



# COLNE YACHT CLUB CRUISER CLASS SAILING INSTRUCTIONS




Version 10/2023~v2.1.2

## 1. THE RACING RULES

- 1.1. All racing shall be governed by "THE RACING RULES OF SAILING FOR 2021-2024" published by World 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:
  - 1.7.a. to be governed by the rules
  - 1.7.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
  - 1.7.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 and signed a current CYC Race entry form and produce a valid RYA YTC handicap certificate for the yacht. 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 nonmember.
- 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 comply with the World Sailing 2022-2023 OFFSHORE SPECIAL REGULATIONS Appendix B SPECIAL REGULATIONS for inshore racing. The version current at the date of publication of these Sailing Instructions is appended and the latest version can be found at this link:

[https://d7qh6ksdplczd.cloudfront.net/sailing/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/16125518/WS\\_Offshore\\_Special\\_Regulations\\_2022-2023\\_v3a.pdf](https://d7qh6ksdplczd.cloudfront.net/sailing/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/16125518/WS_Offshore_Special_Regulations_2022-2023_v3a.pdf)

- 5.2. All boats whilst, in the jurisdiction of the Brightlingsea Harbour Authority must always comply with their regulations and instructions.
- 5.3. Additional safety requirements may be specified in the Notice of Race for any offshore races that do not use the standard CYC Course Card.

- 5.4. Anchors must be securely stowed and must not protrude over the toe rail or stem head fitting while racing.

## **6. THE COURSE**

- 6.1. For open Cruiser Races the selected course shall be as described on the current CYC Cruisers course card, the Course Letter shall be displayed on the river face of Bateman's Tower. A special course card, only applicable to the Sonata Mid-Week League is available from the CYC's Sonata class captain.
- 6.2. 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.
- 6.3. 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.
- 6.4. 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**

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

## **8. SHORTENED COURSE**

- 8.1. A shortened course shall be notified on VHF Channel 37 (M1/N1) and Flag S displayed at the start line. The Race Officer will endeavour to take times as each yacht crosses the line on every lap for multi-lap races so that results can be calculated if the course has to be shortened.

## **9. THE START**

- 9.1. Starting times for the first start shall be advertised in the race programme.
- 9.2. The Race Officer will start the race at the given time when two or more craft have entered the race providing no UK MET Office imminent gale warning (Force 8) has been issued for Thames area for the period of the race. The owner/person in charge of a boat is solely responsible for deciding whether or not to start or to continue racing
- 9.3. 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.
- 9.4. 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.
- 9.5. Races will be started as per RRS26. Times shall be taken from the visual signals - the failure of a sound signal shall be disregarded.

<i>Time Title</i>	<i>Visual Signals</i>	<i>Sound Signals</i>
<b>5 Minutes Warning</b>	<b>Class Flag/Board Displayed</b>	<b>1 Sound</b>
<b>4 Minute Preparatory</b>	<b>Code Flag 'P' Displayed</b>	<b>1 Sound</b>
<b>1 Minute</b>	<b>Code Board 'P' Covered</b>	<b>1 Sound</b>
<b>0 Minute START</b>	<b>Class Flag/Board Covered</b>	<b>1 Sound</b>

Class Flag for Cruisers shall be Code Flag 'C'

- 9.6. Boats starting later than 10 minutes after the starting signal shall be scored "Did Not Start". This changes Rule RRSA4.1.
- 9.7. 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:
  - 9.7.a. Stops the engine, drops her tow, or stops paddling AND
  - 9.7.b. then completes a 360 degree turn before starting AND
  - 9.7.c. reports the incident to the Race Officers

## 10. INDIVIDUAL RECALLS

- 10.1. 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

- 12.1. The finish line shall be the same as the start line unless indicated as in paragraph 6.4.

## 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.
- 13.3. Where the race is designated as a "Long-Distance Race" there will be no Time Limit. All boats completing the course shall record their own finishing time and notify the Race Officer as soon as possible but within 1 hour of their finishing time. Failure to meet this notification period will mean the entrant will be marked as "Did Not Finish".

## 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
Score 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 uses the RYA YTC handicap system. To confirm all yachts entering the CYC Racing Series must have provided a current RYA YTC handicap certificate with their CYC Race Entry Form to be eligible to race.

## 17. COCK of the RIVER SERIES

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

17.2. 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.

17.3. 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.

17.4. 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.

## 18. NO SPINNAKER DECLARATION

Competitors may declare to race during a series without a downwind spinnaker or gennaker. This "White Sail" declaration should be made to the Sailing Committee prior to the Series beginning. It should also be declared on the Signing On Sheet for each race of the Series. Clearly stating that the boat will only be using White Sails. In this case the OOD will use the White Sail RYA YTC Handicap for the yacht.

## 19. TROPHIES

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

## 20. PURSUIT RACES

- 20.1. 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.
- 20.2. 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.
- 20.3. 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.
- 20.4. 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.
- 20.5. Boats must not use their engines within 4 minutes of their scheduled start time.
- 20.6. Competitors will continue to sail round the course until the finish time.
- 20.7. 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.
- 20.8. 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.
- 20.9. 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.
- 20.10. 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.

## 21. SONATA Series

- 21.1. The Sonata series is open to Sonata Class yachts only. Races will normally be held on mid-week evenings and will usually start/finish on the Colne Yacht Club House line.
- 21.2. The designated radio communication points will be both Colne clubhouse race management and Bateman's Tower, dependent upon the course sailed (ch37 M1).
- 21.3. There will be no sound signals when starting or finishing at the CYC club line (which is defined by two red triangles ashore). This is to minimise evening noise nuisance to CYC's neighbours. The usual flag sequence will be used as well as a five second countdown into each section of the '5, 4, 1, go' start sequence broadcast on VHF ch 37 M1. All competitor's will receive verbal confirmation of their finish.

Start, finish and recall procedures using the Bateman's Tower line are as Sections 9 -11

- 21.4. Spinnakers are allowed for the Sonata League Wednesday night races subject to the following restriction:

Spinnakers may NOT be flown in the no spinnaker zone. This is a Brightlingsea Harbour safety stipulation.

The no spinnaker zone is defined by a single imaginary straight line connecting and extending beyond the two 4 knot speed limit marks located in the mouth of the creek. Inbound craft must douse their spinnakers BEFORE traversing this line. Conversely outbound craft can only deploy spinnakers when CLEAR WEST of this line.

The two 4 knot markers are yellow rectangular blocks, carry no navigational significance and are not marks of the course. Their approximate position is shown on the Sonata League Wednesday night course chartlet available on this site or as hard copy.

Competitors failing to observe the no spinnaker zone may be disqualified by race officials, without redress.

- 21.5. Designated race days/times for the Sonata mid week league are Wednesday evenings when tides are favourable for a CYC club line start. These times and dates can be downloaded from the CYC website.
- 21.6. All Sonata Mid Week League competitors must complete CYC's annual pre-race declaration form, downloadable from the CYC website. This must be lodged with the CYC office prior to racing. Failure to do so may result in disqualification.

End of 10/2023 V2.1.1 CYC SI

**APPENDIX B**

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS for inshore racing**

*Special Regulations for inshore racing are intended for use in short races, close to shore in relatively warm and protected waters where adequate shelter and/or effective rescue is available all along the course, held in daylight only.*

*All the items relevant to Special Regulations for inshore racing are shown in Appendix B.*

**Part A Basic**

**The following regulations shall be observed:-**

Regulation	Item
1.02	Responsibility of Person in Charge
1.02.1	Under RRS 4 the responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or continue racing is hers alone. The safety of a boat and her crew is the sole and inescapable responsibility of the Person in Charge who shall do his best to ensure that the boat is fully found, thoroughly seaworthy and manned by an experienced and appropriately trained crew who are physically fit to face bad weather. The person in charge shall also assign a person to take over his/her responsibilities in the event of his/her incapacitation.
2.03.1	All equipment required by OSR shall:
a)	function properly
b)	be regularly checked, cleaned and serviced
c)	when not in use be stowed in conditions in which deterioration is minimised
d)	be readily accessible
e)	be of a type, size and capacity suitable and adequate for the intended use and size of the boat.
3.02	Watertight Integrity of a Boat. A boat shall be essentially watertight and all openings shall be capable of being immediately secured. Centreboard, daggerboard trunks and the like shall not open into the interior of a hull except via a watertight maintenance hatch with the opening entirely above the Waterline

**Part B Portable Equipment**

**The following shall be provided:-**

Regulation	Item
3.23	one strong bucket with a lanyard and of at least 9 litres (2.4 US Gal) capacity
3.24	one compass (a hand-held is acceptable)
4.05	one fire extinguisher required if electrical system, engine or stove on board
4.06	one anchor
4.22	a lifebuoy with a drogue



4.22.5	A heaving line, no less than 6 mm (1/4") diameter, 15 - 25 m (50 - 75') long, readily accessible to cockpit
4.25	A strong, sharp knife, sheathed and securely restrained shall be provided readily accessible from the deck or a cockpit.
5.01.1	each crew member shall have: A personal flotation device which shall: (a) be equipped with a whistle (b) clearly marked with the boat's or wearer's name (c) if inflatable, regularly checked for air retention. Unless otherwise specified by a boat's applicable class rules or by sailing instructions, personal flotation devices shall have at least 150N buoyancy, arranged to securely suspend an unconscious man face upwards at approximately 45 degrees to the water surface.

End of WORLD SAILING OFFSHORE SPECIAL REGULATIONS Appendix B