

Sailing Instructions

INTERNATIONAL TOPPER
CLASS ASSOCIATION (GBR)



Autumn Championships (NS1) Draycote Water SC 4th / 5th October 2025



Version 1
24th September 2025

The organising authority is Draycote Water SC together with ITCA (GBR)

1 Rules

- 1.1 The event is governed by the rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS).
- 1.2 The local rules that apply are set out in Annex A. [NP][DP]
- 1.3 Competitors and supporters should note that ITCA (GBR) implements the RYA Racing Charter and that they are required to act in compliance with the Charter, which can be found at:
<http://www.rya.org.uk/racing/rules/racing-charter>. [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 RRS 60.1 and 61.1.
 - b. For breaches of rules marked [SP] the race committee may apply a standard penalty without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.1.
 - c. The notation [DP] is as defined in the RRS (and means that the penalty for a breach of the rule may, at the discretion of the protest committee, be less than disqualification).
- 1.6 In case of conflict with the Notice of Race these Sailing Instructions shall prevail. This changes RRS 63.5(c).

2 Notices to Competitors

- 2.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board at:
<https://gbrtopper.ourclubadmin.com/notice-board.php?event=1624>
Notices may also be copied to the event Telegram group.
- 2.2 There will be a competitor briefing that **all competitors should attend at 10:30 on the Saturday morning on the patio outside the clubhouse.**
- 2.3 Boats will generally be identified by their championship number. In particular BFD notification under RRS 30.4 will be by championship number. This changes RRS 30.4.

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 latest 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 on **the flag pole in front of the clubhouse.**
- 4.2 Flag AP displayed ashore means that launching has been postponed. Launching will commence shortly after AP is removed, unless at that time launching is postponed again or racing is abandoned. This changes Race Signal AP in the RRS.
- 4.3 Boats shall not be moved from their place in the dinghy park or go afloat until flag D is displayed ashore with one sound (launch signal). The first warning signal for the next scheduled race will not be made until all boats that launched promptly after the launch signal have had sufficient time to sail directly to the starting area. [NP][DP]

5 Schedule of Races

- 5.1 Racing is scheduled for all three classes on both days.
- 5.2 The scheduled time of the launch signal and warning signal for the first start of the first race of each day is as follows:

<i>Day</i>	<i>Launch signal</i>	<i>Warning signal for first start</i>
Saturday	11:15	11:55
Sunday	09:45	10:25

- 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 14:30 unless fewer than 4 races have been completed by a class by that time in which case the time limit may be extended to 15:30 for that class.

Format of Racing

- 5.5 Each class will sail up to **six** races over the two days, with three races scheduled for Saturday and three for Sunday. However, up to four races may be sailed on either day if the race committee so decides [NP].
- 5.6 The sequence of starts and the courses to be sailed will depend upon whether or not the 5.3 class is flighted. A notice will be published on the official notice board no later than 10:00 on the Saturday morning to inform competitors as to whether or not the 5.3 class will be flighted.

If the 5.3 class IS flighted

- 5.7 The 5.3 class entry will be split into four flights: Yellow, Blue, Red and White.
- 5.8 Races will be started as follows, with the warning signal for the second and third starts being made not less than 1 minute after the previous start.

Race	1 st Start	2 nd Start	3 rd Start
1	Yellow & Blue	Red & White	4.2 & 6.4
2	Yellow & Red	Blue & White	4.2 & 6.4
3	Yellow & White	Blue & Red	4.2 & 6.4
4	White & Red	Blue & Yellow	4.2 & 6.4
5	White & Blue	Red & Yellow	4.2 & 6.4
6	Red & Blue	White & Yellow	4.2 & 6.4

If the 5.3 class is NOT flighted

- 5.9 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	1 st Start	2 nd Start
1	5.3	4.2 & 6.4
2	5.3	4.2 & 6.4
3	5.3	4.2 & 6.4
4	5.3	4.2 & 6.4
5	5.3	4.2 & 6.4
6	5.3	4.2 & 6.4

- 5.10 If a race is abandoned on the water for any reason (flag N displayed on the race committee signal vessel) all subsequent races for that class are postponed until the abandoned race has been resailed and completed.
- 5.11 On each day, all races for each class 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). Any races not completed on Saturday will be postponed to Sunday (and sailed before the races scheduled for Sunday).

6 Class / Flight Flags and Boat Pennants

- 6.1 The class flag for the 5.3 class will be flag T. However, if 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 corresponding to her flight colour (available from the race office). [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 6.4 class will be flag T defaced with "6.4".

7 Racing Areas

- 7.1 All classes will race in the same area on Draycote Water.

8 The Courses

- 8.1 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, are as follows:
- a. If the 5.3 class is flighted: as set out in 'Special Course Card 1' in Annex B

b. If the 5.3 class is NOT flighted: as set out in 'Special Course Card 2' in Annex C

- 8.2 The number of beats to be sailed will be displayed on a board on the race committee signal vessel from no later than the warning signal until at least the starting signal for each start. **Note that the number of beats may not be the same for all classes, in particular the number of beats for the 6.4 class may be more than the number of beats for the 4.2 class.**
- 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 the remaining mark shall be left to port.

9 Marks

- 9.1 The starting marks will be either two committee vessels each displaying an orange flag, or a committee vessel displaying an orange flag and a dan buoy with an orange flag.
- 9.2 The finishing marks will be either two committee vessels each displaying a blue flag, or a committee vessel displaying a blue flag and a dan buoy with a blue flag.
- 9.3 For **all classes**, marks 1, 2, 3a, 3b, 4a, 4b and 5 will be orange inflatable pillar buoys. Mark 2 may have a sponsors' banner; mark 5 may have a blue band. **For the 4.2 and 6.4 classes**, marks 1a and 2a (if used), will be yellow inflatable pillar buoys.

10 Prohibited Areas and Obstructions

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

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 defined in RRS 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 starts more than 4 minutes after her starting signal will be scored 'Did Not Start' without a hearing. This changes RRS 35, A4 and A5.
- 11.5 If a start under RRS 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 before the next warning signal. 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 RRS 30.4). This changes 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 gate, or the finishing line, to its new position.
- 12.2 The requirement to signal a change of course in accordance with RRS 33 does not apply if the race committee changes the angle of the next leg of the course by no more than plus or minus 10 degrees and/or extends or shortens its length by no more than 100 metres. This changes RRS 33.

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 the championship number on their sail clearly to the committee vessel(s).
- 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 may be scored for their final crossing.
- 13.5 In addition to the procedure for shortening course in RRS 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 RRS 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 Policing of Rule 42

- 14.1 Appendix P (Special Procedures for Rule 42) will apply as changed by instruction 14.2.
- 14.2 RRS P2.3 will not apply and RRS 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, Mark 1 time limit and race time limit for each class are as follows:

	<i>5.3 and 6.4 classes</i>	<i>4.2 class</i>
Target time	40 minutes	35 minutes
Mark 1 time limit	30 minutes	25 minutes
Race time limit	80 minutes	70 minutes

- 15.2 If no boat has rounded Mark 1 within the Mark 1 time limit the race committee will abandon the race. (Similarly, RRS 35 specifies that if no boat sails the course within the race time limit the race committee shall abandon the race).

16 Post-Race Penalties, Arbitration Meetings and Declarations

- 16.1 RRS Appendix T applies, with the word "will" replaced by the word "may" in the first sentence of RRS T2.
- 16.2 Any boat that took a penalty on the water shall declare that penalty to a recorder at the tally board within the time limit to tally in upon returning ashore. [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 inform one of the race committee finish vessels at the end of the finish line as they finish the race, or promptly thereafter. If they do not finish the race they shall inform either a jury vessel or a support vessel as soon as practicable after they retire. RRS 60.4(a) and 61.3 are changed so that if these requirements are not complied with the protest or request for redress is invalid.
- 17.2 Protests forms will be available from the **race office**. Protests and requests for redress or reopening shall be delivered there within the protest time limit.
- 17.3 The protest time limit for each class will be 30 minutes after the last competitor in that class comes ashore promptly 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 last protest time limit on each day to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Arbitration meetings and protest hearings may begin without a notice and within the protest time limit when the parties are available.
- 17.5 On the last day of the event a request for re-opening shall be delivered:
- within the protest time limit if the requesting party was informed of the decision on the previous day;
 - no later than 15 minutes after the party was informed of the decision on that day.
- This changes RRS 63.7(b).
- 17.6 A request for redress based on a protest committee decision on the last day of the event shall be delivered no later than 15 minutes after the decision was posted. This changes RRS 61.2(b)(2).

18 Outside help

- 18.1 RRS 41 is changed to allow help to recover after a capsize from the race committee or registered support vessels.
- 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 in accordance with RRS Appendix A, except as amended below.
- 19.2 The event will be valid for a class if one race is completed and scored for that class.
- 19.3 Subject to RRS 90.3(b), 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 or more races have been completed, one race score will be excluded.
- 19.4 When the entry for a class is divided into flights:
 - a. Each start in a race will be scored in accordance with RRS Appendix A (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 race ties and RRS A7 will not be applied among such results.
 - b. When one or more starts is postponed, recalled or abandoned, the race will not be scored for any boat until at least one boat in each start has sailed the course within the race time limit, and the race has not subsequently been abandoned.
 - c. In RRS A5.2 the first sentence is deleted and replaced by "A boat that did not *sail the course*, retired or was disqualified shall be scored points for the finishing place one more than the largest number of boats in that class assigned to start together in that race".
 - d. RRS A8.2 is amended by appending the words "in which they sailed against each other (pairwise)" to the end of the first sentence and after the words "next-to-last race" in the second sentence.

20 Safety [NP][SP][DP]

- 20.1 RRS 40.1 (Personal Floatation Devices – Basic Rule) applies at all times when afloat.
- 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 vessel crew instructions.
- 20.4 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.
- 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. As required by class rule C.5.5.7.c), the longer length of the bow line shall be stowed in a manner that permits its immediate use for towing using a small piece of elastic cord around the mast. It shall not be stowed by passing it around the mast. The penalty for breaking this instruction or class rule C.5.5.7.c) 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, collect their tally band from the tally board before launching, and return their tally band to the tally board on returning ashore.
- 21.2 Each competitor shall wear their tally band on a wrist, outside all clothing, at all times when afloat, except briefly whilst changing or adjusting clothing or personal equipment. [DP]
- 21.3 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 after the incident, added to her race score without a hearing.
- 21.4 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 RRS 35 and A5.

- 21.5 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 before the incident, added to her race score without a hearing.
- 21.6 If a competitor fails to tally in or out three times at the event, on the third time the penalty will be DSQ from the race concerned without a hearing.
- 21.7 An announcement will be made when boats may tally out.

22 Equipment Restrictions [DP]

- 22.1 Competitors are reminded that under class rules C.4.2.a), b) and c) the only electronic devices that may be carried or attached to a boat while racing are electronic timing devices which do not have any other function / capability, and/or an electronic compass, unless the Notice of Race or Sailing Instructions permit or require additional electronic equipment to be carried aboard.

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 breach of good manners and may be subject to a hearing under RRS 69.

24 Support Person and Safety Fleet Rules [NP][DP]

- 24.1 Except when necessary in the interests of safety, or when expressly asked to do so by a member of the race committee or safety team, no support person that is not on board a vessel that is registered as part of the safety fleet shall provide help or assistance to a boat or competitor at any time while afloat, except help to launch or recover their boat. This changes RRS 41.
- 24.2 Except when necessary in the interests of safety, no vessel that is under the control of a support person but is not registered as part of the safety fleet shall cause undue wash, interfere with the work of any race committee or other official vessel, or be positioned anywhere within 100m of the race course at any time (or within 200m if proceeding at more than 5 knots).
- 24.3 All vessels and drivers that wish to be part of the safety fleet shall register with the organising authority before going afloat. The organising authority may decline to register any vessel or driver that they consider to be unsuitable or that fails to meet the requirements listed in the current ITCA (GBR) Safety Operating Procedures Manual.
- 24.4 All registered safety vessels and their crews shall undertake the duties assigned to them by the relevant course safety leader (CSL) at all times.
- 24.5 Except when necessary to fulfil its designated safety duties, no registered safety vessel shall cause undue wash, interfere with the work of any race committee or other official vessel, or be positioned:
 - a. closer than 50m to any boat that is racing (and no closer than 150m if the vessel is motoring at more than 5 knots)
 - b. between any boat that is racing and the next mark of the course
 - c. within 50m of the starting line and marks from the time of the preparatory signal until all boats have left the starting area, or the race committee signals a postponement, general recall or abandonment
 - d. within 50m of any mark of the course when boats are in the vicinity of that mark
 - e. within 50m of the finishing line and marks while boats are finishing.
- 24.6 All persons onboard registered safety vessels shall wear a personal floatation device at all times while afloat, except briefly whilst changing or adjusting clothing or personal equipment.
- 24.7 Drivers shall wear a kill cord at all times when an engine is running.

25 Waste

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

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 3 of the 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.

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 Further Information

- 30.1 For further information please contact:

Claire Turner (Events Manager)

07534 875996 eventsmanager@itca-gbr.co.uk

Sally Dugdale (Chair Racing)

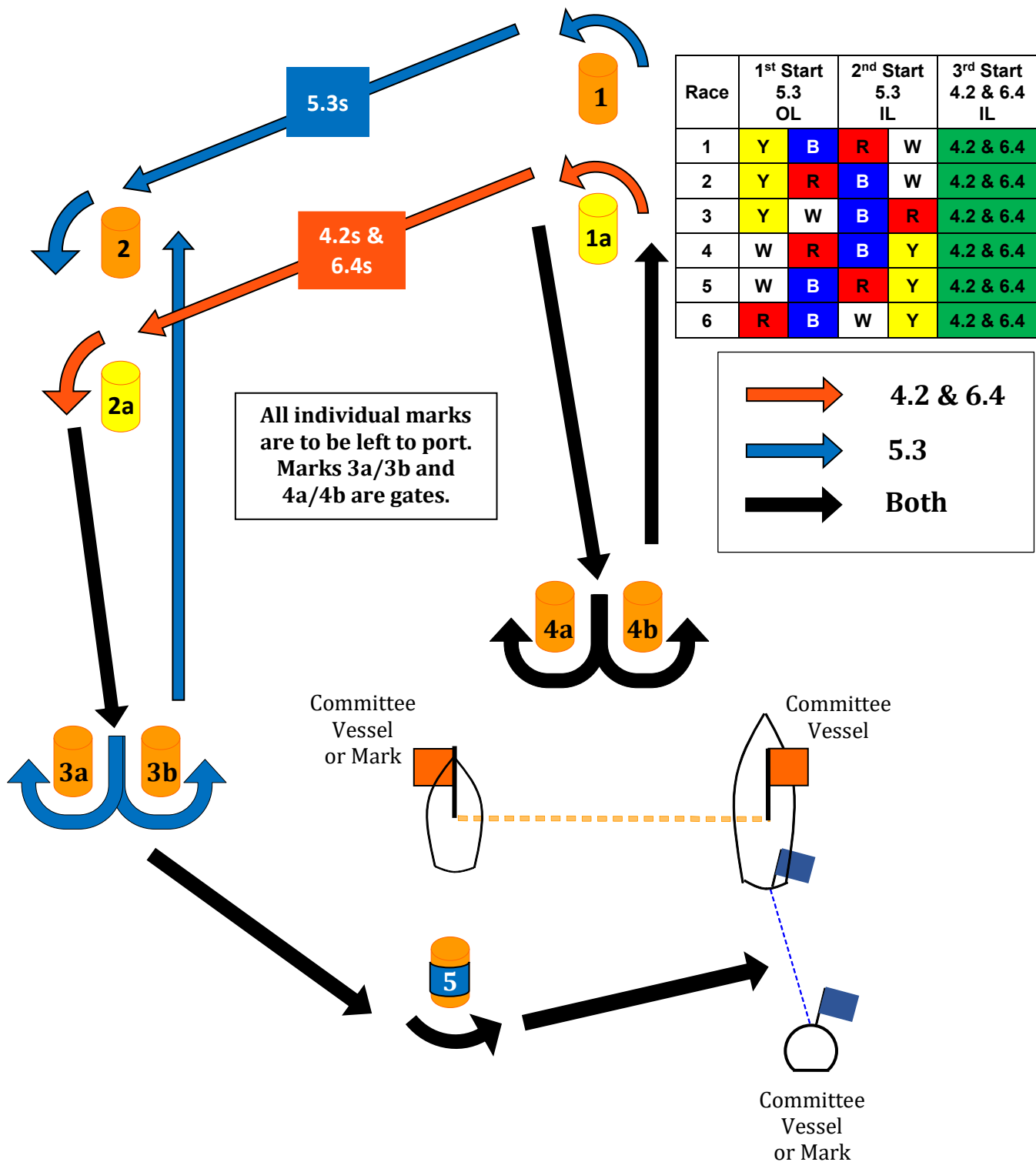
07786 085518 racing@itca-gbr.co.uk

Annex A – Local rules

TBA

Annex B – Special Course Card 1

Course signal	1	2	3
Number of beats	1 beat	2 beats	3 beats
1st Start: 5.3 OL	1, 2, 3a/b, 5, Finish	1, 2, 3a/b, 2, 3a/b, 5, Finish	1, 2, 3a/b, 2, 3a/b, 2, 3a/b, 5, Finish
2nd Start: 5.3 IL	1, 2, 3a/b, 5, Finish	1, 4a/b, 1, 2, 3a/b, 5, Finish	1, 4a/b, 1, 4a/b, 1, 2, 3a/b, 5, Finish
3rd Start: 4.2 & 6.4 IL	1a, 2a, 3a/b, 5, Finish	1a, 4a/b, 1a, 2a, 3a/b, 5, Finish	1a, 4a/b, 1a, 4a/b, 1a, 2a, 3a/b, 5, Finish



Annex C – Special Course Card 2

Course signal	1	2	3
Number of beats	1 beat	2 beats	3 beats
1st Start (5.3 OL)	1, 2, 3a/b, 5, Finish	1, 2, 3a/b, 2, 3a/b, 5, Finish	1, 2, 3a/b, 2, 3a/b, 2, 3a/b, 5, Finish
2nd Start (4.2 & 6.4 IL)	1, 2, 3a/b, 5, Finish	1, 4a/b, 1, 2, 3a/b, 5, Finish	1, 4a/b, 1, 4a/b, 1, 2, 3a/b, 5, Finish

