

Schull Harbour Sailing Club



GENERAL SAILING INSTRUCTIONS 2020

Sportsmanship and the Rules.

Competitors in the sport of sailing are governed by a body of rules that they are expected to follow and enforce. A fundamental principal of sportsmanship is that when competitors break a rule they shall promptly take a penalty or retire.

1. Rules

All races will be sailed under the International Sailing Federation (ISAF) Racing rules of sailing (RRS) 2017 - 2020 edition, Irish Sailing Association (ISA) prescription IR 2000 rules, ECHO Class Association Rules, and these Sailing Instructions which will take precedence should there be any conflict with any of the above rules. No Echo Cert & SHSC 2020 Membership = No Result. The same rule applies to IRC.

2. Starting Finishing Lines.

Will be as the Course Card provided or may be altered by the PRO prior to the starting procedure. The in harbor start and finish line will be between the club rib and the club flag.

3. Starts

Racing will be started in accordance with RRS 26.

First Gun will be at 1330 Hrs. unless otherwise stated on the club programme or altered at the skippers meeting. The time of the FG may be changed by the OA and skippers will be notified by email no later than the previous day.

Starting sequence will be as follows:

<u>TIME</u>	<u>SOUND</u>
5 Minute Warning	One Sound
4 Minute Preparatory	One Sound
One - Minute	One long Sound
Starting	One Sound

The Race Officer will start the race using VHF radio and Sound Signals only.

4. Courses

The course number will be available be on the ‘Skippers Registration’ WhatsApp group not later than an hour before the warning signal. A course card will be available to each boat at the Water Sports Centre.

No later than the warning signal the PRO has the discretion to alter the course.

The course number will be announced on VHF radio approximately 5 minutes before the starting sequence.

5. Registration.

All competing boats are required to register on a “Skippers Registration” WhatsApp group in accordance with the club Covid 19 protocol.

The Skipper shall be a member of Schull Harbour Sailing Club and each yacht shall have a current Echo Handicap Certificate. Any yachts racing in IRC shall have a current IRC Certificate. No race fee will be collected for the 2020 season.

6. Time Limit

The time limit for all races will be 1730 hrs. extended by 30mins if the leading boat finishes within the time limit, except where otherwise indicated on the board at the Water Sports Centre.

The time limit may be extended by the PRO in exceptional circumstances.

7. Protests and Requests for Redress

- 7.1 Protest forms are available from the PRO, Sailing Captain or Commodore. Protests and requests for redress or reopening shall be delivered to the Officer of the day or the sailing secretary within the appropriate time limit.
- 7.2 For each class, the protest time limit is 60 minutes after the last boat has finished the last race of the day.
- 7.3 It is the responsibility of the PROTESTOR to inform the PROTESTEE of the lodging of the protest, the likely time and place of the hearing and to supply him with a copy thereof. It is the responsibility of all parties thereafter to attend at the time and place of any hearing with their witnesses.
- 7.4 Persons intending to protest shall where possible inform the PRO immediately, upon finishing or retiring, of their intention to protest.

8. Penalties

- 8.1 The one turn penalty for touching a mark, (RRS 31,44.1,44.2), shall apply.

9. Protest Arbitration (changing RRS 44.3, 63, 64 & 66):

- 9.1 When a protest alleges a breach of a rule of Part 2 or RRS 31 (Touching a Mark), a boat may at the same time request arbitration or, the Protest Committee may offer it.
- 9.2 If the parties and a member of the Protest Committee agree that arbitration is suitable, an arbitrator will call a hearing. The arbitrator may be a member of the Protest Committee. The hearing will be conducted in accordance with Part 5 of the RRS except that RRS 64.1 will not apply. Instead, if the arbitrator decides that a boat that is a party to the hearing broke a rule for which the exoneration Penalty is available, the party will be invited to accept that Penalty. If it is accepted, the protesting boat will be allowed to withdraw its protest. This change RRS 63.1

- 9.3 If there is not agreement to use arbitration, a protest is not withdrawn, or the Exoneration penalty is not applicable to the facts, there will be a normal protest hearing at which the arbitrator may be a member of the Protest Committee. Rule 66 shall not apply to an arbitration decision.
- 9.4 A boat may accept the Exoneration Penalty at any time before the start of a protest hearing, or she may retire.
- 9.5 The Exoneration Penalty is a 30% scoring penalty calculated in accordance with RRS 44.3(c) and based on the number of entrants in the race (except that the minimum penalty is two places and no boat shall be scored worse than if she had been scored DNF).
- 9.6 The exoneration Penalty does not reverse an OCS score or a disqualification under RRS 30.3, and, it is not available where a boat has caused injury or serious damage, or gained a significant advantage by her breach.

10. Scoring

- 10.1 The Scoring for 2020 will be decided as the season develops due to the Covid 19 restrictions.
- 10.2 The Sailing Captain may at his or her sole discretion allow a boat that is not owned by a Club Member, and which does not fall into any of the categories of membership listed in the Constitution, to race in any club race. In these circumstances this boat may be assigned a time only and may not be assigned a score under the scoring system outlined above.
- 10.3 Echo Handicaps will be set by SHSC Handicap Committee based on data from 2019 results and other available data. Echo Handicaps for new boats entering the fleet will be set by the SHSC Handicap Committee. SHSC in conjunction with the SHSC Handicap Committee reserves the right to alter a boats handicap at any time in the interest of fair competition.
- 10.4 All boats will sail as one class. (Spinnaker and Non Spinnaker) Boats that wish to be eligible for the Overall White Sail League must not fly a spinnaker, Gennakers or blooper in any qualifying race and only one headsail may be sheeted out at any time.
- 10.5 Any boat that sails exceptionally below normal performance in a particular race will get a result as normal, but the result will not affect their handicap which will remain the same for the following race.

- 10.6 IRC results will be awarded for those boats with current IRC Certificates.

11. Radio Communications

- 11.1 Except in an emergency, competitors shall neither make radio transmissions while racing nor receive radio communications not available to all competing boats.

This restriction also applies to mobile telephones.

- 11.2. Race Course VHF Channel is Channel 14.

12. Disclaimer of Liability

- 12.1 The safety of a yacht and her crew is the sole and inescapable responsibility of the person in charge who shall do his best to ensure that the yacht is fully found, thoroughly seaworthy and manned by an experienced crew who have undergone appropriate training and are physically fit to face bad weather. He must be satisfied as to the soundness of hull, spars, rigging, sails and all gear. He shall ensure that all safety equipment is properly maintained and stowed and that the crew know where it is kept and how it is to be used.**

- 12.2 Decision to race -The responsibility for a yacht's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone – RRS Fundamental Rule 4.

- 12.3 Schull Harbour Sailing Club does not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after any race.

- 12.4 Each boat shall have a minimum of two crew on board. There is no maximum. (Skipper plus one other person complies with this rule)

13. White Sail Rules.

- 13.1 The use of Gennakers, Bloopers and Spinnakers or other purpose-built downwind sails is prohibited.

- 13.2 Spinnaker poles are allowed for poling out headsails.

- 13.3 Only one headsail is allowed to be sheeted at any time.

14. Insurance

- 14.1 It is the duty of each boat owner to have his boat adequately insured against any risk, including civil responsibility to third parties and to ensure that such insurance remains valid for all racing events.

15.0 Sailing Instructions

These sailing instructions may be altered by the committee and amendments will be posted on the club website.

Issued on the 27th June 2020