

SOUTH LAKE MACQUARIE AMATEUR SAILING CLUB

YACHT SAILING INSTRUCTIONS – 09 OCT 2024

1. RULES

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

2. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

- a. Competitors participate in club races entirely at their own risk. See Rule 3. It is the skippers decision to race. SLMASC 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. 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 to a race.
- d. Prior to participating in any club event, the skipper and boat owners will make sure that each crew member is aware of these conditions.

3. INSURANCE

Each participating boat shall be insured with third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of \$AUD 10,000,000.00 valid for racing with or without spinnakers.

4. SAFETY REGULATIONS

- a. All yachts must comply with 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 for enclosed waters). Compliance with this rule shall not be grounds for protest by a competitor.
- c. The race committee reserves 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 (PFD) whilst racing. Solo sailors **MUST** wear a PFD 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 to avoid an unnecessary search. The club's phone number is 0457 391 864 and 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 yachts handicap at any time without notice.
- b. Applications in writing for a revision of handicaps will be considered by the Handicap Committee.

c. **Twilight handicaps** point score races will be adjusted as follows: 1st = 5 mins, 2nd = 4 mins, 3rd = 3.5 mins, 4th = 3 mins, 5th = 2.5 mins, 6th = 2 min, 7th = 1.5 min, 8th = 1 min, 9th = 0.5 min. All yachts which start and finish a point score race will receive a 2 minute handicap lift. Yachts which start but do not finish will receive a lift of 1 minutes.

d. All other racing will be determined using 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 with the lowest corrected time is the winner.

e. Handicaps are available on the club website. Visiting yachts should call the club on race days on 0457 391 864 for a start time.

6. SIGN ON

Yachts must provide the details of all crew on board to comply with AS Rule 46. Before each race the skipper must send a text to the club advising names and contact numbers for all on board. The club's number is 0457 391 864. This must be done for every race.

7. MARKS

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

8. SHORTENED COURSE

a. If the letter "S" is displayed next to the course number at the club before the race, yachts shall ignore all marks indicated with an asterisk (*) on the course sheet.

b. After starting, when rounding the Home Mark RRS 32.2 may be applied to shorten the race, without displaying the "S" flag. A sound signal shall be given and the letter "S" may be displayed from the club to signal a shortened course, finishing then at the Home Mark.

9. OBSTRUCTING START/FINISH LINE

a. **Handicap starts:** A yacht may not manoeuvre in the immediate vicinity of the start line until one minute before its starting time.

b. **All other starts and finishes:** Except when a boat is starting or finishing a race, or when necessary to safely sail directly to or from a permanent mooring, or when rounding the home mark as a mark of the course, no boat shall sail through the start or finish line while any boats in any class are racing.

c. Failure to observe the requirements of sections 9a or 9b above shall not be grounds for protest by a competitor. Infringements shall, however, be reported by the Race Officer to the Sailing Committee and may result in the boat being scored DSQ without a hearing, or such other penalty as the Sailing Committee deems appropriate.

d. Skippers are also reminded of the fundamental requirements of RRS 23.1 Interfering With a Boat While Racing: "If reasonably possible, a boat not racing shall not interfere with a boat that is racing" (see section 13 of these SIs). Also RRS 45 Hauling Out, Making Fast, Anchoring: "A boat shall be afloat and off moorings at her Preparatory Signal".

10. STARTING PROCEDURES

- a. The course to be sailed will be indicated by the course number being displayed from the club. The starting line will be between the countdown clock on the clubhouse and the Home Mark. Yachts will cross the start line in the direction of the first mark.
- b. **Friday Twilight Races:** The clock will be set to count to zero (0) at approximately 1745hrs. Each yacht will start when its starting handicap number drops.
- c. **Sunday Scratch Starts:** Start time will be 1300 with the warning signal at 1255. Warning signal is when the clock drops from 5 to 4. Preparatory signal is when 4 drops to 3. Starting signal is when "0" disappears.

11. PREMATURE STARTERS (amends RRS 29 Recalls)

- a. There will be no recall of premature starters. Any yacht which is judged to have started early and does not restart correctly will be penalised by adjusting their sailing time by the sum of the time by which the start was broken plus an additional 2 minutes.
- b. A yacht can exonerate itself from a time penalty by restarting correctly.
- c. Any yacht that is judged to have started more than 5 minutes early and fails to restart correctly will be scored DNF.

12. LATE STARTERS

Apart from exceptional circumstances, the maximum lift for any yacht which starts more than 5 minutes late will be 0.5 mins. Any boat starting more than 10 minutes after its designated start time will be scored 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 4 minutes before its published start time.

14. FINISHING LINE

The finish line will be directly between the Home Mark and the starters box at the club house. Yachts will cross the finish line in the direction from the last mark rounded. Yachts are reminded that they are still racing until they have cleared the finish line so racing rules continue to apply until then (including touching the mark).

15. ALTERNATIVE PENALTIES

- a. A yacht which has touched a mark may exonerate itself by taking a one turn penalty. In doing so, a boat must keep clear of all other boats (RRS 31)
- b. A yacht which infringes a right-of-way rule may exonerate itself by taking a two turn penalty, remaining clear of other yachts (RRS 44.2)

16. TIME LIMITS

Twilight races: 1 hour 45 minutes from the scratch starting time

Sunday races: 3 hours from the starting signal.

If one yacht finishes within the prescribed time limit, the cutoff time will be extended by 30 minutes.

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 emailed to enquiries@slmasc.org within 2 hours of finishing. An extension of this time may be allowed by the Sailing Committee.

18. PROTESTS

- a. To signify its intention to protest, a yacht shall display a Code Flag B (red) and notify the other yacht or person as soon as possible after the incident (RRS 61.1)
- b. Any yacht intending to lodge a protest shall follow the RRS Part 5. Protest forms are available at the club and on the AS website. The club must be notified of a protest by phone, VHF ch 73 or directly to a member of the sailing committee within 1 hour of the race finishing. The protest form must be lodged in person to a member of the Sailing Committee or by email to enquiries@slmasc.org by 2000hrs on the Sunday immediately after the race.

19. POINTSCORES

- a. To be eligible to score points in a race, a yacht must be listed on the yacht register. To be listed on the register the boats owner or skipper must: be a financial member of the club, have submitted a completed boat registration form and have lodged a valid Cat7 Safety Audit form.
- b. A crew member who sails more than 5 club races is deemed to be “regular crew” and are strongly encouraged to be members of the club. Failure to comply with this rule shall not be grounds for protest by a competitor.
- c. New yachts must sail 3 qualifying races on a provisional handicap. While on a provisional handicap, yachts will be scored as last place for that race in the pointscore.
- d. **Friday Twilight Pointscore:** There will be three series, Spring, Summer and Autumn and an Overall winner. The Low Point System will be used (RRS Appendix A). One race result will be dropped in each series.
- e. **Sunday Pointscore:** There will be two series, 1 and 2 as per the sailing calendar, and an overall winner. The Low Point System will be used and one race will be dropped from each series.
- f. A minimum of three races are required to constitute a series.
- g. A boat that does not start a race will be scored as the number of starters for that series plus one. This modifies RRS Appendix A5.
- h. The Club Champion will be determined by the combined results of the Friday and Sunday races.

i. 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 for that race with no adjustment to their handicap. Boat skippers must apply for this dispensation before the event.

20. SAILS

In twilight races, spinnakers and reaching headsails that are not attached to the forestay are not allowed. In Sunday races they may be used.

21. MODIFICATIONS

Any modification to a yacht's hull, keel, rigging etc, or the use of larger than normal sails shall be reported 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 main sail.
- b. Boats may only be entered in the club yacht register with one sail number.
- c. Any change to a boats sail number must be advised in writing to the Sailing Committee at least 24 hours prior to racing.
- d. Unless approved by the sailing committee, no boat shall race without sail numbers or with numbers registered with the club to another boat.
- e. To assist the finisher in the event of poor visibility, yachts are requested to illuminate their sail number and hail it to the finisher at the club. They should also take note of the boats finishing immediately before and after them in case there is any doubt of the finishing order.
- f. Failure to comply with this Rule 22 shall not be grounds for protest by a competitor but shall be reported by the RO to the Sailing Committee and may result in the boat being scored as DNS or DNF without a hearing, or such other action as the Sailing Committee deems appropriate.

23. SUGGESTIONS

If you have any suggestions for improving the way yacht racing is conducted by the club, submit them in writing to the Sailing Committee at PO Box 53, Morisset, 2264 or to enquiries@slmasc.org

24. YACHT SAILING COMMITTEE

As of June 2024 the Sailing Committee members are: Mal Dean, Paul Nelson and John Boyd