

# Merlin Rocket Women's championship

Sunday 21 May 2023

Hosted by Lymington Town SC

Sponsored by Baltic Lifejackets, Box PR and Creation Covers

## SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Predicted tides	High water Lymington
21 May 2023	1239 hrs

### 1.0 RULES

- 1.1. The events will be governed by the 'rules' as defined in the current ISAF Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), the RYA Prescriptions with the exceptions as detailed in these Sailing Instructions and the Merlin Rocket Owners association class rules.
- 1.2. Competitors shall comply with the RYA Racing Charter.  
[www.rya.org.uk/racing/charter](http://www.rya.org.uk/racing/charter).  
**Competitors sailing under the charter are expected:**
  - a) to show courtesy and respect to other competitors, officials and to other users of the water; to compete in compliance with the rules and to take a penalty when required by the rules:
  - b) Use the provided services to resolve disputes.
- 1.3. International Regulations for the Prevention of Collision at Sea apply when meeting a vessel not racing. Particular attention is drawn to IRPCAS 9(b) "A vessel of less than 20 metres length or a Sailing Vessel shall not impede the passage of a vessel, which can safely navigate only within a narrow channel or fairway".
- 1.4. No boat whilst sailing out of the river or returning from a race shall deliberately impede the passage of the Lymington / Yarmouth Wightlink Ferry, any boat so doing may commit a gross breach of a rule and/or be held to bring the sport into disrepute for the purposes of RR 69.
- 1.5. Racing rules will be changed as follows

Race Signals AP, 33, 35, 60.1(a), 60.1(b), 61.3, 62.1(a), 62.2, A2, A5.1 and A5.2 will be changed.

### 2.0 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

- 2.1 Briefing – A briefing will be held at 0930 hrs on 21 May in the Lower Deck Bar.

2.2 Notices to competitors will be posted on the Official Notice Board inside the entrance to the Clubhouse.

### 3.0 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

3.1 Any changes to the sailing instructions will be posted at 1.5 hours before the first start of the day that they take effect.

### 4.0 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

4.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed on the club flagstaff.

4.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore the first warning signal will be made not less than 30 minutes after the flag is lowered.

4.3 Boats shall not leave the slipway if flag O over D is displayed.

4.4 Competitors shall wear personal buoyancy at all times when afloat, except briefly while adjusting clothing or personal equipment. Flag Y will not be displayed. This changes RRS40.

### 5.0 SCHEDULE OF RACES

5.1 Five races are scheduled. There will be no starts after 15:00 on Sunday

5.2 The warning signal for the first race will be at: 21 May at 1055 hrs.

5.3 Subsequent races will be sailed back to back.

### 6.0 CLASS FLAG

6.1 Merlin Rocket Flag 'O' (Oscar).

### 7.0 RACING AREA

7.1 A chart or description of the race area to be used will be posted each day on the Official notice board at least one hour before the first warning signal

### 8.0 THE COURSES

8.1 The courses to be used are described in Appendix 1, a white board on the committee boat will display the course and red or green flags to indicate whether the course is to be port or starboard rounding.

### 9.0 MARKS

9.1 The colour and description of marks to be used are indicated in Appendix 1

9.2 The compass direction to mark 1 may be displayed on the committee boat.

### 10.0 THE START

The Start marks are described in Appendix 1.

10.1 Races will be started by using the following signals (RRS 26 amended).

Warning	Class Flag	1 round	5 minutes before Start
Preparatory	P, I, U or Black Flag	1 round	4 minutes before Start
One minute	Preparatory Flag removed	1 long round	1 minute before Start
Starting	Class Flag removed	1 round	at Start

- 10.2 An orange flag will be displayed along with a sound signal at least 5 minutes before the warning signal of the first start of each day, and at least 1 minute before the warning signal of subsequent races.
- 10.3 Starting marks will be the orange flag flying on the committee boat and the starting mark.
- 10.4 An inner limit mark when laid, may not necessarily be on the starting line. If laid, boats shall pass on the starting mark side of this mark when starting.
- 10.5 Boats may not pass between the inner limit mark and the committee boat at any time.
- 10.6 A boat starting later than 5 minutes after her starting signal may be scored DNS (Did not start). Without a hearing. This changes RRS A4 and A5.

## 11 CHANGE OF NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

- 11.1 The course may be changed, without signals, to maintain the configuration consistent with changes of the wind direction and strength. This changes RRS 33.
- 11.2 The changes may be to either change the length of a leg or the bearing to a mark or both. The change will be made by moving the original mark.

## 12.0 SHORTENING COURSE

- 12.1 Courses will be shortened in accordance with RRS 32.2
- 12.2 If the course is shortened at the completion of a round, then the signals will be made on the committee boat and the competitor shall sail directly to the finishing line having rounded or passed the final mark.

## 13.0 THE FINISH

- 13.1 The Finish marks will be the committee boat flying a blue flag and a boat or buoy flying an orange flag.
- 13.2 A sound signal will only be made for the first boat to finish

## 14.0 TIME LIMITS

- 14.1 The time limit for the first boat shall be 45 minutes.
- 14.2 Any boat that has not finished 5 minutes after the first boat in her fleet has finished, shall, if she is still racing, be treated as a finisher. This varies RR35. The race Officer may then:
  - 14.2.1 Allow them further time to finish the current round if she is in sight of the finish and is likely to finish within a short time.
  - 14.2.2 Use the previous round time and notify the boat or: (Except that a boat which has completed the course may not be beaten by a boat which has not completed the course.)
  - 14.2.3 Estimate the finish position and notify the boat.
- 14.3 The target time for races will be approximately 25 mins. Failure to meet the target time shall not be cause for redress. This changes RRS 62.1(a).

## 15.0 PROTESTS & REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

- 15.1 Hearing Request forms are available from the sailing office at LTSC.
- 15.2 The protest time limit is 30 minutes after the last boat has returned ashore after the last race of the day or 30 minutes after flag AP over A is displayed ashore.
- 15.3 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 witnesses.
- 15.4 Breaches of SIs 4.3, 10.5, 17, 18, 19, 20 will not be grounds for protest by a boat. This changes RRS 60.1(a). Penalties for these breaches (and breaches of class rules) may be less than DSQ (Disqualification) if the jury so decides.

## 16.0 SCORING SYSTEM

- 16.1 Two races are required to be completed to constitute a series.
    - When fewer than two races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores.
    - When three races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score
- This changes RRS A2.

## 17.0 SAFETY REGULATIONS

- 17.1 Competitors should be aware of times when tide changes and be prepared for changing conditions as the wind, tide, weather and sea state can quickly change in the Solent.
- 17.2 A sign on/off system will be in operation – competitors shall sign on before going afloat and sign off upon returning to shore at the earlier of 15 minutes of coming ashore and the protest time limit. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in a fine penalty of £20 to the RNLI.
- 17.3 Boats returning ashore before the end of the last race of the day should notify the race officer or a safety boat and if this is not practical shall contact the race office as quickly as possible on arrival ashore.
- 17.4 Attention is drawn to RRS Fundamental Rule 1 "Helping those in danger"  
Boats (racing or otherwise) should stand by a capsized or disabled boat unless it is clear that no assistance is required. Redress may be requested. (RRS 62.1(c))
- 17.5 RRS 40 (Personal Flotation Devices) shall apply at all times while afloat except briefly while changing or adjusting clothing or personal equipment without the need for Flag Y to be displayed. Wet suits and Dry suits are not personal flotation devices.

## 18.0 TRASH DISPOSAL

RRS 55 is at the discretion of the Race Management Team and may be less than disqualification. As sailors, we seek to protect and restore our oceans and coastal waters. Boats shall not intentionally put trash in the water. Trash may be placed aboard support and officials boats.

## 19.0 RADIO COMMUNICATION

Except in an emergency, a boat shall neither make radio transmissions while racing

nor receive radio communications not available to all boats. This restriction also applies to mobile phones.

## 20.0 INSURANCE

Their boat shall adequately insured, with cover of at least £2 million or the equivalent per event against third party claims.

## 21.0 DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

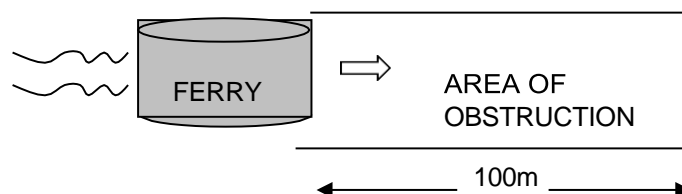
RRS 4 of the Racing Rules of Sailing states: 'The responsibility for a boats decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone'.

Sailing is by 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 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 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 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 organiser does not relieve them of their responsibilities;
- (f) The provision of patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can practically be provided in the circumstances.

## 21.0 AREA OF OBSTRUCTION – FERRY

For the purposes and SI 1.3 an area of obstruction shall extend 100 metres in front of a ferry underway in its direction of motion or intended motion with a width equal to the beam of the ferry.



## 22.0 ROCK WAVE BARRIERS

There are two rock wave barriers in the river protecting the marshes. When leaving and returning into the river boats must pass to the east of the barrier and

its yellow marks on the western side and to the west of the barrier and its yellow marks on the eastern side.