



COLNE YACHT CLUB

CRUISER CLASS SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

USING BATEMAN'S TOWER LINE



Revised June 2019, changes marked thus: |

1. THE RACING RULES

- 1.1 All racing shall be governed by the ISAF RACING RULES OF SAILING (RRS), the prescriptions of the R.Y.A, the rules of the appropriate Class (except as changed herein), the Notice of Race as displayed on the Colne Yacht Club (CYC) notice board, and by these sailing instructions. Club racing is designated Category 'C' as per RRS 79 and ISAF Advertising Code.
- 1.2 Competitor's notice is drawn to the Introduction of Part 2 of the ISAF Racing Rules of Sailing which states: "When a boat sailing under these rules [i.e when racing or preparing to race] meets a vessel that is not, she shall comply with the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (IRPCAS).
- 1.3 Competitors' notice is drawn to the International Regulations for preventing collisions at sea.
- 1.4 A boat or competitor shall give all possible help to any person or vessel in danger.
- 1.5 A boat shall carry adequate life-saving equipment for all persons on board, including one item ready for immediate use. Each competitor is individually responsible for wearing personal buoyancy adequate for the conditions. A boat racing WILL carry a marine VHF radiotelephone in good working condition.
- 1.6 A boat and her owner shall compete in compliance with recognised principles of sportsmanship and fair play. A boat may be penalized under this rule only if it is clearly established that these principles have been violated.
- 1.7 By participating in a race conducted under these racing rules, each competitor and boat owner agrees:
 - (a) to be governed by the rules
 - (b) to accept the penalties imposed and other action taken under the rules, subject to the appeal and review procedures provided in them, as the final determination of any matter arising under the rules; and
 - (c) with respect to such determination, not to resort to any court or other tribunal not provided by the rules.

2. CONDITIONS OF ENTRY AND REGISTRATION TO RACE

- 2.1 All competitors INCLUDING visiting yachts must have completed a CYC Race entry form and signed the declaration. For Regattas this procedure may be completed while afloat and handed to a CYC Safety Boat.
- 2.2 The Cruiser Race series is open to boats owned by or chartered to any CYC member or visiting yachtsmen who are members of an RYA affiliated Yacht or Sailing Club. Skippers and Crew who are not CYC members are permitted to race but the use of the club's facilities shall be strictly in accordance with the conditions set out in CYC club rule 3.1.3. Any trophy which is subject to a requirement that it should only be awarded to a member of CYC cannot be awarded to a non-member.
- 2.3 The safety of a boat and her entire management, including insurance, shall be the sole responsibility of the owner/person in charge who must ensure that the boat and crew are adequate to face the conditions that may arise in the course of the race. Neither these instructions nor any inspection of the boat limits or reduces the absolute responsibility of the owner/person in charge of the crew, the boat and her management. The race organisers shall not be responsible for any loss, damage, death or personal injury howsoever caused to the owner/person in charge of crew, as a result of their taking part in the race/races. Moreover, every owner/person in charge warrants the suitability of the boat for the race/races. The owner/person in charge of a boat is solely responsible for deciding whether or not to start or to continue racing.
- 2.4 Competitors shall SIGN ON not less than 60 minutes before the advertised start time of the race to indicate their intention to compete. The signing on sheet shall be in a frame outside the CYC clubhouse front door or in the foyer. For race starts on the Bateman's Tower lines, competitors may also SIGN ON directly with the OOD by VHF radio (CH37/M1/N1). Any competitor who does not comply with these safety procedures may be disqualified without a hearing (RRS 63.1).

- 2.5 When signing-on competitors must record the total number of persons onboard during the race for safety and statistical reasons. Any changes between signing on at the clubhouse and approaching the start area must be reported to the Race Officer by radio.
- 2.6 Retirement from racing shall be registered with Bateman's Tower on VHF Channel 37 (M1/N1).
- 2.7 All CYC yachts competing in the any of the races organised by CYC will fly from her backstay, International Code Flag number 5 which will assist other marine traffic to identify that vessel as being one who is racing. Code Flag 5 looks like this:



3. MEASUREMENT AND CERTIFICATION

- 3.1 All boats shall hold a valid measurement certificate where required by their Class Rules.
- 3.2 The Race Committee or their instructed representative may weigh, measure or inspect a boat and/or her equipment before, during or after any race.
- 3.3 The Race Committee strongly recommends that boats racing are equipped with a means of obtaining an accurate positional fix. This will be particularly useful in the event of restricted visibility.
- 3.4 Sail Numbers will normally be used to identify boats racing. Boats without numbers on the mainsail must display CYC racing numbers or dodgers with the boat's name affixed to the rails for the benefit of the Race Officer. CYC numbers may be obtained from the Sailing Secretary.

4. CHANGES IN SAILING INSTRUCTIONS AND COMMUNICATION WITH COMPETITORS

- 4.1 The Designated Communication Point shall be Batemans Tower. Flags may also be flown from Colne Yacht Club flagpole on the club jetty.
- 4.2 Any change in the Sailing Instructions shall be posted not later than 60 minutes before the advertised start time of the race or races concerned. Changes shall be indicated as per the signals prescribed in the RRS, i.e. Code Flag 'L' flown at the designated flagpole. In addition Code Flag 'N' will be flown in the event of racing being abandoned and the 'Answering Pennant' if the race is postponed with the appropriate numeral pennant to denote the anticipated number of hours delay.
- 4.3 Official communications shall be posted on the designated Race Notice Board or if time permits, by email to race entrants. Race results are published on the CYC website and Facebook pages.
- 4.4 The VHF Channel 37 (M1 or N1 on some radios) shall be monitored at all times for communications from the Race Officer. Failure to monitor or receive communication shall not be grounds for redress.

5. SAFETY

- 5.1 All boats must have at least a minimum level of safety equipment as recommended by the RYA and including:
- One cockpit mounted manual bilge pump (with secured handle)
 - Marine Compass
 - Fire extinguisher
 - Ability to drop sails (if sailing vessel) and motor to port unassisted in strong winds
 - First Aid kit
 - Charts and navigation equipment
 - Tools and spare parts
 - VHF radio capable of receiving and transmitting on UK marine channels
 - Heaving line 15 - 25m (50–75ft)
 - Lead line or Echo sounder
 - Accessible life buoy or life sling, with reflective tape & marked with vessels name
 - Foghorn
 - 2 orange smoke signals
 - A stout bucket with lanyard Min 9 litre (2 gals)
 - Anchor 2m chain and min 10m warp
 - Lifejackets with whistles & reflective tape for all crew, marked with vessels or wearers name.
 - Equipment suitable for cutting the vessels standing rigging
 - All equipment and fittings securely fastened, accessible, serviced, in date and suitable.

6. THE COURSE

- 6.1 The course shall be as described on the current CYC Cruisers course card.
- 6.2 The selected course letter shall be displayed on the river face of Bateman's Tower.

- 6.3 Some courses use marks that are laid and maintained by Brightlingsea Sailing Club, West Mersea Yacht Club and Dabchicks Sailing Club. Competitors are requested to give way to members of these clubs should they be racing around their marks at the same time as ourselves.
- 6.4 Average Lap Racing. The Cock of the River series will support average lap racing and will use appropriate courses. An orange and white striped board will be displayed on Batemans Tower when the race is intended to be an Average Lap event.
- 6.5 Races finishing at the Clubhouse line will be indicated by radio before the start and by a Yellow board displayed on Batemans Tower.

7. CHANGE OF COURSE AFTER THE START

A change of course shall be notified on VHF Channel 37 (M1/N1).

8. SHORTENED COURSE

A shortened course shall be notified on VHF Channel 37 (M1/N1) and Flag S displayed at the start line.

9. THE START

- 9.1 Starting times for the first start shall be advertised in the race programme.
- 9.2 The starting line is defined by a triangle atop a pole on the river face of Bateman's Tower and a transit triangular mark fixed to the promenade railings which also acts as an inner distance mark. Transits on the Mersea shore at the opposite end of the line are indicative, but not definitive, except as outer distance marks.
- 9.3 The CYC will use two start lines, West and East, which are both on the Batemans Tower Line. The West start line is to the West of the limit mark (allowing for tidal drift of LM, its nearest point to the line). The East start line is to the East of the limit mark (allowing for tidal drift of LM, its nearest point to the line). The limit mark (LM on the course card) is a yellow 8 knot speed buoy, positioned approximately in the middle of the Batemans Tower start line.
- 9.4 Races will be started as per RRS26. Times shall be taken from the visual signals - the failure of a sound signal shall be disregarded.

TIME	TITLE	VISUAL SIGNALS	SOUND SIGNALS
5 minutes	Warning	Class Flag Board displayed	1 Sound
4 minutes	Preparatory	Code Flag 'P' Board displayed	1 Sound
1 minute		Code Flag 'P' Board covered	1 Sound
0 minute	Start	Class Flag Board covered	1 Sound

The Class Flag for Cruisers shall be Code Flag 'C'.

- 9.5 Boats starting later than 10 minutes after the starting signal shall be scored "Did Not Start". This changes Rule RRSA4.1.
- 9.6 A boat may use her engine, or be towed or paddled after her preparatory signal, to reach the starting area, provided that she takes the following actions:
- Stops the engine, drops her tow or stops paddling AND
 - then completes a 360 degree turn before starting AND
 - reports the incident to the Race Officer.

10. INDIVIDUAL RECALLS

When at her starting signal, if any part of the boats hull, crew or equipment is on the course side of the line, the Race Officer shall display the 'X Flag', accompanied by one additional sound signal, until all such boats are wholly on the pre-start side of the line. This amends RRS 29.2. Boats may request the Race Officer to confirm if they have started correctly on Channel 37.

11. GENERAL RECALLS

- 11.1 General recalls shall be signalled by displaying the First Substitute with two additional sound signals.

11.2 As soon as possible after the original start new warning and preparatory signals shall be made.

12. THE FINISH

The finish line shall be the same as the start line unless indicated as in paragraph 6.5.

13. TIME LIMIT

13.1 The time limit for the first boat in each race shall be 4.0 hours. Boats failing to finish within 2 hours after the first boat finishes shall record their own finishing time and notify the Race Officer at the CYC as soon as possible. This changes RRS35.

13.2 When no boat finishes within the time limit the race shall be abandoned. Notification of any re-sail date and time shall be posted on the designated Race Notice Boards as soon as possible.

14. PROTESTS

Protests must be made in writing and in accordance with ISAF rule 61.2 Protest Contents. The appropriate form can be downloaded from the CYC website.

The intention to protest shall be communicated to the Officer of the Day or the Race Officer no later than 15 minutes after the finishing time of the protestor. Protest forms shall be submitted no later than 60 minutes after the last boat has finished the last race of the day.

Protests shall be heard as soon as reasonably practicable. This may not be the same day.

15. SCORING

15.1 The Low Points System. RRS Appendix A.4.1 shall apply.

15.2 One race must be completed to constitute a series.

15.3 A boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst scores from races completed, as follows:

Races in Series:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Scores excluded:	0	0	0	1	1	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	4	4

15.4 Ties shall be decided using RRS Appendix A.8.

16. LOCAL HANDICAP SERIES

16.1 CYC use local handicaps based on BCOSS & similar to those issued by the West Mersea Clubs. The Sailing Committee will review these handicaps regularly and adjust if necessary to promote close racing and sensible results.

16.2 Handicap numbers for the CYC Local Handicap (LH) series shall be those published by the Sailing Committee 60 minutes prior to the start of each series.

17. IRC Series

17.1 Results for each race in the Spring, Summer & Autumn series will also be calculated using the IRC non-progressive rating system.

17.2 Handicap rating numbers for boats in this series will be taken from current rating certificates.

17.3 Only boats with a current IRC certificate will be included in the published results.

18. COCK of the RIVER SERIES

18.1 This series will usually use the Average Lap system to encourage smaller / slower boats to race.

18.2 Each boat will be categorised "above the line" or "below the line" on the CYC Handicap List by the Sailing Committee based on performance. Boats listed below the line will sail 2 laps of the chosen course and boats listed above the line will sail just 1 lap. Average lap times will be calculated and used to determine the race results. Local handicaps will be used for the CoR series result.

Category allocation will be indicated on the published CYC Handicap List and reviewed from time to time by the Sailing Committee.

- 18.3 Boats cannot elect to change the number of laps they are sailing in multi-lap events. The Race Officer may however shorten the course using the procedure described in paragraph 8.
- 18.3 Average Lap racing will apply to the CoR series or any other race specifically designated by Sailing Committee. Above the line boats will be required to sail the same course as below the line boats in all other events.

19 . NO SPINNAKER DECLARATION

Competitors may declare to race during a series without a downwind spinnaker or gennaker. Boats that have not raced with CYC regularly will initially receive a 4% allowance from the standard CYC handicap for that class of boat. Once declared competitors must not use a downwind sail for the remainder of the series or they will be disqualified from that series. The performance of the boat will be reviewed periodically and a progressive handicap will be applied so that the 4 % allowance will be subsumed into the CYC handicap over time.

20. TROPHIES

Trophies shall be awarded for the top 3 boats in each series as per the list displayed on the Official Notice Board.

21 PURSUIT RACES

- 21.1 Please sign on (see para 2.4) 2 hours prior to the published finish time. If that is not possible then contact Batemans Tower at least 10 minutes before your start time by VHF Channel 37 (M1/N1) and inform OOD that you wish to race. All competitors must monitor Channel 37 (M1/N1) at all times.
- 21.2 If no OOD is available in Batemans Tower then an OOD will set the course from afloat by radio on VHF Channel 37. Competitors will then be required to start themselves, preferably using a synchronised mobile phone alarm or app
- 21.3 If an OOD is available in Batemans Tower they will give three sound signals and display International Code flag C as a time check for the competitors 1 hour 45 minutes before the published FINISH time. If possible the OOD will count down the time check over the radio. The Course will be displayed on the Tower and will be one of the Club's River Courses.
- 21.4 The OOD will endeavour to inform the first entered competitor of their scheduled start time by radio and provide a 4 minute Preparatory signal followed by a Starting signal. Subsequent competitors will only receive a Starting sound signal. If the competitor is judged to be a premature starter then a second signal will be given and International Code Flag X will be displayed until the premature starter returns completely to the pre start side of the line. Failure to re-start will entail the competitor being noted as Did Not Start.
- 21.5 Boats must not use their engines within 4 minutes of their scheduled start time.
- 21.6 Competitors will continue to sail round the course until the finish time.
- 21.7 The OOD will inform the Racing fleet when the race has five minutes to run and will as far as possible count down over the radio to the finish time and signal the finish with a sound signal.
- 21.8 If available the OOD will attempt to spot the finishing order from the Tower but all competitors are asked to note the Yachts immediately ahead and astern of them. The Yacht closest to the next mark in the course will be assumed to be the Yacht ahead. It may be useful if competitors with GPS make a note of their finishing position and ETA to the next mark.
- 21.9 Competitors are requested after the race to report their assumed finishing position to the OOD by radio or at the CYC Club House so a final finishing order can be established and recorded.
- 21.9 Spinnakers and cruising chutes will not be used for the Pursuit Race Series, only fore and aft jib/genoa and main sails are allowed. This rule is designed to encourage novice competitors and those who may be short-handed in the evenings. This rule will not apply to any other pursuit races that may be arranged (e.g. Regatta) unless clearly stated in the Notice of Race.

22 Cockleshell Series

- 22.1 The Cockleshell series is open to yachts with a local handicap equal to 1030 or slower. Races will normally be held on Sundays and are specifically aimed to accommodate smaller vessels with racing centred in the Colne.

End of 2019 CYC SI