

Swarkestone Sailing Club

Sailing Instructions for Graduate Open Meeting

21st September 2025

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.

The notation '[SP]' in a rule of the sailing instructions (SIs) means that the standard penalty for a breach of the rule may be applied by the race committee or technical committee without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.

1. RULES

- 1.1 Racing will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing.
- 1.2 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 RRS 40.

2. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

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

3. COMMUNICATION WITH COMPETITORS

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

4. CODE OF CONDUCT

- 4.1 [DP] Competitors and support persons shall comply with reasonable requests from race officials.

5. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 5.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed at the Race Box.
- 5.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 15 minutes' in Race Signals AP.

6. SCHEDULE OF RACES

- 6.1 The schedule of races is per the below table:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Race Number</u>	<u>Warning Signal</u>
Sunday 21 st September	Race 1	1055 hrs
	Race 2	To follow
	Race 3	To Follow

7. CLASS FLAGS

- 7.1 The class flag to be used for the Graduate fleet is code flag M.

8. RACING AREAS

- 8.1 The racing area is Swarkestone Lake, as shown on the Swarkestone SC website.

9. THE COURSES

- 9.1 The course will be displayed on the Course Board outside the Race Box that is in use.
 - 9.1.1 The Course Board will show each mark in sequence in red or green according to whether the mark should be left to port or starboard.
 - 9.1.2 Additionally, a gate may be used (see 10.2), which boats shall pass through, as directed by the displayed course.
 - 9.1.3 The number of laps to be sailed will be shown on the course board in black on a white background.
- 9.2 The sequence of course marks will not be changed after the preparatory signal.

10. MARKS

- 10.1 Marks for racing will be the numbered club buoys 1 to 12, X, Y and W.
- 10.2 The letter "G" displayed on the course board signifies competitors are to pass through the gate, signified by two buoys with flags.
- 10.3 A map showing the approximate location of these marks is available on the Swarkestone SC website.
- 10.4 Note: Mark W is a moveable buoy, to be located at the Race Officers discretion.

11. OBSTRUCTIONS

- 11.1 There are a number of islands and shallow areas on the lake. These may be identified by individual or a cluster of buoys and unmarked shallows are designated as obstructions. There is a board within the clubhouse showing the approximate location of these areas.
- 11.2 The lake is also used for fishing, with multiple fishing pegs sited around the lake edge. When active, an orange flag may be displayed at these locations. To avoid conflict, fishing lines and the area nearby to these pegs is defined as an obstruction.

12. THE START

- 12.1 Races will be started using RRS26.
- 12.2 The starting line will be:
 - 12.2.1 If using the old (West) Race Box start, the starting line will normally be two buoys with flags marking the start line and it's inner and outer extent. Alternatively, a straight line projected from the two transit poles mounted in front of the race box may be used. Unless otherwise notified, there will be no inner or outer markers when a transit start is used.
 - 12.2.2 If using the new (East) Race Box start, the starting line will normally be marked with two buoys with flags marking the start line and it's inner and outer extent.
 - 12.2.3 When starting using a committee boat, the start line will normally be between the flagpole on the committee boat and an outer mark laid to either port or starboard
- 12.3 [DP] Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area during the starting sequence for other races.
- 12.4 A boat need not be afloat and off moorings at the preparatory signal. This amends RRS 45
- 12.5 If any part of a boat's hull is on the course side of the starting line at her starting signal and she is identified, the race committee may attempt to hail her sail number. A boat may not request redress based on failure of the

race committee to hail her number, failure of her to hear such a hail, or the order in which boats are hailed. This changes RRS 61.1(a).

13. CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

- 13.1 The position of individual marks may be adjusted without any signal before the leading boat reaches the preceding mark. This changes RRS 33

14. THE FINISH

- 14.1 The finishing line will normally be the start / finish gate or transit line if a transit line start has been used.
- 14.2 If finished at a mark the finish line will be between the mark and the start box flagstaff displaying Flag S or between the mark and a committee/safety boat stationed close to the mark for the purpose of finishing boats.
- 14.3 Per RRS32.2, courses may be shortened by displaying flag S with two sounds. When Flag S is displayed:- the leading boat will be finished at the next mark or gate.
 - 14.3.1 When a course has been shortened, all boats that cross the finish line AFTER the leading boat has finished will finish the next time they cross the finishing line irrespective of the number of laps they have completed.
- 14.4 Boats may be finished prior to the lead boat at the discretion of the race officer. This may be done with a sound signal and/or by verbally notifying the boats that have been finished. This is with the aim of keeping to time limits and race schedules and is not grounds for redress. This changes RRS 61 and 32.2.
- 14.5 [DP] Boats that have finished should keep well clear of those that are still racing or about to finish and where possible should avoid re-crossing the finish line.

15. PENALTY SYSTEM and DECLARATIONS

- 15.1 A boat that finishes but wishes to retire shall inform the race officer within the time limit. It will be assumed that all other boats have sailed according to the rules and that any necessary on the water penalties have been taken unless a protest has been lodged.
- 15.2 Appendix P will not apply.

16. TIME LIMITS AND TARGET TIMES

- 16.1 The Target Time for a race is 60 minutes. Failure to meet the Target Time will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 61.
- 16.2 The Finishing Window is the time for boats to finish after the first boat sails the course. This is set at 20 minutes. Boats failing to sail the course within the Finishing Window, will be scored Did Not Finish (DNF) without a hearing. This changes RRS 35, A5.1, and A5.2.

17. HEARING REQUESTS

- 17.1 The protest time limit is 20 minutes after the last boat finishes the last race of the day or the race committee signals no more racing today, whichever is later. The time will be posted on the official notice board.
- 17.2 Hearing request forms are available from the Race Box.
- 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. Hearings will be held in the location and begin at the time posted.

- 17.4 The right of appeal from a protest committee decision is denied as provided in RRS 70.3[(b)][(c)][(d)].

18. SCORING

- 18.1 The scoring system shall be per the applicable Notice of Race.

19. REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT

- 19.1 [DP] Substitution of competitors is not allowed without prior written approval of the race officer.
- 19.2 [DP] Substitution of damaged or lost equipment is not allowed unless authorized by the race officer. Requests for substitution shall be made to the committee at the first reasonable opportunity, which may be after the race.

20. EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

- 20.1 A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules, notice of race and sailing instructions.
- 20.2 [DP] When instructed by a race official on the water, a boat shall proceed to a designated area for inspection.

21. TRASH DISPOSAL

- 21.1 Trash may be placed aboard official [or support person] vessels.

22. PRIZES.

- 22.1 Prizes shall be awarded at the discretion of the organising authority.

23. RISK STATEMENT

- 23.1 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.**
- 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;

24. INSURANCE

- 24.1 Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £3,000,000 per incident or the equivalent.