



NORTHAMPTON SAILING CLUB

Sailing Instructions **Topper Midlands Traveller** **at Pitsford Reservoir** **11th December 2021**

1 RULES

- 1.1 The event is governed by the rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing 2021-2024.
- 1.2 The Sailing instructions may also change rules. In the event of there being any conflict between the aforementioned, these sailing instructions will take precedence at all times.
- 1.3 Competitors shall sail in accordance with the RYA Racing charter.
- 1.4 Topper class rules will apply as standard.
- 1.5 All competitors are required to wear personal floatation devices while afloat and on club pontoons

2 Notice to Competitors

- 2.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the Topper event whatsapp group.

3 Changes to Sailing Instructions

- 3.1 Any changes in the sailing instructions will be posted no later than 30 minutes before the advertised starting time of the race or races concerned. These changes will be valid for all subsequent races in the series.
- 3.2 Changes in the Sailing Instructions will be displayed at the clubhouse and will be signalled by displaying flag "L" from the flagpole. When no further changes have been made Flag "L" will be lowered after the start of the last race of that day.

4 Signals made Ashore

- 4.1 Signals made ashore will be hoisted on the flagpole located on the Veranda at the North East corner of the Clubhouse.
- 4.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore "1 minute" is replaced with "not less than 30 minutes" in race signal AP.

5 Schedule of Races

- 5.1 The race times are scheduled to be as follows:-

- Briefing - Club briefing approximately 10.00 am
- A maximum of four races are scheduled and will be subject to weather conditions and daylight.
- First race - 10.30am Start
- Race 2, to follow back to back
- A short break for lunch
- Races 3 and 4 will be sailed back to back (Race 4 will be subject to daylight hours)

6 Class Flag Signals

6.1 The class flag will be the Topper class Flag.

7 Racing Area

7.1 The location of the racing area will be provided at the briefing by the Race Officer.

8 The Courses

- 8.1 The course marks will be large cylindrical orange P&B buoys labelled 1-4.
- 8.2 The course configuration will be displayed on the stern of the committee boat. Examples of the types of courses which may be used, are indicated at the end of the Sailing Instructions
- 8.3 When "line" is displayed on the course board, boats will pass between the committee boat and the end of line mark on each round.
- 8.4 In the event that the course displayed is changed prior to a race starting, the Race Officer may indicate this by flying flag C from the committee boat mast.
- 8.5 The Race Officer will disqualify boats seen by the race team to have sailed the wrong course, including missing the line when set as part of the course.
- 8.6 There may be a Lead Rib boat for each race, who will display the 'Follow me' flag, to be indicated at the briefing. However this boat will also provide safety cover and its priority will be to deliver safety cover, the 'Follow me' flag will be lowered in this event. It will be the discretion of the Race Officer if a lead boat is provided.

9 Number of Laps

9.1 The number of laps will be displayed on the stern of the committee boat. Each race will last for approx. 40 to 45 minutes.

10 The Start

- 10.1 Races will be started by the warning signal given 5 minutes before the start signal. The sequence will follow 5, 4, 1 - Go.
- 10.2 The start line is defined as the line between the mast displaying an Orange flag on the committee boat and an end of line mark, flying an orange flag.
- 10.3 Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the start area.
- 10.4 A boat starting later than 4mins. after her start will be scored DNS.
- 10.5 A race may not be started if, in the opinion of the Race Officer, there is insufficient or excessive wind.

11 Recalls

- 11.1 Individual recalls will be signalled by the Race Officer
- 11.2 If after a General Recall the Race Officer deems necessary RSS 30.3 will apply - the Black Flag Rule. If a black flag has been displayed, no part of a boat's hull, crew or equipment shall be in the triangle formed by the ends of the starting line and the first mark during the last minute before her starting signal. If a boat breaks this rule and is identified, she shall be disqualified without a hearing, even if the race is restarted or re-sailed. The Race Officer shall display her sail number or championship number, before the next warning signal for that race, and if the race is restarted or re-sailed she shall not sail in it.

12 Change of Position of the Next Mark

12.1 It may be necessary to change the position of the next mark, the Race Officer may move the original mark to a new position. If significant, the change will be signalled before the leading boat has begun the new leg, although the mark may not yet be in its new position. The direction it has

been / will be moved to will be signalled by the boat at the previous mark showing red for movement to port and green for movement to Starboard. Any mark to be rounded after rounding the moved mark may be relocated without further signalling to maintain course configuration.

13 Shortening Course

- 13.1 The Race Officer may deem the race to be shortened and will display a shortened course flag on the committee boat followed by two sound signals when the leading boat rounds the final mark before the finish.

14 The Finish

- 14.1 The finish line will be between the mast displaying a blue flag on the committee boat or a RIB, and the end of line marker or other mark of the course
- 14.2 The Race Officer shall plan to finish slower boats as close to the leading boats finish time as possible. This may necessitate finishing individual boats without shortening the course for the entire fleet. The Race Officer and their assistants will notify the competitors that they have finished by verbal communication, there will be no visual or sound signal. This is known as a Race Officers discretionary finish. The Race Officers decision is final and is not grounds for redress.

15 Time Limit

- 15.1 Time limits are set by the race officers discretion;
- First Mark time limit - 20 minutes
 - Race Target time - 45 minutes
 - Finishing window time limit - 20 minutes

16 Protests and Requests for Redress

- 16.1 Protests shall be written on forms available at the race control desk and delivered there within 30 minutes of the last boat finishing the race, or if races are sailed "back to back" within 30 minutes of the finish of the last of the "back to back" races.
- 16.2 Protest hearings will commence as soon as possible thereafter racing has completed. The protests to be heard will be posted on the notice board at the end of the protest time limit.

17 Scoring

- 17.1 One races shall constitute an event
- 17.2 If 3 races or fewer have been completed, a boats score shall be the total of her race scores
- 17.3 If more than 3 races have been completed a boats score shall be her total race scores excluding her worst score as discard.

18 Safety Regulations

- 18.1 All competitors are required to wear personal floatation devices while afloat and on club pontoons.
- 18.2 Neither a wet suit or a dry suit constitute adequate personal buoyancy
- 18.3 It is not permitted to land outside of the club enclosure except in an emergency.
- 18.4 When the race committee considers that a boat or competitor is in difficulty it may instruct the boat or competitor to accept outside help, retire or sail ashore.

19 Declarations

- 19.1 Signing on before each race will not be necessary although it will be necessary to have entered the series to be eligible to start a race.
- 19.2 A declaration sheet will be displayed near the official notice board which must be signed within 30 minutes of the last boat finishing in each race (or after the final race if all races are sailed back to back) ONLY by competitors who have retired.

20 Equipment and Measurement Checks

- 20.1 Before a boat is eligible to race, if applicable for her class, her valid measurement certificate and buoyancy test certificate may be required to be presented
- 20.2 Boats may be measured before or after any race at the discretion of the Class or Race Committee.

21 Disclaimer of Liability

- 21.1 Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. The organizing authority will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during or after the regatta as detailed within the Notice of Race.

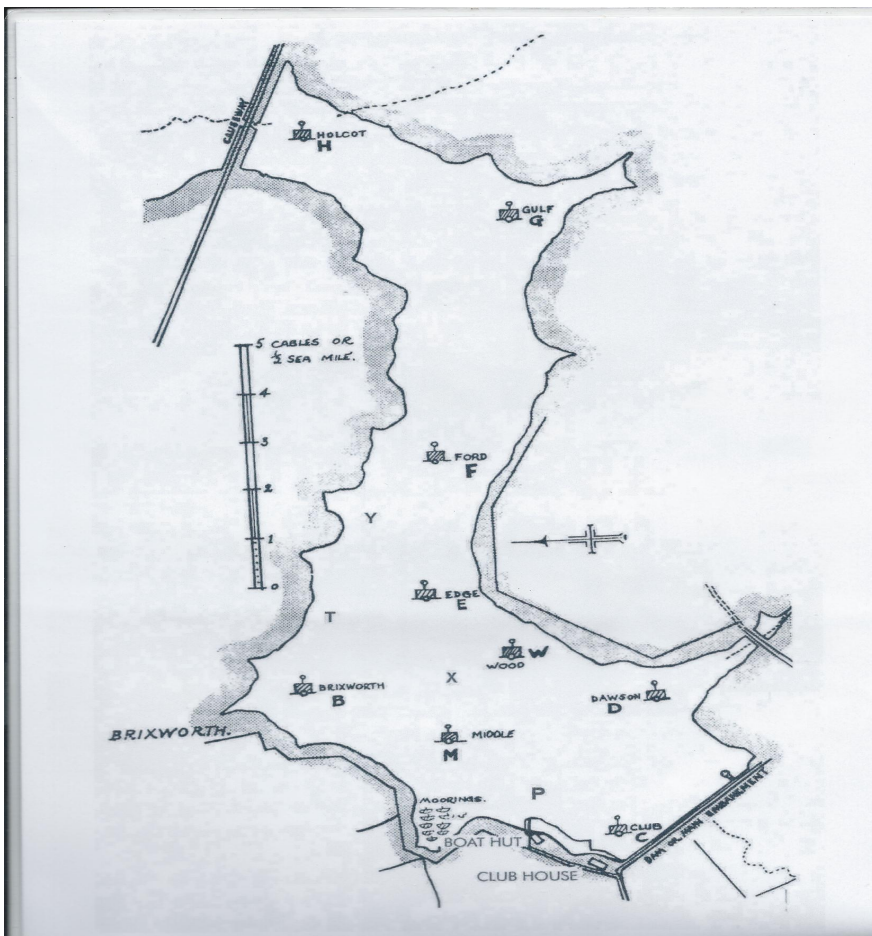
22 Insurance

- 22.1 Each participating boat shall be insured with a valid Third Party Liability Insurance with a minimum Cover of £3 million.

23 Trash disposal

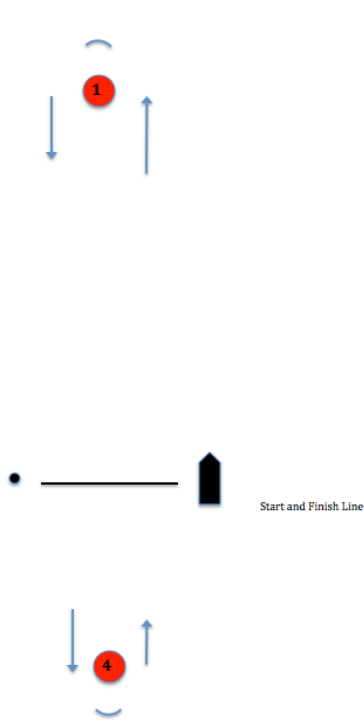
- 23.1 Trash must be retained within the competitors boat and disposed in the club waste bins at the of the days racing.

Pitsford Water Sailing Area

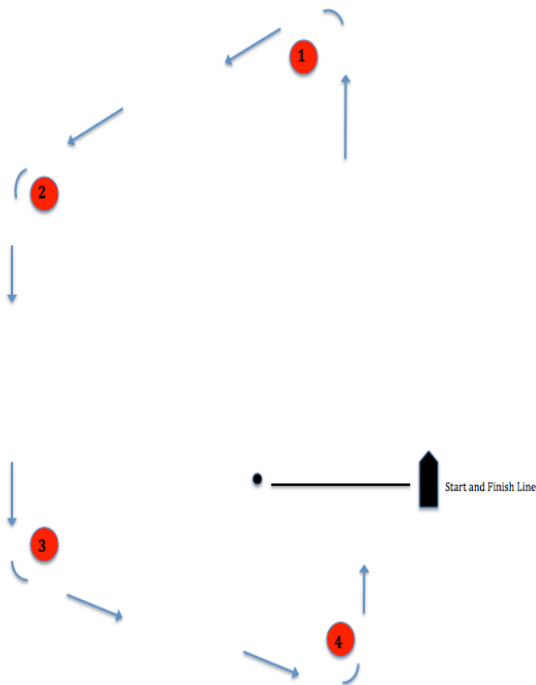


Examples of courses that may be used

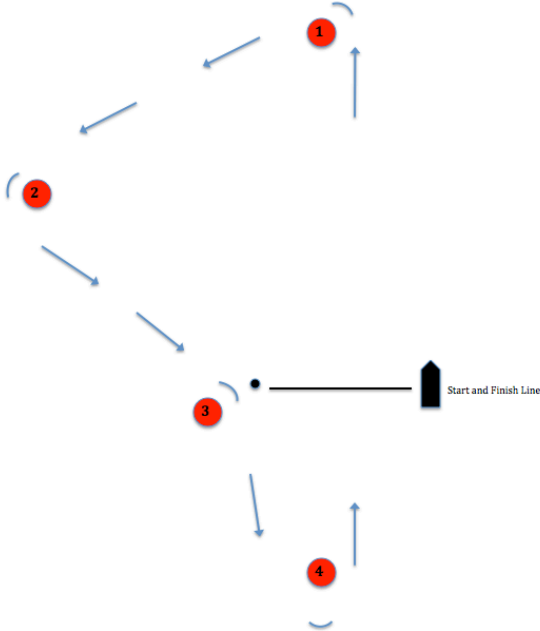
Windward Leeward



Trapezoid



Inverted P



Triangle Sausage

