

# Lough Neagh Sailing Club Members only Wednesdays and Saturdays Programme for 2023.

## SAILING INSTRUCTIONS (SIs)

*The notation '[NP]' in a rule of the sailing instructions (SIs) means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1(a).*

*The notation '[DP]' at the beginning of a rule if that rule is subject to discretionary penalty (see RRS Introduction Notation).*

### 1 RULES

- 1.1 The event is governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing* (2021 – 2024), prescriptions of the RYA, these sailing instructions and the appropriate class rules.

### 2 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1 Any changes to the sailing instructions will be posted on the internal club notice board, a period of not less than 1 hour before the advertised first gun signal.
- 2.2 Changes in sailing instructions will be indicated by displaying flag Lima (L) on the clubhouse flagpole.

### 3 COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

- 3.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the internal club notice board. It is the responsibility of members to check the notice board for details/revisions.
- 3.2 On the water, the race officer will monitor and communicate with competitors on VHF channel 37. (channel M1 on some makes of radio)
- 3.3 All participating vessels must have a working and operational VHF marine radio on board at all times and respond to communications from the RO when requested.
- 3.4 [DP] [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

- 4.1 [DP] Competitors and support persons shall comply with reasonable requests from race officials.
- 4.2 [DP] Competitors and support persons shall [handle any equipment][or][place advertising provided] by the organizing authority with care, seamanship, in accordance with any instructions for its use and without interfering with its functionality.
- 4.3 All members are requested to give due consideration to all other users of the water and within the vicinity of the club.

4.4 All members are expected to keep to Craigavon Borough Council's rules and regulations in the Oxford Island Facility

## 5 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

5.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed at the flagpole at the clubhouse.

## 6 SCHEDULE OF RACES

6.1 The cruiser schedule for the Wednesday night races and Saturday afternoon races can be found under the sailing tab on the club website at <https://www.loughneaghsailingclub.org>

6.2 Any revision to the schedule will be published on the club website and on the internal club notice board and the change is made according to SI 2.1.

6.3 The scheduled time of the warning signal for the race each day is displayed on the cruiser schedule on the club website at <https://www.loughneaghsailingclub.org>

6.4 To alert boats that a race or sequence of races will begin soon, the orange starting line flag will be displayed at least five minutes before a warning signal is made.

## 7 CLASS FLAGS

7.1 LNSC will run one cruiser class.

7.2 The class flag is as follows:

The Class Flag – Echo

## 8 RACING AREA

8.1 A map showing LNSC's racing area and approximate location of various racing marks can be found on the internal notice board in the clubhouse.

## 9 COURSES

9.1 The course to be sailed and the descriptions of the marks to be used will be read out to the fleet by VHF radio on channel 37/M1 and where possible posted on the Club's WhatsApp before the warning signal (first gun) is sounded.

9.2 All cardinal marks must be adhered to during racing. Cardinal Mark 27 (The Iron Man) must be adhered to during the starting sequence.

## 10 MARKS

10.1 All LNSC course marks are designated rounding marks. For safety reasons a course set to or from the number 7 mark from any of the following marks 1, 2, start/finish line, will not require a boat to round number 4.

10.2 Virtual Marks can be set by the Race Officer and each boat must have an approved method of Indicating they reached the virtual Mark.

## 11 OBSTRUCTIONS – N/A

## 12 THE START

- 12.1 Starting times will be published on the racing programme, but may be postponed at the discretion of the sailing committee/race officer (e.g. adverse weather conditions)
- 12.2 The Starting Line will be a line formed between a pole displaying an orange flag below the old Starting Battery Hut and the middle of the top white transit mark on the rig shore. Boats are not permitted to start between the Starting Battery and the Iron Man (see (9.3 reference adherence to cardinal marks). When committee boat starts are used, the starting line is between the pole with an orange flag on the committee boat and a mark dropped as the pin end.
- 12.3 Starting Procedure – races will be started using RRS 26 (5,4,1,0)
- 12.4 An orange flag displayed at the starting battery or aboard a committee boat will indicate a race officer is present and on duty. This flag will remain flying until 15 minutes after the start signal is removed ( unless in the case of multiple starts).
- 12.5 A boat starting later than 15 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start.
- 12.6 Exclusion Zone around the Starting Line - When necessary for specific races including the Boxing Day Pursuit Race, specific sailing instructions will be issued to prevent boats getting in the way of starting boats. A time penalty will be imposed by the race officer on any boat interfering with starting boats.
- 12.7 Boats starting late and motoring out from the marina to the start area should cease engine propulsion no later than a line drawn parallel to the start line and passing through the Iron Man Cardinal. Failure to do so will result in a One Turn Penalty taken, under sail, before starting the race. Failure to take the penalty shall result in disqualification from the race.

## 13 SHORTENING COURSE AND CHANGE OF COURSE

- 13.1 After the start, the race officer may shorten the course, (display flag S, with two sound signals) or abandon the race (display flag N, N over H, or N over A, with three sound signals) RRS 32.1
- 13.2 To change the position of the next mark, send boats on a new course, or to extend the existing course, the change will be signalled (displaying the flag C with repetitive sound signals) before the leading boat has begun the leg. The race officer will change the displayed course to display only the marks still to be sailed. This is a change to RRS 33.

## 14 THE FINISH

- 14.1 The finishing line is formed between the flagpole, displaying a blue flag, at the starting battery and the middle of the top white transit mark on the rig shore. When committee boat starts are used, the finishing line is between a staff flying a blue flag on the committee boat and a mark at the pin end of the line.
- 14.2 If the race committee is absent when a boat finishes, she shall report her finishing time, and her position in relation to nearby boats, to the race committee at the first reasonable opportunity.

- 14.3 Races will normally be finished over the battery finish line unless otherwise indicated on the course board.
- 14.4 The race officer will display a blue flag to indicate the finish line is being monitored.
- 14.5 Retiring boats must (as soon as practical) notify the race officer via VHF radio channel 37/M1 of their retirement.

## 15 PENALTY SYSTEM

- 15.1 RRS 44.1, applies.
- 15.2 RRS 44.2 applies.
- 15.3 RRS Appendix P applies.

## 16 TIME LIMITS [AND TARGET TIMES]

- 16.1 Wednesday evening races will have a target time of 1 hour and 45 minutes and Saturday afternoon races will have a target time of 2 hours 30 minutes for the first boat to finish.
- 16.2 Boats that fail to finish within the time limit after the first boat has finished are scored Did Not Finish.
  - 16.2.1 Time Limit for the Wednesday Race is 30 minutes.
  - 16.2.2 Time Limit for the Saturday Race is 45 minutes.
- 16.3 Failure to meet the Target Time or Time Limit will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 62.1(a).

## 17 PROTESTS AND REQUEST FOR REDRESS

- 17.1 Protests will be governed as set out by the ISFA, the racing Rules of Sailing for 2021-2024 Rule 60 and these sailing instructions.
- 17.2 The protest limit is 1 hour after the last boat has finished the last race of the day. Competitors must inform the Race Officer of their decision to protest within this time. The same protest time limit applies to all protests by the race committee and to requests for redress.
- 17.3 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.
- 17.4 Notices of protests by the race committee will be posted to inform boats under RRS61.1(b).
- 17.5 A protest committee shall be organised by any member of the sailing committee once asked to do so by the race officer.
- 17.6 Sailing issues requiring redress (excluding protests which are dealt with by the protest committee) shall be directed to the Sailing Committee. A recommendation shall be made which shall be approved by the main committee. No sailing issues are required to be discussed in the main committee.

## 18 SCORING

- 18.1 The Low Point scoring system of RRS Appendix A4 will apply. Boats that did not start, did not finish, retired after finishing or were disqualified shall be scored points for the finishing place one more than the number of boats entered in the series.
- 18.2 Discards may only be applied to exclude a boat's worst score and may be applied as follows:
- 1 to 4 races = 0 discards
  - 5 to 6 races = 1 discard
  - 7 to 8 races = 2 discards
  - 9 or more races = 3 discards.
- 18.3 If a race is cancelled, that race shall be deemed as abandoned. A race shall be scored if it is not abandoned and if one boat sails the course in compliance with RRS 28.1 and finishes within the time limit, even if she retires after finishing or is disqualified.
- 18.4 Members of LNSC who undertake a club starting duty will be awarded average points from that series of all the races they started for the race they missed because of club duty. Average points may only be awarded when the boat in question is in the water available to be sailed.
- 18.5 The corrected time for a finishing boat during a series race will be calculated in the form of LNSC Handicap Scheme (revised monthly).

## 19 SAFETY REGULATIONS

- 19.1 RRS Rule 40.1 is considered to always be in force during all club events. Namely; that each competitor shall wear a personal flotation device except briefly while changing or adjusting clothing or personal equipment. Wet/dry suits are not considered adequate buoyancy.
- 19.2 During all LNSC organised events, all cruisers and Flying Fifteen boats must carry a fully functioning VHF radio, failure to do so may result in disqualification from the event by the Race Officer.
- 19.3 Participation of dinghies during normal club racing will be dependent on the provision of adequate rescue boat cover.

## 20 REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT – N/A

## 21 EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

- 21.1 The following list of recommended safety equipment should be carried by participating cruisers
- 21.1.1 first aid kit
  - 21.1.2 fire extinguisher
  - 21.1.3 a minimum of one throwable lifesaving device
  - 21.1.4 equipment able to disconnect or sever the standing rigging
  - 21.1.5 an outboard/inboard engine with an adequate supply of fresh fuel

- 21.1.6 A warm blanket or survival blanket or some means to keep a person recovered from a Man Overboard incident warm until they can be transferred to shore
- 21.2 The following list of recommended safety equipment should be carried by participating Flying Fifteen boats
  - 21.2.1 bucket/bailer
  - 21.2.2 anchor (minimum 2kg) with 12m rope
  - 21.2.3 paddle
- 21.3 A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules, notice of race and sailing instructions.
- 21.4 [DP] When instructed by a race official on the water, a boat shall proceed to a designated area for inspection.
  
- 22 SUPPLIED BOATS – N/A
- 23 OFFICIAL VESSELS – N/A
- 24 [DP] SUPPORT TEAMS – N/A
  
- 25 TRASH DISPOSAL
  - 25.1 Trash may be placed aboard official [or support person] vessels.
  
- 26 BERTHING – N/A
- 27 HAUL-OUT RESTRICTIONS – N/A
- 28 DIVING EQUIPMENT AND PLASTIC POOLS – N/A
  
- 29 PRIZES
  - 29.1 Prizes will be given [in each class] as agreed for special events or series.
  
- 30 RISK STATEMENT
  - 30.1 RRS 3 states: 'The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue to race is hers alone.' By participating in this event each competitor agrees and acknowledges that sailing is a potentially dangerous activity with inherent risks. These risks include strong winds and rough seas, sudden changes in weather, failure of equipment, boat handling errors, poor seamanship by other boats, loss of balance on an unstable platform and fatigue resulting in increased risk of injury. **Inherent in the sport of sailing is the risk of permanent, catastrophic injury or death by drowning, trauma, hypothermia or other causes.**
  
- 31 INSURANCE
  - 31.1 Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £3,000,000.00 per incident or the equivalent.