

STANDARD RACE INSTRUCTIONS

(Edition 6 - 2008)



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SOVEREIGN HARBOUR YACHT CLUB
LIMITED. (SHYC)

STANDARD RACE INSTRUCTIONS

(Edition 6 - 2008)

1. RULES

1. Racing will be governed by the current edition of the following, as they shall exist at the time of the races (except as amended by these sailing instructions):
The ISAF Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) with RYA prescriptions, the Equipment Rules of Sailing (ERS), the ISAF Offshore Special Regulations, the RYA Portsmouth Yardstick Scheme as set out in YR2, the Class Association Rules for One Designs and the RYA Sports Boat Rule.
2. In accordance with RRS 86, these instructions contain the alterations to the RRS.
3. The Race Committee is defined as being the Race Committee of the Sovereign Harbour Yacht Club Ltd.
4. The Race Committee reserves the right to alter or amend these Standard Instructions. In the case of such an alteration International Code flag L will be flown from the SHYC clubhouse with a copy of the amendment posted on the race notice board.
5. The race office and notice board will be situated within the SHYC clubhouse.
6. All series races will be classified as open races with entry for racing subject to acceptance by the Race Committee of SHYC at its absolute discretion, with all entrants being required to have current membership of an RYA affiliated club. Entries will only be accepted from boats permanently berthed at Sovereign Harbour if their owner is a member of SHYC.
7. All races are designated with regard to advertising as Category C unless modified by the Notice of Race.
8. SHYC organises racing in accordance with the RYA Race Charter and expects competing skippers and crews to also conform to the spirit of the Charter.

2. CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

1. A boat is entirely responsible for her own safety, whether afloat or ashore and nothing, whether in the Notice of Race or Sailing Instructions or anywhere else, reduces this responsibility.

2. It is for the boat to decide whether she is fit to sail in the conditions in which she will find herself. By launching or going to sea, the boat confirms that she is fit for those conditions and her crew is competent to sail and compete in them.

3. The boat is required to hold adequate insurance and in particular to hold insurance against third party claims in the sum of at least £2,000,000.

4. Nothing done by the organisers can reduce the responsibility of the boat nor will it make the organisers responsible for any loss, damage, death or personal injury, however it may have occurred, as a result of the boat taking part in the racing. The organisers encompass everyone helping to run the race and the event, and include the organising authority, the race committee, the race officer, patrol boats and beachmasters.

5. The provision of patrol boats does not relieve the boat of her responsibilities.

6. The boat is to ensure that she is equipped and seaworthy so as to be able to face extremes of weather; that there is a crew sufficient in number, experience and fitness to withstand such weather; and that the safety equipment is properly maintained, stowed and in date and that the crew know how to use it.

7. The fact that the race committee may conduct inspections of a boat does not reduce the responsibilities of the boat set out in this paragraph.

3. CLASSES

1. There will be series or individual races for both PY and IRC rated yachts according to the published Notice of Race. Should there be sufficient entries, both PY and IRC classes may be divided. The class division point will be at the sole discretion of the Race Committee. If there are insufficient IRC entries at the beginning of a series, the Race Committee reserves the right to run a PY fleet only. Certain series may be designated PY only as indicated by the Notice of Race.

2. For a yacht to be eligible to race in the PY Class, she shall have submitted a completed SHYC PY application form to the appointed Race Officer prior to the event. Portsmouth numbers will be those published in the current YR2, adjusted as necessary for variations from base rig. Yachts without Portsmouth numbers published in the current YR2 will be allocated numbers by use of the Trial Number method described in 7.3 of the current YR2. The Race Committee will review Portsmouth numbers for adjustment at intervals to be determined by the Race Committee.
3. For a boat to be eligible to race IRC, she shall have submitted to the appointed Race Officer of the SHYC a current IRC certificate issued by RORC and keep a copy of such certificate on board. Prior year certificates remain valid up to the end of the Frostbite Series only, unless superceded by a current year certificate.
4. In the interests of fair sailing, yachts racing with SHYC will not be permitted to alter their handicap rating with the sole purpose of taking advantage of different seasonal conditions.
5. Yachts may be inspected, measured or scrutineered at the discretion of the Race Committee at any time. This does not reduce the responsibilities of the owner/skipper as set out in the conditions of entry.
6. All yachts racing shall display their Class flags from the backstay.
Class flags will be as follows;
PY - International Code flag G. (PYII if a PY only race)
IRC1 - International Numeral Pennant 1. (PYI if a PY only race)
IRC2 - International Numeral Pennant 2.
8. Class flags are to be lowered and replaced by the Ensign when retiring and the race officer informed by VHF. Boats retiring shall inform the Race Officer (RO) as soon as possible. If a boat fails to do so, it may be scored DNC by the RO.

4. MANDATORY SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

1. All yachts shall comply with the ORC special regulations Category 4.
2. For races in the Offshore series run by other clubs, compliance with the organising club's safety instructions is required.

3. For races in the Offshore series run by SHYC compliance with ORC special regs cat 3 is required.
4. All IRC rated yachts shall have a minimum SSS Numeral of 8 for category 4 races and 20 for category 3 races.
5. Entry of PY rated yachts to category 3 races will be at the discretion of the Race Committee and restricted to yachts of a proven seaworthy design.
6. The OSR regulations may be relaxed—for category 4 races only for yachts of a recognised One Design Class whose rules do not require the aforementioned.

5. RACE ORGANISATION

1. All entrants are to sign on for each race at the SHYC clubhouse on the day of the race, or as directed by the Notice of Race. Signing-on at the Clubhouse takes place between two and one hour before the start of the first class start for that day.
2. A race will be valid only if three or more yachts from each class are scored in accordance with RRS Appendix A4 except for DNC.
3. For the Offshore Series only, the minimum number of starters per class is two.
4. The time limit for local inshore Series racing shall be three hours after the start of the class unless amended in sailing instructions. For offshore and other series, the time limit will be confirmed at signing-on.
5. When the first yacht in her class finishes within the time limit, the race shall be valid only for those yachts that finish within one hour after the expiry of the time limit. This replaces RRS 35.
6. When the first yacht in her class fails to finish within the time limit, the race shall be abandoned if it is not possible to determine the results by timings taken at a previous crossing of the finish line.

7. The RO of the day may at his/her sole discretion shorten a race at a mark even though some (or all) boats have passed, if in his/her opinion a significant proportion of the starters are unlikely to finish within the time limit, or for other good reason affecting the fairness of the race. Such a shortening of the course will be signalled by IC flag “F” accompanied by at least 3 sound signals. The RO will attempt to inform all boats affected, by radio or other means. If the signal is to apply to certain class(es) only, “F” will be flown over the class flag(s) of the affected class(es). Boats that started but are not racing at the time “F” is displayed will be scored DNF. This changes RRS 32.2.
8. An abandoned race will only be re-sailed at the sole discretion of the Race Committee. If the Committee decides not to re-sail the race it will be deemed cancelled. A minimum of 5 days notice will be given for re-sailed races that are to be sailed on another day.

6. SCORING

1. Yachts in PY class shall have their corrected times calculated by:

$$\text{Elapsed time} \div (\text{PY number} / 1000)$$

2. Yachts in IRC class shall have their corrected times calculated by:

$$\text{Elapsed time} \times \text{TCC}$$

3. Scoring will be in accordance with RRS Appendix A, points being awarded in accordance with A4.1 low points system and in accordance with A9 for scores in a series longer than a regatta. Ties will be decided in accordance with A7 and A8.
4. Results will be given in hours, minutes and seconds to the nearest second (0.5 rounded up). Ties in the race result will stand with the following scores adjusted accordingly.
5. The number of discards for each series will be shown on the series Notice of Race sheet.
6. Should races in a series be cancelled, the number of races to count will be in the published fraction (0.5 rounded up) subject to a minimum of 3 races to count per series.

7. Redress under RRS 64.2 will be given in accordance with A10.

7. PRIZES & TROPHIES

1. A series 1st prize and trophy will be awarded only if at least 3 boats start in that class in at least half of the races which are completed. A 2nd prize will be awarded only if at least 4 boats start, and a 3rd prize will be awarded only if at least 6 boats start, in at least half of the races which are completed.
2. Prizes will be awarded to class winners of individual races, on condition that at least 3 boats start in the class in that race.
3. All trophies awarded are perpetual and remain the property of SHYC.

8. RACE OFFICER DUTIES

All members of SHYC who are racing entrants and their crews will be required to perform race officer duties as defined in the SHYC Race Officer's Guidance Notes at some time throughout the season. Race officers may be drawn from the entrants participating in the particular series and will be responsible for the proper control of the race under the guidance of the Series Officer if required. If a yacht does not compete in a race due to race officer duties, then she shall be awarded points equal to third place provided the race is valid for her class and that only one race-officer points application will be awarded per series. If the skipper of a boat competing in a series is required to serve as Race Officer for a race but the boat still sails then his/her boat's score for that race shall be her actual result in place of the automatic third place given when the yacht chooses not to compete.

9. PROTESTS

1. Unless otherwise prescribed in the race instructions, protests shall be made in accordance with RRS part 5 section A and shall be delivered in writing to the Club Race Officer within two hours of finishing unless the protest committee finds reason to extend this time limit.
2. All competitors intending to lodge protest shall bring the race officers attention to their flying of the protest flag on passing the finish line or by informing Race Control on VHF.

3. All protests will be heard as soon as possible after each race. Protestors and protested parties must remain at the clubhouse as directed by the race officer. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the Protest Committee deciding the protest without a full hearing in accordance with RRS 63.3b.
4. The Protest Committee shall be formed under the chairmanship of a member of the Race Committee and consist of two other club members from the racing fleet provided that the committee shall not be comprised of competitors in the class that the protest concerns.

10. STEERING AND ENGINE

1. Automatic, mechanical and wind-vane steerage devices may not be used and if permanently fitted shall be disconnected and disabled.
2. All yachts shall compete in accordance with RRS 42 except that a yacht may use its engine to leave harbour after the preparatory signal for its class and when passing the seaward side of the outer distance mark at right angles to the shore shall stop its engine and shall complete a 720 degree turn as soon as possible after starting without interfering with other yachts racing.

11. RACING

1. The Notice of Race will be published 2 weeks prior to the event.
2. The start line and class start times will be confirmed at signing on. Course instructions will be given at signing on and if so directed, may be given on VHF prior to the starting sequence.
3. For races started from ashore, the start line will be a transit of two masts ashore each displaying an orange shape, with a marker buoy as the outer distance mark (ODM). The ODM may not necessarily be on the start line and yachts must cross the start line no further out than an imaginary line at right angles from the transit line to the ODM.
4. For races started from a committee boat the start line shall be from the mast displaying the orange shape or flag to the designated buoy specified in the race instructions. An inner distance mark (IDM) may

also be laid and no yacht is to pass between it and the committee boat at any time.

5. The starting procedure will be in accordance with RRS 26.
6. Yachts shall not manoeuvre in the area of the start line between the preparatory signal and start of another class.
7. Individual recalls will be in accordance with RRS 29.1
8. General recalls will be in accordance with RRS 29.2
9. The course may be shortened in accordance with RRS 32 with the appropriate Class flag displayed from the finish line. Irrespective of course instructions, a shortened course requires all yachts to cross the finish line from the direction of the last mark rounded.
10. The finish line will be confirmed at signing on. If finished from ashore, the finish line shall be between the mast ashore with an orange shape, and the designated buoy. If race instructions state a Committee Boat finish then the finish line is between the mast displaying an orange shape and the nearest buoy. The committee boat will display a blue flag when on station at the finish line. An IDM may be laid.

12. USE OF VHF

1. The sole use of VHF transceivers during racing shall be in accordance with the regulations of the licensing authority and will be conducted on Channel 37 (Suntrap) unless otherwise stated by the race instructions. The Race Officer will not converse with individual yachts after the start except to acknowledge retirements and protests. The Race Officer MAY broadcast attention to the visual signals being flown and issue a recall list

13. MISCELLANEOUS

1. During winter and frostbite series only, cushions may be removed from yachts.
2. All yachts shall keep to seaward of the buoys marking the bathing areas

to the Eastbourne/Pevensey beaches. Crossing the buoy line will result in disqualification subject to a hearing.

3. The IRC rules with regard to crew numbers do not apply unless so stated in the Notice of Race
4. For the Offshore Series, a Notice of Race containing special instructions will be issued before the first race in the series.
5. Skippers of all boats racing with SHYC will be held responsible for the behaviour and actions of their crew at all times during events organised by SHYC. Any behaviour deemed likely to bring the name of SHYC into disrepute will result in the Club refusing to accept participation in any future event organised by SHYC.

14.SAFETY

1. The required OSR safety category will be stated in the race instructions, this abbreviated list appears as a guide only.

Safety Equipment:	Category
A companionway hatch, whether or not in position in the hatchway, shall be secured to the yacht (e.g. by lanyard) for the duration of the race, to prevent their being lost overboard	3 & 4
Seacocks and valves – provide soft wood plugs adjacent to all fittings	3 & 4
The heel of a mast must be securely fixed.	3 & 4
Single or double lifelines	3 & 4
Toe rails around the foredeck from abreast the mast.	3 & 4
Permanently installed toilet or fitted bucket	3 & 4
Permanently installed water tank and delivery pump with at least 9 litres of drinking water for emergency use in a separate sealed container	3
Permanently installed manual bilge pump operable with all cockpit seats, hatches and companionways shut.	3
One manual bilge pump	4
2 buckets of at least 9 litres each, fitted with lanyard	3 & 4
Permanently installed, correctly adjusted, compass	3 & 4
Spare independent compass.	3
Min 2 halyards to each mast	3 & 4
Navigation lights	3 & 4
Reserve navigation lights from a separate source	3
Permanently installed engine and fuel tanks with cut off valves and a min. quantity of fuel	3
Marine radio transceiver with min Ch. 16, 37, 67, 72.	3 & 4
An emergency antenna	3
An automatic position fixing device (e.g. GPS)	3
Jackstays in accordance with YR9 4.03.	3
2 readily accessible fire extinguishers in different parts of the yacht	3 & 4
2 anchors with chain and rope properly stowed (not projecting from bow).	3
Anchor properly stowed (not projecting from bow)	4
Watertight flashlight with spare batteries and bulbs	4
2 watertight flashlights with spare batteries and bulbs	3
Foghorn	3 & 4

Radar reflector	3		
Charts (current) and light list.	3	&	4
Speedometer or distance reading instrument (log).	3		
Echo sounder or lead line.	3	&	4
Emergency tiller	3		
Tools and spare parts including rigging cutters.	3	&	4
Yachts name on miscellaneous buoyant equipment with marine grade retro-reflective material fitted to life buoys and life jackets.	3	&	4
Liferaft	3		
Lifebuoy with light and drogue or life sling with light	3	&	4
Flares (in date) 4 x red hand flares, 4 x white hand flares			
2 x orange smoke	3	&	4
4 x red parachute flares	3		
Heaving line 15m – 25m	3	&	4
Sheaved knife with lanyard in cockpit.	3		
Heavy weather jib	3	&	4
Storm trysail or mainsail reefing to reduce luff by 40%	3	&	4
Lifejacket with a whistle and thigh straps for each crew member	3	&	4
As above but with a lifejacket light	3		
Safety harnesses and lines	3		

All racing yachts will be required to use an engine in accordance with Sovereign Harbour Marina bylaws.

SHYC OFFSHORE OPEN SERIES REGULATIONS

These Offshore Regulations supplement the SHYC Standard Race Instructions (S.R.I.) and apply only to the SHYC Offshore Series.

The SHYC Offshore Series comprises a mixture of races organised by the SHYC and nominated open races organised by other clubs. A notice of race will be published a minimum of 2 weeks before the event and will contain details of all races. For nominated races the Sailing Instructions and results of the organising Club will prevail.

The following supplementary regulations apply to the SHYC Offshore races organised and run by the SHYC

1. RULES

1. After sunset to sunrise the Racing Rules of Sailing (R.R.S.) Part 2 shall cease to be operative and are replaced by the current International Regulations for the Prevention of Collisions at Sea in their entirety.
2. All yachts must strictly observe Rule 10 of the International Regulations with respect to separation zones.

2. SIGNING ON

1. Signing on for races starting at Sovereign Harbour Marina takes place as advertised in the Notice of Race.
2. Signing on for races not starting at Sovereign Harbour Marina will take place as directed by the specific race advertisement.
3. Each entrant at signing on must provide a contact name, address and telephone number together with the total number of persons that the yacht is carrying for the race. It is the skipper's responsibility to ensure that their shore-based contact person has the name and addresses of all crewmembers.

3. CLASSES

1. Classes will be in accordance with the Notice of Race. There will be a minimum of two starters for each class for a race to be valid. If at the start of the series there are insufficient entries to form two classes, then one combined class will be run.
2. Should there be no entries for a class, then the race for that class is cancelled and will not be re-sailed.

4. STARTS

1. The start line and time will be confirmed at signing on.
2. The countdown to the starts and details of premature starts may be made by VHF.

5. COURSES

1. The course to the advertised destination will be confirmed at signing on. The Race Committee reserves the right to amend the destination in the event of exceptional circumstances.

6. FINISH

1. The finish line will be confirmed at signing on and in all cases will be crossed in the direction from the last mark.

7. TIME LIMIT

1. The time limit will be confirmed at signing on.

8. DECLARATIONS

1. All entrants must complete and sign the declaration form (enclosed with race instructions), and record, in BST, the yacht's finishing time and those of the yachts immediately ahead and astern. Entrants are reminded to check the accuracy of their watches with a BST time signal prior to finishing and may be asked to confirm the accuracy of their timing with a watch check by the Race Officer after finishing. Times may be recorded by an appointed Club Official at the finish line and should there be a discrepancy with the declared time, then the officially recorded time will be used.

2. All entrants must hand or post their completed declaration form to the Race Officer (or Race Committee member as stated at signing on) as soon as possible after finishing at the destination, and in no case later than the time limit in accordance with the Race Instructions.
3. Yachts intending to retire and not complete the course within the time limit must inform the Race Officer or any other competing yacht of their intention to retire by VHF, and confirm their destination. Yachts retiring are to hand their completed declaration to the Race Officer at the destination or to post it to SHYC to arrive no later than seven days from the start of the race.
4. Yachts not complying fully with the declaration procedure will be scored DNF and awarded points accordingly.

9. PENALTIES

1. A yacht that makes a premature start and does not re-start correctly will be penalised by having 5% added to its elapsed time for SHYC races.

10. PROTESTS

1. All protests shall be made in accordance with the S.R.I. except that the time limit for handing in protests at foreign ports shall be within two hours of the expiry of the time limit of the race. For races finishing at the Sovereign Harbour, protests shall be handed in within two hours of the yachts finishing time.
2. A yacht retiring and not intending to reach the destination and wishing to protest must inform the Race Officer or any other competing yacht by VHF of her intention to protest and forward by post such protest to arrive at SHYC addressed to the Race Officer not later than seven days later than the race start. The Race Officer will then confirm in writing when and where the protest will be heard.

11. RESULTS

1. For SHYC races the Race Officer for each race and event will endeavour to post provisional results as soon as possible after the time limit on the notice board at SHYC, the Club being visited or the Race Officer's yacht.

2. Final results will be displayed on the SHYC notice board one week after the finish, or after determination of all protests.
3. Should a class have no finishers within the time limit, points for retirement will be awarded to all classified starters complying with the declaration procedure.
4. For the nominated races, the official published results will be used to re-calculate the SHYC race positions using the Club's own handicap numbers for P.Y. Class for all yachts that are classified as finishers. Only the elapsed time will be used, irrespective of different start times.
5. Scoring for the series will be in accordance with the S.R.I. Scores will be entered on the permanently displayed Offshore Series notice board at SHYC.

12. TEMPORARY DISCONTINUANCE OF RACING

1. After a yacht starts she may, without penalty, moor or berth alongside any object for the purpose of finding shelter or disembarking crew who shall take no further part in the race.
2. Mechanical propulsion may be used solely for the purpose of berthing or departing if required by Marina/Port byelaws. Crew intending to continue racing shall not go ashore other than for mooring purposes and shall not seek or accept outside assistance of any form.
3. The yacht's declaration form shall contain any details of discontinuance of racing.

13. YACHTS AS COMMITTEE BOATS

1. Competitors may be asked by the Series Officer or Race Officer to undertake Race Officer and Committee Boat duties for starts at ports other than Sovereign Harbour. If so required to start a race, the yacht must be properly anchored on the designated start line. After completion of the race start, the yacht must return to behind the start line and record her exact time of re-crossing the line, which will then be used in the calculation of her elapsed time. Note that it is expected that the yacht does not cross the start line until fully rigged and in racing trim.

14. SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS

1. In addition to the normal monitoring of VHF 16, it is recommended that VHF 67 also be monitored. Please note that VHF 72 is the yacht-to-yacht frequency.

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SHYC wish all competitors good sailing in the Offshore Series and asks for your co-operation and assistance in mooring all race entrants at foreign ports paying particular attention to ensure rafts are constructed in a seaman-like manner, paying due regard to boat size irrespective of arrival time.

Competitors are responsible for their own mooring fees at all ports visited except when expressly included in the race fee.

Skippers are reminded that they will be held responsible for the behaviour and action of their crew. Any behaviour bringing the name of SHYC into disrepute will result in the Race Committee refusing to accept any further entries from the yacht concerned and may result in disqualification from the race.

Flag sequence (see part 3 RRS)

For a typical Sunday morning start the sequence is as follows;
IRC1 warning signal at 0955, PY warning signal at 1000hrs.

Time To go	Flag Hoisted	Flag Lowered	Sound signal	Meaning
5 min	Flag num 1		one	Warning signal IRC
4 min	Flag P		one	Preparatory signal IRC
1 min		Flag P	one long	Preparatory lowered IRC
Start		Flag num 1	one	Start IRC
5 min	Flag G			Warning signal PY
4 min	Flag P		one	Preparatory signal PY
1 min		Flag P	one long	Preparatory lowered PY
Start		Flag G	one	Start PY

Before the starting signal flag AP postpones the race (two sounds) and is lowered 1 min before the new warning signal (one sound).

Flag N (three sound signals) abandons a started race and is lowered 1 min before the new warning signal (one sound).

Flags I, Z or Black may be hoisted and lowered instead of the P flag (indicates rule 30.1, 30.2 or 30.3 is in effect).

Flag X raised after the start (one sound) indicates a boat or boats are OCS.

Flag 1st Sub raised after the start (two sounds) indicates a general recall. The warning signal is made 1 min after its removal (one sound), all classes are subsequently delayed.

At the finish line flag S together with the class flag (two sounds) indicates the course is shortened for that class. Flag S by itself (two sounds) indicates all classes have their course shortened.

Printer page setup

3,20	21,2
5,18	19,4
7,16	17,6
9,14	15,8
11,12	13,10