

Nottinghamshire County Sailing Club



Topper Open Meeting (Midlands Traveller Series)

Saturday 22nd March 2025

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

The notation '[NP]' in a rule of the sailing instructions (SIs) means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1(a).

1. RULES

- 1.1. The regatta will be governed by 'the rules' as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing 2025-2028
- 1.2. The rules of Nottinghamshire County Sailing Club will apply unless changed by these Sailing Instructions.
- 1.3. All competitors are required to compete in compliance with the RYA Racing Charter.
- 1.4. The event will be designated category C in accordance with ISAF Reg. 20

2. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS & NOTICES FOR COMPETITORS

- 2.1. Notices to competitors will be posted on the Official Notice Board located inside the clubhouse conservatory alongside the Race office. Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted no later than 1 hour before the start of scheduled racing.

3. CODE OF CONDUCT

- 3.1.[NP] Competitors and support persons shall comply with reasonable requests from race officials.
- 3.2.[NP] Competitors and support persons shall place advertising provided by the organizing authority with care, seamanship, in accordance with any instructions for its use and without interfering with its functionality.

4. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 4.1. Signals made ashore will be displayed on the flagpole in front of the clubhouse.
- 4.2. When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 15 minutes' in race signal AP. This changes race signals AP

5. SCHEDULE OF RACES

- 5.1. The schedule of races and number of races to qualify for a series will be published in the Notice of Race.

6. CLASS FLAGS

- 6.1. It is the intention to use the Topper Specific Class Flag.

- 6.2. In the event that this flag is not available, Flag T will be used.



7. RACING AREA

- 7.1. The race area includes the whole lake, with the exception of the gap between Tern Island and the main shore. Any boat sailing in this area may be disqualified.

8. COURSE

- 8.1. Courses will use the club's fixed and movable marks.
- 8.2. The Course will be displayed on the committee boat on a course board, which will display the number of laps, and the order and direction marks are to be rounded.
- 8.3. Marks rounded to starboard are displayed on a green background, marks rounded to port are displayed on a red background.
- 8.4. Letter G indicates a gate. The gate will be a line between the outer distance mark and the committee boat (or inner distance mark if used). Boats must pass through the gate on each lap of the course.
- 8.5. The number on a black background indicates the number of laps.
- 8.6. The Race Officer may change the course before the warning signal by breaking out flag L and displaying the new course.
- 8.7. There may be a lead boat for each race, who will display the NCSC burgee, to be indicated at the briefing. The lead boat will also provide safety cover which will be the priority, the 'NCSC burgee will be lowered in this event. It will be the discretion of the Race Officer if a lead boat is provided. The lead boat will be withdrawn at the end of the first lap of every race.

9. MARKS

- 9.1. Marks are numbered 1 to 10 clockwise around the lake, being alternately yellow (odd numbers) and orange (even numbers). Mark 1 is adjacent to the clubhouse.
- 9.2. Additional mark W (large orange inflatable) may be used and generally acts as the first windward mark.
- 9.3. Additional marks A (yellow & orange bands), T (red, white & blue bands) and X (green and white bands) may be positioned anywhere on the lake.
- 9.4. The outer distance mark (and inner distance mark if used) are yellow hexagonal marks.

10. OBSTRUCTIONS

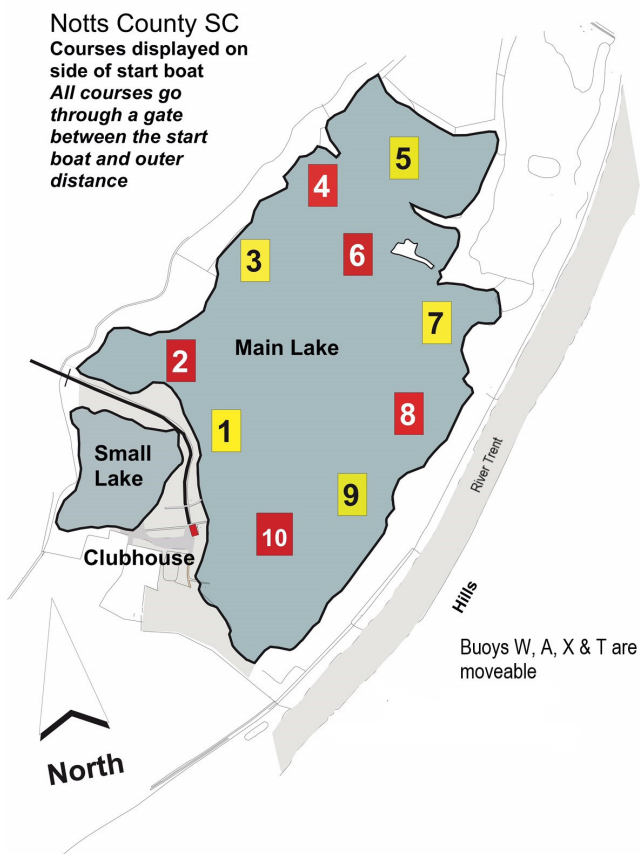
- 10.1. None

11. THE START

- 11.1. The starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange shape on the committee boat and a yellow hexagonal outer distance mark.
- 11.2. An inner distance mark may be used. If used, any boat passing between the inner distance mark and the committee boat will be deemed not to have started until she re-rounds either the committee boat or the outer distance mark and crosses the start line.
- 11.3. A boat that does not start within 5 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.1 and A5.2.

12. CHANGES OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

- 12.1. It may be necessary to change the position of the next mark, the Race Officer may move the original mark to a new position. The change will be signalled before the leading boat has begun the new leg, although the mark may not yet be in its new position. The direction it has been / will be moved to will be signalled by the boat at the previous mark showing red for movement to port and green for movement to Starboard. Any mark to be rounded after rounding the moved mark may be relocated without further signalling to maintain course configuration.
- 12.2. Minor course changes may not be signalled. This changes RRS 33.



13. THE FINISH

- 13.1. The finish line will be the start line **or** the line between a staff on a boat displaying an S flag and the nearest mark of the course.
- 13.2. The race committee may also award a finishing score to a boat that is still racing by displaying to her from a committee vessel (which may be in motion) flag W with one sound signal. A boat so notified is no longer required to sail the course (this changes RRS 28.1), shall stop racing and shall return to the starting area, or return ashore if there is no more racing.
- A finishing score under this sailing instruction will be the score she would have received had she sailed the course and finished within any time limit, without gaining or losing any place. However, when two or more boats that are overlapped are notified, they will be scored as if they were tied. The decision by the race committee to use this procedure or not to use it shall not be grounds for requesting redress, this changes RRS 60.1(b).

14. TIME LIMITS

- 14.1. Time limits are as follows
- First Mark time limit - 20 minutes
 - Race Target time - 45 minutes
 - Finishing window time limit - 20 minutes
- 14.2. If no boat has passed the first mark within the Mark 1 Time Limit, the race will be abandoned.
- 14.3. The Finishing Window is the time for boats to finish after the first boat sails the course and finishes. Boats failing to finish within the Finishing Window, and not subsequently retiring, penalized or given redress, will be scored Time Limit Expired (TLE) without a hearing. A boat scored TLE shall be scored points for the finishing place one more than the points scored by the last boat that finished within the Finishing Window. This changes RRS 35, A5.1, A5.2 and A10.

15. SCORING

- 15.1. The low point scoring system of Appendix A will apply.
- 15.2. Rule A5.3 will apply, DNF, RET, BFD, DSQ, NSC and OCS - to score as the number of boats that came to the starting area + 1 in that race.

16. PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

- 16.1. Protest forms are available at the race office located just off the conservatory at the front of the clubhouse.
- 16.2. The time limit for protests is within 45 minutes of the last boat finishing the last race of the day or when the race committee signals no more racing today, whichever is later.
- 16.3. Protest hearing times will be posted at least 15 minutes before the time of the protest hearing to inform all parties and witnesses.
- 16.4. On the last day of racing, any request to re-open a hearing shall be made within 30 minutes of the party requesting the re-opening being informed of the protest committee decision. This changes rule 66.
- 16.5. The Advisory Hearing and RYA Arbitration procedures of the RYA Rules Disputes Procedure will be available. For these purposes an exoneration penalty of 20% shall apply although the final position of a penalised boat shall be no worse than if she had retired. At an informal hearing rules 61.2, 63.5, 63.6 RRS shall not apply.

17. REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT

- 17.1. [NP] All boats shall compete under their registered sail number. Requests for substitution of sail numbers shall be made to the Race Officer. This changes RRS 77.

18. EQUIPMENT OR MEASUREMENT CHECKS

- 18.1. [NP] Penalties for breaches of class rules shall be at the discretion of the protest committee and will range from no penalty to disqualification.

19. PRIZES

- 19.1. Trophies will be awarded as stated in the Notice of Race

20. RISK & LIABILITY

20.1. Competitors compete in the racing entirely at their own risk (RRS 3). The organising authority does not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury, or death sustained in conjunction with, prior to, during or after the races.

20.2. RYA approved RISK STATEMENT in relation to racing: Rule 3 of the Racing Rules of Sailing states: "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone." Sailing is by its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event, each competitor agrees and acknowledges that:

1. They are aware of the inherent element of risk involved in the sport and accept responsibility for the exposure of themselves, their crew and their boat to such inherent risk whilst taking part in the event.
2. They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat, and their other property whether afloat or ashore.
3. They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions.
4. Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate.
5. The provision of a race management team, patrol boats if any and other officials and volunteers by the event organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities.
6. The provision of patrol boat cover if any is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be provided in the circumstances.
7. It is their responsibility to familiarise themselves with any risks specific to the venue or a particular event drawn to their attention in any rules or information produced for the venue or event and to attend any competitor briefing held for the event.

20.3 Parents or guardians of sailors aged under eighteen on 1st March 2026 who allow them to compete in club races accept that their sailors are entirely responsible throughout the event for themselves and their boats on land and on the water. If parents or guardians are not available at the club, they must appoint loco parentis for the period their sailors attend.

21. INSURANCE

21.1. Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £5,000,000.

22. COACHING & SUPPORT TEAMS

22.1. In accordance with the overall principles of Rule 41(c) and (d), an RYA coach may be on the water in an additional power boat to assist less experienced sailors during each race. The power boat crew may offer advice to competitors in the race who need help to overcome a manifest problem or improve their sailing performance at the time. The coach will adhere to coaching principles and behaviours as required under Rule 2, Fair Sailing

22.2. No other support teams will be allowed on the water.

23. OUTSIDE HELP

23.1. Rescue crews are permitted to assist helms who are struggling to right their boat after a capsize. The crew will stand by until it is apparent that assistance is required and then assist in righting the vessel. Helms may then continue to race as the capsize is viewed as sufficient penalty. The rescue crew will attend and assist in the order that they see the vessels capsize. This changes RRS 41.