



# PARKSTONE YACHT CLUB

## Merlin Rocket Women's Championship

### Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2024

## SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

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

## 1 Rules

- (a) The event is governed by The 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.
- (b) The Organising Authority implements the Royal Yachting Association ("RYA") Racing Charter. Competitors shall undertake to sail in accordance with the Charter.
- (c) The notation '[DP]' in a rule in the Sailing Instructions (SIs) means that the penalty for a breach of that rule may, at the discretion of the protest committee, be less than disqualification
- (d) The notation '[NP]' in a rule of the SIs means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1(a)
- (e) RRS 40.1 applies at all times while afloat. [DP]
- (f) The RYA Rules Disputes Procedures shall apply. The outcome of an RYA Arbitration can be referred to a protest committee but an arbitration cannot be re-opened or appealed. This changes RRS 63.1.
- (g) 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.

## 2 Changes to Sailing Instructions

- (a) 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 1900 on the day before it will take effect.

## 3 Communication with competitors

- (a) Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located on the window of the Sailing Office on the lower ground floor of the Clubhouse.
- (b) [DP][NP] 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

- (a) [DP] Competitors and support persons shall comply with reasonable requests from race officials.





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### 5 Signals made ashore

- (a) Signals made ashore will be displayed on the flagstaff adjacent to the Beachmaster's Hut on the main slipway.
- (b) When flag AP is displayed ashore, "1 minute" is replaced with "not less than 30 minutes" when racing in Poole Harbour or "not less than 60 minutes" when racing in Poole Bay in the Race Signals AP.
- (c) [DP] Flag D with one sound signal means boats shall not leave the shore until this signal is made. The warning signal will not be made before the scheduled time or less than 30 minutes after flag D is displayed if racing is in Poole Harbour, or less than 60 minutes after flag D is displayed if racing is in Poole Bay.
- (d) A large green flag displayed ashore indicates that the racing area shall be within Poole Harbour. This signal shall be displayed no later than 60 minutes before the first warning of the day.

### 6 Schedule of races

- (a) Registration will be in Training Room 2 from 0800 to 0900 on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2024.
- (b) A competitors' briefing will take place at 0915 on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2024. The location will be in the main bar area.
- (c) The series will be made up of 4 races.
- (d) The first warning signal on 15<sup>th</sup> September will not be before 1025.
- (e) The last warning signal on 15<sup>th</sup> September will not be made after 1500.
- (f) Each day, succeeding races will be started as soon as practicable after the finish of the previous race.

### 7 Class flag

- (a) The class flag will be Flag 'O' (Oscar).

### 8 Racing areas

- (a) The racing area will be in Poole Harbour. The location will be confirmed at the Competitors Briefing.

### 9 The courses

- (a) The diagrams in Appendix A show the courses, the course designations, the approximate angles between legs, the order in which marks are to be passed, and the side on which each mark is to be left.
- (b) The gate 3S-3P may be replaced by a single mark to be left to port.
- (c) No later than the warning signal, the race committee vessel will display the course designation and the approximate compass bearing of the first leg.





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### 10 Marks

- (a) Marks 1 and 3 will be large orange cylindrical buoys with a black band.
- (b) Marks 1a, will be a small orange cylindrical buoy.
- (c) The Start marks will be the Committee boat displaying an orange flag at the starboard end and a dan buoy with an orange flag at the port end.
- (d) The Finishing marks will be the Committee boat displaying a blue flag at the starboard end and a dan buoy displaying a blue flag at the port end.

### 11 Obstructions

- (a) Boats shall keep clear of vessels constrained by their draft, and the chain ferry in the harbour entrance which has right of way at all times.
- (b) When a commercial vessel is escorted by a Harbour Master's vessel or by an official boat displaying flag U, boats shall not pass between the Harbour Master's vessel or the official boat displaying flag U and the vessel they are escorting.
- (c) Boats shall comply with directions given by official boats.
- (d) [DP] This SI 11 applies at all times whilst afloat, including when sailing to and from the course area. Any breach may result in disqualification from the event. This alters RRS 63.1.

### 12 The start

- (a) Races will be started using RRS 26 with the warning signal made five minutes before the starting signal.
- (b) To alert boats that a race or sequence of races will begin soon, the starboard end orange flag will be displayed with one sound at least two minutes before a warning signal is made.
- (c) The starting line is between a staff displaying an orange flag on the race committee vessel at the starboard end and a dan buoy with an orange flag at the port end.
- (d) A boat that does not start within four minutes after her starting signal will be scored DNS without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.1 and A5.2.

### 13 Change of the next leg of the course

- (a) To change the next leg of the course, the race committee will move the original mark or the finishing line.
- (b) Minor mark moves (up to approximately 100m) may be made without signalling the change. This changes RRS 33.





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### 14 The finish

- (a) The finishing line is between a staff displaying a blue flag on the race committee vessel at the starboard end and a dan buoy displaying a blue flag at the port end.
- (b) If a race is to be shortened at the race committee vessel finishing line, the race committee vessel will display flag S with 2 sound signals and a support boat will display flag F at or near the leeward gate or mark and make repeated sound signals. Boats should proceed directly to cross the race committee vessel finishing line after rounding mark 2P to port. This adds to RRS 32.
- (c) The race committee may give a finishing place to any boat as follows:
- (d) When an official boat displays flag W with two sounds, boats that have not yet finished may be given a finishing place anywhere on the race course, at a nearby mark or not.
- (e) When a boat finishes in accordance with this instruction, she shall be awarded a finishing place matching her race position in that race. This changes RRS A5.

### 15 Time limits and target times

- (a) The Mark 1 Time Limit, Race Time Limit (see RRS 35), Target Time, and the Finishing Window for all races are shown in the table below:

<i>Mark 1 Time Limit</i>	<i>Race Time Limit</i>	<i>Target Time</i>	<i>Finishing Window</i>
10 minutes	45 minutes	35 minutes	5 minutes

- (b) If no boat has passed the first mark within the Mark 1 Time Limit, the race will be abandoned.
- (c) Failure to meet the Target Time will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 62.1(a).





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## 16 Hearing requests

- (a) Any boat wishing to lodge a protest shall inform the race official of her intention to lodge a protest and the identity of her protestee boat(s) at the finishing line immediately after finishing the race concerned. This adds to RRS 61.1(a).
- (b) Hearing request forms are available from the Sailing Office.
- (c) The protest time limit after the last boat finishes the last race of the day or the race committee signals no more racing today, whichever is later, is 60 minutes when racing is in Poole Harbour or 90 minutes when racing is in Poole Bay. The time will be posted on the official notice board.
- (d) 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, and the location where hearings will take place.
- (e) RRS 62.2(a) and 66.2(a) do not apply.

## 17 Scoring

- (a) Two races are required to be completed to constitute a series.
- (b) A boat's series score will be calculated as follows:
- (c) When fewer than three races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores.
- (d) When three or more races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.

17.2 This changes RRS A2.

## 18 Penalty system

- (a) RRS 44.1 is changed so that outside a mark zone, the Two-Turns Penalty is replaced by the One-Turn Penalty.
- (b) Any penalties incurred within the mark zone of mark 1a may be taken after rounding mark 1b as per RRS 44.2. Competitors are reminded to be aware of Rule 44.1 (b) "if the boat...despite taking a penalty, gained a significant advantage in the race or series by her breach her penalty shall be to retire".





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### 19 Safety regulations

- (a) RRS 40.1 applies at all times while afloat. [DP]
- (b) A safety tally system will be in operation.
- (c) The tally control point will be the Beachmaster's Hut on the main slipway.
- (d) The tally in the form of a wristband must be collected by all competitors from the tally board and worn visibly at all times whilst afloat.
- (e) Both the helm and crew shall individually check-out before racing by personally collecting their tally.
- (f) Both the helm and crew shall individually check-in immediately on returning to shore after racing, but no later than 15 minutes after returning to shore, by returning the tally personally to tally control.
- (g) Any boat that fails to comply with the safety tally system will be disqualified from the race or races concerned. The race committee may consider reinstatement of the boat(s) concerned upon donation of £10 to RNLI.
- (h) [DP][NP] A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee as soon as possible.
- (i) [DP][NP] Boats wishing to sail ashore before the end of the day's racing shall inform an official boat before leaving the racing area. The official boat will instruct boats in the procedure for returning ashore.

### 20 Replacement of crew or equipment

- (a) [DP] Substitution of competitors is not allowed without prior written approval of the race committee.
- (b) [DP] Substitution of damaged or lost equipment is not allowed unless authorised in writing by the race committee. Requests for substitution shall be made to the committee at the first reasonable opportunity, which may be after the race.

### 21 Equipment and measurement checks

- (a) A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules, notice of race and sailing instructions.

### 22 Trash disposal

- (a) [DP][NP] Rubbish is not to be thrown in the sea. Rubbish may be placed aboard official or support vessels.

### 23 Support vessels

- (a) As detailed in the Notice of Race 15.





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## **24 Boat storage**

- (a) As detailed in the Notice of Race 16.

## **25 Prizes**

- (a) As detailed in the Notice of Race 21.

## **26 Risk Statement**

- (a) 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:
- (b) 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.
- (c) They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore.
- (d) They accept responsibility for any injury, loss or damage to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions.
- (e) 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.
- (f) 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.
- (g) 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.





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- (h) 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:
  - i) 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.
  - ii) 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.
  - iii) The Poole Harbour Sail Racing Procedures issued by Poole Harbour Commissioners <https://www.phc.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Poole-Harbour-Sail-Racing-Procedures-Version-9-March-2023.pdf> which place requirements on all those involved in yacht racing in Poole.
- (i) Parkstone Yacht Club strongly recommends that all sailors wear personal buoyancy whilst on the water, as failure to do so significantly increase the risks inherent in sailing. Personal buoyancy should comply with RYA Prescription to RRS 40.

## 27 Insurance

- (a) 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.







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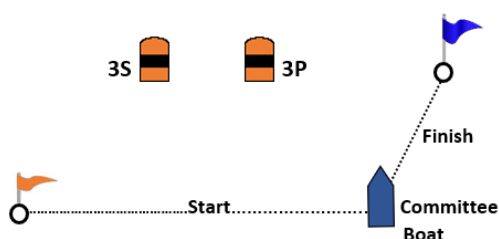
### Appendix A – Course Diagrams

#### Appendix 1

#### COURSE DIAGRAM

1a  1 

2 



Signal	Mark rounding order
L2	Start – 1 – 1a – 3S/3P – 1 – 1a – 3P – Finish
L3	Start – 1 – 1a – 3S/3P – 1 – 1a – 3S/3P – 1 – 1a – 3P – Finish
L4	Start – 1 – 1a – 3S/3P – 1 – 1a – 3S/3P – 1 – 1a – 3S/3P – 1 – 1a – 3P – Finish
LT2	Start – 1 – 1a – 3S/3P – 1 – 1a – 2 – 3P – Finish
LT3	Start – 1 – 1a – 3S/3P – 1 – 1a – 2 – 3P – 1 – 1a – 3P – Finish
LT4	Start – 1 – 1a – 3S/3P – 1 – 1a – 2 – 3P – 1 – 1a – 3S/3P – 1 – 1a – 2 – 3P – Finish

Marks 1, 1a, 2 shall be rounded to Port.

Mark 3S/3P = Mark 3S shall be rounded to Starboard or Mark 3P shall be rounded to Port.

Mark 3P = Mark 3P only shall be rounded to Port.

### End of Sailing Instructions

