**Merlin Rocket Women’s Championship**

**Sunday 15 September 2024**

**Hosted by Parkstone Yacht Club**

**NOTICE OF RACE**

**ORGANISING AUTHORITY**

This event will be organised by the Merlin Rocket Owners’ Association in conjunction with Parkstone Yacht Club (PYC).

The notation ‘[NP]’ in a rule of the notice of race (NOR) means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1(a).

The notation ‘[DP]’ in a rule in the NoR 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. The event is governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS)
	2. The Organising Authority implements the Royal Yachting Association (“RYA”) Racing Charter. Competitors shall undertake to sail in accordance with the Charter.
	3. Any amendment to this Notice of Race will be posted on the MROA website no later than 1st September 2024.
	4. RRS 63.7 is changed so that in the event of a conflict between the Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions, the Sailing Instructions shall prevail.
	5. The Exoneration Penalty and the Advisory Hearing and RYA Arbitration of the RYA Rules Disputes procedures shall apply (for information on the procedures, go to www.rya.org.uk/go/rulesdisputes). The outcome of an RYA Arbitration can be referred to a protest committee, but an arbitration cannot be reopened or appealed.
2. **SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**
	1. The Sailing Instructions will be available at time of registration for the event. A provisional copy will be made available online no later than by 1st September 2024.
3. **COMMUNICATION**
	1. The Official Notice Board will be located on the office window of the Sailing Office on the Lower Ground Floor of the Club House.
	2. [DP] While racing, 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. **ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY**
	1. The event is open to boats of the Merlin Rocket class with a valid measurement certificate.
	2. Helms will need to be an Associate or Full Member of the MROA. For those not already a member of the association and taking part in the Women’s Training and Championships, female helms will be gifted Associate Membership of the MROA for the duration of the event within your entry fee.
	3. Eligible boats may enter by submitting a completed entry form and paying the appropriate entry fee via the MROA website.
	4. The closing date for entries is 23:59 on Friday 13th September 2024.
	5. A PYC Parent/Guardian Consent and Supervision Form must be completed by the Parent or Guardian of any competitor under the age of 18 on the first day of the event. The form is available online at: <https://www.parkstoneyachtclub.com/getmedia/ae2a0234-73ba-4822-8eca-f99c016b0299/PYC_Junior_Waiver.aspx>. The form shall be submitted to the Event Race Office by 09:30 on Sunday 15th September 2024.
5. **FEES**
	1. Entry fees are as follows:
		1. £30.00 for one day
		2. £45.00 for both days
6. **CREW LIMITATIONS**
	1. Merlin Rocket Class Rules will apply. (Shall consist of two persons)
7. **ADVERTISING**
	1. [DP] [NP] Boats may be required to display advertising chosen and supplied by the organising authority.
	2. Advertising shall comply with World Sailing Regulation 20 and the restrictions of rule 17.
8. **EVENT SCHEDULE**
	1. Registration will be in Training Room 2 at Parkstone Yacht Club from 0800 to 0900 Sunday 15th September 2024.
	2. A competitors briefing will be held at 0915 on 15th September 2024 at Parkstone Yacht Club. The location will be advised in the Sailing Instructions.
	3. The series will be made up if 4 races.
	4. The first warning signal on 15th September will not be before 1025.
	5. The last warning signal on 15th September will not be made after 1500.
9. **EQUIPMENT INSPECTION**
	1. Boats may be inspected at any time.
	2. Boats shall comply with RRS 78.1 when presented for inspection. [DP].
10. **CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT**
	1. RRS 40.1 shall apply at all times while afloat.
11. **VENUE**
	1. The Sailing Area will be in the top triangle within Poole Harbour.
12. **COURSES**
	1. Details of the courses to be sailed will be in the SIs.
13. **PENALTY SYSTEM**
	1. The Exoneration Penalty and the RYA Arbitration Procedures of the RYA Rules Disputes Procedures will be available. See the official notice board for details. Decisions from Arbitration can be referred to the protest committee but cannot be reopened or appealed.
14. **SCORING**
	1. Two races are required to be completed to constitute a series.
	2. A boat’s series score will be calculated as follows:
		1. When fewer than three races have been completed, a boat’s series score will be the total of her race scores.
		2. When three races have been completed, a boat’s series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score
	3. This changes RRS A2.
15. **SUPPORT PERSON VESSELS**
	1. There will be no support vessels at this event (only patrol fleet).
	2. Personal equipment such as food bags, drinks, spare parts and extra clothing may not be stored on any official boat for the duration of the event. Competitors should ensure that they carry sufficient food, water and spares on their own boat.
16. **BOAT STORAGE**
	1. Boats shall be dry sailed.
	2. Visiting boats shall be kept in the designated event boat area within the PYC boat yard.
17. **DATA PROTECTION**
	1. The Class Data Processing Policy is available on the class website.
18. **RIGHTS TO USE NAMES AND LIKENESS**
	1. Competitors automatically grant to the Organising Authority without payment the right in perpetuity to make, use and show any motion pictures, still pictures and live, taped or filmed television of or relating to the event.
19. **RISK STATEMENT**
	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 involves an element of risk. By taking part in any event at PYC, each participant agrees and acknowledges that:
		1. 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 such events.
		2. They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore.
		3. They accept responsibility for any injury, loss or damage to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions.
		4. They are responsible for ensuring that their boat is equipped and seaworthy so as to be able to face extreme weather; that there is a crew sufficient in number, experience and fitness to withstand such weather and that their safety equipment is properly maintained, stowed and in date and is familiar to the crew.
		5. The provision of race management teams, patrol boats and other officials and volunteers by the organisers does not relieve the Participant of their own responsibilities.
		6. The provision of patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance as can be practically provided in the circumstances, particularly in extreme weather conditions. Further, in the event that any assistance is rendered to a Participant, no liability for any loss, damage or injury to the Participant, and/or the boat and its equipment is accepted either by the club or the crew of such patrol craft.
		7. It is their responsibility to familiarise themselves with any risks, regulations and/or bye-laws specific to sailing or racing in Poole Harbour and Poole Bay including:
			1. Tidal conditions in Poole Harbour, which are complex with areas of shallow water common as well as very fast tidal flows in parts of the harbour.
			2. The area is used by a wide variety of craft, including large commercial vessels restricted in their ability to manoeuvre, a chain ferry in the harbour entrance and, at times, high volumes of leisure boat traffic. The Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREG) 1972, applies to all these craft including racing yachts.
			3. The Poole Harbour Sail Racing Procedures issued by Poole Harbour Commissioners <https://www.phc.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Poole-Harbour-Sail-Racing-Procedures-V.8-Aug-2020.pdf> which place requirements on all those involved in yacht racing in Poole.

[Poole-Harbour-Sail-Racing-Procedures-Version-9-March-2023.pdf (phc.co.uk)](https://www.phc.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Poole-Harbour-Sail-Racing-Procedures-Version-9-March-2023.pdf)

1. **INSURANCE**
	1. Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £3,000,000 Pounds Sterling per incident or the equivalent.
2. **PRIZES**
	1. Prizes will be awarded for:
		1. First female helm and crew sailing in the same boat for the weekend will be awarded the Women’s Championship Trophy
		2. Overall winning boat
		3. Top 3 helms and crews
		4. 1st ‘25 and Under’ female competing in the same boat for the weekend
		5. Spot prizes across the weekend
3. **MEMBERSHIP AND LIABILITY**
	1. All visiting competitors will be deemed temporary members of Parkstone Yacht Club during the event and as such shall abide by all the Club’s rules and bye laws.
	2. Visiting competitors must sign-in any accompanying family members in the Visitors Book.
	3. Members of the Club, their guests and visitors may use the Club premises and other facilities of the Club entirely at their own risk and implicitly accept that:
	4. The Club will not accept any liability for any damage to or loss of property belonging to members, their guests or visitors to the Club
	5. The Club will not accept any liability for personal injury arising out of use of the Club premises or any other facilities of the Club, or out of participating in any race organised by the Club, whether sustained by members, their guests or visitors or caused by the said members, guests or visitors, whether or not such damage or injury could have been attributed to, or was occasioned by the neglect, default or negligence of any of the officers, committees or servants of the Club.
4. **FURTHER INFORMATION**
	1. For further information please contact the Merlin Rocket Class Association by emailing Caroline Gould at sailing@merlinrocket.co.uk

**END OF NOTICE OF RACE**

This is a weekend event incorporating training on the Saturday. Both the training and the racing are booked as one event via the Merlin Rocket website.

An evening meal is planned for the Saturday night and can be booked with entry. We have also organised a talk from Sarah Ayton which is included in the entry fee for all competitors.