

Swarkestone Sailing Club
Sailing Instructions for Club Racing
Season 2016 Onwards
(Including Open and Interclub events)

1 RULES

1.1 Racing will be governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing 2013-2016*.

1.2 The prescriptions of the RYA will apply.

1.3 Class Rules of Relevant dinghy classes will apply. Competitors must have a valid measurement or class certificate, or advance dispensation in writing from Rear Commodore (Sailing).

2 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

2.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the racing official notice board located in the clubhouse.

3 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

3.1 Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted at least 15 minutes before the start time of the race concerned.

4 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

4.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed at the Race Box.

4.2 When flag AP has been displayed ashore and is removed, the Race Officer will give adequate time up to a maximum of 15 minutes for boats that are ashore to make ready to sail before displaying the warning signal.

4.3 Helms and crews shall wear adequate personal buoyancy at all times when afloat. Drysuits and wetsuits will be regarded as inadequate. Improperly inflated lifejackets will be regarded as inadequate. This changes Rule 40.

5 SCHEDULE OF RACES

5.1 Dates and start times of racing are published in the Club's annual programme. Start times for individual races may be delayed at the discretion of the Race Officer.

6 CLASS FLAGS

6.1 Classes sailed by the club and their flags are:

- Wineglass W on yellow rectangle
- Laser L on blue rectangle or Blue laser logo on white background
- Supernova – Red supernova logo on white background
- Menagerie M on green rectangle (used when there is only a single start) or plain red flag
- Handicap H on orange rectangle (used for a handicap start when there is also a class start) or plain red flag

7 RACING AREAS

7.1 The racing area is as shown on the Lake Layout plan. Boats racing should show consideration to other users of the water.

8 THE COURSES

8.1 The course will be set by the Race Officer and displayed on the Course Board outside the Race Box.

The Course Board will show the number of each mark in sequence in red or green according to whether the mark should be left to port or starboard. The number of laps to be sailed will be shown on the course board in black on a white background. The race may be started on the Race Box transit line, in which case signals will be displayed from the Race Box, or from a start line between a committee boat and a buoy with a flag, in which case race signals will be displayed from the committee boat. Courses will normally be planned so that the first boat finishes between 45 minutes and 60 minutes after the start.

8.2 Courses may be shortened by displaying flag S with two sounds. When Flag S is displayed:

(a) If the leading boat has passed the final mark of the course, the finishing line will be the race box transit line, with no inner or outer distance marks.

(b) Alternatively, if the leading boat is approaching a rounding mark, the finishing line will be between that mark and
The Flagstaff displaying flag S.

8.3 When a course has been shortened, all boats will finish the next time they cross the finishing line irrespective of the number of laps they have completed and (for handicap racing) adjustments to their finishing times will be made using average lap times.

8.4 The sequence of course marks will not be changed after the preparatory signal, but the position of individual marks may be adjusted without any signal before the leading boat reaches the preceding mark. This changes rule 33.

9 MARKS

9.1 Marks for racing will normally be the numbered club buoys 1 to 12. The Race Officer may

use additional marks X and Y if appropriate.

10 AREAS THAT ARE OBSTRUCTIONS

10.1 The shallow areas that are identified by stakes or by white marker buoys are designated as obstructions.

11 THE START

11.1 Races will be started by using rule 26 with the warning signal given 5 minutes before the starting signal.

11.2 If using the old (West) Race Box to start, the starting line will normally be a straight line projected from the two transit poles mounted in front of the race box. Unless otherwise notified, there will be no inner or outer markers. 11.3 If using a Committee Boat start, the starting line will be between the Committee Boat and a marker buoy with a flag attached.

11.4 Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area.

11.5 A boat need not be afloat and off moorings at the preparatory signal. This amends rule 45

11.6 Individual Recall. In accordance with Rule 29.1 the Race Officer will promptly display Flag X and sound a single sound signal. The Race Officer *may* notify premature starters by sail number, but is NOT obliged to, and when Flag X is correctly displayed it is individual sailors' own responsibility to return and start correctly, whether or not they have been informed by sail number.

12 THE FINISH

12.1 The finishing line will normally be the race box transit line, with no inner or outer distance marks. If a course has been shortened, the finishing line may be a line between a rounding mark and a nearby Flagstaff displaying Flag S (see S.I. number 8.2(b) above).

12.2 When the finishing line is the line between the Race Box and Buoy 11, after finishing a boat shall not return to the beach or pontoon by re-crossing this line in either direction, and may be protested if she fails to comply with this instruction.

13 PENALTY SYSTEM and DECLARATIONS

13.1 A boat shall complete the signing off sheet within 20 minutes of the end of a race. This acknowledges that any necessary on the water penalties have been taken. Failure to sign the declaration may result in the assumption of retirement.

14 TIME LIMITS

14.1 Class Racing. From the time when the first boat in the class sails the course and finishes, any boats that fail to finish within 20 minutes will be scored Did Not Finish. This changes rule 35 and A4.

14.2 Menagerie or Handicap Racing. The time limits will be as follows:

First boat finishes	Time limit for other boats
Less than 1 hour	30 minutes
Between 1½ to 2 hours	50 minutes

14.3 Noting the wide range of handicaps that might be sailing at Swarkestone, it is open to a competitor to seek redress if the strict application of the time limits above would cause a clear injustice.

15 PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

15.1 Protest forms are available in the Race Box. Protests shall be notified to the Race Officer in person, within 20 minutes of the last boat finishing the race and shall be lodged in writing within a further 10 minutes (the “protest time limit”).

15.2 Notices will be posted within 30 minutes of the protest time limit to inform competitors of when and where there is a hearing in which they are parties to a hearing or named as witnesses. Hearings will be arranged as soon as possible, but this may not always be possible on the same day as the race.

15.3 Notices of protests by the race committee under rule 61.1(b) will be posted on the race official notice board within 20 minutes of the last boat finishing the race. The race committee may endeavour to inform competitors being protested in person as well, but is not obliged to.

16 SCORING

16.1 The Low Point scoring system, (Appendix A to the Rules), shall apply for each race, except as modified below.

16.2 Single Handed. The helm of a 2 man boat may sail without a crew in any race, but the Portsmouth yardstick (PY) will be reduced by 50 points on Trophy Days; including the Marje Laurie two day event

16.3 Personal Handicaps may be used in some series, as notified in the annual Race Programme. When used, the calculation of a Personal Handicap will be based on the competitors previous year’s results, calculated in accordance with the club’s procedure and will result in either a percentage adjustment applied to the Portsmouth yardstick or a time allowance. If in a previous year, there are no results available for a competitor, the Personal Handicap will initially have no adjustment applied to the Portsmouth yardstick or an average time allowance will be given.

16.4 Average Points. Helms attending open meetings or fulfilling race or tea bar duties (whether rostered or as short notice substitutes) can apply for average points if they miss class or handicap series races, to enable them to qualify for a series. A maximum of two average points may be claimed for any series provided that the number of races actually sailed is not less than one third of the possible races. Average points can be claimed up to 7 days after the date of the race by notification to the Race Officer, who will enter the information on the race results sheet. Average points will be calculated at the end of a series on the basis of the average of all races in the series that the sailor actually sailed in and will only be used to the extent needed to allow a competitor to qualify for a series.

16.5 Changing Boats or the number of crew within a series spread over a number of weeks is allowed. This SI does not apply to the Marje Lawrie Trophy series, single day “Trophy Day” series, or to Open Meetings.

16.6 Number of Races to Count. The number of races to count in any series shall be half of the number of races actually completed in the series, rounded up to the nearest whole number, e.g.

Number of races	Number to count
3	2
8	4

16.7 A boat’s series score will be the total of her best race scores up to the number of races to count, as above, with remaining scores being discarded.

16.8 Wednesday racing –boats may be sailed both single handed or double handed. The race results will be compiled as if all boats are competing for a single trophy but will count towards either the single handed or double handed trophies separately. (For the avoidance of doubt, helms may choose to sail single handed or double handed on any week but their results will be separated such that they will have two entries to the series and will need to complete at least half the races in a series either single handed or double handed to qualify)

16.9 Wednesday Single Handed Series – The single handed trophy shall be awarded to the Helm who has the lowest number of points when the final net points of series B and C are added together. In the event of a tie, the results of the A series will be used as a tie-breaker. (For the avoidance of doubt it is necessary to qualify for both the B and C series sailing single handed (and A series in the event of a tie) to be eligible for the Wednesday single handed trophy. Prizes shall also be awarded to the winners of the individual series if they have not won the overall trophy.

17 RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

17.1 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.

18 PRIZES.

18.1 Prizes will be awarded in each series as follows:

Number of qualifying boats	Awards
1 – 4	First 2
5 – 9	First 3
10 Plus	First4

(Note: Prizes may be awarded as “prize points” that may be rolled up to provide a single prize of greater value for presentation at the Annual Dinner.)

19 RISK STATEMENT

19.1 Rule 4 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.”

19.2 Sailing is by its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore involves an element of risk. By taking part in any of the events covered by this notice of race, each competitor agrees and acknowledges that:

- a. 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 the event;
- b. They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore;
- c. They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions;
- d. Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate;
- e. The provision of a race management team, patrol boats, umpires and other officials and volunteers by the organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities;
- f. The provision of patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances.

20 INSURANCE

20.1 Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £2,000,000. By “signing on”, the Helm warrants that such insurance is in place and valid for the entire period that the boat is on the water.

