

Aspire Merlin Rocket 76th National Championships

Mounts Bay Sailing Club

Saturday 30th July to Thursday 4th August 2022

Organising Authority: Mounts Bay Sailing Club (MBSC)
in conjunction with the Merlin Rockets Owners' Association (MROA)

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS (SIs)

The notation '[DP]' in a rule of the Notice of Race (NoR) or SIs means that the penalty for a breach of that rule may, at the discretion of the Protest Committee, be less than disqualification.

1 RULES

- 1.1 The event is governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing*.
- 1.2 In the event of a conflict between the SIs and the NoR, the SIs will prevail. This changes RRS 63.7.

2 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1 Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted before 0900 on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 2000 on the day before it will take effect.

3 COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

- 3.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located adjacent to the Beachmaster's Office in the MBSC Dinghy Pen.
- 3.2 The race office is located at the MBSC Clubhouse.
- 3.3 [DP] While racing, from the first warning signal until the end of the last race of the day, except in an emergency, a boat shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats.

4 CODE OF CONDUCT

- 4.1 [DP] Competitors and support persons shall comply with reasonable requests from race officials.
- 4.2 [DP] Competitors and support persons shall handle any equipment or place advertising provided by the Organizing Authority with care, in accordance with any instructions for its use and without interfering with its functionality.

5 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 5.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed at a flagstaff in the MBSC Dinghy Pen.
- 5.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 45 minutes' in Race Signals AP.
- 5.3 [DP] Boats shall not leave the shore until flag D is displayed with one sound signal. The warning signal will not be made before the scheduled time or less than 45 minutes after flag D is displayed.

6 EVENT SCHEDULE

6.1

Day	Date	Warning signal (Not before)	Event
1	Saturday 30 th July	09:00-17:00 09:30-18:00 20:00	Equipment inspection Registration (in MBSC Clubhouse) Competitors' Briefing (Details of how these will work will be published before the event. Registration may be completed online and the briefing streamed online if COVID restrictions are in force)
2	Sunday 31 st July	09:00-11:00 11:55 ASAP after Race 1	Registration (in MBSC Clubhouse) Race 1 – Founders Trophy Race 2 – Beechers Cup
3	Monday 1 st August	11:55 ASAP after Race 3	Race 3 – Clyde Quaich Race 4 – West Country Trophy
4	Tuesday 2 nd August	11:55 ASAP after Race 5	Race 5 – Silent World Trophy Race 6 – Top Hat Trophy
5	Weds 3 rd August	11:55 ASAP after Race 7	Race 7 – Ranelagh Trophy Crews' Race
6	Thursday 4 th August	11:55 ASAP after Race 8 20:00	Race 8 – Winter Trophy Race 9 – Howard Trophy Prizegiving

- 6.2 One extra race per day may be sailed, provided that the series becomes

no more than one race ahead of schedule and the change is made according to SI 2.1.

- 6.3 The scheduled time of the warning signal for the first race each day is 11:55.
- 6.4 To alert boats that a race will begin soon, for a line start the orange starting line flag will be displayed with one sound at least five minutes before a warning signal is made; for a gate start flag "G" will be displayed with one sound at least five minutes before a warning signal is made.
- 6.5 No warning signal will be made after 15:00 on Thursday 4th August 2022 unless fewer than three races have been completed in the series.

7 CLASS FLAG

- 7.1 The Class flag is flag "O".

8 RACING AREA

- 8.1 The racing area is in Mounts Bay to the south of St Michael's Mount.

9 COURSES

- 9.1 The diagram below in SI Appendix 1 shows the course, the order in which marks are to be passed, and the side on which each mark is to be left.
- 9.2 No later than the warning signal, the Race Committee signal vessel will display the approximate compass bearing of the first leg and the course to be sailed.

10 MARKS

- 10.1 Marks are:
 - 1, 2P and 2S/4 – Large orange cylindrical buoys
 - 3 – Tall orange pillar buoy.
 - 1a – Small red cylindrical buoy
- 10.2 For the avoidance of doubt Marks 2S and 4 are the same buoy.
- 10.3 All starting and finishing marks are Race Committee vessels with staffs displaying the appropriate flags. In the case of a gate start, the port end starting mark is a free-floating orange buoy.

11 THE START

- 11.1 Races will not be started unless the Race Officer is satisfied that the wind strength over the course area is consistently five knots or greater.
- 11.2 Races will be started using RRS 26 with the warning signal made five minutes before the starting signal.
- 11.3 For line starts the starting line is between a staff displaying an orange

flag on a Race Committee vessel at the starboard end and a staff displaying an orange flag on a Race Committee vessel at the port end.

- 11.4 A boat that does not start within four minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.1 and A5.2.

GATE STARTS

- 11.5 If the Race Committee signal vessel displays flag "G" in accordance with SI 6.4, SIs 11.6 to 11.15 will apply.
- 11.6 The starting area will be to leeward of the course area. The port end of the starting line will be marked by a free-floating orange buoy released from the Gate Launch approximately 5 seconds before the starting signal.
- 11.7 The Gate Launch will display flag "G" and the Guard Launch, if used, will display flag "U". Flag "G" will be displayed from the Gate Launch when in position to start the gate. All starting signals will be made from the Race Committee signal boat displaying flag "G".
- 11.8 The Race Committee will nominate the Pathfinder for the first race to be sailed. Subsequently, the Pathfinder will be the boat placed 10th (tenth) in the preceding race. When she is unable to race, or has been Pathfinder previously in the event, the Pathfinder will be the boat placed 11th (eleventh) in the preceding race – and so on. Her sail number will be posted on the official notice board and/or displayed on the Committee Boat. The Pathfinder shall report to the Gate Launch at least five minutes before the warning signal.
- 11.9 Approximately 2 minutes before the starting signal the Pathfinder shall come within hail of the Gate Launch and place herself under the direction of the Race Officer. Approximately 15 seconds before the starting signal the Pathfinder will cross the bow of the Gate launch and commence sailing on a close-hauled course on port tack. She will be followed by the Gate Launch and may be preceded off her starboard bow by a Guard Launch.
- 11.10 The starting line will be between the free-floating Starting Mark and the centre of the stern of the Gate Launch.
- 11.11 The Pathfinder shall maintain her course for at least 3 minutes plus any further time the Race Officer considers appropriate. When released by the Race Officer she may tack onto starboard or hold her course as she pleases. The Gate Launch will hold her course and speed for a further period at the discretion of the Race Officer. A sound signal will be made when the gate is fully open at which point the Gate Launch will

stop and drift for at least one minute. At the end of this period flag "G" on the Gate Launch and Committee Boat will be lowered to indicate closing of the gate. No boat shall start after flag "G" has been lowered. A boat failing to start before lowering of flag "G" will be scored "Did Not Start". This changes rule A4.1.

- 11.12 A boat, not having already correctly started, which is on the port side of the Gate Launch while the gate is opening, shall not cross the start line from the course side.
- 11.13 After the preparatory signal, a boat which interferes with or tries to pass between the Guard Launch, Pathfinder and the Gate Launch, or that causes another boat to interfere in these ways, will be disqualified without a hearing. If the race is restarted, re-sailed or rescheduled she is not entitled to compete. This changes rule 63.1.
- 11.14 The Gate Launch, Guard Launch and Pathfinder until released rank as starting marks.
- 11.15 A boat that cannot otherwise avoid fouling a starting mark may hail a right-of-way boat for room and then shall immediately retire.

Drone footage of a gate start using this method may be viewed at <https://youtu.be/Hik3bgdJZCg>

12 CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

- 12.1 To change the next leg of the course, the Race Committee will move the original mark or the finishing line to a new position.
- 12.2 A mark may be moved in any direction by up to 100m without the need to signal a change of course. This changes RRS 33.
- 12.3 If a Race Committee vessel displaying flag "K" with repetitive sounds is on station in the vicinity of Mark 2P, boats shall pass Mark 2P to port and proceed directly to the finish line. The Race Committee vessel on station at the finish line will display flag "S" with two sounds. This is an addition to Race Signals and changes RRS 32.2 and 33.

13 THE FINISH

- 13.1 The finish line is between a staff displaying a blue flag on a Race Committee vessel at the starboard end and a staff displaying a blue flag on a Race Committee vessel at the port end.
- 13.2 A boat that has finished shall pass completely through the finishing line and no part of her shall thereafter again cross the finishing line from either direction. This changes RRS 28.1. A boat that infringes this SI will be scored Did Not Finish without a hearing. This changes RRS 63.1.

14 PENALTY SYSTEM

- 14.1 RRS Appendix P (Special Procedures for Rule 42) applies.
- 14.2 RRS P2.1 is changed so that it applies when a boat is penalised for the first or second time in the event. RRS P2.2 is changed so that it applies for third or subsequent times in the event. RRS P2.3 does not apply.
- 14.3 [DP] To encourage boats to take a penalty while afloat, judges may blow a whistle when they see what they believe to be a breach of a rule.
- 14.4 [DP] Breaches of MROA class rules will be subject to a Discretionary Penalty.

15 TIME LIMITS AND TARGET TIME

- 15.1 The Mark 1 Time Limit, Race Time Limit (see RRS 35), and the Finishing Window are shown in the table below.

Mark 1 Time Limit	Race Time Limit	Finishing Window
<i>20 minutes</i>	<i>90 minutes</i>	<i>20 minutes</i>

- 15.2 If no boat has passed the first mark within the Mark 1 Time Limit, the race will be abandoned.
- 15.3 The Finishing Window is the time for boats to finish after the first boat sails the course and finishes. Boats failing to finish or determined by the Race Committee as unlikely to finish within the Finishing Window and not subsequently retiring, penalised or given redress may be given a score determined by the Race Committee without a hearing. Such boats will be notified by a Race Committee vessel displaying IC flag "W". A boat so notified is no longer racing and shall without delay proceed to the starting area or sail ashore if there is no more racing. This changes RRS 35, A5.1 and A5.2.
- 15.4 The Target Time for the first boat to sail the course and finish will be:
- (a) 70 minutes when one race is scheduled (and for the Ranelagh Trophy race if run on a day when two races are scheduled).
 - (b) 60 minutes when two races are scheduled.
 - (c) 50 minutes when three races are scheduled.
- 15.5 Failure to meet the Target Time will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 62.1(a).

16 HEARING REQUESTS

- 16.1 The protest time limit is 90 minutes after the last boat finishes the last race of the day or the Race Committee signals no more racing today, whichever is later. The time will be posted on the official notice board.
- 16.2 Hearing request forms are available from the Race Office and the Beachmaster's Office.

- 16.3 Notices will be posted no later than 30 minutes after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Hearings will be held in the protest room, located at Marazion Town Hall, beginning at the time posted.
- 16.4 A list of boats that have been penalised for breaking RRS 42 under Appendix P will be posted on the Official Notice Board.

17 SCORING

- 17.1 Three races are required to be completed to constitute a series.
- 17.2 (a) When fewer than five races have been completed, a boat's series score is the total of her race scores.
- (b) When from five to eight races have been completed, a boat's series score is the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.
- (c) When nine races have been completed, a boat's series score is the total of her race scores excluding her two worst scores.
- 17.3 The Crews' Race, if sailed, will not form part of the scoring series.

18 SAFETY REGULATIONS

- 18.1 [DP] **Personal Flotation Devices:** RRS 40.1 shall apply at all times while afloat. Flag "Y" will not be displayed. An uninflated buoyancy aid will not be considered to provide adequate buoyancy to be termed as a personal flotation device.
- 18.2 [DP] **Boat Identification Number:** All boats will be allocated a Boat Identification Number (BIN) and a sticker to be attached to the outside of the transom. Any boat that fails to display its BIN while afloat or fails to take prompt action to replace it in the case of loss or damage will be subject to a Discretionary Penalty.
- 18.3 [DP] **Tally System:** A tally system will be in operation. A Tally Board will be located on the route between the boat park and the launching area. Both helm and crew shall take the tally wrist bands displaying the same number as their BIN and visibly display them on their right wrist. Tallies shall be returned to the Tally Board within 30 minutes of coming ashore or not later than 60 minutes after the last boat finishes the last race of the day, whichever is earlier. The penalty for failing to comply with this SI will be a donation of £25 to the local branch of the RNLI on each occasion. Repeated failures to tally correctly may result in disqualification from the series.
- 18.2 [DP] A boat that retires from a race shall notify the Race Committee at the first reasonable opportunity. Promptly after returning to shore, the

boat shall complete a retirement declaration form, which is available at the Beachmaster's Office.

18.3 [DP] Boats not participating in any of the day's racing shall so inform the Beachmaster.

18.4 [DP] Boats are required to carry an easily accessible tow rope separate to the rigging of a minimum length of 10m and minimum diameter of 6mm cordage.

19 REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT

19.1 [DP] Substitution of competitors is not allowed without prior written approval of the Race Committee.

19.3 [DP] Substitution of sail numbers or any other means of identification is not allowed without prior written approval of the Race Committee.

20 EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

20.1 A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules, Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions.

20.2 [DP] When instructed by a race official on the water, a boat shall proceed to a designated area for inspection.

21 TRASH DISPOSAL

21.1 Trash may be placed aboard official vessels.

22 BERTHING

22.1 [DP] Boats shall be berthed on their launching trollies in their assigned places in the boat park.

22.2 [DP] Launching and recovery will be from the beach in front of the MBSC clubhouse. When leaving and returning to the launching area, boats shall pass to the west of St Michael's Mount. Boats shall, at all times, keep clear of the route of the ferry boats operating between St Michael's Mount and the mainland.

23 SUPPORT BOATS

23.1 [DP] Support boats shall register at the Race Office and shall be responsible for payment of any launching fees direct to the appropriate authority.

23.2 [DP] Support boats shall, at all times, remain clear of the race area unless specifically directed by the Race Officer or Event Safety Officer.

23.3 [DP] Support boats shall carry a VHF radio and monitor Channel 37A (M1) for communications from the Race Committee.

23.4 Safety boats will display flag "R". The Jury boat will display flag "J".

24 PRIZES

24.1 Prizes are as listed in NoR 20.

25 RISK STATEMENT

25.1 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 inherently 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 event organizer 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 for the event.

26 INSURANCE

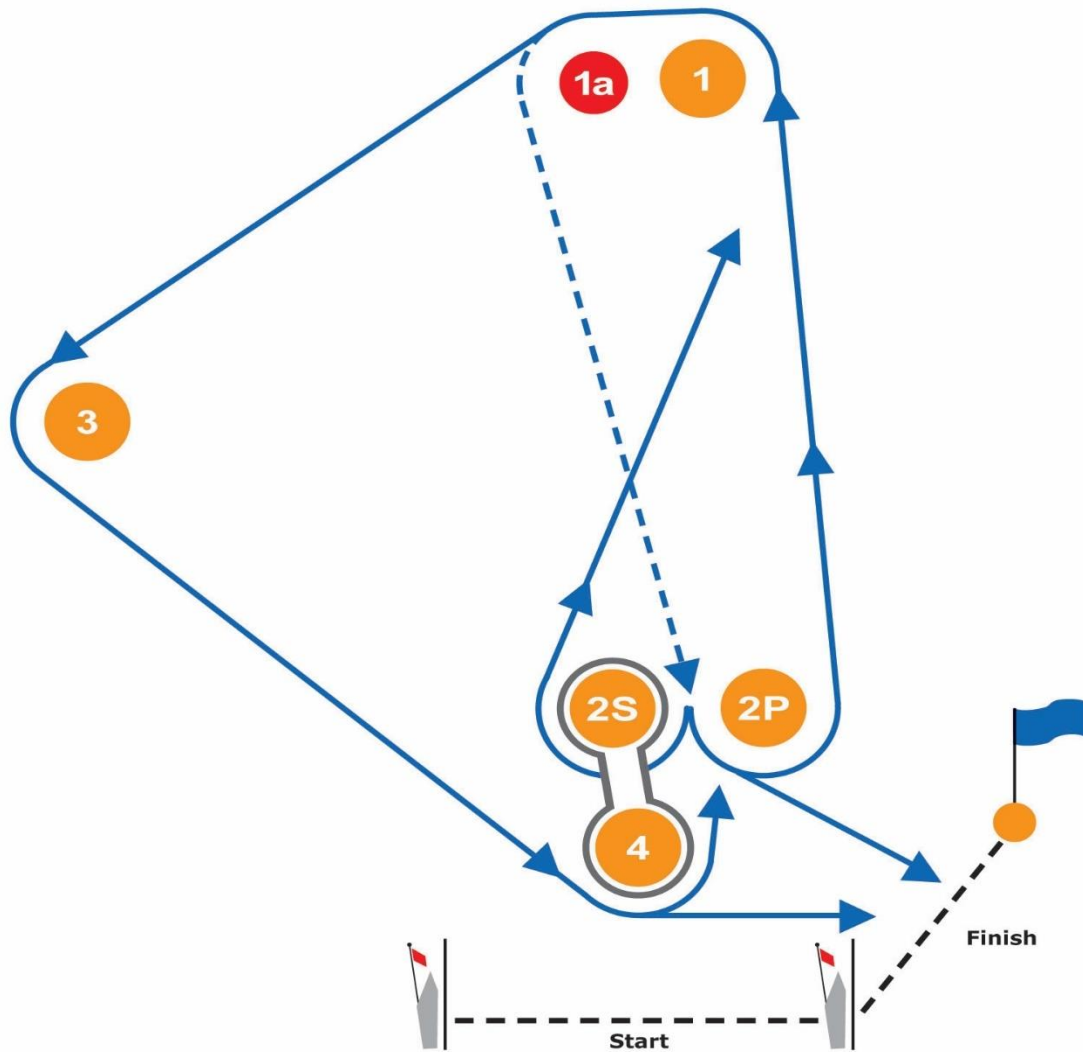
26.1 Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £3,000,000 per incident or the equivalent.

27 COVID STATEMENT

[DP] By taking part in the event each competitor agrees and acknowledges that they are responsible for complying with any regulations in force from time to time in respect of COVID-19 and for complying with the Organising Authority's COVID-19 procedures. Competitors and support persons shall comply with any reasonable request from an event official. Failure to comply may be misconduct. Reasonable actions by event officials to implement COVID-19 guidance, protocols or legislation, even if they later prove to have been unnecessary, are not improper actions or omissions by the Race Committee. A breach of this rule shall not be grounds for protest by another boat. This amends rule 60.1(a).

APPENDIX 1

Sausage/Triangle (ST)



**For the avoidance of doubt, Mark 2S and 4 are the same buoy.
When sailing a sausage leg Mark 2S/4 is to be left to starboard;
When sailing a triangle leg Mark 2S/4 is to be left to port.**

COURSE	
ST2	Start – 1 – 1a – 2S/2P – 1 – 1a – 3 – 4 – finish
ST3	Start – 1 – 1a – 2S/2P – 1 – 1a – 3 – 4 – 1 – 1a – 2P – finish
ST4	Start – 1 – 1a – 2S/2P – 1 – 1a – 3 – 4 – 1 – 1a – 2S/2P – 1 – 1a – 3 – 4 – finish
ST5	Start – 1 – 1a – 2S/2P – 1 – 1a – 3 – 4 – 1 – 1a – 2S/2P – 1 – 1a – 3 – 4 – 1 – 1a – 2P – finish