the class rules allow, and permission is obtained from the Race Officer prior to the warning signal of the race or races concerned, the race committee may permit a yacht to use sails carrying a distinguishing number other than that required by RRS Appendix G.

2.5 All yachts shall be adequately covered, by third party insurance, to a minimum value of £2,000,000 for any one claim.

2.6 Adequate personal buoyancy for helmsman and crew shall be worn at all times whilst afloat. Wet suits or dry suits do not constitute adequate personal buoyancy. This amends RRS 40.

During January and February in addition to personal buoyancy a wet suit or dry suit shall be worn.

2.7 A Declaration must be made on the form provided within 15 minutes of the last boat's finishing the race, indicating compliance with all the rules. Points cannot be awarded unless a declaration is made.

3.0 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

3.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located in the entrance foyer.

4.0 CHANGES IN SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

4.1 Any changes in sailing instructions will be posted on the official notice board no later than 15 minutes prior to the warning signal of the race or races concerned.

5.0 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

5.1 Signals made ashore will be hoisted on the flagpole located in front of the clubhouse.

6.0 SCHEDULE OF RACES

6.1 The time of the start of the races will be as stated in the sailing programme. These times may be changed by the race committee by signals in accordance with RRS Race Signals.

7.0 CLASS SIGNALS

7.1 Class warning signals will be as follows:

- Lark
  - Code flag 'L'
- OK
  - Code flag 'H'
- Firefly
  - Code flag 'F'
- Solo
  - Code flag '1'
- Combined Single-handed Fleet
  - Code flag 'E'
- Portsmouth Yachtstick (P.Y.) race
  - Code flag 'B'
- Personal Handicap (P.H.) race
  - Code flag 'B'
- P.H./P.Y. race
  - Code flag 'B'
- Pursuit races
  - Code flag 'D'
- Junior Fleet
  - Code flag 'Skull & Cross Bones'

8.0 COURSE LOCATION

8.1 The course area is Lower Pool, Gailey Lea Lane, Gailey, the course will be notified by means of coloured number plates displayed from the starting box or committee boat. The number of rounds to be sailed will be displayed on the board from the starting box or committee boat before the warning signal.

9.0 THE COURSE

9.1 The course will be laid by the committee and will be adjusted for the first race of the day, the number of rounds to be sailed will be displayed on the board from the starting box or committee boat before the warning signal.

10.0 MARKS

10.1 Course marks are orange & yellow buoys numbered 1 to 8 in a clockwise direction from the mark nearest the dam in the northwest corner of the pool. All odd numbered marks are orange & even numbered marks are yellow.

11.0 STARTS

11.1 Fixed line starts will be used for all races.

11.2 The starting line shall be between the mast of the starting box or committee boat and an outer distance mark.

12.0 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

12.1 A yacht shall not constitute a separate “racing” yacht if she is not registered with the RYA, has no RYA number, and is not participating in a race of which the RYA is the organiser or sponsor.

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE SAILING CLUB
SAILING INSTRUCTIONS FOR CLUB RACING
11.3 An inner distance mark may be laid adjacent to the starting box or committee boat, which may not be on the starting line. When an inner distance mark is used, any yacht sailing into the triangle formed by this mark and the front and rear of the starting box or committee boat, after the one minute signal, is liable to disqualification without a hearing. The inner distance mark ranks as a start mark and the prohibited triangle formed by this mark and the committee boat/staring box is not an obstruction to sea room.

Anything permanently or temporarily attached to the committee boat or starting box should be considered to be part of the committee boat / starting box and is not an obstruction to sea room.

11.4 The starting procedure for Portsmouth Yardstick races will be in accordance with RRS 26.

The starting procedure for class races will be as follows:-

- 0 minutes – Lark warning signal - one sound signal & ‘L’ flag raised
- 9 minutes – Single-handed start, GP1signal – one sound signal, lower ‘E’ & ‘F’ flag raised. 4 prep. & Firefly warning
- 12 minutes –GP14 start & Firefly prep. signal – one sound signal & lower flag ‘A’.
- 15 minutes –Firefly start signal – one sound signal, lower flags ‘F’ & ‘P’

In Pursuit races classes will start as follows:-

Warning & Preparatory signals at 3 minute intervals as above. 6 minutes from the warning signal Fireflies will start followed by Solos 40 seconds after the Firefly start, GP14s 1 minutes 45 seconds after the Firefly start, OKs 2 minutes 30 seconds after the Firefly start, and Larks 4 minutes 30 seconds after the Firefly start. The Class flag for each fleet will be hoisted at the start signal of the previous fleet and lowered for the start together with one sound signal. The Firefly flag will be hoisted at the 3 minute preparatory signal and lowered at their start. The above times are based on the race finishing after 55 minutes from the Firefly start.

This amends RRS 26.

11.5 A boat will not be penalised for leaving the shore after its preparatory signal. This amends RRS 45.

11.6 A junior start will follow the Sunday morning PY race. The start signal for the PY race will be the warning signal for the Junior race and will be in accordance with RRS 26.

12.0 RECALLS

12.1 In general recalls on multiple fleet starts the recalled class will go to the end of the queue. The recall flag shall be lowered two minutes after the original recalled start time. No sound signal will be made. This amends RRS 29.2 and RRS 26. On a general recall for the last fleet to start RRS 29.2 will apply. General recalls will not be used in Pursuit races.

When a general recall is signalled on a PY race this shall be in accordance with RRS 29.2.

13.0 MARK BOATS

13.1 Any mark boat will be advised by the Race Officer on the official notice board.

14.0 CHANGE OF COURSE AFTER THE START

14.1 When after the race has started a mark of the course is moved, a boat will be stationed near the start of the leg affected, and will fly flag C over a red or green flag indicating that the direction of that leg lies either to port or starboard respectively of its previous bearing. This amends RRS 33.

15.0 CONTACT BETWEEN YACHTS RACING

15.1 When there is contact between yachts racing that is not both minor and unavoidable, the yachts shall be subject to disqualification without a hearing unless:

(a) One of them lodges a valid protest; or

(b) One of them, or a third yacht, retires (or exonerates herself by accepting a penalty) in acknowledgement of an infringement in that incident.

16.0 FINISHING

16.1 The finishing line shall be between the committee boat and the first mark of the course from the direction of the last mark, after sailing the required number of laps. If the course is shortened RRS rule 32 shall apply.

If the race is started from the starting box then the course may be shortened from the starting box and the finish line will then be the same as the start line, provided neither the starting box nor the outer distance mark have been moved during the race.

For shortening course in class races code flag 'S' will be flown from the finish line when the leading boat of the first class to start is to be finished. The remaining classes will then finish as each class passes through the finish line after the leading boat of the first class has finished, irrespective of the number of laps completed. Other classes can be finished first when the class flag is flown at the finish with code flag 'S'. The remaining classes will then finish as they pass through the finish line after the first boat of the signalled class has finished.

A pursuit race shall be finished as near as possible to 55 minutes from the Firefly start at a rounding mark. The committee boat will then drive passed all boats going in the opposite direction to the course and hoot as they pass to indicate that boat has finished. Each boat position shall be recorded in correct finishing order. All boats that are sailing at the time the first boat finishes shall be given a finish position.

The Race Officer may shorten course for any reason to facilitate completion of the race. Should the Race Officer shorten course this will not be grounds for redress under RRS 62. This amends RRS 32.

17.0 TIME LIMITS

17.1 In class races, any yacht which does not finish within 25 minutes after the first finishing yacht of the last class to finish, or in the case of Portsmouth Yardstick races 25 minutes after the first yacht crosses the finishing line, shall be deemed to have retired. In Pursuit or Personal Handicap Pursuit races any yacht, which does not cross the finish line within 10 minutes after the first yacht has crossed the finish line, shall be deemed to have retired.

Three sound signals will be made at the finish line to indicate the end of this time limit.
18.0 PROTESTS, REQUESTS FOR REDRESS & RYA AVISARY & ARBITARY HEARINGS
18.1 Protests must be made in writing on the form provided, and submitted to the Race Officer within 15 minutes of the last boat finishing. This time limit may be extended at the Race Committee's discretion. Protest hearings will commence as soon as possible thereafter.
18.2 Requests for redress must be made in writing on the form provided, and submitted to the Race Officer within 15 minutes of the last boat finishing. This time limit may be extended at the Race Committee's discretion. Hearings will commence as soon as possible thereafter.
18.3 A Protest Committee shall only be convened by a Club Officer, past Commodore or Sailing Committee member.
18.4 The Exoneration Penalty and the Advisory Hearing and RYA Arbitration procedures of the RYA Rules Disputes procedures shall apply. The outcome of an RYA Arbitration can be referred to a protest committee, but an arbitration cannot be reopened or appealed. See the Official Notice Board for details.

19.0 SCORING SYSTEM
19.1 RRS Appendix A will apply. For a short series (an event with less than six races), the number of races to count shall be three for five & four races, two for three races and all races when two or less are sailed.
For a long series (an event with six or more races), the number of races to count will be half of those completed, fractions being lowered to the next whole number. This amends RRS Appendix A.

20.0 PRIZES
20.1 The allocation of prizes for all events shall be at the discretion of the Sailing Committee. Prizes for any event will be awarded to the winning boat and to their regular crews.
The following category of helms do not qualify for points or prizes:- non-sailing members, temporary members and visitors.
20.2 Points will be credited to the Helms. When a helm sails a club boat without prior agreement with the Sailing Committee, points will not be awarded. This will not apply to junior helms borrowing club boats to sail in both adult and junior races. In races abandoned after the start, that are not resailed, points equal to the number of starters plus one will be awarded to all starters. This amends RRS Appendix A.
20.3 A competitor in any class other than a single-handed class may sail without a crew in any race, and when so doing shall rank as a competing yacht for the purposes of the rules, but points will be awarded equal to disqualification.
20.4 A competitor who sails in races, after the 31st December, shall not qualify for points or prizes, until his subscription has been renewed.

21.0 LOCAL VARIATIONS
21.1 The buoys marking the prohibited area around the island shall be considered an obstruction to sea room. Boats infringing this area should retire immediately or protest.
21.2 A maximum of 50 boats will be allowed on the water at any one time.
21.3 Portsmouth Yardstick Numbers for classes of boats will be as set out by the Sailing committee.
21.4 Personal handicaps will be allocated by the Sailing Committee and in general be calculated using Appendix 1 of the current RYA Portsmouth Yardstick Scheme publication. Club numbers will be reviewed monthly by the Sailing Committee. Trial numbers will be allocated and adjusted after each race until four PH races are completed. At this point the trial number will be converted to a club number and then adjusted as above.

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