

ESC and ESSC Cruiser Racing Sailing Instructions

Introduction

The following are the rules which shall govern cruiser racing events organised by either Emsworth Sailing Club (ESC) or Emsworth Slipper Sailing Club (ESSC), "the Clubs". Appendix A details rules specific to ESC races. Appendix B details rules specific to ESSC races. Appendix C details changes to the rules required by races where both Clubs race together – Examples include The Folly Trophy and The Yoke. Appendix D details changes to the rules required where other yachts also take part – An example is The ESSC Cruiser Regatta Race.

1.0 Rules

All races will be governed by the rules as defined in the ISAF Racing Rules of Sailing, the prescriptions of the RYA, the Notice of Race and these Sailing Instructions. In the event of conflict with the Notice of Race these Sailing Instructions shall prevail.

2.0 Classes

There will be one handicap class for monohull cruising yachts. The organising Club's Cruiser Secretary or Captain, assisted by two other members or co-opted members of the Sailing Committee, will allocate club handicap numbers.

3.0 Eligibility

3.1 Yachts with backstays shall display their Club burgee from the backstay when racing. Yachts may also fly a numeral four racing pennant above the Club burgee.

3.2 All yachts should display sail numbers at all times when racing.

3.3 An ensign shall not be worn when racing.

3.4 All yachts shall be allocated a club handicap number before starting a race. Any yacht not having a club handicap number should apply to the Sailing Committee of the organising club for allocation of a number.

3.5 The owner of a yacht shall be a member or probationary member of the relevant club and shall be on board at all times the yacht is racing.

3.6 For a club "Ladies Race", a female Full or Probationary Club member shall helm the yacht for the duration of the race (Short necessary breaks accepted).

3.7 Yachts shall be insured for third party liability of at least £2,000,000 and for racing risks if necessary.

4.0 Race Committee.

For the purposes of the ISAF rules the organising Club's Sailing Committee shall be the Race Committee. Any Protest Committee shall be a Sub-Committee of the Race Committee.

5.0 Sails

5.1 At no time during the race may any sail be set outside the limit imposed by the club handicap number of that yacht allocated by the organising club.

5.2 A cruising chute, lightweight gennaker, furling gennaker, code zero or other equivalent downwind sail shall count as a spinnaker when assessing a club handicap number.

6.0 Conduct of Races.

Each race will be under the control of the Race Officer appointed by the organising club's Cruiser Secretary or Captain. With the authority of the Racing Committee the Race Officer may delegate all or part of his duties to another member of the club.

7.0 Notice of Races.

Will be in accordance with the current Cruiser Handbook (ESSC) or Club Notice Board / website (ESC).

8.0 Starting Line

8.1 The starting line will be between the Committee Boat and Chichester Racing Buoy (CRB) or any such buoy as may be nominated in the Notice of Race or as notified to the fleet on VHF Channel M1 (37) no less than 30 minutes before the start.

8.2 When a fixed Committee Boat is in use, the start line is a line between the main mast of the Committee Boat and the racing buoy indicated in the Notice of Race.

8.3 When a competing Committee Boat is in use, a form of gate start will be used (see "Start Line Procedure for use with a Competing Committee Boat" in paragraph 35 below).

8.4 After the preparatory signal a yacht 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. Except for a competing committee boat any yacht 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. She shall also inform the race committee of her action after finishing.

9.0 Finishing Line

9.1 The Finishing Line shall be as described in the Notice of Race.

9.2 When a Committee Boat is on station, every yacht finishing must try to ensure that her sail number is clearly visible to the Committee Boat.

9.3 When a Committee Boat is not on station, every yacht finishing shall record their own finishing time when the finish buoy is abeam, as stipulated in the Notice of Race. Finishing yachts should also make a note of the approximate finishing times of the yacht immediately in front and behind, if possible.

- 10.0 **Starting Signals**
- 10.1 The starting signals will be 5 minute Z flag, 4 min P flag, 1 min P flag lowered, start Z flag lowered. Sound signals may be given at 5 mins, 4 mins, 1 min and the start.
- 10.2 When a competing committee boat is in use, there will be no individual recall sound or flag signals.
- 10.3 When a competing committee boat is in use, a yacht that is on course side between the one minute signal and the start time will suffer a scoring penalty if it does not return and start correctly. The scoring penalty shall be the number of places nearest to 20% of the number of boats racing, fractions of 0.5 and above to be rounded up. The scoring penalty shall not give the infringing yacht an overall score worse than Did Not Finish. The Race Officer shall attempt to inform any yacht on course side at the start of such infringement by VHF Channel M1 [37] but failure to achieve contact shall not be a reason for a claim for redress. An OCS yacht returning to start later than one minute after the starting signal shall round the starting mark in order to start correctly.
- 10.4 When a fixed committee boat is in use, Individual Recalls shall be signalled as detailed in Clause 29.1 of the ISAF Racing Rules of Sailing.
- 10.5 General recalls shall be made by the committee boat flying the flag First Substitute and making 2 sound signals.
- 10.6 All race times (start and finish) are to be in local time using a GPS clock only.
- 11.0 **Courses.**
The course will be as described in the Notice of Races in the current Cruiser Handbook (ESSC) or Club Notice Board / website (ESC).
- 12.0 **Shortened Courses.**
The Committee Boat will fly code flag 'S' before the five minute signal until the start of the race.
- 13.0 **Postponement.**
The Committee Boat will indicate a postponement by flying the 'Answering Pennant' and give 2 sound signals. Six minutes before the start of the postponed race the Answering Pennant will be lowered and a sound signal made. Thereafter the normal starting sequence will be followed. A postponement may also be broadcast on VHF Channel M1 [37]
- 14.0 **Abandonment.**
Will be made by the Committee Boat making 3 sound signals and flying 'N' over 'H'. Notice of abandonment may also be displayed on the cruiser notice board situated in the Clubhouse, and broadcast on VHF Channel M1 [37].
- 15.0 **Late Starters.**
A late starter will be defined as a yacht which does not sail in the vicinity of the starting line, between the preparatory signal and the start of the race (see also 8.4). Late starters will leave the start buoy to starboard within 20 metres and their elapsed time will be calculated from the starting time of the race to the yacht's finishing time.
- 16.0 **Engine Propulsion.**
Except for the provisions made in paragraph 8.4 of these Sailing Instructions and in the rights of a competing Committee Boat described in paragraph 35, any yacht using her engine after crossing the 'start line' will be disqualified.
- 17.0 **Retiring.**
Yachts retiring must inform the Race Officer as soon as possible by email or text and not later than one day after the day of the final race of the 'weekend' (normally Monday, unless it is a bank holiday weekend).
- 18.0 **Number of Vessels.**
In order to qualify as a race there must be at least three vessels starting.
- 19.0 **Protests.**
- 19.1 Protests will be made in accordance to the ISAF Rules and not later than 48 hours after the last yacht in the relevant race has finished. The yacht making the protest must notify the Race Officer as soon as possible after the race and also inform the other vessel that he intends to protest. The protest must be in writing and will be dealt with by the Race Committee.
- 19.2 Any protest regarding allocated club handicap numbers must be made in writing to the relevant Sailing Committee.
- 20.0 **Point Scoring System.**
Points will be awarded in accordance with the ISAF Low Point scoring system, modified as follows: -

1 st place	3/4
2 nd place	2
3 rd place	3
4 th and after	Place position
Yachts ranking as a starter (inc late starters) but not finishing	No. of starters + 1
Yachts disqualified	No. of starters + 2
Yachts not starting	No. of declared entries + 2

- 21.0 **Finishing Within Time Limit.**
Prescribed in the Notice of Race if appropriate.
- 22.0 **Signing On.**
- 22.1 Signing on shall be effected by either emailing or texting the Cruiser Secretary. Yachts intending to race must be signed on not later than 24 hours before the published start time.

- 23.0 **Late Entries.**
Late entries may be accepted at the discretion of the Race Officer.
- 24.0 **Declarations.**
All competing yachts must declare their position in the race by either texting or e-mailing the organising club's Cruiser Secretary or Captain (or other nominated person) their finishing times submitted in the format: hh.mm.ss using GPS time only or stating a reason for retirement. A note of the yacht in front and the yacht behind at the finishing mark should be included wherever possible. **Submissions of an elapsed time or a time recorded from a time piece other than directly from a GPS will render the yacht liable to disqualification from the race.** Declarations must be made within one day following the day of the final race of the 'weekend' (normally Monday, unless it is a bank holiday weekend).
- 25.0 **Results.**
A list of race results will normally be published on the club website and on the cruiser notice board during the week following the race.
- 26.0 **Safety.**
The safety of the yacht and her crew are the sole responsibility of the owner, who must ensure the vessel is fully found and thoroughly seaworthy. All safety equipment must be properly maintained and the crew instructed where it is stowed and how it is used. The Clubs strongly recommend that the RYA safety recommendations be strictly adhered to. All yacht owners, helmspersons and crews entering any race organised by the Clubs shall be deemed to do so at their own risk, without any liability attaching to the Clubs, their members, servants or agents.
- 27.0 **Navigation Marks**
All navigation marks, other than those used as marks of the course, may be ignored for the purpose of the race.
- 28.0 **Prohibited areas.**
- 28.1 Unless otherwise stated in the Notice of Race, yachts may not use the Dolphin Passage through the submerged barrier north of Horse Sand Fort.
- 28.2 All crews are to make themselves aware of the number of prohibited areas that exist in the Solent area.
- 29.0 **Amendments to Sailing Instructions.**
Amendments will only be made by the posting of a notice, signed by the Sailing Committee or its nominee, on the cruiser notice board adjacent to the Notice of Race at least 24 hours before the race. The Committee Boat will display flag 'L'.
- 30.0 **Alternative Penalties.**
In accordance with ISAF Racing Rules of Sailing.
- 31.0 **Racing after Dark.**
Between the hours of sunset and sunrise the IRPCS rules shall apply.
- 32.0 **Intentionally Blank**
- 33.0 **Communication.**
Any pre-race or post-start communication shall take place on VHF Channel M1 (37). It is recommended that all competitors monitor the Club's Group MMSI Number (ESC = N/A, ESSC = 023200085) for the duration of the race (as well as VHF Channel 16).
- 34.0 **Navigational Areas of Concern.**
- 34.1 Southampton Waters: Western approaches area of concern and Moving Prohibited Zone.
- 34.2 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).
- 34.3 Yarmouth Harbour moorings to the West of the harbour entrance: Vessels are not permitted to race amongst the moorings.
- 35.0 **Start Line Procedure for use with a Competing Committee Boat**
- 35.1 The Committee Boat, in order to be identified, shall fly a large club flag from the forestay or suitable halyard until 5 minutes before the start sequence of the race. She may also provide race information on VHF Channel M1 (37).
- 35.2 The start line shall be between the mast of the committee boat and the starting buoy.
- 35.3 The Committee Boat may have use of its engine, without penalty, up to 30 seconds after the start time.
- 35.4 Five minutes before the start time, the committee boat will make a sound signal and fly the code flag 'Z'.
- 35.5 From this moment until 1 minute after the starting signal, the committee boat has right of way over all other competing yachts.
- 35.6 Four minutes before the start time, the committee boat will fly code flag 'P' and make a sound signal.
- 35.7 One minute before the start time, flag 'P' is lowered, a sound signal is made, and the Committee Boat shall proceed at approximately 5 knots from the start buoy, steering the course [plus or minus 10 degrees] described in the Notice of Race.
- 35.8 At the start time, the committee boat will make a sound signal and lower flag 'Z'.
- 35.9 Competitors shall pass between the start buoy and the committee boat but not before the start time.
- 35.10 At the start time the Committee Boat may alter course and head for the first mark, or come hard on the wind.

Appendix A – Rules Specific to ESC Races

- A1.0 **None**

Appendix B – Rules Specific to ESSC Races

B1.0 Sails

B1.1 A yacht not owning a spinnaker or any other equivalent downwind sail as described in Clause 5.2 above will have an allowance of 3% rounded up to the nearest whole number added to its allotted club handicap number.

B2.0 Signing On

B2.1 Yachts may be entered in the ESSC Alastair Pratt series races on a Saturday evening at the venue at the discretion of the Race Officer.

B3.0 Discards.

B3.1 Two (from 8) races will be discarded in the ESSC Trophy Series Races. One race (from 6) will be discarded in the ESSC Alastair Pratt Series. There will be no discards in the ESSC Trophy Series if 6 or fewer races are sailed and in the ESSC Alastair Pratt Series if 5 or fewer races are sailed.

Appendix C – Modified Rules for Interclub Races

C1.0 Handicaps

Handicap numbers must be applied for more than 2 weeks before the first Interclub Race that the yacht intends to compete in (See SI 2.0).

C2.0 Sails

- C2.1 A yacht not using a spinnaker or other equivalent downwind sail as described in Clause 5.2 above in the Interclub Races will have an allowance of 3% rounded up to the nearest whole number added to its allotted handicap number.
- C2.2 A yacht using a spinnaker or other equivalent downwind sail as described in Clause 5.2 above in the Interclub Races shall sail under its allotted handicap number.
- C2.3 A yacht wanting to make use of the "white sail only" handicap as described in Clause 5.2 and C2.1 above must declare their intention to do so to the race officer more than 2 weeks before the date of the Interclub Race.
- C2.4 Any late entries, if accepted, shall sail under the yacht's allotted handicap number.

C3.0 Protest Committee

Any protest committee shall be appointed by the Race Committee and shall include equal numbers of members of both ESC and ESSC.

C4.0 Eligibility

- C4.1 An eligible yacht is one that is either owned by or chartered by a full or probationary member of their Club (this alters SI 3.5).
- C4.2 Any person who helms the yacht, at any time, shall be a full or probationary member of their Club.

C5.0 Late Starters

Only those boats crossing the start 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 (this alters SI 15).

C5.0 Scoring

For interclub races, the aggregated scoring points of the first seven yachts (calculated using SI 20) from each club shall determine the winning club.

Appendix D – Modified Rules for "Public" Races

D1.0 Notice of Race

See attached poster.

D2.0 Course

The course shall be as described in the Notice of Race.

D3.0 Declarations

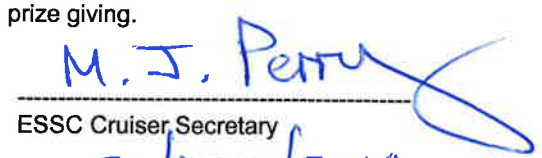
See attached poster for details.

D4.0 Results

The results will be published either during or after the evening prize giving.


ESC Cruiser Captain

Date: 20/12/14.


ESSC Cruiser Secretary

Date: 20/DEC/2014.