

EMSWORTH & EMSWORTH SLIPPER SAILING CLUBS GENERAL SAILING INSTRUCTIONS FOR JOINT CRUISER RACES

(Issued May 2006) amended Dec 2006 amended 2009

The following are the rules which shall govern cruiser racing events in which members of Emsworth Sailing Club (ESC) or Emsworth Slipper Sailing Club (ESSC) and Emsworth Cruising Association (ECA) (hereafter known as the Clubs) can compete.

1.0 RULES

- 1.1 Races will be sailed under the International Sailing Federation Racing Rules of Sailing 2009-2012 (RRS) and RYA prescriptions, together with these Sailing Instructions and Special Sailing Instructions agreed between the clubs and issued by the organising club.

2.0 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS, NOTICES, RACE COMMITTEE

- 2.1 These GSI's together with the Clubs' annual programmes provide a Notice of Race in accordance with RRS J1.
- 2.2 Any other Notices of Race and any other information for competitors will be advised in Notices which will be displayed at both clubs where, and no later than when, the relevant entry forms are made available.
- 2.3 Any subsequent changes will be displayed on the clubs' Notice boards up to 24 hours before the race, and the Committee Boat will display flag L when on station.
- 2.4 The default shall be that it is the intention to race unless the OOD informs the Cruiser Captains/Secretaries of each club by telephone or radio that racing is to be abandoned. Cruiser Captains/Secretaries will then cascade the decision to owners signed up on the entry forms at their respective clubs. Competitors without either mobile telephones or VHF radios should contact the Cruiser Captain/Secretary of their club or the OOD where weather conditions or other circumstances lead them (the competitors) to doubt as to the whether the race will start. The operating VHF Channel and mobile phone numbers will be published in the sailing instructions. Competitors are encouraged to include their mobile phone numbers on the signing on sheet.
- 2.5 For the purposes of the RRS, the Race Committee is the Sailing Committee of the organising club, which may delegate some of its functions to a Race Officer and one or more Assistant Race Officers appointed by the Cruiser Captain/Secretary. Any Protest Committee formed in accordance with the rules will be appointed by the Race Committee.

3.0 CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

- 3.1 Every boat which takes part in a race shall have on board a person in charge who is a member or probationary member of one of the Clubs.
- 3.2 By entering a race organised by ESC or ESSC or ECA the person in charge **THEREBY DECLARES THAT:**
 - (a) HE ACCEPTS THAT (i) HE HAS SOLE RESPONSIBILITY for the management and safety of the boat AND THAT (ii) the clubs will not be liable for any loss, damage, personal injury or death (howsoever and to

- whomsoever caused) which results from the boat taking part in the race AND notwithstanding any condition laid down or inspection of the boat by any of the clubs.
- (b) HE ACCEPTS SOLE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENSURING THAT (i) the boat and everybody on board are entirely suitable for the race AND THAT (ii) the boat's insurance is valid for the race with everybody aboard and covers third party claims up to at least £2,000,000.
- 3.3 Race entries may be made on an Entry Form posted as a Notice at ESC and ESSC. The Cruiser Captain/Secretary/Race Officer can accept entries by e-mail or telephone but he will ensure that such entries are entered on the Entry Form at the earliest opportunity thereafter but in any case before the scheduled start (see also 3.4(c)).
- 3.4 An entry will be valid only if it:
- (a) gives the sail number and class of the boat to be raced which is an eligible Boat
 - (b) names the person in charge and, if the entry form so provides, the crew
 - (c) is made (and any required entry fee is paid) at least 72 hours before the published start time. Late entries may be accepted at the discretion of the Race Officer.
- 3.5 An eligible boat:
- (a) An eligible boat is one that is either owned by or chartered by a full or probationary member of one of the clubs.
 - (b) Falls within the RYA definition of a cruiser.
 - (c) Displays her sail number whilst racing.
 - (d) Flies her club burgee from her backstay whilst racing.
 - (e) Has been allocated a RYA yardstick number or, in the absence of such a number, a handicap number to be agreed between the clubs before the start. Allowances will be made only for keel and propeller configurations (from base trim).
- 3.6 Any person who helms the boat shall be a member or a probationary member one of the Clubs.

4.0 SAILS

At no time during the race shall any sail be set outside the trim on which the handicap number of that yacht was calculated. A cruising chute will count as a spinnaker.

5.0 STARTING LINE

- 5.1 The starting line will be defined in the pre-set course. When a Committee Boat is in use, the line is a line between the main mast of the Committee Boat and the racing buoy indicated in the race instructions. An inner distance mark may be used and no boat shall pass between it and the Committee Boat. When a competing Committee Boat is in use a gate start will be used (see Appendix One).
- 5.2 Any boat not having crossed the starting line and not being nearer than two cables from any point of the line may use her engine or be towed to assist her in reaching a point not less than two cables length from any part of the line. This applies after the preparatory signal and the start. Except for a competing committee boat any boat which uses her engine within two cables of the start line after the 4 minute signal has been given, and before crossing the start line, shall incur a five minute penalty on elapsed time (This alters RRS 42.1).

6.0 FINISHING LINE

The finishing line is defined in the course.

- a) When a Committee Boat is on station, every boat finishing must try to ensure that her sail number is clearly visible to the Committee Boat.
- b) When a Committee Boat is not on station each boat should record their own finishing time when the mark is abeam as stipulated in the racing instructions. Finishing boats should take a note of the approximate finishing of the boat immediately in front and immediately behind.

7.0 STARTING SIGNAL

Starting signals will be made from the Committee Boat and will be 5 minute raise Z flag, 4 minutes raise P flag, 1 minute P flag lowered, start Z flag lowered. Sound signals may be given at 5 minutes, 4 minutes, 1 minute and the start. See Appendix One also.

8.0 SHORTENED COURSE

This will be indicated by flying code flag 'S' on the Committee Boat as defined in the RRS, except that where the flag 'S' is flown on the Committee Boat before the warning signal the course to be sailed will be the shortened course specified in the Notice of Race.

9.0 POSTPONEMENT

Before the starting signal the committee boat may postpone (flag AP) or abandon the race (flags N over H) for any reason. One minute after lowering the postponement flag the warning signal will be made to commence the new start procedure.

10.0 ABANDONMENT

Abandonment will be indicated by flying flag N over H accompanied by three sound signals. Abandonment may also be indicated by posting a notice attached to the Notice of Race. This alters RRS 27.3.

11.0 LATE STARTERS

Only those boats crossing the starting line within 15 minutes of the starting signal will rank as starters. Unless competing, the Committee Boat will remain on station for this time, weather permitting.

12.0. RETIRING

Boats retiring should endeavour to ensure that the Race Officer is informed or that a message is left at the clubhouse of the organising club.

13. RULES DISPUTES

- 13.1 The RYA Advisory and Mediation hearings (see rya.org.uk/racing/charter) will be available in addition to the standard Protest hearing.
- 13.2 A boat intending to request a hearing to resolve a dispute shall so inform the Race Officer or his representative orally as soon as possible after the boat finishes, retires or fails to start. This amends RRS 61.3.
- 13.3 Each request shall be written in a log book (for an advisory hearing) or on a form available from the Race Officer and lodged with the Race Committee within 24 hours of the last boat finishing (or the time the race was abandoned).

13.4 It is the duty of the boat requesting a hearing to inform the other boat involved that a hearing will be sought, and to give details of the alleged infringement. This must be done at the earliest opportunity, which will normally be immediately after the incident, by hailing and by displaying a protest flag; failing this immediately after the race.

14.0 TIME LIMIT AND FINISHING TIME SPAN

14.1 Unless otherwise stated in the Special Sailing Instructions the time limit will be 12 hours from the published start time.

15.0 DECLARATION

15.1 Boats shall sign the declaration form, including their finishing time, within 72 hours of the finish of the race. The signature of the person in charge or his nominee is required. Declarations by e-mail to the Cruiser Captain or Cruiser Secretary of either participating club will be accepted within the 72 hour post race period. Failure will result in disqualification. The Cruiser Captain or Cruiser Secretary shall inform the OOD accordingly.

16.0 SCORING FOR TEAM EVENTS

16.1 The first seven boats from each club to count with scores calculated by the RRS low point system modified as below:

First place	3/4 point
Second place	2 points
Third place	3 points
Fourth and after	Place position.
Yachts ranking as starters including late starters but not finishing	No. of starters +1
Yachts disqualified	No. of starters + 2
Yachts not starting	No. of declared entries + 2

(This amends RRS A4.1 and A4.2)

17.0 RESULTS

17.1 These will normally be published on all clubs cruiser notice boards during the week following the race. Results may also be published on the web sites of each club.

18.0 COMMUNICATION

18.1 The Committee Boat may be contacted by calling 'Emsworth Base ' on a channel promulgated before the race.

19.0 PROHIBITED AREAS AND NAVIGATIONAL AREAS OF CONCERN

19.1 Unless otherwise stated in the Special Sailing Instructions boats may not use the Dolphin Passage through the submerged barrier north of Horse Sand Fort.

19.2 All crews are to make themselves aware of the number of prohibited areas that exist in the Solent area.

- 19.3 Boats should note especially the following areas of concern:
- (a) Southampton Waters: Western approaches area of concern and Moving Prohibited Zone
 - (b) Portsmouth Harbour approach: use small boat channel. The main channel should only be crossed when to the north of Ballast\buoy/Marker provided prior permission has been obtained from QHM (VHF Channel. 11).
 - (c) Yarmouth Harbour moorings to the west of the harbour entrance: vessels are not permitted to race among the moorings.

Appendix One to GSIs for Joint Cruiser Races

START LINE PROCEDURE FOR USE WITH A COMPETING COMMITTEE BOAT

These are a guide to people new to starting races.

5 minutes before the start time, the committee boat will make a sound signal and fly the code flag 'Z'.

From this moment until one minute after the start, the committee boat has right of way over all competitors.

The Committee Boat shall have use of its engine without penalty up to the start time.

4 minutes before the start time, the committee boat will fly code flag 'P' and make a sound signal.

One minute before the start time flag 'P' is lowered a sound signal is made and the committee boat will set off from the designated start buoy on a course as near as possible to 90 degrees to the course from the start buoy to the first mark of the course.

At the start time, the committee boat will make a sound signal and lower flag 'Z'.

Competitors must pass between the start mark and the committee boat but not before the start time.

The start boat will alter course at this point and head for the first mark, or come hard on the wind whichever is the best course to be made.

Although the committee boat has right of way up to one minute after the start, he may not use this right to gain advantage over the other yachts.

This right is in order that he can sort himself out and settle down to race without a competitor forcing him to tack or take major avoiding action.

The Committee Boat, in order to be identified, will fly a large club flag from their boat until at least 5 minutes before the start sequence of the race. The lowering of this flag is not part of the starting procedure.

Competitors over the line will be signalled from the committee boat shall be required to restart from behind the line. They should not obstruct other boats that are starting.