



Mersea Cadet Week 2019

Monday 29th July - Friday 2nd August



Inside Fleet – Sailing Instructions

The Mersea Cadet Week will take place at the Dabchicks Sailing Club and West Mersea Yacht Club. The Organising Authority is the combined clubs Sailing Committee.

1.0 RULES

1.1 Racing will be governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing 2017-2020*, current class rules, the Notice of Race and these Sailing Instructions together with any subsequent amendments to these Sailing Instructions.

1.1.1 Competitors should note this event will be conducted in accordance with the RYA Racing Charter and that they will be required to undertake to sail in compliance with the Charter, located at the front of the RYA rule book (*Racing Rules of Sailing 2017-2020*), or at:- <http://www.rya.org.uk/racing/Pages/RacingCharter.aspx>

1.1.2 Attention is drawn to RRS 3 which came into force on 1/1/2017. Competitors, support persons, parents and guardians should be aware that they are now all bound by the racing rules. Each competitor and boat owner should be aware they may be penalized if they fail to ensure their support persons comply with the rules.

1.2 The relevant rules and byelaws of Dabchicks Sailing Club and West Mersea Yacht Club will apply.

2.0 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

Notices to competitors will be posted on the Inside Fleet Official Notice Board located at the Dabchicks Sailing Club (DSC).

3.0 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any changes to the Sailing Instructions will be posted on the Inside Fleet Official Notice Board at the DSC and signalled to competitors by the displaying of code flag L ashore for at least one hour before the advertised start time of the race.

4.0 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

4.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed on the Dabchicks Sailing Club main mast.

4.2 When flag AP (postponement) is displayed ashore further instructions will be given at briefing or on the Inside Fleet Official Notice Board. This is an amendment to the RRS Race Signals.

5.0 SCHEDULE OF RACES

5.1 Racing Programme

Racing is scheduled to take place on every day of the week.

Racing and other sailing activities are scheduled from Monday to Friday. Special events may take place at certain times that will be advised to participants on the Official Notice Board at the DSC and via the daily briefings.

In order to reach the scheduled number of races, the Race Committee reserve the right to vary the schedule as necessary.



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5.2 Number of Races

There will be no restriction on the number of races on each day there will be no maximum limit on the total number of races in the series. Races may be sailed back to back.

5.3 Scheduled Times of the Warning Signal

First warning signal will not be before: Morning - 9:00am.

6.0 CLASS FLAGS

Class	Gold	Ruby	Emerald	Diamond
Flag	O	R	G	F

7.0 RACING AREA

The racing area will be designated on a daily basis depending on tide and weather. Competitors are reminded that the race area may be a considerable distance from the launching site and that adequate time must be allowed, taking into account adverse tide and winds. There is no intention to delay starts for late arrivals.

8.0 THE COURSES

8.1 Courses will be advised in the daily briefings.

9.0 MARKS

9.1 Marks will be advised in the daily briefings.

10.0 AREAS THAT ARE OBSTRUCTIONS

The following areas are designated to be obstructions:

All moored yachts and motor vessels.

11.0 THE START

11.1 Races will be started by using RRS 26 with the warning signal 5 minutes before the start. Multiple classes sharing a starting line may be started in any order. The Diamond and Emerald Fleets may, as a simpler alternative, use a 3 minute starting sequence. If this is the case then this will be advised and explained to sailors in the daily briefings.

11.2 The starting line will be between the mast of the Committee Boat and an orange pillar buoy or as advised at the daily briefing.

11.3 Boats whose preparatory signal has not been made shall keep clear of the starting area and of all boats whose preparatory signal has been made.

11.4 A boat starting later than 4 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start. This changes RRS A4 and A5.



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11.5 Minimum/Maximum Wind Strength

Races will not be started unless the Race Officer, in concurrence with the Fleet leaders and Safety Officer, is satisfied that the wind strength is suitable.

12.0 THE FINISH

The finish line will be a line drawn from the mast of the Committee Boat and an outer orange pillar buoy or as advised at the daily briefing.

13.0 TIME LIMITS

13.1 The time limit for all classes/fleets will be 1 hour.

13.2 Boats failing to finish within 20 minutes after the first boat of their fleet finishes or within the time limit, whichever is later will be scored Did Not Finish. This changes – Rule 35 A4 and A5.

14.0 PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

14.1 All Inside Fleet competitors will be expected to comply with the Racing Rules of Sailing. Competitors are requested NOT to lodge a formal protest unless there has been serious personal injury or damage to a boat. The preference is for Competitors to follow the RYA Advisory Process. Advisory hearings will not result in a penalty for a first offence, but subsequent hearings for a similar offence may result in a 20% place penalty.

14.2 Protest forms are available from the Dabchicks Sailing Club. A boat intending to protest or to request redress shall hail her intention to the Race Committee on the finishing line as soon as possible after finishing and shall have the hail acknowledged. This changes RRS 61.1. The protest should be delivered to the race office within the time limit of 60 minutes.

15.0 SCORING SYSTEM

15.1 The Low Points scoring system of RRS Appendix A will apply, as follows:

1st place	= 1 point
2nd place	= 2 points
3rd place	= 3 points
Etc.	

Series/Event Tie

If, after discard, two or more boats have the same points total the tie will be broken in accordance with RRS Appendix A8.1. If a tie still exists then the tie will be broken in accordance with RRS Appendix A8.2.

15.2 Three races are required to constitute an event.

15.3 Boats will exclude their “worst” results as follows unless notified differently on the Official Notice Board:

1 - 3 races sailed	No excluded score
4 - 6 races sailed	1 excluded score
7 - 9 races sailed	2 excluded scores

Organised jointly by Dabchicks Sailing Club & West Mersea Yacht Club – Coast Road, West Mersea



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10 or more races sailed 3 excluded scores

16.0 SAFETY REGULATION

No boat may go afloat without the permission of the Beach Master and must wear their tallies. Competitors shall wear life jackets or other adequate personal buoyancy at all times when afloat, launching or recovering their boat.

Flag Y will not be displayed. This changes RRS 40.

The Organisers may stop a boat launching, or require it to return ashore, if they consider the boat, its equipment, helm or crew are not adequate for the likely conditions, or for any other reason. The decision is final and there will not be grounds for redress.

Competitors in difficulty shall obey any instruction given by a rescue boat crew.

All dinghies must be equipped in accordance with their class rules and have a painter of sufficient length for towing purposes. The painter shall be attached permanently to a towing point and ready to use on all boats.

Identification number labels or streamers if provided at the briefing must be clearly displayed on the boat and on the launching trolley. Other coloured streamers must be removed.

Safety/support boats are allowed to reunite any crew with their vessel should they become parted. In this situation it is not necessary for the participant to retire and no competitor may protest the vessel. The safety/support boat is allowed to assist in righting of the vessel. This is a change to rule 41.

Signing on and off forms will be on display at the shore control desk at Dabchicks Sailing Club. Before going afloat, all competitors must sign on. Failure to do so will result in disqualification. When returning ashore competitors must go immediately to the control desk and sign off. Failure to do so within 15 minutes of coming ashore will result in disqualification without hearing. If you do not launch after signing on, or if you retire from a race inform the person at the desk of your actions and sign off. When signing on in the morning the adult person responsible for your care during that day must also sign on. Failure to do this will result in disqualification without hearing from those days races. A tally band system will also be in use. The same expectations apply; you must tally on before going afloat and tally off when coming ashore. Failure to do so may result in disqualification without hearing from those days races.

17.0 EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

17.1 Measurement/Checking

A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the Sailing Instructions. On the water, a boat can be instructed by the Race Committee to proceed immediately to a designated area for inspection.



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18.0 SUPPORT BOATS

Team leaders, coaches and other support personnel including relatives of competitors should avoid being in the race area where possible. However it is recognised that by its very nature, the inside fleet will require advice and encouragement. Support boats must try to avoid getting in the way of those who can race without assistance. The Race Officer will take note of any lengthy one-to-one coaching and may require an explanation for such action. If necessary the Race Officer reserves the right to tell a Support Boat to move to another fleet or leave the race area.

19.0 RUBBISH DISPOSAL

Boats shall not put rubbish in the water. Rubbish may be placed aboard Support Boats.

20.0 PRIZES

Prizes will be awarded based on the results gained based on the fleet racing.

21.0 DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

Rule 4 of the Racing Rules of Sailing states: “The responsibility for a boats decision to participate in a race or to continue is hers alone.” Where the competitor is a minor this remains with their parent or Guardian.

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 responsibility.
- (f) The provision of a patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances.

22.0 Insurance

Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £2 million per event or the equivalent.

23.0 RYA Racing Charter

- 23.1** The Mersea Cadet Week committee adopts the RYA Racing Charter (as contained in these Sailing Instructions) and expects all involved in Mersea Cadet Week to abide by it.



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- 23.2** Unacceptable behaviour will not be tolerated. As regards Competitors, the RYA encourages the use of RRS Rule 69 'Allegations of Gross Misconduct' to penalise and deter unacceptable behaviour both on and off the water and so the Mersea Cadet Week committee will not hesitate to convene a Protest Committee to enquire into reports of any such behaviour.
- 23.3** Any such Protest Committee will be fully empowered to take any action under Rule 69 that it may see fit. Competitors are reminded that any penalty that may be imposed by a Protest Committee under Rule 69 must be reported immediately to the RYA, who are then empowered to take any further action that it may deem appropriate, including suspending a competitor's eligibility from any race held under its jurisdiction, either for a specified period or permanently.
- 23.4** As regards reports of unacceptable behaviour by non-competitors and others to whom the application of RRS Rule 69 may not be possible, any such allegation will be investigated by the Mersea Cadet Week committee, who are empowered to take any action that it may deem appropriate, including (but not limited to):-
- Disbarring a competitor or any other person from participation in the current Mersea Cadet Week for a period of time which includes both races and events
 - Disbarring a competitor or any other person from any further participation in any races or events of the current Mersea Cadet Week
 - Refusal of any entry for any further Mersea Cadet Weeks
 - Attention is drawn to RRS 3 introduced 1st January 2017.
- 23.5** Any such action that may be taken by the Mersea Cadet Week committee will be reported immediately to any Yacht or Sailing Club of which the penalised person may be a member. In the event of any such person being a member of DSC or WMYC the relevant Club Committees will investigate the matter and may apply further sanctions as may be provided for under the relevant Club Rules.