

South Staffordshire Sailing Club

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS (SIs) FOR TOPPER OPEN MEETING ON 31ST JANUARY 2026

1.0 RULES

1.1 Racing will take place under the current Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), the prescriptions of the RYA, these sailing instructions and the appropriate class rules.

1.2 Competitors should note that the South Staffordshire Sailing Club implements the RYA Racing Charter and that they will be expected to sail in compliance with it. The Charter can be found at the front of the RYA edition of the Racing Rules of Sailing 2025-2028 (yellow pages after the definitions), or on the RYA website www.rya.org.uk/racingrules.

1.3 If there is a conflict between the Notice of Race and the Sailing Instructions, The Sailing Instructions take precedence.

This is in addition to RRS 63.5(c)

2.0 CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

2.1 RISK STATEMENT Rule 3 of the Racing Rules of Sailing states: 'The 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 involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event, each competitor 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 omissions;
- 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, patrol boats, and other officials and volunteers by the organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities;
- f) The provision of patrol 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 safety briefing held.
- h) Their boat is adequately insured, with cover of at least £3,000,000 against third party claims.

INSPECTIONS - The fact that race officials may conduct inspections of a boat does not reduce the responsibilities of each competitor set out in this notice of race.

DECLARATION - By entering the race competitors agree to be bound by the Racing Rules of Sailing and all other rules that govern this event. In particular, confirm that they have read the Notice of Race and accept its provisions and agree that their boat will conform to the requirements set out in the Notice of Race & these Sailing Instructions throughout the event.

2.2 A yacht belonging to a competitor shall be deemed to have entered a race if she starts or competes in that race or ranks as a starter and shall register their intention to sail with details of your Helm, Crew, boat class and sail number on the entry form.

2.3 If requested, a valid measurement certificate shall be presented to the race committee.

2.4 Yachts may be measured before or after any race at the discretion of the race committee

2.5 Under exceptional circumstances, and provided that the class rules allow, and permission is obtained from the Race Officer prior to the warning signal of the race or races concerned and both

hull and sail numbers shall be clearly indicated on the entry form, the race committee may permit a yacht to use sails carrying a distinguishing number other than that required by RRS Appendix G.

2.6 Rule 40.1 applies at all time while afloat.

2.7 Any helm retiring or taking a post race penalty must sign the retirement sheet within 30 minutes of the last boat finishing. When races are sailed consecutively without coming ashore, the time limits will apply from the last boat finishing the last of these races.

3.0 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

3.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located in the clubhouse opposite the bar entrance and Code flag 'L' displayed from the Flag staff between the Club house and the pool.

4.0 CHANGES IN SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

4.1 Any changes in sailing instructions will be posted on the official notice board no later than 15 minutes prior to the warning signal of the race or races concerned.

5.0 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

5.1 Signals made ashore will be hoisted on the flagpole located in front of the clubhouse.

6.0 SCHEDULE OF RACES

6.1 The time of the start of the races will be as on the Notice of Race. These times may be changed by the race committee, by signals in accordance with RRS Race Signals.

7.0 CLASS SIGNALS

7.1 The Class warning signal will be Code flag 'T'.

8.0 COURSE LOCATION

8.1 The course area is Lower Pool, Gailey Lea Lane, Gailey

9.0 THE COURSE

9.1 The course will be notified by means of coloured number plates displayed from the starting box or committee boat. The colours on these plates will show which way each mark will be taken, i.e. a red 3 shows that No. 3 will be left to port.

9.2 The number of rounds to be sailed will be displayed on the board from the starting box or committee boat before the warning signal.

9.3 All marks of the course are rounding marks.

10.0 MARKS

10.1 Course marks are spherical buoys numbered 1 to 8 in a clockwise direction from the mark nearest the dam in the northwest corner of the pool.

11.0 STARTS

11.1 Fixed line starts will be used for all races.

11.2 The starting line shall be between the mast of the starting platform or committee boat and an outer distance mark carrying an orange flag.

11.3 A spherical inner distance mark may be laid adjacent to the starting box or committee boat, which may not be on the starting line. This mark may have "inner distance mark" written on it. Boats must pass between the inner distance mark and the outer distance mark when starting.

11.4 Boats who have not started within four minutes of their start signal may be scored DNS (did not start)

11.5 The starting procedure for Class races will be in accordance with RRS 26.

11.6 A boat will not be penalised for leaving the shore after its preparatory signal. This amends RRS 45.

2.0 RECALLS

12.1 Recalls will be in accordance with RRS 29.

13.0 MARK BOATS

13.1 Any mark boat will be advised by the Race Officer on the official notice board.

14.0 CHANGE OF COURSE AFTER THE START

14.1 When after the race has started a mark of the course is moved, a boat will be stationed near the start of the leg affected and will fly flag 'C' over a red or green flag indicating that the direction of that leg lies either to port or starboard respectively of its previous bearing.

The race committee may move a mark 20 metres in any direction without signalling the change.
This amends RRS 33

15.0 FINISHING

15.1 The finishing line, when used, shall be between the committee boat and the first mark of the course from the direction of the last mark, after sailing the required number of laps. If the course is shortened RRS rule 32 shall apply.

If the race is started from the starting platform or committee boat and the start line is positioned between the last mark of the course and the first mark, then the course may be shortened from the starting platform and the finish line will then be the same as the start line, provided neither the starting platform nor the outer distance mark have been moved during the race.

15.2 Should the Race Officer shorten course this will not be grounds for redress under RRS 61.

16.0 TIME LIMITS

16.1 Any-boat which does not finish within 15 minutes after the first finishing boat shall be deemed to have retired. Three sound signals will be made at the finish line to indicate the end of this time limit.

16.2 The race committee may award a finishing place to individual boats by pointing Flag W at her with a sound signal. The signalled boat shall be deemed to have finished, and the score awarded shall be the position occupied at the time of the signal. If two or more overlapped boats are signalled, they shall be scored as if they were tied. This changes RRS 28.1 and A3.

17.0 PROTESTS, REQUESTS FOR REDRESS & ARBITRATION HEARINGS

17.1 Protests for incidents observed on the water must be submitted to the Race Officer within 30 minutes of the last boat finishing. When races are sailed consecutively without coming ashore, the time limits will apply from the last boat finishing the last of these races. Protest hearings will commence as soon as possible thereafter.

17.2 Requests for redress shall be as RRS 61.

17.3 A Protest Committee shall only be convened by a Club Officer, past Commodore or Race Committee member.

17.4 Appendix T applies.

17.5 The penalty for a breach of a rule, other than a rule of Parts 1 and 2 or Rule 31 of the Racing Rules of Sailing may, at the discretion of the protest committee, be less than disqualification.

18.0 SCORING

RRS 90.3(e) will apply

19.0 PRIZES

19.1 Prizes will be awarded to the three highest placed boats in each class.

20.0 LOCAL VARIATIONS

20.1 A maximum of 50 boats will be allowed on the water at any one time.

20.2 Personal buoyancy must be worn when on the jetties.