

Volvo GJW Direct

International Topper 5.3 and 4.2

National Championships

5th to 11th August 2017, Plas Heli, Pwllheli



GJWDirect
All-Inclusive Dinghy Insurance



The organising authority is Plas Heli 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 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]
- 1.4 Competitors and supporters shall comply with any reasonable request from an event official. [NP][DP]
- 1.5 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.
- 1.6 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 event hall.
- 2.2 There will be a welcome and briefing for **all competitors**, which all competitors should attend, at 18:00 on Saturday 5th August in the event hall.
- 2.3 There will be a daily briefing for all **5.3 championship competitors** at 09:00 on each day from Monday to Friday (but not Sunday) in the event hall.
- 2.4 There will be a daily briefing for all **4.2 championship competitors** at 09:00 on each day from Sunday to Friday in Room 2.
- 2.5 (There will be a daily briefing for all **Regatta fleet sailors** at 09:00 on each day from Sunday to Friday in Room 3.)
- 2.6 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 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 Bridge on the NE corner of the event centre.
- 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 fleet 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 fleet flags are displayed beneath flag D only boats in the relevant fleet(s) may go afloat at that time. [NP][DP]

5 Format of Racing

5.3 class

- 5.1 There will be a Qualification series followed by a Final series.

- 5.2 Seven races are scheduled for the Qualification series and eight for the Final series. The Final series will only take place if at least three races have been completed in the Qualification series.
- 5.3 For the Qualification series the Championship entry will be divided into four fleets of as near as possible equal size: Yellow, Blue, Red and White. The four fleets will race together as follows:

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

- 5.4 Following completion of the Qualification series, the results of the Qualification series will be used to divide the Championship entry into three fleets for the Final series: Gold, Silver and Bronze. The Final series fleets will race separately (although the Silver and Bronze fleets may start together).
- 5.5 The boats with the best series score at the end of the Qualification series will be assigned to the Gold fleet. The minimum number of boats assigned to the Gold fleet will be 50% of the number of boats entered in the Championship, rounded up. In addition, all boats with the same series score as the last boat assigned to the Gold fleet in this way will also be assigned to the Gold fleet.
- 5.6 The remaining boats will be assigned to the Silver and Bronze fleets in a similar way, with at most 20% of the boats entered in the Championship being assigned to the Bronze fleet.
- 5.7 Any recalculation of Qualification series scores after boats have been assigned to Final series fleets will not affect those assignments, except that a redress decision before the Final series races commence may promote a boat into a higher fleet.

4.2 class

- 5.8 There will be a single series with 21 races scheduled.

6 Schedule of Races

- 6.1 The schedule of racing is as follows:

Date	First Warning Signal	5.3 class		4.2 class
		Series	Number of races	Number of races
Sunday 6 th August	10:55	Qualification	3 races back to back	4 races back to back
Monday 7 th August	10:55	Qualification	3 races back to back	4 races back to back
Tuesday 8 th August	10:55	Qualification	1 race	2 races back to back
Wednesday 9 th August	10:55	Final	3 races back to back	4 races back to back
Thursday 10 th August	10:55	Final	3 races back to back	4 races back to back
Friday 11 th August	10:55	Final	2 races back to back	3 races back to back

- 6.2 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.
- 6.3 The warning signal for any subsequent start in a sequence will be made not less than 1 minute after the starting signal for the previous start in the sequence.
- 6.4 On the last day of the event no starting signal will be made after 15:30.

7 Class / Fleet Flags and Boat Pennants

- 7.1 The class flag for the **5.3 class** will be flag T. However, when the entry is divided into fleets, the class flag for each fleet will be a flag whose colour corresponds to the fleet colour. For the Final series, class flags will be as follows:
- | | |
|--------------|-------------|
| Gold fleet | Yellow flag |
| Silver fleet | Blue flag |
| Bronze fleet | Red flag |
- 7.2 When the **5.3 class** is split into fleets, each boat shall, while racing, display from the top of her mast a coloured pennant (issued at registration) corresponding to her fleet colour. [NP][DP]
- 7.3 The class flag for the **4.2 class** will be flag T defaced with "4.2".
- 7.4 (The class flag for the Regatta fleet will be flag R.)

8 Racing Areas

- 8.1 The racing area for each class on each day will be posted on the official notice board.

9 The Courses

- 9.1 For the **5.3 class**, the diagram in the 5.3 Nationals 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.
- 9.2 For the **4.2 class**, the diagram in the 4.2 Nationals 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.
- 9.3 No later than the warning signal, the race committee signal vessel may display the approximate compass bearing of the first leg.
- 9.4 When one of two gate marks is missing then the remaining mark shall be left to port.

10 Marks

- 10.1 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. Course change marks will be a yellow inflatable pillar buoys.
- 10.2 For the **4.2 class**, 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.

11 Areas that are obstructions

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

12 The Start

- 12.1 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:
- the mast displaying an orange flag on a committee vessel, or
 - the course side of a buoy with an orange flag.
- 12.2 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.
- 12.3 Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall keep clear of the starting area during the starting sequence for other races and fleets. [NP][DP]

- 12.4 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.
- 12.5 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).

13 Change of the Next Leg of the Course

- 13.1 For the **5.3 class**, to change the next leg of the course the race committee will (a) lay a change mark, or (b) move a gate, or (c) move the finishing line. When a change mark is laid, the original mark will be removed as soon as possible. When in a subsequent change a change mark is replaced, it will be replaced by an original mark.
- 13.2 For the **4.2 class**, to change the next leg of the course the race committee will move the original mark, gate or finishing line to a new position.

14 The Finish

- 14.1 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:
- the mast displaying a BLUE flag on a committee vessel, or
 - the course side of a buoy with a BLUE flag.
- 14.2 Boats finishing should make every effort to show their championship number clearly to the committee vessel.
- 14.3 After finishing and clearing the finishing line, boats shall keep clear of the finishing area and of all boats not yet finished. [NP][DP]
- 14.4 Boats re-crossing the finish line in the direction of the course from the last mark will be scored for their final crossing.
- 14.5 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]

15 Policing of rule 42

- 15.1 Appendix P (Special Procedures for Rule 42) will apply as changed by instruction 15.2.
- 15.2 Rule P2.3 will not apply and rule P2.2 is changed so that it will apply to any penalty after the first one.

16 Time Limits and Target Times [NP]

- 16.1 For the **5.3 class**:
- a. The target time for each race is 45 minutes.
 - b. If no boat has passed Mark 1 within 30 minutes of the start the race will be abandoned.
 - c. If no boat finishes within 90 minutes the race will be abandoned. It may be re sailed where possible.
- 16.2 For the **4.2 class**:
- a. The target time for each race is 30 minutes.
 - b. If no boat has passed Mark 1 within 20 minutes of the start the race will be abandoned.
 - c. If no boat finishes within 60 minutes the race will be abandoned. It may be re sailed where possible.

17 Exoneration Penalties, Advisory Hearings and Declarations

- 17.1 The Exoneration Penalty and the RYA Arbitration procedure of the RYA Rules Disputes Procedures will be available. See the official notice board for details.
- 17.2 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]

18 Protests and Requests for Redress

- 18.1 Boats intending to protest or request redress for an incident on the race course shall inform one of the race committee finish vessels at the end of the finish line upon finishing the race. If they do not finish they shall inform either a jury vessel or official support vessel 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.
- 18.2 Protests forms are available at the race office. Protests and requests for redress or reopening shall be delivered there within the protest time limit.
- 18.3 The protest time limit for each class will be 30 minutes after the last competitor in that 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.
- 18.4 A notice will be posted no later than 30 minutes after the latest protest time limit on each day 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.
- 18.5 On the last day of the Qualification series for the 5.3 class, and of the event for both classes, 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.
- 18.6 On the last day of the Qualification series for the 5.3 class, and of the event for both classes, 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.

19 Outside help

- 19.1 Rule 41(a) is changed to allow help to recover after a capsize from the race committee or registered support vessels.
- 19.2 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]

20 Scoring

- 20.1 The event will be scored by Appendix A, low point system, except as amended below.
- 20.2 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.

5.3 class

- 20.3 A total of 15 races are scheduled, seven in the Qualification series and eight in the Final series. At least three races must be completed in the Qualification series prior to the fleet being split into Final series fleets. A single further race must be completed by the Gold fleet in the Final series to constitute the Championship.
- 20.4 In the Qualification series:
 - a. 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.

- 20.5 In the Final series each fleet will be scored separately. There is no requirement for the separate fleets to sail the same number of races.
- 20.6 A boat's Championship score will be the total of points equal to her overall ranking at the end of the Qualification series, which cannot be discarded, together with her Final series score.
- 20.7 In the Championship results all boats assigned to the Gold fleet will rank ahead of all boats assigned to the Silver fleet which will rank ahead of all boats assigned to the Bronze fleet.
- 20.8 For each of the Qualification series and the Final series a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst race scores as follows:
 - a. When 3 or fewer races have been completed no race scores will be excluded.
 - b. When 4 to 7 races have been completed one race score will be excluded.
 - c. When 8 races have been completed two race scores will be excluded.
- 20.9 In the Qualification series a boat that did not start, did not finish, retired after finishing or was disqualified, will be scored points for the finishing place one more than the largest number of boats assigned to any start of that race.
- 20.10 In the Final series a boat that did not start, did not finish, retired after finishing or was disqualified, will be scored points for the finishing place one more than the total number of entries in her Final series fleet.
- 20.11 When the Championship is not properly constituted (minimum 1 race completed in the Final Series by the Gold Fleet), prizes will be presented. However, the Overall Championship Trophy will not be awarded.

4.2 class

- 20.12 21 races are scheduled. Three races must be completed for the Championship to be properly constituted.
- 20.13 A boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst race scores as follows:
 - a. When 3 or fewer races have been completed no race scores will be excluded.
 - b. When 4 to 9 races have been completed one race score will be excluded.
 - c. When 10 to 14 races have been completed two race scores will be excluded.
 - d. When 15 to 19 races have been completed three race scores will be excluded.
 - e. When 20 or more races have been completed four race scores will be excluded.

21 Safety [NP][SP][DP]

- 21.1 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.
- 21.2 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.
- 21.3 Boats and competitors shall comply with all reasonable support vessel crew instructions.
- 21.4 A boat that retires from racing shall notify a support vessel before leaving the race area, or if that is not possible, shall notify the race office as soon as possible after returning ashore.
- 21.5 The launching trolley of each boat shall have a tag attached to the handle clearly identifying the championship number of the boat.
- 21.6 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.

22 Tallying [NP][SP]

- 22.1 Each competitor shall, in person, tally out before launching, and tally in on return from racing.
- 22.2 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.
- 22.3 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.
- 22.4 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.
- 22.5 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.
- 22.6 An announcement will be made when boats may tally out.

23 Equipment Restrictions [DP]

- 23.1 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.
- 23.2 No boat shall have a video camera on board whilst racing without the prior authorisation of the race committee.

24 Advertising [NP][DP]

- 24.1 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.
- 24.2 Any individual caught stealing sponsor promotional items, e.g. flags, banners, prizes, shall be deemed to have committed a breach of good manners and may be subject to a hearing under rule 6g.

25 Official and Support Vessels [NP][DP]

- 25.1 Only race committee vessels, jury vessels and registered support vessels 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.
- 25.2 All coach vessels will be expected to perform as part of the safety fleet.
- 25.3 Except for rescue purposes, coach and support vessels 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, or to an area designated by the race officer.

26 Waste

- 26.1 Rubbish may be placed aboard support and race committee vessels.

27 Radio Communications

- 27.1 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.

28 Prizes

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

29 Risk Statement

29.1 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 vessels and other officials and volunteers by the event organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities;
- f. The provision of support vessel 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.

30 Insurance [NP][DP]

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

31 Media Rights

- 31.1 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.

32 Further Information

- 32.1 For further information please contact:

Will Willet (Vice Chair Racing)	07572 452391	racing@itca-gbr.co.uk
Suzanne Farmer (Class Secretary)	01874 711576	secretary@itca-gbr.co.uk
Nerys Chandler (Events Manager)	07967 481130	eventsmanager@itca-gbr.co.uk