

## Keelboat Club Racing 2025

### SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

#### 1. Rules

- (a) Racing will be governed by the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS).
- (b) IRC crew limitation and weight limitation Instructions are waived for all Cruiser classes.
- (c) It is prohibited for a boat to listen to Race Committee private VHF channels after having left their mooring/marina until the end of the race. This may be ground for a protest under RRS 2 (Fair Sailing).
- (e) The Irish Sailing prescriptions will apply and can be found at [www.sailing.ie/Library/racing#worldsailinglibrary](http://www.sailing.ie/Library/racing#worldsailinglibrary).
- (f) Providing the flag remains on the mark, a boat may touch any part of the flag of a mark that does not surround the staff of the mark. This changes RRS 31.

#### 2. Management of Races

- (a) Club races shall be arranged by the Sailing Committee, which shall appoint a Race Committee responsible for the management of the races in respect of course selection, signals and recording times. The Race Committee shall have an option to postpone or abandon races for any reason.
- (b) The decision of the Race Committee shall be final in all matters connected with the times at which boats cross the starting or finishing line.
- (c) Where relevant, information may be transmitted on VHF radio. For Committee Vessel starts Channel 77 will be used. For Pier starts Channel 69 will be used.
- (d) There shall be no race unless two or more boats rank as starters by sailing in the vicinity of the starting area as defined in Instruction 8 for Committee Vessel starts and Instruction 9 for Pier starts, between their Warning and Starting signals.
- (e) A boat that retires shall notify the Race Committee of its retirement as soon as possible.

#### 3. Race Schedule

The Sailing Committee may alter the racing schedule, times and sailing instructions during the season. Any such alteration shall be posted on the Club Notice Board not less than two hours before the start time of the first race so affected. This alteration will be indicated by displaying Code Flag L on the flagpole at the top of the marina bridge. If deemed necessary, the change will be notified by email or text message to all owners affected who have entered races so affected.

#### 4. Race Times

Starting times are as follows:

<b>Tuesday – Series 1 &amp; 2 (Committee Vessel Starts)</b>	Class flag	Start
Puppeteer 22	A	1915
Squib	K	1920
<b>Tuesday – Series 1 &amp; 2 (Pier Starts)</b>		
Howth 17	C	1905
<b>Tuesday – Series 3 (Committee Vessel Starts)</b>		
Puppeteer 22	A	1915
<b>Tuesday – Series 3 (Pier Starts)</b>		
Squib	K	1900
Howth 17	C	1905
<b>Tuesday – Mini Series (Pier Starts)</b>		
Puppeteer	A	1845
Squib	K	1850
Howth 17	C	1855
<b>Wednesday – Series 1, 2 &amp; 3 (Committee Vessel Starts)</b>		
Class 1	No. 1	1915
Class 2 & Class 3	No. 2*	1920
Non-spinnaker Cruiser	No. 4	1925
<b>Wednesday – Mini Series (Pier Starts)</b>		
Class 1	No. 1	1845
Class 2 & Class 3	No. 2*	1850
Non-spinnaker Cruiser	No. 4	1855
<b>Saturday – Pier Starts</b>		
Howth 17	C	1425
Puppeteer 22	A	1430
Squib	K	1435
Cruiser (Spinnaker & Non-spinnaker)	W	1030

**\* Class 2 and Class 3 will start under a single Code Flag 2**

## 5. Courses

- (a) Courses will be chosen by the Race Committee from the following course cards:

TUESDAY COMMITTEE VESSEL COURSE CARD - **REV C (24/06/2024)**  
WEDNESDAY COMMITTEE VESSEL COURSE CARD - **REV C (24/06/2024)**  
HYC PIER COURSE CARD - **REV 1 (11/04/2025)**

These course cards, together with the procedures for displaying courses for pier starts, form part of these Sailing Instructions.

- (b) RRS 27.1 is changed as follows: - The course board(s) shall be displayed for each Class following its Warning Signal and shall be displayed for not less than 4 minutes before the Start.
- (c) Should the Race Committee determine that a triangular or windward/leeward course is required, lines 40 or 50 will be selected from the relevant course card.
- (d) In the event of the Race Committee deciding to shorten a race on either a line 40 or line 50 course but have a fleet (or fleets) finish at the finishing line (as opposed to at a mark in compliance with RRS 32.2(a)), a boat stationed at the last mark to be rounded shall display flag F and make repeated sound signals as the boats round it. After rounding, the boats shall then proceed directly to the finishing line and finish. If flag F is displayed on its own then all classes racing shall have their course shortened. Where the display of flag F is accompanied by one or more class flags then all classes whose flag(s) are displayed shall have their course shortened. When the boat displaying flag F is in the vicinity of marks 1 and 2, the last mark rounded by classes whose course is shortened shall be mark 2. This changes RRS 32.

## 6. Howth Harbour & Sound Right of Way / Navigation Marks / Obstructions

- (a) Howth Harbour and the Sound are deemed to be confined channels; trawlers, ships and similar craft constrained in their ability to manoeuvre shall be kept clear of by sailing boats. Accordingly:
- (i) When entering and leaving the harbour, boats competing in club racing shall pass other vessels PORT-TO-PORT.
- (ii) Boats shall not impede trawlers, fishing vessels or other large powered craft that are constrained in their ability to manoeuvre whilst in Howth Sound, the Harbour Entrance and the fairways to the Trawler Dock and the HYC Marina.
- Any owner / skipper / boat in breach of the above shall be subject to protest (for breach of these SIs) and / or club disciplinary action.
- (b) The navigation marks in and around Howth Sound shall be left as follows after a boat's starting signal:
- South Rowan buoy**: to be passed to the south and west.
- Finish mark**: pass to south, unless passing it on the first leg of any course while it is not being used as a start line mark.
- Rowan Rocks buoy**: to be passed to the east and south.
- Spit mark**: to be passed to the north and east (except when used as rounding mark on Pier Start Course Card)
- Where the **Thulla mark** is described as a mark on the course, it shall be passed to the south.
- Howth mark**: not a mark on any course.
- (c) Any part of Ireland's Eye capable of being touched by a boat while racing is designated as an obstruction to sea room.
- (d) The attention of competitors is drawn to the existence of many underwater hazards in the vicinity of Ireland's Eye, Balcadden Bay, Howth Sound and over the Spit Bank. Should they choose to sail amongst these hazards they do so at their own risk. The club accepts no responsibility for the consequences to any boat of where the helmsman chooses to sail.

**7. Description of Marks and Flags**

- (a) The marks are as specified on the TECHNICAL SHEET 2025 – Rev A
- (b) Blue flag meaning is changed such that the staff displaying this flag may not be the end of the finish line. This changes RRS Race Signals.
- (c) Orange flag meaning is changed such that this flag may not be displayed at the end of the starting line. This changes RRS Race Signals.

**8. Starting Area - COMMITTEE VESSEL STARTS**

- (a) The starting area is defined as being an imaginary line drawn from the Island mark, to the Cush mark, to the West mark, to the Viceroy mark, to the Island mark.
- (b) Boats shall keep clear of the starting line until their warning signal. Boats having started shall keep clear of the starting line while other starts are in progress.

**9. Starting Area – PIER STARTS**

- (a) The starting area is defined as being bounded by an imaginary line drawn from the new lighthouse to the South Rowan buoy, to the Howth mark, to the elbow of the East Pier.
- (b) Boats shall keep clear of the starting line until their Warning Signal.
- (c) Following a general recall, the recalled class shall immediately sail clear of the starting area. The new warning signal for the recalled class shall be the starting signal of the last class in the published sequence. Where a number of classes have had general recalls, their new warning signals shall be made as per the original scheduled sequence. This changes RRS 29.2.

**10. Start Line - COMMITTEE VESSEL STARTS**

- (a) The starting line shall be between the red and white pole/mainmast on the Committee Vessel and an Outer Distance mark, an orange buoy, which shall be left to port when starting. The Race Committee may adjust the starting line up to **three minutes** before the start of a race. This changes RRS27.2.
- (b) Following a general recall, the recalled class shall immediately sail clear of the starting area. The new warning signal for the recalled class shall be the starting signal of the last class in the published sequence. Where a number of classes have had general recalls, their new warning signals shall be made as per the original scheduled sequence. This changes RRS 29.2
- (c) Should flag D be displayed at the East Pier Starter's Hut, the Committee Vessel and/or the marina bridge, accompanied by one sound signal, pier starts and relevant instructions will be substituted for offshore committee vessel starts.

**11. Start Line - PIER STARTS**

- (a) The starting line shall be one of the following, identified by a letter A, B or C displayed on the Starter's Hut/Committee Vessel:-  
**Starting Line A:** A line between the red vertical line on the starter's hut and the South Rowan buoy.  
**Starting Line B:** A line between the red vertical line on the starter's hut and Finish mark F or the red and white pole/mainmast on the Committee Vessel.  
**Starting Line C:** A line between the red vertical line on the starter's hut and the Howth mark.
- (b) For all west going starts, boats can pass either side of the Finish mark F unless it is being used as a start line mark, and boats shall pass to the south of the South Rowan buoy.
- (c) For all east going starts, boats can pass either side of the Finish mark F unless it is being used as a start line mark. Should mark F be missing, flag H will be displayed and boats shall pass south of the Howth mark.

**12. Finishing Line – COMMITTEE VESSEL**

- (a) Unless the course is shortened, the finishing line shall be a line between the red and white pole/mainmast on the Committee Vessel – the boat displaying a blue flag - and an orange finish mark.
- (b) For Cruiser classes, unless the race is shortened, the finish line shall be located approximately upwind of the last fixed mark on the course.
- (c) For One Design classes, unless the race is shortened, the finish line shall be situated in the area marked Tuesday Night Finish Area on TECHNICAL SHEET 2025 – Rev A.
- (d) In all circumstances, boats finishing shall cross the line from the direction of the last mark of their course.

**13. Finishing Line - PIER**

- (a) The finishing line shall be between the Finish mark F and the red vertical line on the East Pier starter's hut.
- (b) If the Finish mark F is not in place, the finishing line shall be between the South Rowan buoy and the red vertical line on the East Pier starter's hut.

**14. Sail Numbers**

RRS 77 is changed as follows: - Every boat shall show the number under which it is entered on each side of its mainsail, genoa (if relevant) and on its spinnaker (except Howth 17). **The colour of the sail numbers on each sail must present a clear contrast with the colour of the sail cloth.** Should an owner wish to sail under a sail number different to the one on their entry form, notice shall be given to the Race Committee before the warning signal of the race concerned. Notice shall be given in each instance of such alteration. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the boat being treated as a non-starter. This instruction shall constitute prior warning as required by RRS Appendix G4. This changes RRS 63.1, 90.3 and Appendix A5.

**15. Cruiser Class Identification**

Cruisers shall fly the pennant of their class number on the backstay while racing. Those not doing so from their warning signal may be treated as non-starters. Those not doing so as they finish may be deemed to have retired. This changes RRS 63.1, 90.3 and Appendix A5.

**16. Time Limits**

- (a) A boat shall not start later than 15 minutes after her valid starting signal.
- (b) The time limit for each keelboat race is as follows:

Dates	Time Limit
April, May	2115
June, July	2130
August (Series 3)	2100
Mini Series	2030
<b>Saturday</b> Apr – Sept (Cruisers)	1300
<b>Saturday</b> Apr – Sept (One-designs)	1730
- (c) Provided a keelboat finishes within the time limit, it shall be extended by 15 minutes (Saturdays 30 minutes) for that class.

**17. Abandonment / Postponement prior to starting a race**

Flag signals will be made from the Committee Vessel, Starter's Hut or the top of the marina bridge, as relevant.

**18. Finishing a Race**

Boats, having finished, shall not recross their own finishing line in the opposite direction except for some unavoidable cause. Any so doing may be penalised. An alleged breach of this SI is not grounds for protest by a boat. This changes RRS 63.1(a) and Appendix A5

**19. Shortening Course**

For courses that prescribe a leg passing up or down the Sound, the Race Committee may decide to shorten the race using the East Pier finishing line. Flag S will be displayed and two sound signals made as the leading boat approaches the finishing line. Flag S displayed alone signals that all races not finished are shortened. Flag S over class flags signals that races for the relevant classes are shortened. When courses 40x and 50x are in use, special procedures for shortening course are detailed in 5(d) above and on the Course Card.

**20. Scoring System**

- (a) The scoring system shall be as per RRS Appendix A – Low Point System. RRS Appendix A Scoring rule A5.3 will apply.
- (b) One discard is allowed for every four races completed.
- (c) No results shall be allocated for a race where less than two boats come to the starting area. This changes RRS 90.3(a).

**21. Hearing Requests**

- (a) For each class, the protest time limit is 24 hours after the last boat in that class finishes the race of the day or the race committee signals no more racing today, whichever is later. The time will be posted on the official notice board.
- (b) Hearing requests may be made via the online portal [https://www.racingrulesofsailing.org/events/10844/event\\_links?name=Howth%2520YC%2520Club%2520Racing](https://www.racingrulesofsailing.org/events/10844/event_links?name=Howth%2520YC%2520Club%2520Racing)
- (c) Protests for keelboat classes will normally be heard in the clubhouse on the evening of the Thursday in the week next after the race concerned, the time to be advised. Where this is not possible, an alternative arrangement will be notified to the protestor and protestee.

**22. Risk Statement**

- (a) 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."
- (b) 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 to and acknowledges the risk statement as included in the Notice of Race."

**23. Class Assisting**

- (a) The Sailing Committee shall designate a class to provide suitable and knowledgeable adult Class Assists for each race. The Class Captain shall be responsible for rostering boats from their class for the races assigned to the class and shall provide the Honorary Sailing Secretary with a list specifying the particular boats providing the Class Assists for each specific race, together with a name and contact number for its owner / skipper.
- (b) For Committee Vessel starts the Class Assists shall be aboard the Committee Vessel and ready to leave the marina not later than one hour before the first scheduled warning signal.
- (c) For Pier starts, Class Assists shall be present at the East Pier Starter's Hut at least 30 minutes before the first scheduled warning signal.
- (d) Class Assists shall remain on duty until released by the Race Officer.

**24. 'Starred' Races**

A Class Captain may request that a club race, previously scheduled, be 'starred'. This request must be made in writing and received by the Honorary Sailing Secretary at least 72 hours before the scheduled start of the race concerned. Notice of races starred under this procedure will be displayed on [www.hyc.ie](http://www.hyc.ie) at least 48 hours before the scheduled starting time.

**25. Supplementary Races**

Over the course of the season classes may choose to supplement the club racing schedule detailed herein with additional races. Arrangements for the conduct of such races will be managed by the class responsible for them and will be notified by the class to the competitors.