

WYC GENERAL SAILING INSTRUCTIONS
2017

1. **Racing Rules**

All races will be sailed under the current Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) published by the International Sailing Federation (ISAF) and the General Sailing Instructions of the Whitby Yacht Club (WYC). These may be modified or supplemented in accordance with ISAF 88.2, such changes being displayed on the Club and Marina noticeboards.

2. **Schedule of Races**

Yachts will race in classes as detailed in the sailing programme or in special race instructions, copies of which will be posted on the Club noticeboard. Each class will be allocated a letter of the alphabet and a coloured light (Class A is "A" and green, Class B is "B" and red) which will be used for signalling purposes as in paragraph 3 below.

Before a yacht is eligible to race, her valid measurement or rating certificate shall be presented to the Race Officer (RO), only under exceptional circumstances will ISAF 78.2 be applied.

3. **Signals**

ISAF 26 will not apply.

Amendments to general racing instructions prior to departing the harbour (cancellations, postponements etc) will be passed on Ch37/M/M1.

SIGNALS FROM THE RACE STATION

All signals will be made using the lights listed below:

Horizontal Lights	Vertical Lights	Postponement Signal
1 red, 1 white	Class lights, if applicable	All races not started are postponed.
		Should a set delay be imposed (eg. 15 or 30 minutes), this will be announced on Ch 37/M/M1

The warning signal will be made 1 minute after this signal is removed. Number boards refer to course numbers and are hung below the Race Station windows. Class A will follow the A course and Classes B & C will follow the B course, if separate courses are displayed.

Courses may be passed on Ch37/M/M1 if time and equipment permit.

Red or white lights referring to race management are arranged horizontally above the Race Station window.

Class lights (red & green) are displayed vertically on the left of the Race Station window as viewed from the sea.

Vertical Lights	Meaning
1 green	Class A Only
1 red	Class B Only
1 red, 1 green	All Classes

Timing signals are as follows:

Vertical Lights	Horizontal Lights	Meaning
As required	0	5 minute warning
As required	1	4 minute preparatory signal
As required	0	1 minute to start
0	0	Start

Horizontal Lights	Meaning
1 red	Individual recall
2 reds	General recall
2 whites	Shorten course
1 white + 1 red + 1 white	Race cancelled or abandoned
1 red + 1 white	Race postponed

1 white light will be shown for approximately 5 seconds when the first boat of each class crosses the finishing line or, if the race has been shortened, the white lights will be extinguished for 5 seconds. If time permits, subsequent finishers will also receive a light(s).

All efforts will be made to back the starting signals, the recalls, course shortening, cancellation, abandonment or postponement with radio calls on Ch37/M/M1 but the lights / boards will remain as definitive signals.

Example:

Time	Meaning	White Lights	Class Lights
10:25	Warning "B"	0	1 red
10:26	Preparatory "B"	1 white	1 red
10:29	1 min. "B"	0	1 red
10:30	Start "B", warning "A"	0	1 green
10:31	Preparatory "A"	1 white	1 green
10:34	1 min. "A"	0	1 green
10:35	Start "A"	0	0

Where Class Starts are combined:

Time	Event	Sequence of Lights		
		White	Red	Green
10:25	Warning "A" & "B"	0	1	1
10:26	Preparatory "A" & "B"	1	1	1
10:29	1 min. "A" & "B"	0	1	1
10:30	Start "A" & "B"	0	0	0

NOTE: For pursuit races, please consult the applicable special times / signals sheet. These

will be distributed by email and be available from the RO before the start.

4. **Race Station**

A white hut surmounted by a white triangle situated on the west cliff below the Spa Pavilion.

5. **Start Line**

South to north transit marked by two white triangles situated above and behind the Race Station. The line extends approximately 2-3 cables seawards to the limit mark which is mark (A) of the course and may be tideborne to the east or west of the line. After the 4 minute preparatory signal for the first class to start has been displayed, no yacht, apart from the class about to start, may enter the box formed by:

a. for westerly starts - the west pier extension, the shore and the start line.

b. for easterly starts - a rectangular box extending 1 cable west of the start line.

Any yacht infringing this rule and obstructing any other yacht about to start may be disqualified.

6. **Finishing Line**

A line between the Race Station and the limit mark (buoy A). After finishing, all yachts should clear the line and not interfere with other yachts yet to finish. Where yachts are taking their own time for a finish, they will use the starting transits as their finishing line, but they must pass inside the limit mark, buoy A.

7. **Course Marks**

With the exception of the Bell Buoy (mark D, a north cardinal), the Club uses cylindrical buoys marked with either their letter or WYC. Out of bay courses will use charted marks or Club buoys as applicable or "virtual" positions. All helmsmen should exercise care when passing the Wave Buoy and its Marker Buoy. These buoys are tethered together by a submerged 30m rubber bungee and are anchored close to the Bell Buoy.

8. **Courses**

Courses will be in accordance with the pages 36-37 of this yearbook. Each course is allocated a number for signalling purposes as in para 3 above and Class A will follow the A course for that number and Classes B & C will follow the B course. Special out of bay courses will be displayed on the Marina noticeboard at least 1 hour before the start of the race (and on the Club noticeboard, if time permits). If a Virtual Mark is included in the course, the following rules will apply:

a. Yachts must be equipped with GPS.

b. The GPS must be set to Datum WGS84.

c. The Virtual Mark (position passed by the RO) must be input as a waypoint and its position must be capable of being displayed to the RO on inspection.

d. The Active Track (Snail Trail) facility must be activated from Start

to Finish of the race and not erased before the RO has inspected it so that it is possible to view the track the boat has sailed.

e. The competitor must also be able to demonstrate to the RO that the marks have been rounded on the correct side.

f. Times must be taken and logged at all marks, including the Virtual Mark.

g. Competitors (or one member of the crew) must remain at their boats until released by the RO.

9. **Individual Recalls**

ISAF 29.1 will not apply.

If any yachts are over the line at the start, a red light will be shown until the offending yachts have wholly returned to the pre-start side of the line, or for 4 minutes after the starting signal, whichever is the earlier. When possible, the Race Station will announce on Ch37/M/M1 that individual recalls are in operation.

10. **General Recalls**

The signals for ISAF 29.2 will not apply.

Two fixed red lights above the Race Station window replace the flag, First Substitute. In the event of a general recall, two fixed red lights will be exhibited. The preparatory signal for a new start for the recalled class shall be made one minute after the two red lights are extinguished and the starts for succeeding classes shall follow the new start. When possible, the Race Station will make announcements on Ch37/M/M1.

11. **Abandonments**

If, after starting, a race is abandoned, then the procedure for a cancelled race will be used.

12. **Shortening Course**

If it is considered necessary to shorten the course, the RO (or his designated "other" Class representative) will show 2 white lights (plus appropriate class lights, where applicable) and/or announce the shortening on Ch37/M/M1 before the leading yacht of the Class approaches the penultimate mark of the lap being sailed. The Class will finish at the finishing line on the next scheduled crossing. Note the possibility of only one class being shortened.

13. **Time Limit**

Bay races have a time limit of 3 hours, unless otherwise notified and coastal races have their limit marked on the issued course cards. If 1 yacht in a Class finishes within the time limit, the race will be held open for all other yachts in that Class finishing within an additional period of one third of that time limit. All boats finishing when the Race Station is closed must record their own finish time taken from a reliable time source (GPS/Radio Controlled Clock/Watch) and ensure it is sent or given to the RO or his appointed deputy within 24 hours. Skippers not submitting their times may possibly not have their times recorded.

14. **Safety Precautions, Equipment and Insurance**

All competing yachts, including those of non-race members participating in the 3 allowed pursuit races, must comply with the current *ISAF Offshore Special Regulations for Race Category 4 Monohulls Safety Regulations* (available on www.sailing.org) and those specified in their Class rules. Squibs are allowed to compete in bay (not coastal) races provided that they comply with National Squib Class Rules (available on www.squibs.co.uk) and in addition carry an outboard engine, compass, VHF radio, flare pack containing at least 2 red parachute flares and 2 red hand-held flares and a 1 gallon bucket. Buoyancy aids (not self-inflating life jackets) must be worn at all times on Squibs. All competing yachts and Squibs must carry a working GPS system during all races. All yachts and Squibs must have third party/public liability insurance to a value of not less than £3,000,000. Failure to comply with this instruction could lead to being disqualified from all previous races.

15. **Decision to Race & Disclaimer**

The decision to participate in a race is solely the skippers' responsibility. WYC is not responsible for any loss, damage or injury either ashore or afloat, either to persons or property, which might result from participating in an event organised by the WYC. Any yacht indicating an intention to race by manoeuvring in the vicinity of the start line around the starting time is deemed to have accepted these conditions. The decision to commence starting procedures for bay and coastal races from Whitby is the responsibility of the RO. Races will not be started if the RO cannot see mark A from the Race Station or if sailing, the RO cannot see the Bell Buoy from mark A. The decision to commence starting procedures for a WYC race away from Whitby is, in descending order of priority, the responsibility of the Rear Commodore Race, the Sailing Secretary, the Commodore, any other Flag Officer, or a majority vote amongst the skippers.

16. **Individual Race Declarations**

Individual Race Declarations will not be required. Any yacht not flying an ensign when crossing the finishing line will be deemed to have sailed the course fairly and in accordance with the rules and sailing instructions. Skippers who cannot so declare should fly an ensign and/or notify the Race Station on Ch37/M/M1.

17. **Sailing Instructions**

These general sailing instructions will, where appropriate and necessary to comply with ISAF Appendix L, be supplemented by instructions posted on the race noticeboard. Where any sailing instructions posted on the race noticeboard contradicts these general sailing instructions, those on the race noticeboard will prevail.

18. **Disqualification**

A yacht which infringes the sailing instructions may be disqualified.

19. **Protests**

Notice of protest accompanied by a fee of £5 (which may be returned at the discretion of the Race Committee) shall be given in writing including details as proscribed in ISAF 61.2 (forms available behind the bar) to be either given or posted to the RO, a Flag Officer or lodged in the Clubhouse within 2 hours of the race. Protests will be heard by a Protest Committee in accordance with ISAF 63.

20. **Noticeboards**

Where mention in these instructions given to the "noticeboard", this refers to the one in the Marina building. Wherever possible, notices will also be displayed in the Yacht Club.

21. **VHF Radio**

From the 5 minute warning signal for the first Class until after the start of the last Class/competitor, no yacht is to contact the Race Station via the VHF radio. When possible, the Race Station personnel will announce warning, preparatory, 1 min. and start signals on Ch37/M/M1. All boats are requested to monitor Ch16 & Ch37/M/M1 for all out of bay races. Prior to the 5 minute warning signal for the first Class, each skipper of competing yachts shall contact the RO to log their sail number and Class in which they will be starting.

22. **Series Scoring System**

The individual race scoring system will be in accordance with ISAF A4.1, Low Point System ie. boats will score points equal to their position gained in the race and those not finishing will be scored 1 greater than the number of boats in the race. Series scoring will be in accordance with ISAF A2 ie. boats racing will be scored as per A4.1, boats not so scored coming to the starting area will be scored 1 greater than the total number of boats in the race, boats not coming to the starting area will be scored 1 more than the total number of boats in the series. A third of the races in all series can be discarded with fractions being taken to the nearest whole number ie if 6 races are sailed, 4 count; if 5 sailed 3 count; if 4 sailed, 3 count. If 3 or fewer races are sailed, all races count. Ties will be broken in accordance with ISAF A8 ie. the tie will be broken in favour of the boat with most 1st places, or, if the tie remains, the most 2nd places and lower places as necessary. Should the tie remain, it will be determined by the position of the tied boats in the last race which they raced together.

23. **Membership**

For each WYC race, competing boats must have no less than one WYC Senior Racing or Full Racing Member on board to be eligible for results in WYC Races (this rule does not apply to Open events or races). Non-racing members may enter up to 3 pursuit races in one season.

24. **Overall Trophies**

The overall trophies for all the Classes and the Waddilove Trophy will be determined on all and only the Bay Series races (Spring, Summer, Autumn and Bank Holiday). There are no discards. The scoring system will be:
each first place will be awarded 3 points
each second place will be awarded 2 points
each third place will be awarded 1 point

25. **Number of Yachts for a Race**

A minimum of 1 yacht is required for a race to be valid. That yacht must sail the requisite course to qualify for points.

26. **Late Starters**

A yacht may use her engine to clear the harbour after the 5 minute warning signal has been made provided that:

a. her engine is stopped whilst the yacht is within 100 metres of the pier ends and

b. she keeps clear of yachts that have, or are about to start correctly

c. she completes a 2 turns penalty in the vicinity of the start line after the starting signal and before she starts.

27. **Uppang Rocks**

Attention is drawn to the fact that an area of rocks extends well offshore from Uppang Ravine, west of the Race Station as charted. They are weed covered and have a charted depth of 1 metre at MLWS with seas breaking on them in strong northerly winds.

28. **Acceptance**

If participating yachts (including those taking advantage of the 3 allowed pursuit races for non-racing members) come to the start line of any race, the skippers are deemed to have read these Sailing Instructions including the Safety Requirements and have agreed to abide by all the instructions.