



# South Lake Macquarie Amateur Sailing Club

## 2023/2024 YACHT SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

### 1. RULES

All races will be governed by the rules as defined in the 2021 - 2024 Racing Rules of Sailing. The Australian Sailing Special Regulations Part 1 will apply.

### 2. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

- a. Competitors participate in club races entirely at their own risk. See Rule 3, Decision to Race. South Lake Macquarie Amateur Sailing Club Inc. will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after a club race.
- b. The SLMASC Inc is not responsible for the seaworthiness, or the sufficiency or adequacy of the crew or equipment of any yacht whose entry is accepted.
- c. SLMASC reserves the right to refuse entry.
- d. Prior to participating in any club event, the skipper and boat owners will make sure each crew member or proposed crew members are aware of these conditions.

### 3. INSURANCE

Each participating boat shall be insured with third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of \$AUD10,000,000 valid for racing with or without spinnakers as applicable.

### 4. SAFETY REGULATIONS

- a. All yachts must comply with the NSW Maritime requirements including navigation lights after sunset.
- b. Each yacht must lodge a valid Special Regulations Equipment Audit Form for the appropriate category before the yacht entry can be accepted (category 7 - SLMASC). Compliance with this requirement shall not be grounds for protest by a competitor.
- c. The race committee reserve the right to inspect measure and check the hull, rigging, sails or equipment of any yacht before or after any race to ensure compliance with the safety regulations.
- d. All sailors are strongly advised to wear an approved personal flotation device at all times whilst competing in club events. Solo sailors **must** wear a personal flotation device whilst racing. Such devices must be of a type approved in the AS special safety regulations and be in good condition.
- e. A yacht that retires from a race shall advise the club as soon as possible so as to avoid an unnecessary search. The club's phone number is 4970 5118, the club's radio channel is VHF Ch 73.

### 5. HANDICAPS

- a. Handicaps will be determined by the Handicap Committee which reserves the right to adjust any yacht's handicap at any time without notice.
- b. Applications in writing for revision of handicaps will be considered by the Handicap Committee.
- c. **Twilight handicaps** point score races will be adjusted as follows:  
1<sup>st</sup> = 5 min, 2<sup>nd</sup> = 3 min, 3<sup>rd</sup> = 2.5 min, 4<sup>th</sup> = 2 min, 5<sup>th</sup> = 1.5 min, 6<sup>th</sup> = 1 min, 7<sup>th</sup> = 0.5 min.  
All yachts which start and finish a point score race will receive a handicap lift equivalent to the fleet penalty divided by the number of finishers. Yachts which start but do not finish will receive a lift of 0.5 minutes.
- d. All other racing will be determined by Time Correction Factor (**TCF**). The sailing time of a yacht is multiplied by the TCF allocated to each yacht by the handicapper to determine a corrected time. The yacht in each division with the lowest corrected time is the winner.

*Handicaps will be displayed in the Club window, on the Club website or can be obtained by phoning the club on race days (4970 5118).*

## 6. SIGN ON

Yachts must provide information of all participants for Australian Sailing compliance Rule 46. Before each race the skipper or owner must send a text to the club advising names and phone numbers of all on board.

Please text 0478 906 523 with the details. This must be done for every race.

## 7. MARKS

Yachts must pass all shallow water and other navigational markers on the correct side. Passing between permanent moorings and the nearest shore line is prohibited while racing.

## 8. SHORTENED COURSE

### Shore Start:

- a. If the letter "S" is shown before the start adjacent to the COURSE NUMBER from the club, yachts shall ignore all marks indicated with an asterisk(\*) on the course sheet.
- b. After starting, if rounding Home Mark, RRS32.2 may apply to shorten course (without using the "S" flag). A sound signal may be given and the letter S displayed from the club to signal shortened course finish at Home Mark.

### Committee Boat Starts:

**Shortening a course at a rounding mark** – The Duty boat will display code flag "S" in the vicinity of the rounding mark and may make a sound signal to draw attention. Yachts will then sail directly from the mark to the finish line at the club crossing in the direction from the last rounded mark.

**Finishing at a rounding mark** – A finish line may be set between the duty boat and a rounding mark. The Duty boat will be positioned on the same side of the mark as yachts are directed to round on the course sheet. The duty boat will display code flag "S" and a blue flag and may make a sound signal to draw attention.

## 9. OBSTRUCTING START / FINISH LINE

- a. SCRATCH START: A yacht may not manoeuvre in the immediate vicinity of the start line within four minutes of the start of another division.
- b. HANDICAP START: A yacht may not manoeuvre in the immediate vicinity of the start line until one minute before its starting time.
- c. ALL STARTS / FINISHES: Except when a boat is starting or finishing a race, or where necessary to safely sail directly off of or onto a permanent mooring so as not to cause interference with boats that are racing, or when rounding Home Mark as a mark of the course, no boat shall sail through the Start or Finish line of any SLMASC Division or Class while boats are racing in those Divisions or Classes.
- d. Failure to observe the requirements of section 9a, 9b or 9c above shall not be grounds for protest by a competitor, however infringements shall be reported by the Race Officer to the Sailing Committee and may result in the boat being scored DSQ by the Sailing Committee without a hearing, or such other penalty or action as the Sailing Committee deems appropriate.
- e. Skippers are also reminded of the fundamental requirements of RRS 23.1 Interfering With Another Boat --"If reasonably possible, a boat not racing shall not interfere with a boat that is racing" (see section 13 of these Sailing Instructions)  
RRS 45 Hauling Out: Making Fast: Anchoring:-- "A boat shall be afloat and off moorings at her Preparatory Signal...."

## 10. STARTING PROCEDURES/ STARTING LINE / START TIME

The sailing program will indicate whether a race is defined as scratch start (water or shore based) or handicap start. Courses are outlined in a separate document SLMASC Courses

### **Handicap start:**

The course to be sailed will be indicated by the Course Number being displayed from the club.

The Yachts starting line will be between the countdown clock on the clubhouse and the HOME MARK.

Yachts will cross the starting line in the direction to the first mark.

- a. For weekend races the countdown clock will be set to count down to zero (0) at approximately **1400hrs**.
- b. Winter series may be Handicap or Shore Based Scratch Start subject to conditions and at the discretion of the Race Officer, with the scratch starting time at approximately **1300hrs**.
- c. For twilight races the countdown clock will be set to count to zero (0) at approximately **1745hrs**.
- d. Each yacht will start when its starting/handicap number drops.

*The Race Control Officer may change a handicap race to a SCRATCH START. The letter "X" will be displayed adjacent to the course number and procedures for shore base scratch starts will apply.*

### **Committee Boat Scratch starts:**

- a. The starting procedure will be according to RRS 26.
- b. The starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag at the starboard end and the port end pin mark.
- c. The course to be sailed will be indicated by a course number displayed from the Committee Boat.
- d. Warning Signal not before **1400hrs**.
- e. Start in the vicinity of the club.
- f. The Yacht Division class flag to be used for YACHT Committee Boat Scratch Starts shall be a white flag displaying a black letter "Y".

### **Shore based scratch starts:**

- a. The course to be sailed will be indicated by the COURSE NUMBER being displayed at the club.
- b. The Yachts starting line will be between the countdown clock on the clubhouse and the START BUOY. Yachts will cross the starting line in the direction to the first mark.
- c. Warning signal is when the number 5 changes to 4.
- d. Preparatory signal is when the number 4 changes to 3.
- e. Starting signal is when the number 0 disappears.

## 11. PREMATURE STARTERS (amends RRS29 Recalls).

- a. There will be no recall of premature starters. Any yacht which is judged to start early and does not restart correctly will be penalised by adjusting their sailing time, and where necessary their finishing position in the race, by the sum of the time by which the start was broken plus two additional minutes.
- b. A yacht can exonerate itself from a time penalty by restarting correctly.
- c. Any yacht that is judged to have started by more than five minutes early and that fails to restart correctly will be scored as DNF (Did Not Finish).

## 12. LATE STARTERS

Apart from exceptional circumstances the maximum lift for any yacht which starts more than **5** minutes later than its published handicap time will be 0.5.

Any boat starting later than ten (10) minutes after its designated start time will be recorded as DNS.

## 13. RACING

A yacht is "racing" from its preparatory signal until it has finished and cleared the finish line or it has retired from the race or the race has been abandoned or postponed. For handicap starts a yacht's preparatory signal is deemed to be four (4) minutes before its published handicap time.

#### 14. FINISHING LINE

For shore based finishes, the finish line will be directly between the Home buoy and the finishing marker in the judge's box above the clubhouse. Yachts will cross the finish line in the direction from the last mark rounded. After finishing yachts are reminded that they are still racing until they have cleared the finish line so all racing rules continue to apply (including touching a mark).

#### 15. ALTERNATIVE PENALTIES

- a. A yacht which has touched a mark may exonerate itself by taking a one turn penalty. In doing so the yacht must keep clear of all other yachts (see RRS31).
- b. A yacht which infringes a right of way rule may exonerate itself by taking a two-turn penalty. In doing so the yacht must keep clear of all other yachts (see RRS 44.2).

#### 16. TIME LIMITS

**Twilight races** 1 hour 45 minutes from the scratch starting time.

**Weekend club races** 3 hours from the scratch starting time.

If one yacht in a division finishes within the prescribed time limit, the time limit will be extended 30 minutes for that boats division.

#### 17. RENDERING ASSISTANCE

A yacht that loses time rendering assistance to another vessel or person in peril may apply to have their sailing time adjusted. A written application should be submitted to the Sailing Committee or by emailing [enquiries@slmasc.org](mailto:enquiries@slmasc.org) within two hours of the yacht's finishing time. An extension of this time may be allowed at the discretion of the sailing Committee.

#### 18. PROTESTS

- a. To signify its intention to protest, a yacht shall display Code Flag B (red) and shall notify the other yacht or person as soon as possible after the incident (see RRS 61.1).
- b. Any yacht intending to lodge a protest shall follow the Racing Rules of Sailing: Part 5. Protest forms are available from the club and Australian Sailing website.
- c. Protests need to be submitted to the club hosting the race where the incident occurred.
- d. For races hosted by SLMASC, all yacht protests must be notified to the club (phone 4970 5118 or VHF Radio Channel 73, or directly to a member of the sailing committee) within the protest time limit and the protest form must be lodged in person to a member of the Sailing Committee or by email to [enquiries@slmasc.org](mailto:enquiries@slmasc.org) by 8pm Sunday immediately following the race.

#### 19. POINTSCORES

- a. To be eligible to score points in a point score a yacht must be listed on the yacht register.  
To be listed on the register:
  - the yacht's owner and or skipper crew must be a financial member of the Club,
  - the owner must have submitted a completed boat registration form,
  - the owner must have lodged a valid minimum Cat7 Safety Audit.A crew member who sails more than five (5) club races during the season shall be deemed to be "regular crew" and are encouraged to be members of the Club. Failing to comply with this requirement shall not be grounds for protest by a competitor.
- b. New yachts must sail three (3) qualifying races on a provisional handicap. While on a provisional handicap yachts will be scored as last place for that race in the point score.

##### TWILIGHT POINTSCORES- SPRING, SUMMER, AUTUMN and OVERALL

The Low Point System will be used (RRS Appendix A). There will be four series. One (1) race will be dropped from Spring, Summer and Autumn series. Two (2) races will be dropped from Overall series.

##### RK ROBINSON, KARL SCHNEIDER, WINTER and OVERALL

The Low Point System will be used (RRS Appendix A). One (1) race will be dropped from each series except for Overall series where two (2) races will be dropped.

When fewer than or three (3) races have been completed, a boats series score will be the total of her race scores.

- c. All club pointscores will be scored as a series. A boat that did not start in a race shall be scored as starters plus two for that race. This modifies RRS Appendix A5.

Yachts may be required to participate in a roster to perform Race Officer Duties (Course setting – Starter - Finisher). Boats that perform these duties and as a result do not sail, will be awarded Duty points for that race as calculated by Sailres, with no adjustment to their handicap.

When a boat performs Race Officer duties as rostered and their boat still races, they will be awarded points for their place in that race with a normal handicap adjustment where applicable. Where a boat is rostered to perform Race Officer duties but fails to do so yet still races, the boat will be recorded as DNE (Disqualified Not Excludable) for that race and they shall not drop that race in the point score series.

*Boats that miss club races by competing in National or State Championships or in other major regattas as an endorsed SLMASC representative shall be entitled to average points as calculated by Sailres, with no adjustment to their handicap. Boats must apply for dispensation in writing to the Sailing Committee before the regatta or championship. Such application can be emailed to enquiries@slmasc.org*

## 20. SAILS

Twilight races - spinnakers and reaching headsails not attached to the forestay are not allowed.

## 21. MODIFICATIONS

Any modification to a yacht's hull, keel, rigging, etc, or the use of larger than normal sails shall be reported in writing to the Sailing Committee at least 24 hours before it races so that its handicap can be reviewed and revised.

## 22. SAIL NUMBERS

- a. For identification purposes all yachts must have clearly visible sail numbers on both sides of the mainsail.
- b. Boats may only be entered on the club yacht register and race with one sail number.
- c. Any change to a boats sail number from that recorded on the club yacht register shall be advised to the Sailing Committee in writing at least 24 hours prior to racing.
- d. Unless approved by the Sailing Committee, no boat shall race without sail numbers or using the sail number registered with the club for another boat.
- e. To assist the finisher in the event that a race finishes in poor visibility, yachts are requested to illuminate their sail number and hail it to the finisher at the club. They shall also make note of the boat finishing immediately before and after them and provide this information to the club thirty (30) minutes after finishing.
- f. Failure to adhere to the requirements of 21a, 21b, 21c, 21d or 21e above shall not be grounds for protest by a competitor but shall be reported by the Race Officer to the Sailing Committee, and may result in the boat being scored DNS (Did Not Start) or DNF (Did Not Finish) by the Sailing Committee without a hearing, or such other penalty or action as the Sailing Committee deems appropriate.

## 23. IMPROVEMENTS TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

If you have any suggestions for improving the way yacht racing is conducted by the Club, the most efficient way of having your suggestions considered is by giving a written submission to the Sailing Committee. This can be posted to PO Box 53, Morisset 2264, emailed to enquiries@slmasc.org or handed to any member of the Sailing Committee.

## 24. YACHT SAILING COMMITTEE 2022 – 2023

**Handicap Committee - Mal Dean, Robyn Wilson**

***Unless otherwise specified, all formal Sailing Committee correspondence can be delivered personally to any member of the Sailing Committee or by emailing to enquiries@slmasc.org***



To keep up to date with club activities visit [www.slmasc.org](http://www.slmasc.org)