

# **Swarkestone Sailing Club**

## **Sailing Instructions for Club Racing**

### **Season 2019 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 2021-2024*.
- 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 is 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 or plain red flag
Handicap	H on orange rectangle 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 that is in use.

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.

Races will normally be started from a gate denoted by two small buoys with flags set up in front of the race box that is in use

Alternatively 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 or a transit of two poles in front of the West race box.

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:- the leading boat will be finished at the next mark or gate.

- 8.3 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 and (for handicap racing) adjustments to their finishing times will be made using average lap times. (note accurate average lap times can only be used if the start and finish are at the same point on the course. If this isn't possible then redress may be requested by competitors or race officers where it is thought that this might have affected final positions in handicap races.) Sailability boats and other very slow handicap 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)

- 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, X and Y. The Race Officer may use additional mark W if appropriate.

## **10 AREAS THAT ARE OBSTRUCTIONS**

- 10.1 The shallow areas that are identified by by white marker buoys or a cluster of buoys and unmarked shallows 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 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.
- 11.3 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.
- 11.4 When starting using a committee boat, the start line will normally be between the flag pole on the committee boat and an outer mark laid to either port or starboard
- 11.5 Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area.
- 11.6 A boat need not be afloat and off moorings at the preparatory signal. This amends rule 45
- 11.7 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 start / finish gate or transit line if a transit line start has been used.
- 12.2 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.

- 12.3 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. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in a protest.

### **13 PENALTY SYSTEM and DECLARATIONS**

- 13.1 A boat that finishes but wishes to retire shall inform the race officer as soon as possible. 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.

### **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:

<b>First boat finishes in</b>	<b>Time limit for other boats</b>
Less than 1 hour	30 minutes
Over 1 hour	45 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 Marge 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 performance in the current season or most recent season where they have had a break. Personal handicaps for new members will be determined by their assessed ability. Personal handicaps will be determined and amended by the sailing committee each season.
- 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** 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 Marge Laurie 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

The exception to this rule is the Marge Laurie Memorial Shield. The number of races to count shall be half the number of races actually competed rounded up to the nearest whole number, plus one.

- 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.
- 16.10 The Wednesday Double Handed Series Trophy shall be awarded in the same way for boats competing with a crew.

## 17 RADIO COMMUNICATION

- 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 shall be awarded in each series as follows:

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

(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:
- 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;
  - They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore;
  - They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions;
  - 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.