



## **Blithfield Sailing Club - Sailing Instructions TOPPER MIDLAND AREA SERIES ROUND 5**

### **1 RULES**

- 1.1 The series of races will be governed by the 'rules' as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) . The prescriptions of the RYA, the rules of the international Topper Class, the Notice of Race, these Sailing Instructions, the rules of Blithfield Sailing Club and the requirements of South Staffordshire Water PLC.
- 1.2 Blithfield Sailing Club supports the RYA Racing Charter and that when entering, competitors undertake to sail in compliance with the Charter.

### **2 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS**

- 2.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located near the Race Box.
- 2.2 A briefing for competitors will be held near the Race Box at approximately 09.45 on 21st January 2023
- 2.3 Pre-Event notices will be published on the event website

### **3 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS (SIs)**

- 3.1 Any changes to the SIs will be posted at least 30 minutes before the warning signal of a race that it will affect. Except that any change in the schedule of races will be posted by 19.00 hours on the day before it will take effect The Race Committee reserves the right to amend the racing programme subject to prevailing conditions.
- 3.2 Competitors' attention will be drawn to changes by flying flag "L" accompanied by one sound signal. Flag "L" will be lowered after the start of the race that is affected by the change or changes in the sailing instructions.
- 3.4 In the event of a conflict between the Notice of Race and the Sailing Instructions, these sailing instructions shall take precedence. This changes RRS 63.7

### **4 SIGNALS MADE**

- 4.1 Flag Signals may be displayed on either the flagstaff adjacent to the Race Box or on the Committee Boat of Blithfield Sailing Club.
- 4.2 *Flashing Light* - If the amber flashing light on the Club House is activated, all boats and shall return to the Club House shore immediately. If a race is in progress, this light shall have the same meaning as Flags 'N' over 'H' - Race Abandoned, further signals ashore.
- 4.3 *House Flag* flying - means that boats may be launched. Boats launching when the *House Flag* is not flying may be scored 'Disqualified' by the Race Committee in the race sailed closest in time to the incident. This amends RRS 63.1 & Appendix A5

## 5 SAFETY, DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY & INSURANCE

- 5.1 Rule 4 of the Racing Rules of Sailing states: 'responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone.' Sailing is by its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event, each competitor agrees and acknowledges this.
- 5.2 A boat is entirely responsible for her own safety, whether afloat or ashore, and nothing, whether in the Notice of Race or Sailing Instructions or anywhere else, reduces this responsibility. It is for the boat's crew to decide whether she is fit to sail in the conditions in which she will find herself.
- 5.3 By launching or going afloat, the boat confirms that she is fit for those conditions and that her crew is competent to sail and compete in them.
- 5.4 The boat is required to hold adequate insurance and in particular to hold insurance against third party claims in the sum of at least £3 million.
- 5.5 Nothing done by the organisers can reduce the responsibility of the boat, nor will it make the organisers responsible for any loss, damage, death or personal injury, however it may have occurred, as a result of the boat taking part in the racing. The organisers encompass everyone helping to run the race and the event, and include the organising authority, the Race Committee, the Race Officer, patrol boats and beach masters. The provision of patrol boats does not relieve the boat of her responsibilities.
- 5.6 Flag Y will not be flown. Personal floatation devices are mandatory, adequate personal buoyancy must be worn by all competitors whilst afloat.
- 5.7 The Race Committee and its patrol boat crews are empowered to compel a competitor to receive significant outside assistance, or return to the shore, when they deem a situation where safety is put at risk. The right of a competitor to seek redress under the RRS is withdrawn under these circumstances. This amends RRS 62.1 This provision does not limit the responsibility of the competitor.
- 5.8 *Patrol Boat(s)* - All power boats engaged in safety duties in the sailing area shall rank as an *obstruction* as defined in RRS Definitions. In addition, the water between a power boat and the dinghy/dinghies to which she is standing by shall also rank as an *obstruction*.

## 6 SCHEDULE OF RACES

- 6.1 As detailed in the Notice of Race

## 7 STARTING AND RECALLS

- 7.1 The warning signal for each race shall not cause a start before the published times in the Notice of Race.
- 7.2 The starts will be made as described in the Notice of Race.
- 7.3 Races will be started using RRS 26. When signalled by the Race Committee, the provisions of RRS 30 will apply

## 8 CLASS FLAGS

- 8.1 The Topper Class Flag will be Signal Flag  , if this is not available then signal flag "T"  will be used.

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- ## 9.2



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- 10.2

## **11 THE START**


- 11.1 The *Starting Line* – will be between a staff on the committee boat displaying an orange flag and the start line mark.
- 11.2 A boat starting later than 10 minutes after her starting signal will be scored 'Did Not Start' without a hearing. This changes RRS 63.1 & Appendix A.

## **12 CHANGE OF POSITION OF NEXT MARK**

- 12.1 No blue course marks will be moved after the warning signal.

## **13 THE FINISH**

- 13.1 The *Finishing Line* will be between the staff on the Committee Boat flying an orange flag and the Finish Line mark or;
- 13.1(a) *Shorten Course* - the course may be shortened in accordance with RRS 32.2. This may take place at the Finish Line or at a mark of the course.
- 13.2 *Sound Signal* – Boats crossing the Finishing Line may be acknowledged with a sound signal.
- 13.3

Flag 'W'  may be displayed indicating that tail end boats do not need to complete the course but may return to the start area ready for the next race when told to do so by the crew of one of the rescue boats. Finishing positions will be recorded at the time the flag is displayed based on their proximity to the next mark on the course.

## **14 PENALTY SYSTEM**

- 14.1 The penalties described in RRS 31 & RRS 44.1 - will apply. Failure to take a penalty when knowingly breaking a rule is considered a serious breach of the basic principle of sportsmanship.

## **15 RACE TIME LIMIT**

- 15.1 There is a time limit on each race of 1 hour (ie 60 mins), or 40 minutes after the first boat finishes whichever is the sooner. Any boat still racing will be recorded RRS 35 & Appendix A.
- 15.2 The Race Committee may, in its absolute discretion, allocate a finishing position to any boat that appears to be unlikely to finish in the time limit, or to facilitate the management of the racing. Boats affected will be hailed. The right of a competitor to seek redress under the RRS is withdrawn under these circumstances. This amends RRS 60 and 62.

## **16 PROTESTS, REQUESTS FOR REDRESS & HEARINGS**

- 16.1 Protests or Requests for Redress shall be written on forms available from the Race Office at Blithfield Sailing Club. This amends RRS 61 & 62.
- 16.2 Completed protest forms shall be lodged with the Race Officer or their representative at the race office at Blithfield Sailing Club within the protest time limit.
- 16.3 The protest time limit is 30 minutes after the last boat finished the race or if back-to-back, the last race of that day.
- 16.4 A request for reopening a hearing shall be lodged within 30 minutes of being informed of the original hearing decision. This amends RRS 66.
- 16.5 Notices of hearings and protests by the race committee or protest committee will be posted to inform boats under RRS 61.1(b).
- 16.6 Boats observed by the Race Committee to have not sailed the correct course will be scored 'Disqualified' without the need to protest. Boats may seek redress from this action. This amends RRS 63.1 & Appendix A.

## **17 DECLARATIONS**

- 17.1 When a boat has retired, a declaration shall be made within 30 minutes from the finish time of the last boat. This shall be reported to the Race Officer or Safety Crew.
- 17.2 Back-to-back *races* - If races are sailed consecutively the time limit shall be from the last race sailed before coming ashore.
- 17.3 A boat not reporting a declaration within the declaration time limit, shall be scored 'DNC' by the Race Committee. This amends RRS 63.1 & Appendix A.

## **18 SCORING**

- 18.1 The event will be scored using the Low Points System in RRS Appendix A. RRS A5.3 will apply so that a boat that retires, does not finish or is disqualified shall be scored one more than the number of starters in the applicable race.

## **19 OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE**

Rescue crews are permitted to assist helms who are struggling to right their boat after a capsize.

The crew will stand by until it is apparent that assistance is required and then assist in righting the vessel. Helms may then continue to race as the capsize is viewed as sufficient penalty. The rescue crew will attend and assist in the order that they see vessels capsize. This changes RRS 4

## **20 COACHING**

ITCA (Topper Class Association) may arrange for a coach to be provided for on-water coaching to the less experienced sailors during the races. This is not intended to give individuals unfair advantage, rather to support their development and motivation for the future. The coach will adhere to coaching principles and behaviours as required under Rule 2, Fair Sailing. No other on-water coaches are permitted for the duration of the event