

Tees and Hartlepool Yacht Club

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Cruiser Racing - 2009 SEASON

Racing will be governed by the RACING RULES OF SAILING, the prescriptions of the ROYAL YACHTING ASSOCIATION, these SAILING INSTRUCTIONS and any other applicable rules.

Ratings

Classes 1, 2 & 3 will be rated using the NERR rating system. Yachts must hold a current NERR Rating certificate. A copy must be carried on board and a copy must be lodged with the sailing committee, results will not be ratified if the committee does not have a certificate copy.

Eligibility

All T&HYC yachts (Skipped by a THYC member) are eligible for club races. Club rules require all crew to be club members. Guests are permitted to race on six occasions during the season.

Race Times

Details of race start times and type of race are published in the TEES AND HARTLEPOOL YACHT CLUB programme, issued as a separate document.

Course to be sailed

Details of courses to be sailed and marks to be used are issued as separate documents. The originals will be used in the race station to set courses for all divisions.

The course, for each class, to be sailed will be announced by VHF radio approximately 15 minutes before the scheduled start using channel M2.

Sailing area

Bay races will be held in the confines of the Tees and Hartlepool bay defined by: -

North East of the Tees Channel, East of the Tees Fairway Buoy (Rounding the Tees Fairway is permitted) and South of Steeley Pier.

Offshore courses may extend outside this area.

The Hartlepool channel must not be entered when racing, therefore when approaching the 'H' mark Hartlepool No 2 (the outer red can buoy) must be left to starboard.

THE TEES AND HARTLEPOOL SHIPPING CHANNELS ARE DESIGNATED AS CONTINUOUS OBSTRUCTIONS AND MUST NOT BE ENTERED FOR ANY REASON WHEN RACING.

Safety

The safety of a boat and her entire management including insurance shall be the sole responsibility of the owner/person in charge who must ensure that the boat and crew are adequate to face the conditions that may arise in the course of the race. Neither these sailing instructions nor any inspection of the boat limits the absolute responsibility of the owner/person in charge for the crew, the boat and her management. The race organisers shall not be responsible for any loss, damage, death or personal injury howsoever caused to the owner/person in charge or crew as a result of their taking part in races. Moreover every owner/person in charge warrants the suitability of the boat for the races and accepts full responsibility for the seaworthiness and safe navigation of the boat, the competence of the crew, judging whether to start continue or retire from the race, ensuring that all safety equipment is properly maintained, stowed and in date and that the crew know where it is kept and how it is to be used and that the crew know of these conditions.

Each boat shall hold Third Party indemnity insurance of at least £1 million, which must include racing

Safety equipment

All yachts sailing under the Club Burgee shall comply with the ISAF Offshore Special Regulations January 2006 – December 2007 Special Regulations subject to the prescriptions of Tees and Hartlepool Yacht Club. All races using THYC published courses are designated category IV. Checks may be carried out and non-compliance will result in disqualification from the preceding race in which the yacht took part and not recorded as racing in future events until the yacht demonstrates that the equipment is in place to the satisfaction of the cruiser racing committee.

THYC Prescriptions. A VHF Transceiver must be carried. This amends ISAF 3.29 – 1-a which requires a Handheld VHF to be carried.

Single Handed Sailing

Single handed sailing is permitted for Classes 2 & 3 provided the race is within the bay as defined above. Spinnakers may not be flown and a safety harness and life jacket must be worn at all times.

Motoring

Yachts under power prior to the start as a result of delays in the lock or to clear shipping channels may remain under power after her preparatory signal provided that after stopping her engine, she carries out two full 360° turns (720°) on the pre start side of the starting line and after the starting signal. She shall keep clear of all other boats until she has completed her turns and started.

Start / Finish Line

The start line is a transit line between a white light on the clubhouse situated below the race station windows and the white pole situated towards the end of the South pier carrying the red harbour light and weather instruments. An outer distance mark will be laid. An inner distance mark may also be laid. They are tide and wind borne and may not be on transit.

At the start and finish of each lap yachts must pass between inner and outer distance marks.

Signals

All light signals will be made from the race station. For certain races a committee boat start may be used, in which case flag signals will be used from the committee boat. Separate instructions will be issued for such a race.

Starting Signals

Warning signal (5 minutes to start)	One white light
Preparatory signal (4 minutes to start)	Two white lights
1 Minute to start	Three white lights
Start	All lights extinguished

Recall

One white light switched back on after the start indicates that one or more yachts were over the line. The light will remain on until the offending yacht(s) have returned over the line, or for 5 minutes, whichever is sooner. When possible the offending yacht(s) will be notified by VHF. An "all clear" VHF message may also be broadcast.

General recall

A general recall will be indicated by four white lights. All yachts in the recalled start must restart. The restart will be 10 minutes after the aborted start. Subsequent class starts will incur a delay.

Postponement

Postponement will be indicated by four white lights.

The restart will be 10 minutes after the scheduled start or at a time to be specified by the OOD. The new start time will be broadcast by the OOD on the appropriate VHF channel.

Shortened Course

Shortened course will be indicated by two white lights displayed as the leading yacht approaches the last mark before finishing.

Courses may be altered as well as shortened. Shortened courses will be indicated as above. Course alterations will be notified by the duty officer on the appropriate VHF channel. The duty officer will ensure that all yachts in the race are aware of the course alteration.

Finishing signal

As each yacht finishes four white lights will be displayed.

VHF Radio

VHF M2 will be used.

The race officer will broadcast the following information by VHF radio: -

- 1) The Course to be sailed approximately 15 minutes before the start of the relevant class.

The race officer may broadcast the following information: -

- 1) Countdown to 5, 4 & 1 minute signals.
- 2) Shortened Course information.
- 3) Recall or General Recall.
- 4) Postponement.

Yachts may not contact the race station after the warning signal or during the starting sequence of another class.

Notification of Intention To Race

Each boat should inform the duty officer by VHF channel M2 of their intention to race. Radio communication must take place prior to the commencement of the start sequence.

Any boat not informing the duty officer of their intention to race may not be recorded as starting or finishing the race.

Time Limits

The time limits for each course are shown on the course sheets. Any yachts not finishing within the time limit will be deemed to have retired. If a race consists of more than one course or lap then the time limit for each course is added together. If the race is shortened this total time limit still applies.

For Classes 2 & 3 races the time limits are increased by 50%.

Retirals

Any yacht retiring before or after finishing must inform the duty officer on the relevant VHF channel as soon as possible.

Declarations

Written declarations shall not be required. In crossing the finish line, the yacht declares herself to have sailed the course fairly and in accordance with the rules. Skippers who cannot so declare should wear an ensign.

Penalties

If a yacht contravenes a rule of part 2 while racing may exonerate herself by taking a 720° turns penalty in accordance with RRS44

If a yacht touches a mark she must take a 360° turn penalty in accordance with RRS 31

Pursuit Races

Start time for each boat will be calculated using NERR handicap ratings, for 60, 90 & 120 minute pursuit race. A list will be published.

The course to be sailed will be announced in the normal way.

Each boat will start the appropriate number of minutes after the race start time. They will sail the course until the race time has elapsed.

At the end of the race each boat will note her position in the fleet and this will be the result. If there is any doubt as to the order of finishing then the committee may determine that order of rounding the last mark prior to the finish will be the result.

The Race Officer will announce the course. During the start the OOD will announce by VHF the 5 minute (warning), 4 minute (preparatory), 1 minute and start signals. Subsequently each boat may be given a 1 minute and start signals. The OOD will also announce the end of the race.

The race officer may use the race station or may start the race from a competing boat. Each boat will ensure that she does not cross the start line ahead of the appointed start time and will ensure that her finishing position is noted.

Protests

Protests shall be made in accordance with RRS 61. A yacht intending to protest shall inform the other boat at the first reasonable opportunity. When her protest concerns an incident in the racing area that she is involved in or sees, she shall hail "protest" and conspicuously display a red flag at the first reasonable opportunity for each. In addition yachts intending to protest must inform the race station on the relevant VHF channel (unless dismasted). Protest forms must be handed to the Officer Of The Day within 60 minutes of the last yacht finishing accompanied by a fee of £2 (refundable if the protest is upheld).

This notification of the OOD in no way removes the onus on the protesting yacht to fully comply with the protest requirements of the Racing Rules Of Sailing.

Scoring System

Races will be scored in accordance with Appendix A of the Racing Rules Of Sailing 2001-2004 using the low point system.

The number of races to count in a series will be the nearest whole number above half the number of races in the series.

Amendments

Amendments to these sailing instructions will be displayed on the TEES AND HARTLEPOOL YACHT CLUB notice board at least one hour before the race time and be announced on the relevant VHF channel