

Royal Thames Yacht Club 250th Regatta
Incorporating the Sonar class National Championship
12th to 15th June 2025

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS for Race Course Area – C:
IRC Classes 3 & 4, Cruisers, Classic yachts, Mermaids and Sonars

Run from Cowes, IOW.

The Organizing Authority (OA) is Royal Thames Yacht Club (RTYC)

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 All IRC Class specific rules as set out in the NoR.
- 1.3 IRC Rule 21.1.5 (d) - The NoR does not change 21.1.5 (d) for this event. So the rule will apply as per IRC rules 'during a regatta run on consecutive days, including any lay days, the sails on board shall remain the same and be on board for all races'.
- 1.4 IRC classes 3 and 4 only will race using the IRC Rating system and all boats must submit their IRC Certificates on the entry portal to complete the registration process.
- 1.5 The Cruiser and Classic yacht classes will race using the YTC rating system and all boats must submit their YTC Rating Certificates on the entry portal to complete the registration process. Any competitor still requiring a YTC rating, please apply through the following link: <https://rorcrating.com/ryaytc>.

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, 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 for the Mermaid class will take place at 09.30 on Thursday 12th 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 "Gemini Breeze a blue hulled M/V (Call sign Royal Thames Race Committee) intends to monitor and communicate with competitors on the following VHF channel: Course Area C – 06.

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 class per day:

Class	Thurs 12th	Fri 13th	Sat 14th	Sun 15th
Mermaid	2	2	2	2
IRC Class 3&4		2	3	2
Classic yacht		1	2	2
Cruisers		1	2	2
Sonars			3	3

- 6.2 The first warning for the Mermaid class will not be before 11.00 on Thursday 12th June. For the IRC Classes 3 & 4, Classic yachts and Cruisers the first warning will not be before 11.00 on Friday 13th June. For the Sonar Class, it will be not before 11.00 on Saturday 14th June.
- 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.
- 6.5 There will be no warning signal for all classes, after 15.00 on Sunday 15th June.

7. CLASS FLAGS AND HANDICAP SYSTEM

7.1 Class Flags and handicap system (where applicable)

Class	Class Flag	Handicap System
Mermaid	Yellow Flag with "U"	Class racing
IRC Class 3	Yellow Flag with "IRC 3"	IRC
IRC Class 4	Red Flag with "IRC 4"	IRC
Classic Class 1	Grey Flag with "Classic 1"	YTC
Classic Class 2	Green Flag with "Classic 2"	YTC
Cruiser Class 1	White Flag with "Cruiser 1"	YTC
Cruiser Class 2	Blue Flag with "Cruiser 2"	YTC
Sonar	Grey Flag with Class logo	Class racing

- 7.2 IRC Class 3 & 4 splits – The OA will determine the IRC class 3 & 4 rating splits, depending upon the number of entries. These will be finalised and published on Tuesday 10th June.
- 7.3 Classic and Cruiser classes – The class and YTC rating splits will be published once we a complete entry list. The OA reserves the right to start some classes together – dependent upon entry numbers.

8. RACING AREAS AND COURE 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 C - White Flag with "RC-C"
- 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 The Fixed Solent Marks to be used for "round the cans" racing are listed in Addendum B. For this format of racing the course to be sailed will be announced on the VHF channel prior to **the Warning Signal for each class** being displayed.
- 9.3 **For W/L courses only:** 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 06,
- 9.4 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,2p,2s	Fixed Marks	Start	Finish
Mermaid	Navy Blue	See Chart	Orange mark or Rib with Orange Flag	Nearby mark/Com Vessel with Blue Flag or Dan buoy with blue flag
IRC 3 & 4	Navy Blue	See Chart	Orange mark or Rib with Orange Flag	Nearby mark/Com Vessel with Blue Flag or Dan buoy with blue flag
Classics	N/A	See Chart	Orange mark or Rib with Orange Flag	Nearby mark/Com Vessel with Blue Flag or Dan buoy with blue flag
Cruisers	N/A	See Chart	Orange mark or Rib with Orange Flag	Nearby mark/ Com Vessel with Blue Flag or Dan buoy with blue flag
Sonar	Navy Blue	See Chart	Orange mark or Rib with Orange Flag	Nearby mark /Com Vessel with Blue Flag or Dan buoy with blue flag

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 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 06 . 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. 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
- 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.

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 for the first boat in Classic yachts, Cruisers and Mermaids is 75-90 minutes for each race. For the IRC Class 3&4 yachts and Sonar class it is 60-75 minutes for the first boat. The failure to meet this time shall not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 64.1 (b).
- 16.2. The time limit for each for race will be 150 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 30 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. IRC Classes 3&4 - Seven races are scheduled with two races required to constitute a series for each class.
- 18.2. Mermaids – Eight race are scheduled with two races required to constitute a series.
- 18.3. Cruisers and Classic yachts – Five races are scheduled with two races required to constitute a series.
- 18.4. Sonar – six race series with two races required to constitute a series.
- 18.5. When fewer than four races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores.
- 18.5. When four 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 White Flag with "RC – C".
- 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 in each Class.
- 27.2 The overall prize for the IRC National Championship will be awarded to the yacht with the lowest resultant score when the following formula is applied: A yacht's series score divided by (number of scored races minus 1) divided by (Number of entries in class plus 2).

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.

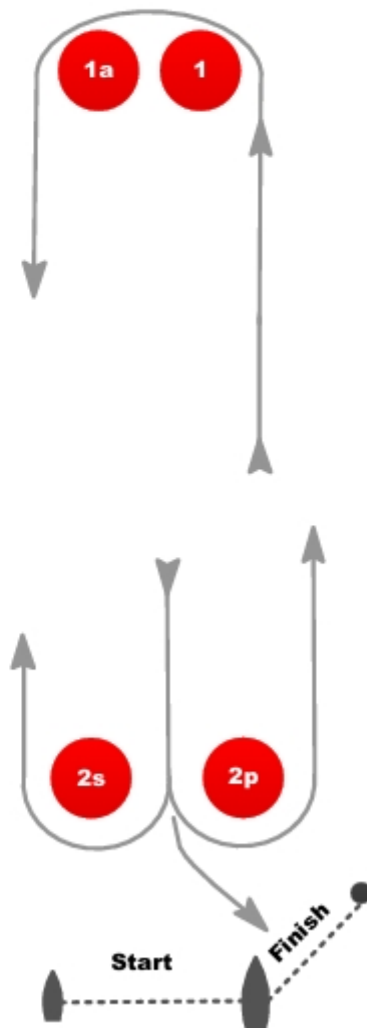
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ADDENDUM A – LAID MARKS COURSE OPTIONS

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

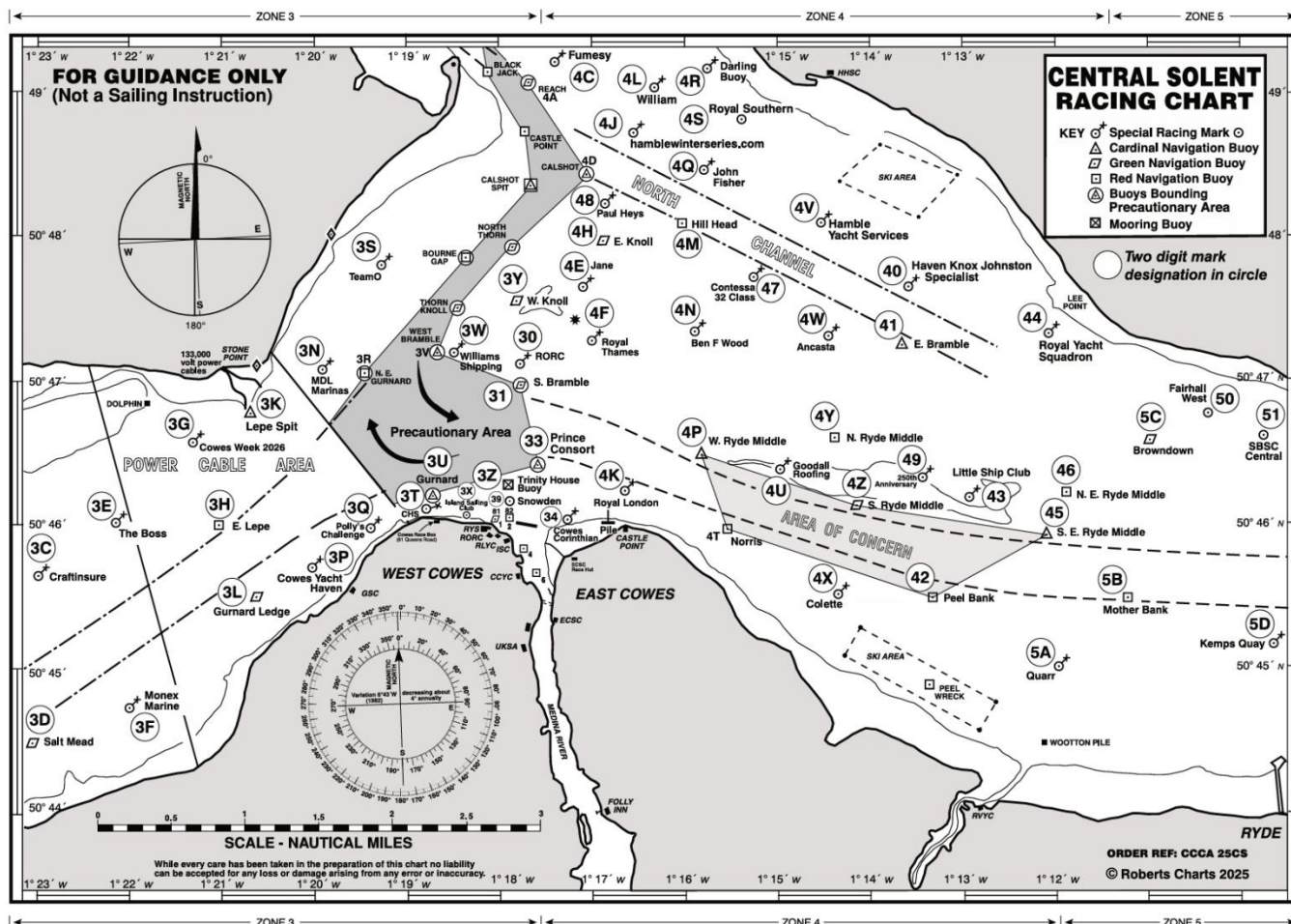
The diagram illustrates a windward/leeward sailing course. It features four red circular marks arranged in a rectangle. The top-left mark is labeled '1a', the top-right mark is labeled '1', the bottom-left mark is labeled '2s', and the bottom-right mark is labeled '2p'. A dashed line at the bottom, flanked by two black triangles, is labeled 'Start & Finish'. Arrows indicate the direction of travel: from the start line to mark 1, then to mark 1a, then to mark 2s, then to mark 2p, and finally back to mark 1, completing a counter-clockwise loop.

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



ADDENDUM B – 2025 FIXED MARKS - SOLENT SAILING AREA

The Solent Marks List: <https://www.scra.org.uk/assets/documents/pr-marks-2025-07feb25.pdf>



ADDENDUM C– EVENT WHATSAPP GROUPS:

WHATSAPP COMMUNITY



RACE COURSE AREA C

