



Weir Wood Sailing Club, Priory Road, Forest Row, East Sussex, RH18 5HT

Sailing Instructions

ITCA L&SE Region Topper Open Sunday 26th May 2024

The organising authority is Weir Wood Sailing Club in association with the Topper Class Association and its London and South-East Region

1 Rules

- 1.1 This meeting shall be governed by The Racing Rules of Sailing, the prescriptions of the RYA, the rules of the competing class and the Notice of Race except as changed by these Sailing Instructions (SIs).

2 Club Membership

- 2.2 All competitors are entitled to the privileges of membership of the Club for the duration of the event.

3 Notices to Competitors

- 3.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board on the Race Hut window.

4 Changes in Sailing Instructions

- 4.1 Any change to the Sailing instructions will be posted at least 30 minutes before the first race to which it applies.

5 Safety

- 5.1 It is a helm's absolute responsibility to ensure their own, and their crews, safety when deciding to sail/race
- 5.2 Competitors must follow RRS 40.1 for personal buoyancy.
- 5.3 All competitors accepting assistance from a support boat or race committee boat must obey any instructions given
- 5.4 Competitors must not sail closer than 50 metres to the shoreline to avoid anglers' fishing equipment
- 5.5 Due to limited ladies changing room space, female competitors should store their kit bags in their vehicles until the end of the event.

6 Launching and Recovery

- 6.1 The Race Organiser will assign competitors to a launch area for the duration of the event.
- 6.2 Competitors may not launch until the Event Safety Officer, has given permission for them to do so. After launching, trolleys must be stacked to one side of the launch slipway and not on any grassed areas.

7 Entries

- 7.1 Eligible boats must be entered by 22nd May 2024 with the race organisers through the ITCA GBR website.
- 7.2 Competitors must report to the Event Registration Desk in the clubhouse training room on arrival.

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- 7.3 Competitors should advise the Registration Officer which fleet they are competing in – Main Fleet or the Regatta Fleet. Both fleets may comprise both 5.3 and 4.2 boats. Boats entering the Regatta Fleet must collect a ribbon from the Registration Desk on arrival. The ribbon must be secured to the masthead, so it acts as a clear signal to the Race Officer and other competitors.
- 7.4 Competitors in the Regatta Fleet may receive outside assistance if the organisers feel the sailor would benefit without any detriment to the overall sailing competition. Assistance will be given as fairly as possible given sailors' capabilities in accordance with the ethos of the Regatta Fleet – encouraging those new to open meeting racing. This changes RRS 41.
- 7.5 Competitors using hire or borrowed boats must provide the correct sail number at the Registration Desk if the actual sail number differs from that used at the time of entry.



8 Compliance with Class Rules

- 8.1 Boats need not comply with class measurement rules. In particular, replica sails and equipment may be used, and sail numbers need not match the hull number. In using a boat not complying with class rules, competitors shall not seek to gain a competitive advantage. Boats may (only) be protested by the Race Officer where a clear competitive advantage has been sought. The changes RRS 78.1
- 8.2 Competitors may not change fleets or their sails after having started their first race at the event.

9 Scoring

- 9.1 The Low Points Scoring System of RRS Appendix A will be used.
- 9.2 If four races are completed a boat's score shall be her total points, excluding her worst score.
- 9.3 If fewer than four races are completed a boat's score shall be her total points.
- 9.4 An event winner will be declared providing one race is completed.

10 Class Flags

- 10.1 Code Flag 'T' will be used for the Main Fleet  Code Flag T
- 10.2 Code Flag 'R' will be used for the Regatta Fleet  Code Flag R

11 Schedule of races

- Race 1 Warning signal not before 10.55
- Race 2 Back-to-back after Race 1
Lunch Break
- Race 3 Start time announced to competitors during lunch with 30 minutes notice before Race 3 start.
- Race 4 Back-to-back after Race 3



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12 Signing on and off

- 12.1 Competitors are required to sign-on before Race 1. This will happen at the time of registration in the clubhouse training room. Thereafter, competitors are not required to sign-on for any further races.
- 12.2 No sign-off is required.
- 12.3 Competitors must notify the Race Officer if they decide to retire from a race they have already started. This notification may be done immediately upon reaching the shore via an Event Team Official.

13 Duration of races

- 13.1 The length of a race will be decided by the Race Officer, dependent on conditions. An average time for the first boat to finish may be 40 minutes.
- 13.2 The Race Officer may decide to shorten the course for either the Main or Regatta Fleet by displaying the shorten course flag above the code flag or flags for the fleet(s) being shortened and sounding two blasts.
- 13.3 At the Race Officer's discretion, once the shortened course signal has been given, a Fleet may be finished at the next mark of the course. A support boat will display the Fleet Flag to show it is on station to finish that Fleet's sailors. Finished sailors should follow instructions to either return to the starting area or to go ashore.
- 13.4 At the discretion of the Race Officer, and once leading boats are finishing, boats towards the back of the fleet, whose position is unlikely to change, may be given their observed position and instructed to return to the starting area.

14 Starting

- 14.1 Races will be started using RRS 26 (5-4-1-0)
- 14.2 The Race Officer may alert competitors that he is about to make a warning signal by a series of short blasts
- 14.3 A boat starting later than 5 minutes after her starting signal shall be scored DNS.
- 14.4 A boat whose warning signal has not been made shall keep clear of the starting area and must not obstruct boats who are about to start.

15 Protests and Arbitration

- 15.1 The helm of a protesting boat shall inform the Race Officer on the committee boat, at the time of finishing, of the intention to protest. A protest cannot be lodged later. Initially, any protest will be subject to an Arbitration Hearing without the need for protest forms being completed. Only the parties involved together with a member of the Event Organising Team will be present.

16 Course

- 16.1 The number of laps for each fleet's race will be displayed on the back of the Committee Boat prior to the race's warning signal.
- 16.2 The start line and finish line will be between the Committee Boat and a yellow danbuoy.
- 16.3 The course and the course marks will be explained at the Event Briefing.
- 16.4 The Race Officer may use a Lead Boat for the Main and/or Regatta Fleets. This changes RRS 41

17 Prizes

17.1 Prizes will be awarded for: -

- Main Fleet 5.3 boats
- Main Fleet 4.2 boats
- Regatta Fleet boats
- Weir Wood S.C. boats
- Other prizes may be awarded at the Race Officer's discretion.

Proposed Course Diagram

Final course and number of laps at the discretion of the Race Officer

Competitors will be advised at the Event Briefing and on the Official Notice Board on the Race Hut.

