

RS GAMES 2018

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF AWESOME

RS
100

RS
200

RS
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RS
500

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600

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800

RS
Vareo

RS
Sailing

Weymouth & Portland
National Sailing Academy

RS Games 2018

16th – 25th August 2018

The Organising Authority is the Weymouth & Portland National Sailing Academy (WPNSA) in conjunction with the RS Class Associations.

GENERAL SAILING INSTRUCTIONS (“GSI”)

1. RULES

- 1.1. The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing* (RRS).
- 1.2. These GSI apply to all events in the RS Games except the RS Aero, RS Tera and RS Feva events. Event Sailing Instructions (ESI) will be issued for each event.
- 1.3. The RRS will be changed for all events as follows:
RRS 35 is changed to score boats finishing outside the time limit in their observed position on the course.
RRS 40 is changed so that competitors shall wear a personal flotation device at all times while afloat, except briefly while changing or adjusting clothing or personal equipment. Flag Y will not be displayed.
RRS 63.7 is changed so that in the event of a conflict between the Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions, the Sailing Instructions shall prevail. In the event of a conflict between the GSI and the ESI, the ESI shall prevail.
Where other RRS are changed by these GSI or ESI the RRS that is/are changed is indicated in the relevant GSI or ESI.
- 1.4. For infringements of rules other than in Parts 1 and 2 of the RRS, the protest committee may award a penalty less than disqualification.

2. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board, which is the glass kiosk located in the RS Sailors Hub.

3. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any changes to the sailing instructions will be posted at least two hours before the scheduled start time of the race or races concerned, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 20:00 on the day before it will take effect.

4. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 4.1. Signals made ashore will be displayed on the flag poles at the Eastern end of the Academy building.
- 4.2. Flag D with one sound means ‘The warning signal will be made not less than 30 minutes after flag D is displayed if racing is in Portland Harbour’ or ‘The warning signal will be made not less than 60 minutes after flag D is displayed if racing is in Weymouth Bay’. Boats shall not go afloat until this signal is made.
- 4.3. When flag AP is displayed ashore, it means that the display of flag D onshore is postponed. Flag D will be displayed shortly after flag AP is removed. This changes Race Signals.
- 4.4. When flag AP or flag D is displayed over a class flag, the signal applies only to that class.
- 4.5. Flag P displayed over the class flag indicates racing will be in Portland Harbour. Flag W over the class flag displayed indicates racing will be in Weymouth Bay.

5. SCHEDULE

- 5.1. Registration will be available in the RS Games Office at the times specified in the ESI.
- 5.2. The competitors briefing for each event will be held at 11:00 at the RS Stage on the first scheduled day of racing.
- 5.3. The schedule of races will be detailed in the ESI.
- 5.4. One extra race per day may be sailed, provided that the class becomes no more than one race ahead of schedule and the change is made in accordance to GSI 3.
- 5.5. No more than four races a day will be sailed in any one day.
- 5.6. In the event of a race being recalled, restarted, re-sailed or abandoned the next race sailed will be that race with subsequent races being sailed thereafter in their scheduled order.
- 5.7. To alert boats that a race or sequence of races will begin soon, the orange starting line flag will be displayed with multiple sound signals at least five minutes before a warning signal is made.
- 5.8. On the last scheduled day of racing no warning signal will be made after 15:00.

6. CLASS FLAGS

The class flags will be defined in the ESI.

7. RACING AREAS

The race areas will be in Portland Harbour or Weymouth Bay.

8. THE COURSES

- 8.1. The course(s) will be defined in the ESI Attachment A, including the order in which marks are to be passed and the side on which each mark is to be left.
- 8.2. No later than the warning signal, the race committee signal vessel may display the approximate compass bearing of the first leg.
- 8.3. The course to be sailed will be indicated on the Committee Boat.
- 8.4. If one of two gate marks is missing and has not been replaced as described in RRS 34, then the remaining mark shall be rounded to port. This changes RRS 34.

9. MARKS

The marks will be defined in the ESI Attachment A.

10. AREAS THAT ARE OBSTRUCTIONS

- 10.1. Boats shall keep more than 100 metres away from vessels longer than 100 metres, vessels displaying Flag A (indicating divers in the water) or vessels at anchor (except for race committee vessels). These areas are obstructions as defined in the RRS.
- 10.2. The attention of all competitors, race management personnel and spectators afloat are drawn to the fact that Portland Harbour is a working port and that harbour regulations must be observed. Any directions given by Portland Harbour Authority either in person or by VHF (CH 74) must be complied with without delay. Failure to comply with this instruction may result in a penalty.
- 10.3. All competitors shall use the Northern entrance when leaving or returning to Portland Harbour, unless directed otherwise by an Official or Portland Harbour Authority Boat.
- 10.4. Boats shall not transit at any time through the RNSA moorings, which are to the left of the Marina exit on leaving the Marina.

11. THE START

- 11.1. The starting line for all fleets except the RS200 fleet will be between masts displaying orange flags on the race committee vessel at the starboard end and the race committee vessel or buoy at the port end. The RS200 fleet will use gate starts as specified in the RS200 ESI.
- 11.2. Races will not be started unless the Race Officer is satisfied that the wind strength over the whole course is in excess of four knots.
- 11.3. Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area during the starting sequence for other races.
- 11.4. A boat that does not start within five minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes RRS A4 and A5.

12. CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

- 12.1. To change the next leg of the course, the race committee will move the original mark (or the finishing line) to a new position.
- 12.2. Minor mark moves (up to approximately 100m) may be made without signalling the change. This changes RRS 33.

13. THE FINISH

The finish line will be between a staff displaying a blue flag on the race committee vessel and the finish mark.

14. PENALTY SYSTEM

14.1 Any changes to RRS 31 'Touching a mark' and RRS 44.1 'Taking a penalty' will be specified in the ESI.

15. TIME LIMITS AND TARGET TIMES

15.1. The time limits and target times will be detailed in the Event Sailing Instructions (ESI)

15.2. If no boat has passed Mark 1 within the Mark 1 time limit the race will be abandoned. Failure to meet the target time will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 62.1(a).

15.3. 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, unless GSI 15.4 applies. This changes RRS 35, A4 and A5.

15.4. After the first boat has finished, boats may be finished based on their observed position on the course. Flag W will be displayed in the vicinity of boats being finished on the course. This changes RRS 35, A4 and A5.

16. PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

16.1. Protest forms are available at the race office, located in room 4 of the Academy. Protests and requests for redress or reopening shall be delivered there within the appropriate time limit.

16.2. The protest time limit is 60 minutes after the last boat has finished the last race of the day if racing is in Portland Harbour and 90 minutes after the last boat has finished the last race of the day if racing is in Weymouth Bay, or the race committee signals no more racing today, whichever is later.

16.3. Notices will be posted no later than 30 minutes after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Hearings will be held in the protest room, located at room 3 of the Academy, beginning at the time posted.

16.4. Notices of protests by the race committee or protest committee will be posted to inform boats under RRS 61.1(b).

16.5. On the last scheduled day of racing a request for redress based on a protest committee decision shall be delivered no later than 30 minutes after the decision was posted. This changes RRS 62.2.

17. EXONERATION PENALTY

17.1. A boat that may have broken a rule of Part 2 of the Racing Rules of Sailing or rule 31 may, after finishing the race concerned and before the start of any related protest hearing, notify the race committee that she accepts an Exoneration Penalty – a 30% scoring penalty (SCP) calculated as stated in RRS 44.3(c), except that the minimum penalty is three places and she shall not be scored worse than the number of boats that came to the starting area. However, if the boat caused injury or serious damage or, despite taking a penalty, gained a significant advantage in the race or series by her breach her penalty shall be to retire.

17.2. When an Exoneration Penalty is accepted:

(a) Neither the boat nor a protest committee may then revoke or remove the penalty.

(b) The boat shall not be penalised further in a protest hearing when the protest committee decides that it was appropriate to the facts found and the applicable rules.

18. RYA ARBITRATION

18.1. When a protest is lodged, a boat may at the same time request RYA Arbitration, or the protest committee or race committee may offer it.

18.2. If the parties and a member of the protest or race committee agree that RYA Arbitration is suitable, an arbitrator (who may be that member of the protest committee) will call an Arbitration Hearing. When it is the arbitrator's opinion that a boat that is a party to the arbitration hearing has broken a rule for which the Exoneration Penalty is available, the party will be invited to accept that penalty and, if accepted, the protesting boat will be allowed to withdraw the protest, changing RRS 63.1.

18.3. When there is not agreement to use RYA Arbitration or when, after RYA Arbitration, a protest is not withdrawn or the Exoneration Penalty is not applicable to the facts, there will be a normal protest hearing at which the arbitrator may be a member of the protest committee. RRS 66 and 70 (reopening and appeal, respectively) do not apply to an arbitration since this is not a protest committee decision or procedure. A boat may still accept an Exoneration Penalty at any time before the start of a protest hearing and receive its protection from further penalisation. She may also retire.

19. SCORING

19.1 Three races are required to be completed to constitute a series.

19.2 Points will accrue to the helm named on the entry form, and not the boat entered.

19.2 An entry's series score will be the total of their race scores excluding their worst scores as listed in ESI.

- 19.3 To request correction of an alleged error in posted race or series results, a competitor may complete a scoring enquiry form available at the race office. If a request for correction is rejected, the time limit for requesting redress for the alleged error will run from the time that the rejection is advised to the competitor.

20. SAFETY REGULATIONS

- 20.1. RRS 40 is changed so that competitors shall wear a personal flotation device at all times while afloat, except briefly while adjusting clothing or personal equipment. Flag Y will not be displayed.
- 20.2. A tally system will be in operation:
- 20.2.1. The tally control point will be located by the RS Stage.
- 20.2.2. Tallies comprise of numbered rubber wristbands. Numbers will be allocated at registration. Tallies shall be worn visibly, over clothing, on the right wrist by sailors at all times while afloat.
- 20.2.3. Sailors shall individually check-out before racing by personally collecting their tally.
- 20.2.4. Sailors shall individually check-in immediately on returning to shore after racing, but no later than the protest time limit, by returning the tally personally to tally control point.
- 20.2.5. Failure to tally-out or tally-in will result in a penalty of five points added to the boat's score for the race finishing nearest to the time of initial failure to tally in or out.
- 20.3. A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee as soon as possible. A declaration sheet will be available at the tally board which must be signed by competitors who have retired as they tally-in.

21. REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT

- 21.1. In two-person boats, the registered helm and crew may swap roles without restriction. Crews may only be changed during the series of races comprising an event from the person named on the entry form with written permission in advance from the Race Committee or Class Representative. If it is known at the start of the event that there will have to be a crew change during the event then both crews should be registered on the entry form, along with the day(s) they will be sailing.
- 21.2. Under exceptional circumstances, the race committee may permit a boat to use sails carrying a distinguishing number other than that required by RRS 77 and RRS Appendix G. Such permission is only valid if sought in writing and granted at least two hours before the advertised start of that day's racing.

22. EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

- 22.1 A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules and sailing instructions.
- 22.2 Competitors in the RS600, RS700 and RS800 shall be measured in accordance with the Class Rules before racing in the event but not more than 24 hours before the first scheduled start. The measurements and corresponding rack and corrector weight settings shall be recorded on the form provided, available to view by all competitors, and will apply for the duration of the event. If a helm or crew is substituted during the event, the new sailor will be measured before racing and the boat's rack and corrector weight settings adjusted and recorded to suit.

23. EVENT ADVERTISING

- 23.1. Boats shall display advertising supplied by the Organising Authority.
- 23.2. When provided at registration, competitors shall make every reasonable effort to display event sponsors promotional items on their boat and sails as directed. If sponsor promotional items come off whilst racing, competitors must obtain replacement items from the RS Association before the start of racing the following day, if the Association has sufficient stocks available.
- 23.3. The following stickers are to be affixed to all racing boats:
- 23.3.1. Two Volvo stickers, one either side at the front of the boat.
- 23.3.2. Two Rooster stickers, one either side of the boom at the rear of the boom.
- 23.3.3. Two Harken stickers, one either side of the foredeck for the RS100 and RS300, one either side of the cockpit for the RS200, RS400, RS500 and RS Vareo, one either side in front of the wing bars for the RS600, RS700 and RS800.
- 23.4. There will be no restriction on the number or coverage of advertisers logos or slogans except as specified in GSI 23.3 above [see ISAF regulation 20 Advertising Code]
- 23.5. Any individual caught stealing sponsor promotional items, e.g. flags, banners, prizes, etc. shall be the subject of a report by the Race Committee to the Protest Committee requesting action under RRS 69.2(a).

24. SUPPORT BOATS

- 24.1. Upon arrival Support Boats must report to the Weymouth and Portland National Sailing Academy reception and pay the appropriate charge, which is £5 per day, per support boat. They must not launch before this requirement has been met.
- 24.2. Support boats, coaches and other support persons shall stay at least 100 metres outside areas where boats are racing from the time of the preparatory signal for the first class to start on that course until all boats have finished or retired or the race committee signals a postponement, general recall or abandonment.

- 24.3. During the event, support boats shall not tow boats participating in the event unless the race committee have signalled that towing is allowed, by display code flag T on the committee vessel or ashore.
- 24.4. In order to prevent fuel spillage, refuelling of boats/tanks is not permitted on the pontoons at WPNSA. Boats may refuel at the Portland Marina fuel pontoon or removable tanks may be taken offsite to be refuelled at a service station.
- 24.5. Kill cords shall be worn at all times whilst engines are running. The Course Safety Leader will be looking out for compliance on this issue, there are no excuses and boats will be requested to leave the race area immediately if kill cords are not being used appropriately.

25. TRASH DISPOSAL

Trash may be placed aboard support or official boats.

26. RADIO COMMUNICATION

Except in an emergency, a boat that is racing shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats.

27. PRIZES

The prizes will be defined in the ESI.

28. RISK STATEMENT

Rule 4 of the RRS 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 while taking part in the event;
- (b) They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and other property whether afloat or ashore;
- (c) They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss 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 competitors briefing held for the event.

29. INSPECTIONS

The fact that race officials may conduct inspections of a boat does not reduce the responsibilities of each competitor set out in these General Sailing Instructions.

30. INSURANCE

Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £2,000,000 per incident or the equivalent.

31. RIGHTS AND COPYRIGHT

By participating in this event, a competitor automatically grants the Organising Authority, the national and International Class Associations and the sponsors the right in perpetuity to make, use and show at their discretion any motion picture, still pictures and live, taped or filmed television and other reproductions of him/her during the championship, and of all of his/her material related to the championship, without compensation.

32. USE OF DRONES

Event drones (UAVs/UASs) may be used in close proximity to obtain media for an event. This may be on land and/or over water. Any material gained from their use can be used by the event team or sponsors for PR and media purposes.