

2015 RS Sailing Instructions

for National Circuit Events, and Winter, Inland, Southern, Northern & End of Season Championships

1 RULES

- 1.1 The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing*.

2 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

- 2.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the Official Notice Board as defined in the Event Appendix.

3 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 3.1 Any changes to the Sailing Instructions will be posted at least one hour before the advertised start time of the race or races concerned; except that any change to the schedule of races shall be posted by 2000 hours on the day before it will take effect.

4 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 4.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed at the location described in the Event Appendix.
- 4.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore '1 minute', in 'Race Signals' is replaced with 'not less than 30 minutes'. This changes the meaning of AP in RRS Race Signals.

5 FORMAT OF RACING

- 5.1 The RS National Circuits and Championships will comprise a maximum of 8 races for a two-day event. The schedule of races will be specified on the UK RS Class Association websites under 'Events' and on the official notice board.
- 5.2 No more than 6 races will be sailed in any one day.
- 5.3 At the discretion of the Class Representative and the Race Officer some of the following days' races may be brought forward to allow for any inclement weather forecasts.
- 5.4 In the event of a race being recalled, restarted, re-sailed or abandoned the next race sailed will be that race with subsequent races being sailed thereafter in their scheduled order.

6 CLASS FLAGS

- 6.1 The class flags will be as follows:

RS100	Red Flag with black RS100, or numeral pennant 1
RS200	Yellow Flag with black RS200, or numeral pennant 2
RS300	Light blue Flag with black RS300, or numeral pennant 3
RS400	Violet Flag with black RS400, or numeral pennant 4
RS500	Green Flag with black RS500, or numeral pennant 5
RS600	Pink Flag with black RS600, or numeral pennant 6

RS700	Grey Flag with black RS700, or numeral pennant 7
RS800	White Flag with black RS800, or numeral pennant 8
RS Vario	White Flag with pink RS VO, or pennant V

7 RACING AREAS

7.1 The racing area will be as shown on the official notice board

8 THE COURSES

8.1 The diagram(s) in Event Appendix A show the course(s), the order in which marks are to be passed and the side on which each mark is to be left. Courses will also be displayed on the official event notice board.

8.2 If a course has a gate and one of two gate marks is missing and has not been replaced as described in RRS 34 then the remaining mark shall be rounded to port. This changes RRS 34.

8.3 The number of laps to be sailed will be indicated on the Committee Boat for each fleet, either displayed on a notice board or by flying the appropriate numeral pennant.

9 MARKS

9.1 The course marks will be described in Event Appendix A.

10 THE START

10.1 Races will be started by using RRS 26. Multiple classes sharing a starting line may be started in any order.

10.2 The starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the starting mark at the starboard end and the port-end starting mark.

10.3 When a limit mark is laid near the Committee Boat it is a starting limit mark that shall be left to starboard when starting.

10.4 Boats whose preparatory signal has not been made are reminded of their obligations not to interfere with boats that are racing as set out in RRS 24.1.

10.5 A boat starting later than 4 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes rules A4.1 and A5.

10.6 When there are more than 50 entries in one class, or if the fleet specifically requests it, one of two alternative start procedures may be used as follows:

- i) The race committee may choose to use a gate start. If so flag G will be flown from the committee boat and Appendix C to these SIs will apply. This changes RRS 26.
- ii) At the discretion of that class's Owners Committee competitors in that class may be split into flights and racing will be organized as per Appendix D. This changes RRS 26.

Competitors will be advised at the briefing if gate starts or flights are to be used and a notice to this effect will be posted on the official notice board.

11 MINIMUM WIND STRENGTH

- 11.1 Races will not be started unless the Race Officer is satisfied that the wind strength over the whole of the course is in excess of an average of four knots.

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 a mark described in event appendix A for that purpose (or the finishing line) to a new position.

13 SHORTENING COURSES

13.1 For Windward/leeward Course

For courses that are shortened at the leeward mark when the committee boat is in its normal position and flying flag S (alongside the class flag if more than one fleet is on the course), the leading boat shall round the leeward mark on its required side and proceed to the normal finish line. On completing the same number of rounds as the leading boat, all other boats should proceed to the finish line in the same way. When the leeward mark is a gate boats are not required to pass through the gate but to leave the mark nearest the Committee Boat on the required side before proceeding to the finish. This changes RRS 32.2.

13.2 For Trapezoid or Square Course

For courses that are shortened at the leeward mark on the inner loop, boats should follow SI 13.1 above.

For courses that are shortened at the leeward mark of the outer loop, the shortened course will be indicated by a signal boat stationed near the mark flying flag S (alongside or above the class flag if there are more than one fleet on the outer loop) and making repeated sound signals. The leading boat shall round the leeward mark on its required side and then proceed to the normal finish line. When the leeward mark is a gate boats are not required to pass through the gate but to leave the mark nearest the Committee Boat on the required side before proceeding to the finish. If the outer distance mark of the start line is a mark of the course for each lap or final lap then it should be left to port on the way to the normal finish line. The leeward mark or leeward gate of the inner loop should be left to port on the way to the normal finish line. On completing the same number of rounds as the leading boat, all other boats should finish as described above. This changes RRS 32.2.

13.3 For Both Windward/Leeward and Trapezoid Courses

At any other mark of the course the race may be shortened in accordance with RRS 32.2. All competitors shall complete the number of rounds equal to the leading boat before proceeding to the finish.

14 THE FINISH

- 14.1 The finishing line will be between a staff displaying a orange flag on the committee boat and the finishing mark described in Event Appendix A.

15 PENALTY SYSTEM

- 15.1 For the RS100, RS600, RS700 and RS800 fleets rule 44.1 is changed so that the two-

turns penalty is replaced by one-turn penalty.

- 15.2 Boats may touch a mark other than the starting or finishing mark. A boat shall not manhandle a mark when it results in an advantage. This changes RRS 31.

16 TIME LIMITS

- 16.1 The time limit shall be 75 minutes for the first boat to finish. If one boat finishes within that limit then the time limit will be amended to 20 minutes after the finishing time of the first boat. Boats failing to finish within the amended time limit shall be scored in their observed positions on the course or last mark rounding position if recorded. This changes RRS 35, A4 and A5. Boats finished in this way will be advised of the fact by a safety boat and should stop racing thereafter.

17 PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

- 17.1 Protest forms are available from the Race Office. They shall be delivered there within the appropriate time limit.
- 17.2 For each class, the protest time limit is one hour after the last boat finished the last race of the day.
- 17.3 Notices will be posted no later than 30 minutes after the expiry of the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties to, or named as witnesses. It shall be the responsibility of competitors to check the notice board for such notices, obtain their copy of the protest form and make sure that they and their witnesses attend the hearing.
- 17.4 On the last day of racing a competitor's request for reopening a hearing shall be delivered:
- (a) Within the protest time limit if the party requesting reopening was informed of the protest committee's decision on the previous day;
 - (b) No later than 30 minutes after the party requesting reopening was informed of the protest committee's decision on that day.

This changes RRS 66.

- 17.5 Where a Class judge a NJ, IJ or official arbitrator is appointed to an event the Exoneration Penalty and the Advisory Hearing and RYA Arbitration procedures of the RYA Rules Disputes Procedures will be available. See official notice board for details.
- 17.6 For infringements of the rules other than in Part 2 of the RRS, the protest committee may award a lesser penalty than disqualification.
- 17.7 Breaches of Sailing Instructions 23.1, 23.2 and 24 will not be grounds for a protest by a boat. This changes rule 60.1(a).

18 SCORING

- 18.1 Points will accrue to the helm or helm/crew team named on the entry form and not to the boat entered.
- 18.2 2 races are required to be completed to constitute a series.
- 18.3 (a) When fewer than 4 races have been completed, a competitor's series score will be the total of her race scores.

- (b) When from 4 to 7 races have been completed, a competitor's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.
 - (c) When 8 or more races have been completed, a competitor's score will be the total of her race scores excluding her two worst scores.
- 18.4 To request correction of an alleged error in the posted race or series results, a boat may complete a scoring enquiry form available at the race office. If a request for correction is rejected the time limit for requesting redress for the alleged error will run from the time that the rejection is advised to the competitor.
- 18.5 The scoring abbreviation for a discretionary penalty imposed under Sailing Instruction 17.6 will be DPI.
- 18.6 **Series/event tie** If, after discard(s), two or more boats have the same points total the tie will be broken in accordance with RRS Appendix A8.1. If there is still a tie this will be broken in favour of the boat with the best excluded result. This changes RRS A 8. If a tie still exists then the tie will be broken in accordance with RRS Appendix A8.2. For the purpose of this rule the last race will be taken to mean the last race actually completed on the water.

19 SAFETY REGULATIONS

- 19.1 Personal flotation devices crew members shall be worn at all times whilst afloat. This changes RRS 40 and the preamble to Part 4.
- 19.2 Wetsuits or drysuits must be worn by all competitors between 1st November and 30th April inclusive.
- 19.3 When the race committee considers that a boat or competitor is in difficulty it may instruct the boat or competitor to accept outside help, retire or sail ashore.
- 19.4 In accordance with RRS 43.1 and ISAF Case 89, no clothing or equipment may be worn on the body of helm or crew to carry liquid of any description, even if for the purpose of re-hydration; this includes camelbacks, water bottles and cans of drink.

20 REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT

- 20.1 For the series of races comprising an event only the helm or helm and crew team named on the entry form will be eligible. If a different helm outside the helm and crew named on entry form completes a race in the same boat then they will be considered a separate entry and their results cannot be combined with another helm's results. However the registered helm and crew may swap roles without restriction.
- 20.2 Crews may only be changed during the series of races comprising an event from the person named on entry form with written permission in advance from the Race Committee or Class Representative. If it is known at the start of the event that there will have to be a change crew during the event then both crews should be registered on entry form along with which day(s) they will be sailing.
- 20.3 Where event results are combined to form a circuit then only the results scored by the same helm or helm and crew team will count, results from a different helm shall not be combined, even when helming the same boat.

21 Distinguishing Numbers

- 21.1 Under exceptional circumstances, the Race Committee may permit a boat to use sails carrying a distinguishing number other than that required by RRS 77 and RRS Appendix G. Such permission is only valid if sought in writing before use.

22 EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

- 22.1 A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules and sailing instructions.
- 22.2 Class Conformity: Every boat shall comply with the current relevant class rules. Failure to do so may result in disqualification without a hearing. This changes RRS 63.1. and A5
- 22.3 RS200 only - the use of a pole to control the clew of the spinnaker is not permitted and the spinnaker may not be flown in a goose-winged fashion on the opposite side to the mainsail. The pole may be carried but not used.

23 ADVERTISING

- 23.1 Boats shall display advertising supplied by the organizing authority as specified in the NOR.
- 23.2 When provided at registration, competitors shall make every reasonable effort to display event sponsors promotional items on their boat and sails as directed. If sponsor promotional items come off whilst racing, competitors must obtain replacement items from the RS Association before the start of racing the following day, if the Association has sufficient stocks available.
- 23.3 There will be no restriction on the number or coverage of advertisers logos or slogans except for the front 20% of the forward part of each side of the hull and the foremost 20% of the mainsail boom bottom , which are reserved for RS Association event sponsors. [see ISAF regulation 20 Advertising Code]
- 23.4 Any individual caught stealing sponsor promotional items, e.g. flags, banners, prizes, shall be deemed to have committed a gross breach of good manners, and will be reported to the Protest Committee who may call a hearing under RRS 69.1(a)

24 TRASH DISPOSAL

- 24.1 Boats shall not drop trash in the dinghy park. When afloat trash may be placed aboard support and race committee boats.

25 RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

- 25.1 A boat shall neither make radio transmissions while racing nor receive radio communications not available to all boats. This restriction also applies to mobile telephones.

26 SUPPORT BOATS

- 26.1 Team leaders, coaches and other support personnel shall stay outside areas where boats are racing from the time of the preparatory signal until all boats have finished or the race committee signals a postponement, general recall or abandonment.

27 DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

- 27.1 The race organisers shall not be responsible for any loss, damage, death or personal injury howsoever caused to the owner/competitor, his skipper or crew as a result of

their taking part in the race or races. Moreover, every owner/competitor warrants the suitability of his boat for the race or races.

27.2 The safety of a boat and her entire management including insurance shall be the sole responsibility of the owner/competitor racing the boat, who shall ensure that the boat is fully found, thoroughly seaworthy and manned by a crew sufficient in number and experience who are physically fit to face bad weather. The owner/competitor shall be satisfied as to the soundness of the hull, spars, rigging, sails and all gear. He shall ensure that all safety equipment is properly maintained, stowed and in date and that all crew know where it is kept and how it is to be used.

27.3 Neither the establishment of these Sailing Instructions nor any inspection of the boat under these conditions in any way limits or reduces the absolute responsibility of the owner/competitor for his crew, the boat and the management thereof. The crews are nonetheless advised to satisfy themselves as to the experience of the skipper and the adequacy of all safety equipment and insurance arrangements.

28 INSURANCE

28.1 Each participating boat shall be adequately insured with valid third-party liability insurance.

29 RIGHTS TO USE NAME AND LIKENESS

29.1 By participating in this event, competitors automatically grant to the organizing authority and the event sponsors the right, in perpetuity, to make, use, and show, at their discretion, any photography, audio and video recordings, and other reproductions of them made at the venue or on the water from the time of their arrival at the venue, until their final departure, without compensation.