

## **CRAWLEY MARINERS YACHT CLUB**

### **Sailing Instructions for the Topper Open Meeting 25th April 2026**

#### **1. Rules**

Racing will be governed by the Racing Rules of Sailing 2025-2028 (RRS), the prescriptions of the RYA, the rules of the Topper class, except as any of these are changed by these Sailing Instructions.

#### **2. Entries**

Eligible boats may be entered by completing the registration form and by payment of the entry fee as stated. The safety of a boat and her entire management including insurance shall be the sole responsibility of the owner/person in charge who must ensure that the boat and crew are adequate to face the conditions that may arise in the course of the race. Neither these Sailing Instructions nor any inspection of the boat limits or reduces the absolute responsibility of the owner/person in charge for the crew, the boat and her management. The race organisers shall not be responsible for any loss, damage, death or personal injury howsoever caused to the owner/person in charge or crew, as a result of their taking part in the race or races. Moreover, every owner/person in charge warrants the suitability of the boat for the race or races.

#### **3. Notices to Competitors**

Notices to competitors will be posted on a notice board outside the clubhouse.

Competitors to sign in at the Clubhouse prior to the briefing and declare whether they are using a 5.3 or 4.2 rig, also to confirm their sail number.

#### **4. Changes to Sailing Instructions**

Any change to the Sailing Instructions will be posted at least 30 minutes before the race to which the change(s) apply.

#### **5. Signals made ashore**

Signals made ashore will be displayed at the clubhouse.

#### **6. Schedule of Races**

The race start time will be posted on a notice board at the clubhouse. A competitor briefing will take place at 10.00h in front of the clubhouse. Subject to wind, racing is expected to start at 11.00h, warning signal at 10.55h. It is anticipated to have two back to back races in the morning followed by two back to back races in the afternoon, after a short competitor briefing. Depending on number of entries the 4.2 fleet may have a separate start which would be 5 minutes after the 5.3 fleet, this will be confirmed at the competitors briefing.

#### **7. Class Flag**

Not applicable.

#### **8. Safety**

Adequate personal buoyancy must be worn at all times when competitors are afloat or on a jetty. Wet or dry suits do not qualify as adequate personal buoyancy. This replaces rule 40. Helpers, including parents, should wear adequate personal buoyancy on a jetty and slipway.

#### **9. Racing Area**

The racing area will be as illustrated on the course board.

#### **10. The Course**

The course will be displayed on the course board at the clubhouse or on the recording platform. This will show the order and required side on which marks will be passed and the number of laps to be sailed. After starting, boats are required to pass between the recording platform and the un-numbered black buoy (ODM) at the end of the first and all subsequent laps, unless the race course stipulates otherwise, e.g. after a committee boat start. A boat that crosses the finish line in error can exonerate herself by unwinding, i.e. sail back to the line via any marks that were subsequently rounded, cross the line in the opposite direction, sail around the line and then continue to sail the course. Whilst exonerating herself:

- a) She must sail a course that complies with the 'string test' defined in RRS Definitions and

b) She must keep clear of other boats that are crossing the finish line.  
A boat that is wrongly compelled to cross the finish line by another boat is not expected to exonerate herself.  
The line ranks as an *obstruction* except at the end of a lap or when finishing if this line is used as the Finishing Line. A boat that fails to sail the correct course in accordance with RRS 28 shall be scored NSC.

## 11. Marks

Course marks 1 to 9 and X are orange with black identification numbers or letter. The outer starting mark will be an un-numbered black buoy or nearby orange mark of the course.

The area occupying the south west corner of the lake, marked by white buoys, is out of bounds.

The area between the white buoys and the dam at the eastern end of the lake is out of bounds.

## 12. Number of starters required

Three boats shall be the minimum number required to appear in the starting area for a race to be started.

## 13. The Start

Races will be started using Rule 26. Exception to RRS 26: Visual signals made from the recording platform shall be made by use of coloured cylinders (see diagram at the end of this document). The starting line will be between a staff on the recording platform or race committee boat and the un-numbered black buoy or nearby mark of the course. Alternatively, the start may be between a committee boat and a specified mark, in which case standard flags will be used. A boat may not start later than 10 minutes after her starting signal.

As SI 6 there may be a separate start for the 4.2 rig, this to be confirmed at the briefing.

## 14. The Finish

The finishing line will be between a staff on the recording platform or race committee boat and the un-numbered black buoy or nearby mark of the course.

## 15. Time limit

The race duration will be stated as a number of laps. The race may be shortened in accordance with rule 32 . Exception to rule 32: Visual signals made from the recording platform shall be made by use of coloured cylinders (see diagram at the end of this document). Boats failing to finish within 15 minutes of the first boat to finish will be scored "Did Not Finish" (DNF).

## 16. Declarations

A helm who has not sailed the course in compliance with the RRS and these SIs (i.e. a helm who retired either during or after a race) must notify the race officer within 30 minutes of the last boat to finish a single race or the second of the two back-to-back races. Helms who did not start (DNS), did not sail the course (NSC), did not finish (DNF) or retired (RET) shall be marked accordingly on the race record sheet.

## 17. Protests

Protests must be made in accordance with RRS 61 and be lodged in writing with the Race Officer within 45 minutes of the last boat to finish or where races are sailed 'back-to-back', within the same time for the subsequent race. Disputes should be resolved using the RYA Racing Charter Rules Dispute Advisory and Mediation Hearing processes where possible. Where a protest is made subsequent to an Advisory Hearing, the time limit for submission is 15 minutes from the end of the hearing. A request to reopen a hearing by a *party* to it must be made no later than 30 minutes after being informed of the decision. This changes RRS 66.

## 18. Scoring

Four races are scheduled, of which one or more races shall be completed to constitute a series. One discard will be allowed if four races are sailed.

- a) The scoring system will be as per RRS Appendix A. A 4 Scoring System (Low Points) applies. RRS Appendix A 5.1 & 5.2 apply, attention is drawn to: Did not start (DNS), did not sail the course (NSC), did not finish (DNF), disqualified, or retired = Number in series +1.
- b) Series Ties will be broken in accordance with RRS Appendix A8. If there is a series score tie between two or more boats, each boat's race scores shall be listed in order of best to worst,

and at the first point(s) where there is a difference the tie shall be broken in favour of the boat(s) with the best score(s). No excluded scores shall be used.

## 19. Appendix P applies

Immediate penalties for breaking Rule 42. Disqualification under RRS 42 cannot be discarded.

### Race Control Signals made from the 'Maid of Kent'

Time >	0	+ 1 minute	+ 4 minutes	+5 minutes	Individual Recall
First Start	<u>Warning signal</u>	<u>Preparatory signal</u>	<u>One Minute</u>	<u>Race starts</u>	
Time >	+5 minutes	+ 6 minutes	+ 9 minutes	+10 minutes	General Recall
Second Start <i>If Confirmed At Briefing</i>	<u>1st Fleet starts</u>	<u>Preparatory signal</u>	<u>One Minute</u>	<u>Race starts</u>	
Other Signals					
Races not started are postponed - Short delay		Start abandoned - Watch for new signals	All races abandoned - All ashore	Shortened course - Finish as prescribed	<p>The Warning signal for the new start is to be made One Minute after the General Recall is lowered</p> <p>B = Blue R = Red W = White Y = Yellow</p>
Warning signal is to be made one minute after these signals are lowered			Attention to all signals should be made with a strong blast on the whistle. The number of sounds are shown by :  or   or		