

Medway Cruising Club

2024 SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Dates of Racing **All races from 1st April 2024**
Organising authority **Medway Cruising Club**

1 Rules.

1.1 The races will be governed by the current ISAF Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), the prescriptions of the RYA and rules of the ORC, RORC IRC 2013 Parts 1, 2 and 3 and other rating authorities and classes, Medway Ports and The Port of London Authority Regulations, except as any of these are changed by these Sailing Instructions (see sections 6 & 7 below), and by the Notice of Race and these Sailing Instructions including any Supplementary Sailing Instructions issued at a later date.

1.2 All competitors shall comply with ISAF Advertising Code Category C and IRC2014 Part 3 (IRC-C) applies.

2 Disclaimer of Liability

2.1 The attention of all competitors is drawn to **RRS Fundamental Rule 4 'Decision to Race' and IRC Rule 3.**

3. Entries.

3.1 The race or races for Div 1 & 2 are designated as Category 4 plus a VHF radio in the ORC Special Regulations.

The race or races for Div 3 are designated as Category 5 plus a VHF radio in the ORC Special Regulations.

3.2 Eligible boats shall be entered by completing a Cruiser Class entry form for each race or series of races.

3.3 Eligibility requirements for boats are as follows :

Cruiser Class Div 1 is open to mono hull Cruisers having a **NHC** rating

Cruiser Class Div 2 is open to novice crews of mono hull Cruisers having a **NHC** rating

Gaffer Class Div 3 is open to all mono hull Gaffers having a **MCC PN** rating

A boat's handicap will be adjusted after each race. An adjustment in handicap number is not grounds for redress, this changes RRS 62. Where a boat has an established NHC handicap with MCC this will be used unless a change of ownership has occurred, in accordance with NHC guidelines.

3.4 The Cruiser Class Div 2 will start 5 minutes after Div 1. The results for the Cruiser Classes will be combined to give overall results, based on corrected elapsed times.

3.5 The Cruiser Class Divisions 1 & 2 will sail the same course.

3.6 Competitors that have sailed in Div 2 may transfer to Div 1 starts mid series.

3.7 Conditions of Entry

No boat will be accepted as an entry unless the owner/person in charge has **before the start of the race** signed the declaration on the relevant MCC Race Entry Form, agreeing to be bound by the rules and accepting responsibilities in the terms set out under Rules and Safety and Responsibility above.

Boats must race in rating trim, carry a copy of their rating certificate on board, if appropriate, and be available for inspection. The race committee reserves the right to refuse any entry.

4 **Notices to Competitors** will be posted on the official notice board at the MCC.

5 Changes in Sailing Instructions.

5.1 Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted ashore before 0830 hours on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be e-mailed by 1400 hours on the day before it will take effect.

6 Changes to Rules.

6.1 **The Start.** Changes RRS rules 26, 29.2 and 30. See Section 15 below.

6.2 **Time Limits.** Changes RRS rule 35. See Section 19 below.

6.4 **Crew Limits.** IRC Rule 22.4.2 shall not apply.

6.5 Propulsion / Use of Engine.

i **In emergency.** Changes RRS rule 42.

An engine may be used when appropriate to recover a man overboard, to render assistance, or in any other grave emergency, such as avoiding commercial shipping in confined waters and light winds. Full details must be declared to the race committee. The race committee may hold a protest hearing and apply a time penalty.

ii An engine or power pump may be used for charging batteries, pumping bilges, or supplying power for weighing anchor.

iii **Manual Power** RRS 52 Manual Power, and ERS B.5 shall not apply. This rule may be amended by Notice of Race.

7 Use of VHF Radio. Changes RRS rules 29, 41 and 88.2.

7.1 The Principal Race Officer or Race Committee may broadcast information concerning the conduct of the race to the fleet on VHF radio, Channel 37(M1). A listening watch must be kept at all times.

8 **Signals** made ashore will be displayed in the vicinity of the start line.

9 Schedule of Races.

The schedule of races are as specified in the Notice of Race for that race or series of races.

See also the Cruiser Class Race Program.

10 Class Signals

Cruiser Class **Div 1** Numeral Pennant 1

Cruiser Class **Div 2** Numeral Pennant 2

Cruiser Class **Div 3** Numeral Pennant 3

Class flags shall be flown from the back stay or equivalent rigging whilst racing.

11 Racing Area.

The racing area will be the River Medway and the Thames Estuary

- 12 Courses.**
- 12.1 **The Course**, designated by a number, may be selected from the **MCC Cruiser Course Sheet 2024 or MCC Gaffer Course Card 2019**.
- 12.2 The course number or letter for each race will be displayed in the vicinity of the starting line.
The course number or letter for each Class may also be announced on VHF radio, Channel 37.
- 12.3 **Fixed Marks and Standing Instructions that apply to ALL Courses:**
Folly Beacon and Darnet Beacon: Courses shall be sailed leaving Folly Beacon to Port and Darnet Beacon to Starboard sailing down river and Darnet Beacon to Port and Folly Beacon to Starboard sailing up river.
Yellow Sewer Outfall Buoy off Garrison Point: No boat shall pass between this buoy and the Kent shore.
Boats on moorings or at Anchor are deemed to be an obstruction for the purposes of RRS. If a boat or its crew make physical contact with a moored or anchored boat she shall declare the contact to the race off as soon as possible and accept a 20% Scoring Penalty pursuant to RRS 44.3(c). If a boat caused injury or serious damage, her penalty shall be to retire. A boat deemed to have contravened this instruction will be subject to protest and liable to be scored DNE. A mooring or anchor line or chain or an object accidentally attached to a moored or anchored boat is not part of it.
- 13 Racing Marks.** Marks are charted navigational buoys and beacons, except for the MYC / MYA club racing marks which are yellow drum buoys.
- 13.1 If a mark of the course is missing than you should sail to its approximate position.
- 13.2 Please be aware of the notice to mariners regarding exclusion zone around the gas terminal.
- 15 The Start.** This changes RRS rules 26, 29.2, and 30.
- 15.1 **Visual Signals** may be used.
- 15.2 The Race Committee may use VHF Channel 37 (M1) without visual signals
- 15.3 **Start Time Sequence** RRS rule 26 applies, with the Class warning signal being 5 minutes before the Start. ("5,4,1,Go" sequence).
- 15.4 **Confirmation of General Recall and Individual Recalls by VHF Radio.** This changes RRS rule 41.
The race committee may announce general and individual recalls by VHF radio.
- 15.5 **Start following a General Recall or Postponement.** RRS rule 29.2 applies
- 15.6 **Keeping Clear at Start.** Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall keep clear of the starting area and of all boats whose warning signal has been made.
- 15.7 **Yachts coming to the Line** are requested to radio the starting box confirming their **Sail Number** and intention to race.
- 16 The Start Line** will be that line that runs approximately through the transit of two white posts with triangles located on the shore at the Starting Box on the club premises or from a committee boat (see Notice of Race).
- 17 The Finish.**
- 17.1 **The Finish Line** will be that line that runs through the transit of two white posts with triangles located on the shore at the Starting Box on the club premises. (competitors are requested to make sure the line can see your sail number as you cross the finish line)
- 17.2 All boats shall take their **own finishing time**. This time may be requested by the PRO / Race Committee
- 18 Shortened Course.**
- 18.1 Courses may be shortened at any charted navigational mark of the River Medway.
- 18.2 The Shortening of a Course may be announced over the radio, on VHF Channel 37(M1). This changes RRS rule 41.
- 18.3 For the purpose of RRS rule 32 all marks are considered rounding marks.
- 18.4 The race officer may shorten a course by requesting yachts to sail to a mark and take their time at the mark.
- 19 Time Limit** will be 1700 hrs, except for evening races when it will be 2200 hrs. This may change RRS rule 35 See also the **Notice of Race** for the race or series of races.
- 20 Retirement.**
On retirement, the boat shall inform the PRO / Line Staff **as soon as possible**, by VHF radio, telephone or any other means (see contact details below).
- 21 Protests** shall be submitted in writing within one hour of the last boat in the race finishing.
- 22 Scoring for Race Series.**
- 22.1 ISAF appendix A will be used. The Low Point scoring system and paragraph A9 will apply.
- 22.2 The number of races scheduled, the number which shall be completed to constitute a series and the number of scores to be excluded will be as stated in the Notice of Race for that Series.
- 23.3 In the event of a tied series place number aggregate, ISAF Appendix A 8 shall apply.
- 24 Trophies and Prizes.**
- 24.1 Trophies and prizes will be awarded as stipulated in the Notice of Race for each race or series of races.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

VHF Channel 37 M1 - "Gillingham Line"