**Blithfield Sailing Club Ltd**

**Midlands Topper Traveller Meeting**

**Sailing Instructions**

**(Saturday 13th Jan 2024)**

1**. Rules**

Blithfield Sailing Club Ltd implements the RYA Racing Charter and entrants are required to undertake to sail in compliance with the Charter, details of which can be found at the front of the RYA Rule Book (Racing Rules of Sailing 2021-2024). Racing will take place under the current Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), the prescriptions of the RYA, the Notice of Race and these Sailing Instructions. If there is conflict between the Notice of Race and the Sailing Instructions, then these Sailing Instructions shall prevail.

 **Any Covid 19 protocols in force must be adhered to at all times.**

2. **Notices to Competitors**

Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located in the Clubhouse.

3. **Changes to Sailing Instructions**

Any changes to sailing instructions will be posted on the notice board not less than 30 minutes before the start of the Race.

4. **Signals Made Ashore**

Signals made ashore will be displayed on the Clubhouse flagstaff. Signals made afloat will be from a flag staff mounted on the Committee Boat.

5. **Schedule of Races**

There will be 3 races. The start for the first race will be at approximately 11.00. A break for lunch will follow with timings for Race 2 briefed as soon as practicable. Race 3 will follow Race 2 ‘back-to-back’ as soon as practicable. The Race Officer (RO) reserves the right to change the race timings to suite the weather conditions.

6. **Signing on**

Competitors must have paid the entry fee (on-line) and sign ‘on’ before the first race. If a competitor retires then they must sign ‘off’ when coming ashore.

7. **Class Flags**

Class flag will be: Topper Class Flag. PLEASE CONFIRM YOU WILL BE BRINGING ONE WITH YOU AS BLITHFIELD DOES NOT POSSESS ONE

8. **Courses**

## 8.1 The *course* will be displayed on the Committee Boat no later than the warning signal. The mark numbers or letters shall be displayed in sequence, their background colour ‘Red’ or ‘Green’ indicating whether marks are to be rounded to port or starboard respectively. A white number on a black background will indicate the number of laps to be sailed.

8.2 When an alteration to the course is made, two sound signals will be made and International Code Flag Numeral Pennant Two flown.

9. **The Marks**

 9.2 *Course marks* – Course marks are spherical blue buoys, numbered in white. Spherical blue buoys labelled ‘Y’ and ‘W’ may be re-positioned at any time during the regatta. ‘Y’ will normally be in the sailing area nearest the dam. ‘W’ will normally be in the sailing area closest to the Causeway.

 9.3 *Start Line Mark* - The mark used for the starting line will be ‘X’, a white spherical buoy with a pillar and will carry an orange flag.

 9.4 *Finish Line mark* - The mark used for the finishing line will be ‘X’ (the same used for the start line) unless 13.1(a) applies.

 9.5 Boats may be required to sail through the starting - finishing line on the first leg of each lap, this will be displayed using a white board with the letter ‘L’ on it. Any boats failing to do so will not be credited with that lap. Boats may seek redress from this action.

10. Sailing Area and obstructions

 10.1 The sailing area is restricted with a perimeter of red buoys, except for an area where launching is allowed in the vicinity of the Club. A straight line drawn between two adjacent buoys along this boundary shall rank as an obstruction as defined in RRS Definitions. A diagram of the sailing area is also displayed on the official notice board.

##  10.2 Any boat seen by race officials to have crossed the lines defining the sailing area will be scored ‘Disqualified’ by the Race Committee in the race sailed closest in time to the incident. This amends RRS 63.1 & Appendix A5.1. Other boats may protest an infringement.

 10.3 A Judge Boat, the ring of red buoys surrounding the Resmix pump or fishing boats and their associated equipment straying into the sailing area, shall all rank as an *obstruction* as defined in RRS definitions.

 10.4 *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.*

11**. The Start**

11.1 Races will be started by using RRS 26 with the warning signal made 5 minutes before the starting signal.

11.2 If there is a General Recall, the sequence will recommence 1 minute after the General Recall flag is lowered.

11.3 The starting line is defined as the line between the mast on the Committee Boat and the designated Outer Distance (OD) mark. The OD mark will be white with a pole and orange flag. A limit mark may be laid adjacent to the Committee Boat. Limit marks are marks of the course. No boat shall pass between the limit mark and any part of the vessel it guards after the preparatory signal.

11.4 A boat starting later than 4 minutes after her starting signal shall be scored ‘Did Not Start’ without a hearing. This changes RRS Appendix A, A4 & A5.

11.5 If the Open Event is shared with Club Racing the visiting fleet shall start 5 minutes ahead of Club Racing. The RRS will apply to all sailors.

1. **Change of The Position of The Next Mark**

To change the position of the next mark, the Race Committee will move the original mark (or the finishing line) to a new position. The change will be signaled as per the RRS before the leading boat has begun the leg, although the mark may not yet be in the new position.

13. **The Finish**

13.1 **Finishing at a Mark**. When a Committee Boat not under way is appropriately positioned on the course and appropriate signals, if necessary, have been made, the race will finish between the mast of that Committee Boat and the nearby rounding mark.

 13.2 Any competitor retiring from a race must inform the OOD or his/her on the water team (Safety or Race) at the earliest opportunity, before leaving the race area.

1. **Time Limits**

Boats failing to finish within 30 minutes of the winning boat will be scored ‘Did Not Finish’. This changes rules 35 and A4.1.

15. **Protests and Requests for Redress**

15.1 Protest forms are available at the Clubhouse. Protests shall be delivered there within 30 minutes of the last boat finishing the race.

15.2 Appendix T (Arbitration) will apply.

16. **Scoring**

* 1. The low point scoring system of Appendix A will apply on the day of racing.
	2. Discards for the event are as per the RRS.

17. **Safety Regulations**

17.1 Adequate personal buoyancy shall be worn by all crew members whilst afloat. Wet / dry-suits do not constitute adequate buoyancy.

17.2 When the Race Committee or a Safety Boat Operative considers that a boat or competitor is in difficulties it may instruct the boat or competitor to accept outside help, retire or sail ashore.

18. **Equipment and Measurement Checks**

A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the Class Rules and Sailing Instructions by a Class-authorised person. On the water, a boat can be instructed by a Class-authorised person to proceed immediately to shore for inspection when such a Class-authorised person is present at the event.

19. **Risk Statement**

Sailing is a water sport that, by its nature, is unpredictable and therefore inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in any waterborne activity, each competitor agrees that:

19.1 They are aware of the inherent element of risk involved in the sport and accept responsibility for the exposure to themselves, their crew and their boat whilst taking part in the event.

19.2 They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore.

19.3 They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions.

19.4 Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate.

19.5 The provision of a race management team, safety boats and other officials and volunteers by the event organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities.

19.6 The provision of safety boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances.

19.7 Their boat is adequately insured, with cover of at least £5 million against third party claims.

19.8 All entrants are also reminded of Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) Fundamental Rule 3 about responsibility.

20. **Coaches & Supporters**

No coach or support boats will be permitted other than the one provided by the association. Coaches & supporters accompanying competitors are required to comply with the principles of good sportsmanship and behavior and the rules of Blithfield Sailing Club. Failure to do so may result in investigation by the Regatta organizers, and potentially in an instruction to the competitor to leave the premises of Blithfield Sailing Club without means of redress.

21. **Wind Strength**

The minimum wind strength across the course should be 5 knots. The RO is to set the maximum wind strength according to experience and discretion based on local knowledge.

22. **Rights to Use Names and Likenesses**

By signing the entry form, competitors automatically grant to the organising authority, without payment, the right in perpetuity to make, use and show any motion pictures, still pictures and live, taped or filmed television of all media relating to the event. They also allow their names, age category, club and boat details to be displayed in competitors lists prior to the event and in results, on the Blithfield Sailing Club website and in other subsequent publications.