

Volvo GJW Direct Topper 5.3 and Topper 4.2 Inland Championships and National Series 4 + Inland Championship Regatta Fleet

29th/30th April 2017, Grafham Water



GJW*Direct*
All-Inclusive Dinghy Insurance



The organising authority is Grafham Water SC in conjunction with ITCA (GBR)

1 Rules

- 1.1 The event will be governed by the rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing.
- 1.2 The International Topper Class Rules and ITCA (GBR) Prescriptions also apply. [DP]
- 1.3 The rules and bye-laws of Grafham Water Sailing Club also apply. All visiting competitors and their supporters will be temporary members of Grafham Water Sailing Club for the duration of the event and shall abide by all club rules and bye-laws. [NP][DP]
- 1.4 Competitors should note that ITCA (GBR) implements the RYA Racing Charter and that they are required to sail in compliance with the Charter, which can be found at the front of the RYA rule book *The Racing Rules of Sailing 2017 – 2020* or at <http://www.rya.org.uk/racing/Pages/RacingCharter.aspx>. [NP][DP]
- 1.5 Competitors and supporters shall comply with any reasonable request from an event official. [NP][DP]
- 1.6 In all rules governing this event:
 - a. A boat may not protest another boat or request redress for any breach of a rule marked [NP]. This changes rule 60.1.
 - b. For breaches of rules marked [SP] the race committee may apply a standard penalty without a hearing. This changes rules 63.1 and A5.
 - c. For rules marked [DP] the penalty for each breach is at the discretion of the protest committee. This changes rule 64.1.
- 1.7 In case of conflict with the Notice of Race these Sailing Instructions shall prevail. This changes rule 63.7.

2 Notices to Competitors

- 2.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located in the café on the ground floor.
- 2.2 A briefing for **5.3 competitors** will be held at 10:30 on the Saturday in the café on the ground floor. Briefings for **4.2 and Regatta fleet competitors** will be held at 10:30 on the Saturday and at 09:00 on the Sunday in the marquee.
- 2.3 Communication with competitors (including BFD notification under rule 30.4 and Rule 42 penalty signalling under rule P1) will be by championship number.

3 Changes to Sailing Instructions

- 3.1 Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted at least two hours before the scheduled start time on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 18:00 or the end of the protest time limit (whichever is the later) on the day before it will take effect.

4 Signals made Ashore

- 4.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed from the flagpoles near the water's edge in front of the clubhouse: flagpole 3 (west) for the 5.3 fleet and flagpole 2 (middle) for the 4.2 and Regatta fleets.
- 4.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 30 minutes' in the race signal AP.
- 4.3 One or more class or flight flags displayed beneath flag AP indicate that the start of the next race for those particular fleets has been postponed.
- 4.4 Boats shall not go afloat until flag D is displayed. If one or more class or flight flags are displayed beneath flag D only boats in the relevant fleet(s) may go afloat at that time. [NP][DP]

5 Schedule of Races

- 5.1 Racing is scheduled for both classes and for the Regatta fleet on both the Saturday and the Sunday.

- 5.2 The scheduled time of the warning signal for the first start of the first race of each day is as follows:

<i>Day</i>	<i>5.3 class</i>	<i>4.2 class</i>	<i>Regatta fleet</i>
Saturday	11:55	11:55	12:00
Sunday	10:25	10:25	10:30

- 5.3 To alert boats that a race or sequence of races will begin soon, the orange starting line flag will be displayed on the race committee signal vessel with one or more sound signals at least five minutes before a warning signal is made.
- 5.4 On the last day of the event no starting signal will be made after 15:30.

Format of Racing - 5.3 class

- 5.5 Up to 10 races will be sailed over the two days, with five races scheduled for each day. However, up to six races may be sailed on either day if the race committee so decides [NP]. Races will normally be sailed back-to-back. Boats should remain in the race area until the race committee signals either "no more racing today" (AP over A, or N over A) or "further signals ashore" (AP over H, or N over H).
- 5.6 The race committee may split the entry into flights. When the entry is divided into four flights races will be started as follows, with the warning signal for the second start being made not less than 1 minute after the first start.

Race	1st Start	2nd Start
1	Yellow & Blue	Red & White
2	Yellow & Red	Blue & White
3	Yellow & White	Blue & Red
4	White & Red	Blue & Yellow
5	White & Blue	Red & Yellow
6	Red & Blue	White & Yellow
7	Yellow & Blue	Red & White
8	Yellow & Red	Blue & White
9	White & Red	Blue & Yellow
10	White & Blue	Red & Yellow

Format of Racing - 4.2 class and Regatta fleet

- 5.7 It is intended that up to 10 races will be sailed over the two days by each fleet. Races on each day will be sailed back-to-back but there may be a break for lunch.

6 Class / Flight Flags and Boat Pennants

- 6.1 The class flag for the **5.3 class** will be flag T. However, when the fleet is divided into flights, the class flag for each flight will be a flag whose colour corresponds to the flight colour.
- 6.2 If the **5.3 class** is split into flights, each boat shall, while racing, display from the top of her mast a coloured pennant (issued at registration) corresponding to her flight colour. [NP][DP]
- 6.3 The class flag for the **4.2 class** will be flag T defaced with "4.2".
- 6.4 The class flag for the **Regatta fleet** will be flag R.

7 Racing Areas

- 7.1 The racing area for each class/fleet on each day will be displayed on the official noticeboard.

8 The Courses

- 8.1 For the **5.3 class**, the diagram in the 5.3 Course Card 2017 shows the courses to be sailed, including the order in which the marks are to be passed and the side on which each mark is to be left.
- 8.2 For the **4.2 class and Regatta fleet**, the diagram in the 4.2 Course Card 2017 shows the courses to be sailed, including the order in which the marks are to be passed and the side on which each mark is to be left. The designation of the course to be sailed will be displayed on a board on the port side of the race

committee signal vessel from at least 5 minutes before the warning signal until at least the starting signal.

8.3 No later than the warning signal, the race committee signal vessel may display the approximate compass bearing of the first leg.

8.4 When one of two gate marks is missing then the remaining mark shall be left to port.

9 Marks

9.1 For the **5.3 class**, all marks will be orange inflatable pillar buoys. Marks 1 and 2 may have sponsors' banners and mark 5 may have a blue band.

9.2 For the **4.2 class and Regatta fleet**, marks 1 and 2 will be orange inflatable pillar buoys and all other marks will be orange inflatable dumpy buoys. Marks 1 and 2 may have sponsors' banners.

10 Areas that are obstructions

10.1 A support boat in close attendance to a vessel or person in difficulty is an obstruction.

10.2 It is prohibited to sail within the prohibited area at the west end of Grafham water. The eastern boundary of this area is marked with small yellow spherical buoys. This area is an obstruction. [DP]

10.3 It is prohibited to sail within 20 metres of any fishing boat. The area within 20 metres of any fishing boat is an obstruction. [DP]

11 The Start

11.1 The starting line will be between the mast displaying an orange flag on the committee vessel at the starboard end of the line and at the port end either:

- a mast displaying an orange flag on a committee vessel, or
- the course side of a buoy with an orange flag.

11.2 If a buoy with an orange flag is used, the race committee may position a vessel outside the port end of the starting line. When that vessel is in position or manoeuvring to hold position, a boat that touches it shall take a one-turn penalty as described in rule 44.2.

11.3 Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall keep clear of the starting area during the starting sequence for other races and flights. [NP][DP]

11.4 A boat that has not started within 4 minutes of her starting signal will be scored 'Did Not Start' without a hearing. This changes rule A4.

11.5 If a start under rule 30.4 (Black Flag Rule) is recalled or abandoned after the starting signal, the championship numbers of the boats that have been disqualified from the race under that rule will be displayed on the race committee signal vessel for a minimum of 3 minutes. A repeated sound signal will be made as the numbers are first displayed. (Competitors are reminded that any boat so notified must not sail in any restart or resail of that race - see rule 30.4).

12 Change of the Next Leg of the Course

12.1 To change the next leg of the course, the race committee will move the original mark (or the finishing line) to a new position.

13 The Finish

13.1 The finishing line will be between the mast displaying a BLUE flag on the committee vessel at the port end of the line and at the starboard end either:

- a mast displaying a BLUE flag on a committee vessel, or
- the course side of a buoy with a BLUE flag.

13.2 Boats finishing should make every effort to show their sail number clearly to the committee vessel.

13.3 After finishing and clearing the finishing line, boats shall keep clear of the finishing area and of all boats not yet finished. [NP][DP]

13.4 Boats re-crossing the finish line in the direction of the course from the last mark will be scored for their final crossing.

13.5 In addition to the procedure for shortening course in rule 32, the race committee may also award a finishing position to a boat that is still racing by displaying to her from a committee vessel (which may be in motion) flag W with one sound signal. A boat so notified is no longer required to sail the course

(changing rule 28.1), shall stop racing and shall return to the starting area, or return ashore if there is no more racing. A boat's finishing position under this sailing instruction will be the position she would have received had she sailed the course and finished within any time limit, without gaining or losing any place. However, when two or more boats that are overlapped are notified, they will be scored as if they were tied. [NP]

14 Penalties

- 14.1 Appendix P (Special Procedures for Rule 42) will apply as changed by instruction 14.2.
- 14.2 Rule P2.3 will not apply and rule P2.2 is changed so that it will apply to any penalty after the first one.

15 Time Limits and Target Times [NP]

- 15.1 The target time for each race is 30 minutes.
- 15.2 If no boat has passed Mark 1 within 20 minutes of the start the race will be abandoned.
- 15.3 If no boat finishes within 60 minutes, the race will be abandoned. It may be re sailed where possible.

16 Exoneration Penalties, Advisory Hearings and Declarations

- 16.1 The Exoneration Penalty and the RYA Arbitration procedure of the RYA Rules Disputes Procedures will be available. See the official notice board for details.
- 16.2 A boat that retires before or after finishing, or takes a one-turn or two-turn penalty under rule 44.1, shall record the details on a declaration form at the tally board before the end of tally time. [NP][DP]

17 Protests and Requests for Redress

- 17.1 Boats intending to protest or request redress for an incident on the race course shall, in the case of the 5.3 class, inform the race committee finish vessel at the starboard end of the finish line upon finishing the race, and in the case of the 4.2 class and Regatta fleet, inform the race committee signal boat at the port end of the finish line. If they do not finish they shall inform either a jury boat or a support boat as soon as practicable after they retire. This adds to the requirements of RRS 61.1 for a protest or request for redress to be valid.
- 17.2 Protests forms are available at the race office. Protests and requests for redress or reopening shall be delivered there within the protest time limit.
- 17.3 The protest committee will decide and post the protest time limit for each flight or class. It will normally be 30 minutes after the last competitor in that flight or class comes ashore after the last race of the day. This time limit is extended by 15 minutes for a protest by the race committee or protest committee concerning an incident they observed in the racing area.
- 17.4 A notice will be posted no later than 15 minutes after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. This is the notification required by rules 61.1(b) and 63.2. Advisory hearings, arbitration hearings and protest hearings may begin without a notice and within protest time when the parties are available.
- 17.5 On the last day of the event a request for re-opening a hearing shall be delivered:
 - a. within the protest time limit if the party requesting re-opening was informed of the decision on the previous day;
 - b. no later than 15 minutes after the party requesting re-opening was informed of the decision on that day.This changes rule 66.
- 17.6 On the last day of the event a request for redress based on a protest committee decision shall be delivered no later than 15 minutes after the decision was posted. This changes rule 62.2.

18 Outside help

- 18.1 The help permitted by rule 41(a) is changed to include help to recover after a capsize from the race committee or registered support boats.
- 18.2 No boat shall be towed by any support vessel at any time whilst afloat, unless the boat is disabled or permission has been given by the course safety lead or race officer. This includes towing to or from the race area. [DP]

19 Scoring

- 19.1 The event will be scored by Appendix A, low point system, except as amended below.
- 19.2 Ties on total points will be broken by rule A8 only for the purposes of awarding trophies and prizes, in which case rule A8.2 will be applied (if necessary) by reference to those races only in which the tied boats sailed against each other.
- 19.3 The event will be valid for a class if one race is completed and scored for that class.
- 19.4 A boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst race scores as follows:
 - a. When three or fewer races have been completed, no race score will be excluded.
 - b. When four to eight races have been completed, one race score will be excluded.
 - c. When nine or more races have been completed, two race scores will be excluded.
- 19.5 When the entry is divided into flights:
 - a. Each start in a race will be scored by Appendix A, low point system (as here amended). The scores from each start will be combined to produce the results of the race (so that there will be two firsts, two seconds, etc). These are not ties and will not be broken by rule A7.
 - b. When one or more starts is postponed, recalled or abandoned, the race will not be completed and scored for any boat until at least one boat in each start has started, sailed the course in compliance with rule 28, and finished within the time limit, and the race has not subsequently been abandoned.
 - c. In rule A4.2 (Scoring) the words "the number of boats entered in the series" are deleted and replaced with "the largest number of boats assigned to start together in the race".

20 Safety [NP][SP][DP]

- 20.1 Each competitor shall wear a personal flotation device of at least CE 50 Newton standard or equivalent at all times when afloat, except briefly while changing or adjusting clothing or personal equipment.
- 20.2 When a member of the race committee or its designated official considers that a boat, its equipment or a competitor may not be adequate for the current or expected conditions, or for any other reason associated with safety, he or she may stop the boat launching, or require it to return ashore, or go to a designated location.
- 20.3 Boats and competitors shall comply with all reasonable support boat crew instructions.
- 20.4 A boat that retires from racing shall notify a support boat before leaving the race area, or if that is not possible, shall notify the race office as soon as possible after returning ashore.
- 20.5 The launching trolley of each boat shall have a tag attached to the handle clearly identifying the championship number of the boat.
- 20.6 A fixed loop shall be formed in the longer end of the bow line of each boat to facilitate towing. The longer length of the bow line shall not be fixed or tied in a way that means it is not immediately detachable to facilitate towing. The penalty for breaking this instruction is 10% (rounded up) of the number of boats in her last race of the day added to her score without a hearing.

21 Tallying [NP][SP]

- 21.1 Each competitor shall, in person, tally out before launching, and tally in on return from racing.
- 21.2 The time for a boat to tally out ends when the boat is launched. The penalty for failing to tally out is 10% (rounded up) of the number of boats in her first race of the day, added to her score without a hearing.
- 21.3 A boat that fails to tally out must request and receive permission to remain afloat from a safety official before starting any race. A boat in this situation that starts a race before receiving such permission will be scored DNC for that race without a hearing. This changes rules 35 and A4.
- 21.4 The time for a boat to tally in finishes ten minutes after the last boat in her class is ashore. The penalty for failing to tally in is 10% (rounded up) of the number of boats in her last race of the day, added to her score, without a hearing.
- 21.5 If a competitor fails to tally in or out three times at an event, on the third time the penalty will be DSQ from the race concerned without a hearing.
- 21.6 An announcement will be made when boats may tally out.

22 Equipment Restrictions [DP]

- 22.1 Each boat shall use only one sail during the event, except that in the case of damage that it is impossible to repair in time for a race, the race committee may authorise the use of an alternative sail in one or more races. Such authorisation shall be sought at the first reasonable opportunity, ideally before the alternative sail is used.
- 22.2 No boat shall have a video camera on board whilst racing without the prior authorisation of the race committee.

23 Advertising [NP][DP]

- 23.1 When any event sponsor's promotional material is issued at registration, competitors shall make every reasonable effort to display it on their boats and sails throughout the event, as directed at registration.
- 23.2 Any individual caught stealing sponsor promotional items, e.g. flags, banners, prizes, shall be deemed to have committed a gross breach of good manners and may be subject to a hearing under rule 69.

24 Official and Support Boats [NP][DP]

- 24.1 All support boats must be approved and registered with the host club.
- 24.2 Only race committee vessels, jury boats and registered support boats will be permitted into the race area from the time of the preparatory signal for the first start until all boats have finished or retired or the race committee signals a postponement, general recall or abandonment. The penalty for failing to comply with this requirement may be the disqualification of all boats associated with the support personnel concerned.
- 24.3 All coach boats will be expected to perform as part of the safety fleet.
- 24.4 Except for rescue purposes, coach and support boats shall not communicate with any competitor from the time of the preparatory signal until after the competitor has finished the race. Coach and support communication with competitors is restricted to the area 100m or more to leeward of the race course when on the sea, or to an area designated by the race officer.

25 Waste

- 25.1 Rubbish may be placed aboard support and race committee boats.

26 Radio Communications

- 26.1 A boat shall neither make radio transmissions while racing nor receive radio communications not available to all boats. This restriction also applies to mobile telephones.

27 Prizes

- 27.1 Prizes will be awarded at the conclusion of the event at the discretion of ITCA (GBR), the host club and the event sponsor(s).

28 Risk Statement

- 28.1 **Rule 4 of Racing Rules of Sailing states: "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or 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 (and their parent(s) or guardian(s) in the case of a competitor under 18 years of age) 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 any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omission;
- 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, support boats and other officials and volunteers by the event organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities;

- f. The provision of support boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances;
- g. It is their responsibility to familiarise themselves with any risks specific to this venue or this event drawn to their attention in any rules and information produced for the venue or event and to attend any competitor briefing held for this event.

29 Insurance [NP][DP]

- 29.1 Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £ 3,000,000 per incident or equivalent.

30 Media Rights

- 30.1 By entering the event competitors accept that they may be photographed and/or videotaped participating in the event and/or using the event facilities and they consent to the taking and use of such images in any media, in conjunction with their name or not, without compensation and without the competitor's approval of such images or any use thereof.

31 Further Information

- 31.1 For further information please contact:

Will Willet (Vice Chair Racing) 07572 452391 racing@gbrtopper.co.uk
Sally Dugdale (Chairman) 07786 085518 chairman@gbrtopper.co.uk