



**Birmingham Sailing Club**  
**2024-2025 SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**  
**Effective 1 Feb 2024 – 31 Jan 2025**  
**Sunday Club Races and Club Open Regattas**

**1. RULES**

1.1. The regatta will be governed by the 'rules' as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing 2021-2024 and these sailing instructions.

**2. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS**

2.1. For club One Day and Two Day regattas, a Notice of Race will be sent prior to the event and may include special instructions.

2.2. Notices may be made at the competitors meeting for One Day events.

**3. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

3.1. For Sunday Race series, changes to the sailing instructions may be made on the water by the Race Committee using VHF. This changes rule 90.2 of the RRS.

3.2. For One Day Regattas, changes to the sailing instruction may be made during the competitors meeting.

**4. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE**

4.1. Signals made ashore will be displayed at the flagpole near the launching ramp, or on the RC boat when docked at main dock.

4.2. When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 30 minutes' in race signal AP.

**5. SCHEDULE OF RACES**

5.1. Sunday club races will start at 1400

5.2. For One Day Regattas, the warning signal will be made at 1230.

5.3. For 2-day regattas, warning signals will be made at 1300 on Saturday and at 0930 on Sunday. No race will be started after 1230 on Sunday.

5.4. For subsequent races to be held on the same day, the warning signal for each succeeding race will be made as soon as practicable. To alert boats that another race is about to start, a series of horn blasts may precede the warning signal.

5.5. No races will be started within 1 hour of an planned onshore event such as awards reception, otherwise no race shall be started less than 1 hr before sunset.

**6. COURSES (See Appendix A)**

6.1. The course will be windward-leeward as shown on Appendix A.

6.2. The number of legs will be determined by the Race Committee subject to conditions and displayed on whiteboards on side of RC boat

6.3. For One Day and Two day regattas, different classes may have different number of legs and/or different length legs

6.4. All rounding marks shall be left to Port

**7. CHECK-IN**

7.1. Each boat shall check-in at the Race Committee boat before the start of the first race each day by sailing past the stern of the RC boat on starboard tack and hail their sail number and number of crew aboard

## **8. THE START**

- 8.1. Races will be started by using rule 26 of the RRS with the warning signal given 5 minutes before the starting signal.
- 8.2. The starting line will be between a staff on the Race Committee boat displaying an orange flag and a nearby buoy, "X", on the port end of the start/finish line. Buoy may be replaced by a Race Committee boat with an orange flag.
- 8.3. For Sunday Races, there will be one (1) start for all competitors signaled with a Yellow warning signal.
- 8.4. For One Day and Two day regattas, a separate start will be given for each class that has 5 or more boats in the starting area prior to the first start of the event. The warning signal of the starting class shall be the class flag.
- 8.5. Race Committee will attempt to hail OCS competitors by VHF, but failure to do so or competitor's failure to hear a hail are not grounds for redress.

## **9. THE FINISH**

- 9.1. The finishing line shall be between an orange flag/shape on a Race Committee boat and the nearby mark, either "X" or another Mark of the course.

## **10. TIME LIMITS – SHORTEN COURSE**

- 10.1. The time limit shall be 90 minutes from the start of the race for the first boat to finish. If no yacht has rounded the first mark within 45 minutes the race shall be abandoned.
- 10.2. If in the opinion of the race committee no boat will finish within the time limit they may shorten course by taking station at any rounding mark of the course, displaying code flag "S" and sounding two signals. When a shortened course signal is given, all boats shall continue to round the marks displayed at the Start until they reach the mark at which the race committee gave the shorten course signal.
- 10.3. Boats failing to finish within 30 minutes after the first boat sails the course and finishes will be scored TLE (Time Limit Expired) and will receive a score equal to the number of boats that have finished within the time limit + 2 not to exceed the number of boats registered to race.

## **11. PROTESTS**

- 11.1. Protests must conform to Rule 61. Protests shall be written on forms available at the official notice board and must be filed with the Race Committee within one hour of the Race Committee returning to shore. After submitting the protest, the protesting skipper shall await instructions as to the time and place of the hearing. It is the protestor's unshared responsibility to learn the time and place of the hearing and to ensure that any witnesses that are to be called on the protestors' behalf are present at the hearing.

## **12. PENALTIES AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT**

- 12.1. The first two sentences of rule 44.1 are changed to: 'A boat may take a One-Turn Penalty when she may have broken a rule of Part 2 or rule 31 while racing. However, when she may have broken a rule of Part 2 while in the 'zone around a mark' other than a starting mark, her penalty shall be a Two-Turns Penalty.'
- 12.2. Rules 44.1(a) and 44.1 (b) apply as stated in the RRS.

## **13. PENALTIES TAKEN AFTER A RACE**

- 13.1. After a race, a boat that may have broken a rule of Part 2 or rule 31 while racing may take a Post-Race Penalty for that incident. The penalty shall be a Scoring Penalty, calculated as stated in rule 44.3(c). However, rules 44.1(a) and (b) apply. A boat takes a Post-Race Penalty by informing the race committee in writing and identifying the race number and when and where the incident occurred.
- 13.2. The Post-Race Penalty shall be (a) 20%, if taken before the protest time limit, or (b) 30%, if taken after the protest time limit but before the beginning of a hearing involving the incident.

## **14. SCORING**

- 14.1. The Low Point scoring system will apply for races.
- 14.2. One race is required to be completed to constitute a series.

## **15. SAFETY**

- 15.1. It is each competitor's un-shared responsibility to provide for their personal safety and to observe the requirements to operate a yacht in Alabama.

- 15.2. The wearing of life jackets and the decision to start or continue a race is the sole responsibility of each competitor.
- 15.3. A boat retiring from a race shall attempt to notify the Race Committee as soon as possible.

**16. Disclaimer of Liability**

- 16.1. Competitors participate in the club regattas at their own risk. See RRS 4, Decision to Race. The organizing Authority will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury, or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the club regatta

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**Appendix A**

