



**WHITSTABLE YACHT CLUB**

Founded 1902

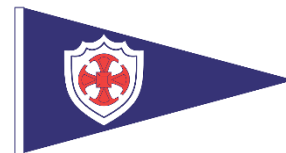
Affiliated RYA

# Forts Race Weekend

**Allen Endurance Series 2019 Race 1**

**18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

**SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**



Tel: 01227 272942  
Website: [www.wyc.org.uk](http://www.wyc.org.uk)

3-4 Sea Wall  
Whitstable. CT5 1BX

## 1.0 RULES

Racing will take place under the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) 2017-2020, the prescriptions of the RYA, these sailing instructions, the Notice of Race and the appropriate class rules. A boat and crew shall comply with ISAF Regulation 20. In the event of conflict, the Sailing Instructions will prevail.

## 2.0 CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

### 2.1 General

The safety of a yacht and its entire management including insurance shall be the sole responsibility of the owner/competitor racing the yacht. Neither the establishment of these Sailing Instructions nor the inspection of the yacht under these conditions in any way limits or reduces the absolute responsibility of the owner/competitor for his crew, his yacht and the management thereof. The race organisers shall not be responsible for any loss, damage, death or personal injury howsoever caused to the owner/competitor, his skipper or crew, as a result of their taking part in the race or races and sailing to or from the race area.

### 2.2 Handicap Ratings

- 2.2.1 The Race results are based on Portsmouth Yardstick handicap ratings, fastest boats on corrected time over the courses will determine placings. For catamarans without a PY rating, a conversion from SCHRS will be used to determine PY rating using the current SCHRS conversion formula.
- 2.2.2 Non-production catamarans or dinghies will be required to present an ISAF Measurement Spreadsheet.
- 2.2.3 Self-assessment may be supplemented with spot checks on measurements and configurations by the appropriate Handicap Officer or his deputy, before or after any race at the discretion of the Race Committee. Incorrect handicaps may be penalised with an equal and opposite retrospective adjustment under the Race Observance procedure.

### 2.3 Eligibility

- 2.3.1 The Allen Endurance Series part of the event is open to catamarans and mono-hulls having a PY rating faster than 1270.
- 2.3.2 The Forts Leg of the course is only for two-handed catamarans having a PY rating faster than 700. All boats must be crewed by two persons, one of whom shall have reached the age of 18 years on or before the 18th May 2019.
- 2.3.3 Competitors must have completed the relevant entry form and paid the necessary dues before racing, see registration times below.
- 2.3.4 Competitors below the age of 18 may only enter and compete with the written consent of a parent. The Race Officer is to be informed of any competitors under 18 prior to the briefing on each day of the event weekend.
- 2.3.5 All Competitors automatically grant to the organising authority and the Series sponsors, without payment, the right in perpetuity to make, use and show any motion pictures, still pictures and live, taped or filmed television of or relating to the event.
- 2.3.6 All participating boats must display a minimum of two Allen hull stickers during each event. These stickers will be provided in the registration pack.
- 2.3.7 The Race Committee reserves the right to refuse entry without stating a reason.

## **2.4 Insurance**

All boats are required to have insurance cover with a minimum of £3,000,000 third party indemnity throughout the event.

## **2.5 Registration**

- 2.5.1 The Regatta Office will be open Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May between 10.00 and 13.00 & Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May 09.00 to 10.00. All competitors shall register in person at the Regatta Office.
- 2.5.2 At registration, the owner/competitor shall declare the PY handicap. Responsibility for entering the correct handicap rating lies with the competitor.
- 2.5.3 At registration, each competitor (helm & crew) will be given a unique competitor Tally number.

## **3.0 SAFETY**

It is a condition of entry that a minimum level of safety equipment listed in paragraph 3.3 below is carried and the “declaration for all competitors” on the entry form is completed. Boats may be disqualified or penalised without protest if found, on inspection at any time between leaving the shore and posting tallies after racing, not to be carrying this equipment. This alters appendix A5.

### **3.1 Personal buoyancy**

All competitors shall comply with RRS 40 (Personal Buoyancy) at all times while afloat. Neither a wetsuit nor a dry-suit constitutes adequate personal buoyancy. Flag Y will not be displayed. This alters RRS 40.

### **3.2 Tallies**

- 3.2.1 A tally board will be situated outside the Clubhouse.
- 3.2.2 Every boat intending to start in a race shall remove the tally bearing their competitor number from the tally board and place it in the box marked “I intend to race”.
- 3.2.3 Competitors who fail to post their tallies before going afloat will be disqualified without a hearing.
- 3.2.4 Within 45 minutes of their finishing time, each helmsman shall remove the tally bearing their competitor number from the tally board and place it either in the box marked “I have finished and complied with all the rules” or in the box marked “I have retired”.
- 3.2.5 Not used.
- 3.2.6 Competitors who fail to post their tallies on return may be disqualified without a hearing and shall be liable for the full costs of any search and rescue operation that may be initiated on their behalf, subject to the provisions of 3.2.8 below. This alters appendix A5.
- 3.2.7 Competitors failing to post their tally may also be subject to a £10.00 fine, payable to the RNLI.
- 3.2.8 Competitors returning ashore other than at Whitstable Yacht Club shall telephone their declaration to the Bridge Controller Number to be displayed on Forts Race Notice Board.
- 3.2.9 Competitors who are in need of assistance may telephone the Club on the Bridge Controller Number to be displayed on Forts Race Notice Board.

### **3.3 Safety Equipment**

All competitors will comply with the following safety rules:

1. RRS 40 (Personal Buoyancy) applies at all time when afloat
2. Code Flag Y will not be flown (This alters RRS 40)
3. Competitors shall wear a wetsuit or drysuit when afloat
4. Competitors shall carry at least one compass and mobile phone in a secure watertight bag (the phone number for the WYC contact point will be displayed on the Race Board)
5. Each boat shall be equipped with at least one paddle capable of propelling the craft
6. Competitors are advised to carry at least one distress signal on their body while afloat
7. The Race Committee reserve the right to check safety equipment at any time
8. A “tally” system will be in operation for the Forts Race Weekend
9. All boats will carry an identifying marker, provided at registration, attached to their boom (batten end) with their tally number shown.
10. All boats will carry a GPS tracking device provided by the Race Management.

11. Competitors are reminded that RRS Fundamental Rules 1, 2 & 3 are in force at ALL times
12. Failure to observe any above safety rules can lead to disqualification

#### **4.0 COMMUNICATION WITH COMPETITORS**

Notices to competitors shall be posted on the Forts Race Notice Board in the WYC Sea Room.

#### **5.0 CHANGES IN SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

Any changes in the sailing instructions will be posted on the Forts Race Notice Board at least one hour before the advertised time of the race or races concerned. Changes in the Sailing Instructions shall be indicated by displaying International Code flag “L” on the Clubhouse mast.

#### **6.0 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE**

Signals made ashore will be hoisted on the Clubhouse mast.

#### **7.0 SCHEDULE OF RACES**

The schedule of course legs is given in the Notice of Race. The Notice of Race shall be displayed on the Forts Race Notice Board in the Sea Room.

#### **8.0 COURSE AREA**

The course will be in open water of the Thames estuary and the entrance to the River Swale, in the area known as the Kentish Flats. **Prohibited Area -Competitors shall not cross within 250 metres ahead of commercial shipping.**

#### **9.0 THE COURSE**

- a. **Saturday – Forts Shakedown Race.** The course and format of the race will be published by 12:00 depending on weather conditions. The race is intended to provide a ‘shake-down’ for all boats, and will be subject to the same safety conditions as the Forts Race.
- b. **Sunday – The Forts Race.** The course will consist of legs from the Committee Boat round a mark to port and back through a gate between an orange inflatable cylinder mark and the Committee Boat. On the final leg this gate will be the finish line. The order of legs for the Whitstable Forts Race will be posted on the Forts Race Notice Board at least one hour before the advertised time of the warning signal. A diagram of potential legs and rounding marks, can be found on the Forts Race Notice Board. This diagram is indicative only, should not be relied upon for an understanding of the course and does not form part of the Sailing Instructions.

#### **10.0 CHANGE OF COURSE AFTER THE START**

- 10.1 **Saturday – Forts Shake-down Race.** Change of course will be in accordance with RRS 33.
- 10.2 **Sunday – The Forts Race and the Allen Endurance Race.** Each leg will be nominated a number (1-5) in accordance with the originally advised order at briefing. If there is a change to the course the number will be displayed by a rib or the Committee Boat flying flag ‘C’ located near the orange inflatable cylinder mark. This alters RRS 33.

#### **11.0 MARKS & GATE**

- 11.1 **Saturday – Forts Shake-down Race.** Practice race marks will be orange inflatable cylinder buoys. The Start mark will be a black inflatable buoy.
- 11.2 **Sunday – The Forts Race and the Allen Endurance Race.** Marks may be permanent shipping marks, inflatable cylinder marks or prominent man-made features at sea. These will be defined on the Forts Race Notice Board. The Gate will be an orange inflatable cylinder at one end and the Committee Boat at the other end. Boats may pass through the gate in any direction. The position of the gate mark relative to the club may be varied by the race officer during the course of the race without notice, this alters rule 33

## 12.0 STARTS

- 12.1 There will be three starts:
- 12.1.1 The first start will be for the Forts leg of the race for the boats eligible see 2.3.1. The starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the Committee Boat and a black spherical inflated buoy on the port end of the starting line.
- 12.1.2 The second start will be for the fast handicap fleet of catamarans and mono-hulls not eligible for the Forts leg but competing in the Allen Endurance Series Race. The starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the Committee Boat and a large orange pillar buoy on the seaward end of the starting line.
- 12.1.3 The third start will be for the slow handicap fleet of catamarans and mono-hulls not eligible for the Forts leg but competing in the Allen Endurance Series Race. The start line will be as for 12.1.2 above.
- 12.2 Races will be started in accordance with rule 26, with the warning signal given 5 minutes before the starting signal. The Class warning signal will be Flag A
- 12.3 A boat starting later than four minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start, this changes rule A4.2 and A5
- 12.4 The committee boats and large orange buoy will constitute the gate for each leg of the course which will be explained at the briefing.

## 13.0 RECALLS

No recall numbers will be displayed.

## 14 [NOT USED]

## 15 FINISHING

- 15.1 **Saturday – Forts Shake-down Race.** The Finish line will be between a black inflatable buoy and the Committee Boat mast displaying a blue flag.
- 15.2 **Sunday – The Forts Race and the Allen Endurance Race.** The finish line will be between the orange cylindrical mark and the Committee Boat mast displaying a blue flag. For the purposes of these sailing instructions, the direction of the course from the last mark is deemed to be the direction in which a boat is heading as it approaches the finish line. This will have the effect of allowing boats to finish in any direction across the line.
- 15.3 The award of a sound signal as a boat crosses the finish line is merely a courtesy.

## 16.0 TIME LIMITS

- 16.1 The finishing period time limit for **all** boats is 1700 hrs. This alters rule 35
- 16.2 The Race Committee reserves the right to shorten course on completion of any leg for individual competitors, all competitors, or all competitors in specific classes. Boats which are permitted to attempt, but do not complete the longer course, may (at the discretion of the race committee) be included in the results for the shorter course.
- 16.3 Boats which do not complete either the longer or shorter course within the prescribed time period, shall be deemed to have retired and shall return immediately to the shore. Boats which do not retire and which continue to sail the course may have support cover withdrawn.
- 16.3 In the event that no boat completes the longer course within the time limit, or the race is abandoned, the race committee may decide to award places, based on the times of boats at the end of the last complete leg. This alters rule 35.

## 17.0 PROTESTS

Protests shall be lodged with the Race Office on a form available at the Race Office within 30 minutes of finishing the race. Protest hearings will commence as soon as possible after the Protest Time Limit. The protests to be heard and the time and place of the hearing, will be posted on the Forts Race Notice Board within 30 minutes of the end of the protest time limit.

## 18.0 SCORING SYSTEM

The Race results are based on Portsmouth Yardstick handicap ratings, fastest boats on corrected over the courses will determine placings.

## **19.0 PENALTIES**

19.1 **Alternative penalties** - The penalty shall be a 360° turn. This alters rule 44.1

## **20.0 PRIZES**

20.1 Prizes will be awarded to the first placed catamaran completing the Forts leg on handicap, the first, second and third placed boat in each class (Big Cats, Fast, Slow) completing the full Endurance course on handicap, the first placed boat overall for the full Endurance course overall. Additional prizes will be awarded at the Race Committee's discretion

## **21.0 LOCAL VARIATIONS**

- 21.1 Attention is drawn to the Water Safety Bylaws (Forts Race Notice Board)
- 21.2 No obstruction shall be placed so as to impede the route from the R.N.L.I. station to the water.
- 21.3 Boats shall keep clear of vessels manoeuvring in and out of the Harbour.
- 21.4 No cars shall be parked on the beach or in any area designated for use by the R.N.L.I.
- 21.5 Prohibited Area -Competitors shall not cross within 250 metres ahead of commercial shipping.
- 21.6 The area of the oyster beds is a prohibited area which racing boats may not enter. It is designated an obstruction in accordance with RRS (Definitions) and is to be passed to seaward by all boats racing. Any boat entering the prohibited area, which is defined by the shore to the south and buoys and flags on the other boundaries, will be disqualified without a hearing. This alters RRS 63.1