

Royal Thames Yacht Club 250th Regatta
Incorporating the Tideway J/70 National Championship
and RS21 Round 3 Uk & Ireland Cup
12th to 15th June 2025
SAILING INSTRUCTIONS for Race Course Area – B:
J/70, RS21 and SB20 classes

Run from Cowes, IOW.

The Organizing Authority (OA) is Royal Thames Yacht Club (RTYC), supported by the Royal Yacht Squadron.

The notation [NP] in a rule means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.4 (a) (2).

1. RULES

- 1.1 The event will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS).
- 1.2 2025 J/70 UK Grand Slam Series NoR applies. In addition, all J/70 boats are required to complete a National Championship crew on line declaration by following this link: [J70 Nationals Crew Declaration](#).
- 1.3 J/70 competitors should also read and refer to the J/70 Useful Class Rule Reminder document shown in Addendum B.
- 1.4 2025 RS21 Uk & Ireland Cup Series NoR applies.
- 1.5 The RS21 Class has stated that the Vakaros Atlas 2 RaceSense as required equipment for all events. Each boat shall either provide a working Atlas 2 at check-in for configuration with RaceSense, or an Atlas 2 will be provided by the RS21 Class for a fee. A set of instructions about the use of the electronic device can be found in Addendum C.

2. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted before 0900 on the day it will take effect on the Official Notice Board (ONB), except that any changes to the schedule of races will be posted by 20.00 on the day before it will take effect

3. COMMUNICATION WITH COMPETITORS

- 3.1. Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located at [Royal Thames Yacht Club](#). The race committee will use the event WhatsApp group to alert competitors when there has been a posting. The links to the various groups can be found at the end of these Sailing Instructions – please check you have joined the correct Race Course Area Group.

3.2. Registration will take place during the following times:

Day	Times	Location
Tues 10th June	14.00-17.00	RLYC
Wed 11th June	08.30-12.00 + 14.00-17.00	RLYC
Thurs 12th June	09.00-17.00	CYH Race Village
Fri 13th June	08.30-11.00	CYH Race Village
Sat 14th June	09.00- 11.00	CYH Race Village

3.3. Competitors briefing will take place at each morning before racing. The first briefing will take place at 09.30 on Friday 13th June in the Regatta Race Village in Cowes Yacht Haven. The time for the next day's briefing will be provided by 20.00 each evening. Attendance is not compulsory and all key messages for a specific race course area will be repeated on the relevant course WhatsApp group.

3.4. The event race offices are located in the RLYC Clubhouse along with Regatta Race Village in Cowes Yacht Haven.

3.5. On the water, the race committee vessel will be "Castle Two" a blue M/V Catamaran (Call sign Castle Two). The Race Committee shall broadcast to all competitors on VHF channel 05. This is a transmit only channel, so competitors shall reply or communicate to the race committee using VHF channel 77.

3.6. The following communications may be made by the race committee on VHF radio: location of race committee vessel, alternate preparatory signals, courses, postponement, abandonment, starting signals, recalls.

3.7. Failure in transmitting or receiving VHF communications or messages, errors, omissions, or delays will not be grounds for a request for redress. This changes RRS 61.4(b)(1).

3.8. [DP] From the first warning signal until the end of the last race of the day, except in an emergency or to retire, a boat shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats.

4. CODE OF CONDUCT

[DP] Competitors and support persons shall comply with reasonable requests from Race Officials.

5. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

5.1 Signals ashore for all course areas will be made from Flag poles at Cowes Yacht Haven. The various Course Area Race Committees will use their specific course area WhatsApp groups to keep competitors informed whilst ashore.

5.2 Flag AP with two sounds signals means racing is postponed and boats are advised not to leave the harbour. The warning signal of the first class to start will be made not less than 60 minutes after the removal of AP ashore. This changes RRS Race Signals.

6. SCHEDULE OF RACES

6.1 Planned number of races for each day for each class:

Class	Fri 13th	Sat 14th	Sun 15th
J/70	3	3	3
RS21	2	3	3
SB20	3	3	2

- 6.2 The first warning signal on Friday 13th June for the J/70 and SB20 classes on Race Course Area B will not be before 11.00. For the RS21 class the first warning signal on Friday 13th June will not be before 14.00.
- 6.3 The time of the first warning signal for the following days racing will be posted no later than 20:00 on the ONB together with the scheduled number of races for each class.
- 6.4 The Race Committee can run a maximum of four races in one day and get upto one race ahead of schedule if weather conditions suggest the following days racing may be affected.

7. CLASS FLAGS AND IRC RATING BANDS

7.1 Class Flags:

Class	Class Flag
J/70	Blue with "J/70"
RS21	White with "RS21"
SB20	Yellow with "SB20"

8. RACING AREAS AND COURSE AREA IDENTIFICATION

- 8.1 The location of the start line for each race course area will be provided at the daily competitor briefings and notified on the race course specific WhatsApp group and repeated on VHF by 10.30 each race day.
- 8.2 Each Race Committee vessel will display a flag designating its course area:
Race Course Area B – Blue with "RC-B".
- 8.3 The OA, to maximise the quality of the racing provided to each class, may stagger the start times of the various classes and move boats to alternative course areas. If the OA intends to move any class to an alternative race area, the OA will inform that class the night before any such change.

9. COURSES

- 9.1. The diagrams in Addendum A show the course options for the W/L course options, including the approximate angles between legs, the order in which marks are to be passed, and the side on which each mark is to be rounded.
- 9.2. No later than the warning signal, the race committee signal vessel will display the course to be sailed, the approximate compass bearing and distance of the first leg. This will also be provided by VHF – channel 05
- 9.3. If either gate mark 2s or 2p is missing, boats shall round the remaining gate mark to port.

10. MARKS

- 10.1. The marks for each course area will be as follows:

Class	Mark 1,1a	Gate 2s, 2p	Change marks 1, 1a	Start/Finish marks
All classes	Orange	Orange	Black	Blue with white strips

11. THE START

- 11.1. Races will be started using RRS 26 with the warning signal made five minutes before the starting signal.
- 11.2. To alert boats that a race will begin soon, an Orange Attention signal flag will be displayed with one sound signals not less than five minutes before the first warning signal is displayed.
- 11.3. The starting line is between a staff displaying an orange flag on the committee vessel and the course side of the port-end starting mark as specified in SI 10.1.

- 11.4. In addition to RRS 29.1, if any part of a boat's hull is on the course side of the starting line at her starting signal and she is identified, the race committee will attempt to hail her bow or sail number on VHF channel 05. Failure to hail her number, failure of her to hear such a hail, or the order in which boats are hailed will not be grounds for a redress request. This changes RRS 61.1 (a).
- 11.5. **RS21 class only: SI 11.5 to SI 11.10** – The Vakaros Race Sense equipment will be used as the primary start and finish line calling system, with all information available to boats. The race committee will only revert back to using traditional line sighting, if a problem occurs with the Vakaros system or connectivity. If a decision is made to cease using the Vakaros system for a particular race, competitors will be informed before the RS21 class warning signal for that race.
- 11.6. The visual identification of boats infringing RRS 29 and RRS 30 by the Race Committee is replaced with the electronic identification by the Vakaros RaceSense system. This changes RRS 29.1, 30.1, 30.2, 30.3, 30.4 and 41(c).
- 11.7. A set of instructions about the use of the electronic device is available on the RS21 UK&I class website - <https://rs21ukclass.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/RS21-Vakaros-RaceSense-Info-Doc.pdf>
- 11.8. [DP] [NP] Each boat shall have a working Vakaros Atlas 2 configured for RaceSense at check-in, which shall be mounted on the aft side of the mast at all times while racing. Each boat shall either provide a working Atlas 2 at check-in for configuration with RaceSense, or an Atlas 2 will be provided to any boat that does not have one available for a fee.
- 11.9. [DP] [NP] Competitors shall do their best to keep the system safe and active. They shall inform the Vakaros staff as soon as possible, on the water or ashore, about any problems encountered with the device.
- 11.10. [NP] Any kind of failure of an Atlas 2, the RaceSense system or communication systems shall not be grounds for a request for redress by a boat.
- 11.11. A boat that does not start within 10 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start (DNS) without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.1 and A5.2.

12. CHANGE OF THE NEXT LET OF THE COURSE

- 12.1. To change the next leg of the course, the race committee will move the existing marks for minor course changes as per SI 12.2
- 12.2. The race committee may change a leg of the course by up to ten (10) degrees in bearing and/or 100m in length without a signal. This changes RRS 33 and Race Signals.
- 12.3. For major course changes Marks 1 and 1a will be replaced with Black inflatable marks.

13. THE FINISH

- 13.1 The finishing line is between a staff displaying a blue flag on the committee vessel and the course side of the finishing mark as stated in SI 10.1 or the staff on a rib displaying a blue flag.

14. OBSTRUCTIONS

- 14.1 The Moving Prohibited Zone (MPZ), as detailed by the Associated British Ports of Southampton – Notice to Mariners No 08 of 2022, is designated as an obstruction. More information can be found by following this link :

[https://www.southamptonvts.co.uk/Admin/content/files/NTMs/2025/SOU-LNtM-2025-006%20Precautionary%20Area%20\(Thorn%20Channel\).pdf](https://www.southamptonvts.co.uk/Admin/content/files/NTMs/2025/SOU-LNtM-2025-006%20Precautionary%20Area%20(Thorn%20Channel).pdf).

15. PENALTY SYSTEM

- 15.1. A boat may take a One-Turn Penalty when she may have broken a rule of Part 2 or rule 31 (touching a mark) in an incident while racing. This changes RRS 44.1.
- 15.2. In RRS 44.2 insert after the first sentence: "However, on a windward/leeward course, if Mark 1a (spreader mark) is set, a boat SHALL take a penalty for an incident in the zone around Mark 1 or on the leg between Mark 1 and Mark 1a, as soon as possible after leaving the zone around Mark 1a."

16. TARGET TIMES AND TIME LIMITS

- 16.1. The target time the first boat in each class for each race is 60 minutes for each race. Failure to meet this time shall not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 64.1 (b).
- 16.2. The time limit for each race will be 90 minutes. If no boat has finished within the race time limited, the race will be abandoned. This shall not be grounds for redress. This changes 64.1 (b).
- 16.3. Finish Window: The time for boats to finish after the first boat in that class sails the course and finishes is 15 minutes.

17. HEARING REQUESTS

- 17.1. The protest time limit is 90 minutes after the last boat finishes the last race of the day or the race committee signals no more racing today, whichever is later. The time will be posted on the online ONB.
- 17.2. Hearing forms, if required are available from the Hearings Office in the Race Village in Cowes Yacht Haven.
- 17.3. Notices will be posted no later than 30 minutes after the protest time limit to inform competitors of the hearings schedule when both parties and their witnesses are required.

18. SCORING

- 18.1. Nine races are scheduled with two races required to constitute a series for the J/70 class
- 18.2. Eight races are scheduled for the RS21 and SB20 classes, with two races required to constitute a series.
- 18.3. When fewer than five races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores.
- 18.4. When five or more races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.

19. SAFETY REGULATIONS

- 19.1. [DP] A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee via VHF before leaving the course, or, when that is impossible, immediately after arrival ashore by contacting the race committee via the event WhatsApp Group.
- 19.2. Trackers maybe used for all classes. If used, they will be provided by the OA and will be issued at Registration to each boat. The tracker should be carried on board each day and return to OA on the last day of your racing. The tracker return point, will be in the Regatta Race Village. The Trackers will be used for safety monitoring plus enable competitors to review the course they have sailed during each race.

20. EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

- 20.1 A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules.

21. OFFICIAL VESSELS

- 21.1 The Race Committee :vessels will all display a BLUE Flag with "RC – B".
- 21.2 Safety Patrol boats will display a Red Flag with "Safety".
- 21.3 Spectator boats will display a White Flag with "Spectator"

22. SUPPORT PERSON VESSELS

- 22.1 All support boats should register with OA, during then Registration period, before the regatta commences.
- 22.2 The Race Committee would like to call special attention to RRS 37 – providing assistance.
- 22.2 All support vessels shall carry a marine VHF radio capable of receiving and transmitting on marine channels.
- 22.3 [DP] All support vessels shall stay at least 100m outside the areas where boats are racing from the time of the first warning signal of the day until racing has concluded for the day.

23. TRASH DISPOSAL

- 23.1 Trash may be placed on official vessels.

24. SUSTAINABILITY

- 24.1 RTYC is planning to run this Regatta as sustainably as possible. We have adopted the Clean Regatta ethos developed by the Sailors for the Seas organization, We, have set our plans for the event in a separate document which is posted on the ONB.

25 BERTHING

- 24.1 Berthing is the responsibility of each competing boat.

26 HAUL-OUT RESTRICTIONS

- 25.1 [DP] See NoR 16.

27 DIVING EQUIPMENT AND PLASTIC POOLS

- 26.1 [DP] See NoR 17.



27 PRIZES

- 27.1 Prizes will be awarded the first three boats each Class.
- 27.2 J/70 National Championship – prizes will be awarded in the following categories:
- Open National Championship
 - Corinthian National Championship
 - Mixed National Championship
 - Young Crew – David Haw Trophy

28 RISK STATEMENT

RRS 3 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:

- a. 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.
- b. They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat, and their other property whether afloat or ashore.
- c. They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions.
- d. Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate.
- e. The provision of a race management team, patrol boats and other officials and volunteers by the event organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities.
- f. The provision of patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances.
- g. It is their responsibility to familiarise themselves with any risks specific to this venue or this event drawn to their attention in any rules and information produced for the venue or event and to attend any safety briefing held for the event.

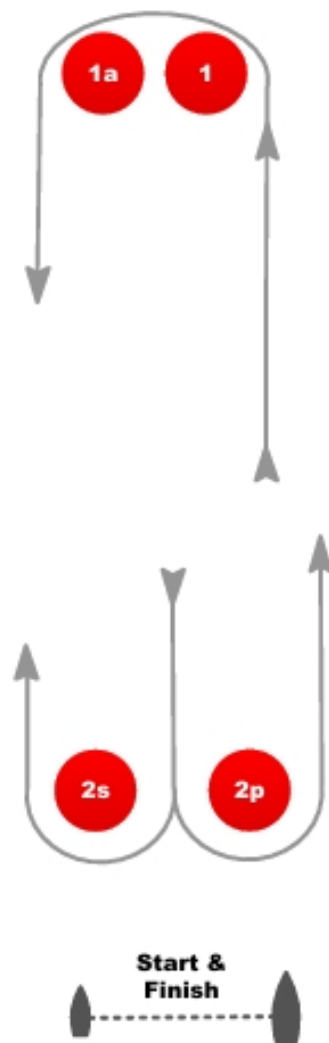
29 INSURANCE

Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £3,000,000 per incident or the equivalent.

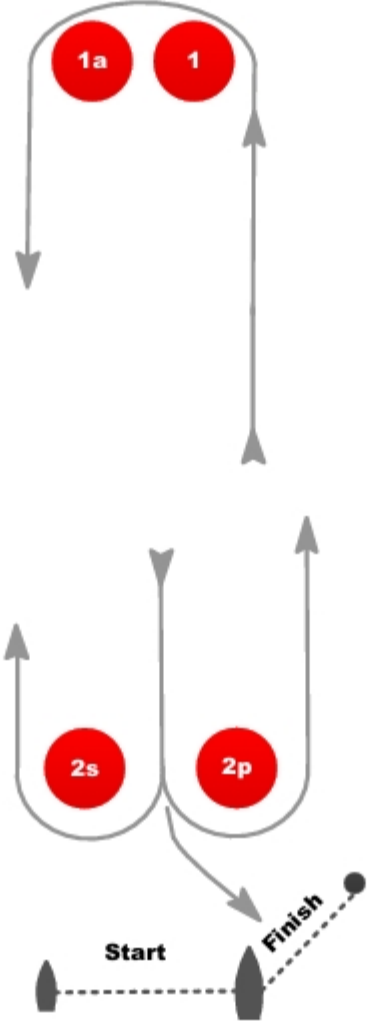
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ADDENDUM A – LAID MARKS COURSE OPTIONS:

LA	COURSE: WINDWARD / LEEWARD with spreader mark
Signal	Mark Rounding Order
LA2	Start – 1 – 1a – 2s/2p – 1 – 1a – Finish
LA3	Start – 1 – 1a – 2s/2p – 1 – 1a – 2s/2p – 1 – 1a – Finish
LA4	Start – 1 – 1a – 2s/2p – 1 – 1a – 2s/2p – 1 – 1a – 2s/2p – 1 – 1a – Finish



LRA	COURSE: WINDWARD / LEEWARD with spreader mark and reaching finish
Signal	Mark Rounding Order
LRA2	Start – 1 – 1a – 2s/2p – 1 – 1a – 2p – Finish
LRA3	Start – 1 – 1a – 2s/2p – 1 – 1a – 2s/2p – 1 – 1a – 2p – Finish
LRA4	Start – 1 – 1a – 2s/2p – 1 – 1a – 2s/2p – 1 – 1a – 2s/2p – 1 – 1a – 2p – Finish



The diagram illustrates the LRA course layout. It begins at a 'Start' line marked by two buoys. A dashed line leads to the 'Finish' line, also marked by two buoys. The course consists of several marked points: '1' and '1a' (top), '2s' and '2p' (middle), and 'Start' and 'Finish' (bottom). Arrows indicate the sequence of the course: from Start to 1, then to 1a, then to 2s/2p, then to 1, then to 1a, then to 2p, and finally to the Finish line. The marks are represented by red circles with white text.

ADDENDUM B – J/70 Useful Class Rule Reminders:

<https://heyzine.com/flip-book/82aed55f5c.html>

ADDENDUM C – RS21 Vakaros Race Sense system – users guide

<https://rs21ukclass.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/RS21-Vakaros-RaceSense-Info-Doc.pdf>

ADDENDUM D– EVENT WHATSAPP GROUPS:

WHATSAPP COMMUNITY



RACE COURSE AREA B

