

**SIMON BRIEN RESIDENTIAL
MERMAID ULSTER CHAMPIONSHIP
Royal North of Ireland Yacht Club
Sat 4 – Sun 5 May 2024**

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

ORGANISING AUTHORITY

This event will be organised by Royal North of Ireland Yacht Club.

The notation '[DP]' in a rule in the Sailing Instructions means that the penalty for a breach of that rule may, at the discretion of the protest committee, be less than disqualification.

1. RULES

- 1.1. The event will be governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing 2021 – 2024*, the prescriptions of RYA, Part 1 of *The Equipment Rules of Sailing 2021 – 2024*, the current Mermaid Sailing Association (MSA) Class Rules, these Sailing Instructions, and any amendment thereto.
- 1.2. Racing rules will be changed as follows: Race Signal AP, 32.2,33,35,40,44.3,62.1(a), A2, A4, A5. The changes appear, in full, in these sailing instructions.

2. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted not later than two hours before the scheduled start time of the first race of the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 2000 on the day before it will take effect.

3. COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located at the clubhouse – bar window, and may be posted online on www.rniyc.org.

4. CODE OF CONDUCT

[DP] Competitors and support persons shall comply with reasonable requests from race officials.

5. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 5.1. Signals made ashore will be displayed on the club flag pole.
- 5.2. When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 45 minutes' in Race Signal AP.

6. SCHEDULE OF RACES

<i>6.1. Date</i>	<i>Race</i>	<i>Warning Signal</i>	<i>High Water</i>	<i>Low Water</i>
4 May	1	11:25	08:30	15:00
	2	as soon as possible after race 1		
	3	as soon as possible after race 2		
5 May	4	10:25	09:30	16:00
	5	as soon as possible after race 4		

- 5.2. To alert boats that a race will begin soon, the orange starting line flag will be displayed with one sound signal at least one minute before a warning signal is displayed. This will be known as the attention signal.
- 5.3. On the last scheduled day of racing no warning signal will be made after 14:00 except in the case where a postponement, abandonment or general recall has been signalled.

7. CLASS FLAG

The Class Flag will be International Code Flag "G".

8. RACING AREAS

Racing will take place on Belfast Lough. Racing may be located between the club moorings and Grey Point (approximately) or alternatively, towards Carrickfergus, on the north side of the Channel, depending on the prevailing wind conditions and at the discretion of the race committee.

9. THE COURSE

- 9.1. The courses will be Windward/Leeward or Olympic Triangle as shown in the diagrams in Addendum A.
- 9.2. No later than the warning signal, the race committee will display the Flag W or T from the Committee Vessel as Windward/Leeward (W) or Olympic Triangle (T) course to be completed.
- 9.3. No later than the warning signal, the race committee will display the No.2 or the No. 3 on a board on the committee vessel indicating the number of laps of the course to be completed. If no number is displayed, the number of rounds shall be 2.
- 9.4. If 2 laps are to be sailed the marks shall be rounded in the following order:
Olympic Triangle - Start 1, 2, 3, 1, 3, Finish.
Windward/Leeward - Start 1, 2, 3S/3P, 1, 2, 3S/3P, Finish.
- 9.5. If 3 laps are to be sailed marks shall be rounded in the following order:
Olympic Triangle - Start 1, 2, 3, 1, 3, 1, 2, 3, Finish.
Windward/Leeward - Start 1, 2, 3S/3P, 1, 2, 3S/3P, 1, 2, 3S/3P, Finish.
- 9.6. All marks to be left to port, except the leeward gate. Marks 3S and 3P form a gate and mark 3S is to be left to starboard or mark 3P to port.
- 9.7. Except at the start and finish the committee boat and start/finish marks are not marks of the course.
- 9.8. If it is necessary to shorten the number of laps indicated for a race, a race committee boat will display Flag 'F' in the vicinity of a mark while making repetitive sound signals. Boats shall round this mark as normal and proceed to the finish line. This is an additional instruction and changes rule RRS 32.2.

10. MARKS

- 10.1. Marks 1, 2, 3 (3S/3P), 4 will be spherical orange buoys.
- 10.2. The start/finish mark will be a small spherical orange buoy.

11. OBSTRUCTIONS

Does not apply.

12. THE START

- 12.1. Races will be started by using RRS 26.
- 12.2. The starting line will be between an orange pole on the committee vessel displaying an orange flag and a spherical orange buoy at the port end of the line.
- 12.3. A boat that does not start within 5 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes RRS A4 and A5.

13. CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

- 13.1. To change the next leg of the course, the race committee will move the original mark to a new position.
- 13.2. Minor course changes may not be signalled. This changes RRS 33.

14. THE FINISH

- 14.1. The finish line will be between an orange pole on the committee vessel displaying a blue flag at the starboard end and the course side of a spherical orange port-end finishing mark.

15. PENALTY SYSTEM

See NoR 14.

16. TIME LIMITS

- 16.1. The time limit will be 90 minutes.
- 16.2. Boats failing to finish within 20 minutes after the first boat sails the course and finishes will be scored Did Not Finish without a hearing. This changes RRS 35, A4 and A5.
- 16.3. The last boat(s) in the fleet may be offered finishing positions prior to reaching the finish. This will be indicated with Code Flag "W" (Whiskey) or hailed. Acceptance of the same is at the competitor's discretion.

17. HEARING REQUESTS

- 17.1. Protest forms are available at the race office. Protests and requests for redress or reopening shall be delivered there within the protest time limit.
- 17.2. The protest time limit is 90 minutes after the last boat has finished the last race of the day or the race committee signals no more racing today, whichever is the later. This changes RRS 61.3 and 62.2.

18. SCORING

- 18.1. The Low Points System of Appendix A will apply.
- 18.2. Two races are required to be completed to constitute a series.
- 18.3. When three or fewer races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores, this changes RRS A2.
- 18.4. When more than three 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. Competitors participate entirely at their own risk. See Fundamental Rule 4, Decision to Race.
- 19.2. A boat that retires from a race should, where possible, notify the race committee as soon as possible. [DP]
- 19.3. Competitors shall wear a personal flotation device at all times when afloat, except when changing or adjusting clothing or personal equipment. Wetsuits and drysuits are not considered to be adequate. This changes RRS 40.

20. REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT

- 20.1. Substitution of competitors will not be allowed without prior written approval of the race committee. [DP]
- 20.2. Substitution of damaged boats will not be allowed without prior written approval of the race committee and the Mermaid Class representative. [DP]

21. EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules and sailing instructions.

22. SUPPLIED BOATS

Does not apply.

23. OFFICIAL VESSELS

The Committee vessel will be a Sailing Vessel, April Lady.

24. SUPPORT TEAMS

Does not apply.

25. TRASH DISPOSAL / ENVIRONMENTAL

25.2. Trash may be placed aboard support or official boats.

25.3. Sailing Instructions will be online. There will be no hard copies provided. Please print your own copy if absolutely necessary.

25.4. There is a drinking water tap on the NW corner of the clubhouse. Please reuse your water bottles.

26. BERTHING

Moorings will be provided for competing boats.

27. HAUL-OUT RESTRICTIONS

Does not apply.

28. DIVING EQUIPMENT AND PLASTIC POOLS

Does not apply.

29. PRIZES

Prizes will be given for first, second and third overall.

30. RISK STATEMENT

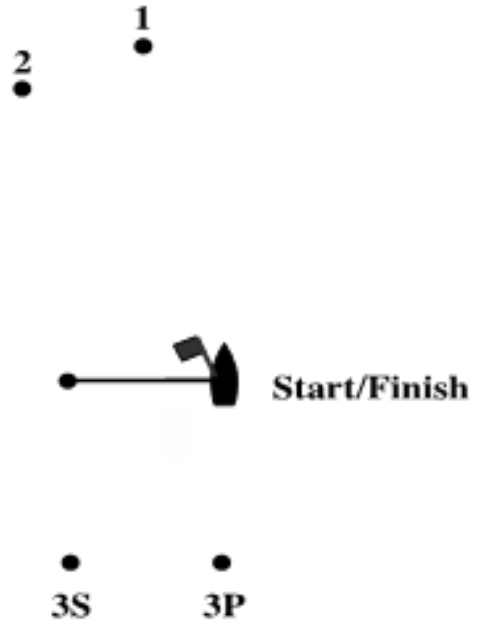
As per NoR 22.

31. INSURANCE

As per NoR 23

ADDENDUM A

Windward/Leeward Course:



Olympic Triangle Course:

