

# SOUTH CORK SAILING CLUB

## SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

2026

*Please also read the Racing Rules of Sailing 2025-28*

### Notes

1. **Notice of Race & Entry Form** - all helms shall complete a NOR/Entry Form for the season's racing **PRIOR** to taking part in their first race of the season. **Parents or guardians must counter-sign Entry Forms for Cadets.** Failure to do so will result in the boat being scored DNS. Forms are available at the foregathering meeting, circulated by email and from the SCSC website..
2. **Committee.** SCSC's racing committee for 2025 includes:

Commodore: Seán Cochrane || Hon Sec: Richard Salter-Townshend || Treasurer: Emma Bunting || Racing Secretary: Ben Thompson || Safety Officer: Jerome Mayhew || Class Captains: to be appointed by the committee if required

3. **Wearing of Lifejackets.** The law stipulates the mandatory wearing of Personal Floatation Devices (PFDs) and should be worn afloat at all times
4. **Penalties.** Penalties can be taken as per ISAF rules 2025-28 at any time by immediately sailing clear AND taking 2 tacks and 2 gybes. Protests must be advised to the party that you are protesting in compliance with ISAF rules and advised to the race officers at the earliest opportunity (see 16.1). Protests will be heard informally by an ad hoc committee appointed by the racing committee and chaired by the Commodore or his appointed deputy. Final decision may be made by a vote of the protest committee including the other participating helms.
5. **Use of VHF Radios** – VHF radios may be carried but not used to communicate non-safety information. Race officers to use CH 11
6. **IRPCS.** When entering or leaving the harbour, IRPCS (Rules of the Road) apply when encountering boats not racing, including power/motor boats needing to navigate in the channel.
7. **Course.** Courses will be decided at a Pre-Race meeting daily (see NoR). Racing marks are situated approximately as per appendix

### **RISK STATEMENT**

RRS 4 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 involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event, each competitor agrees and acknowledges that:

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;

They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore;

They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions;

Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate;

The provision of a race management team, patrol boats, umpires and other officials and volunteers by the organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities;

The provision of patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances;

Their boat is adequately insured, with cover of at least Euro2 million against third party claims.

### **1 - GENERAL RULES**

**1.1** Except where amended by these Sailing Instructions (SIs), all races will be governed by the rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) 2025-28

**1.2** The programme of racing is as published in the minutes of the previous year's AGM and NOR.

**1.3** When sailing in the harbour all Helms are required to keep clear of commercial and fishing boats.

### **2 - CONDITIONS OF ENTRY & NOTICE TO COMPETITORS**

**2.1** All helms shall complete a Notice of Race/Entry Form for the season's racing **PRIOR** to taking part in their first race of the season. The Notice of Race provides detailed guidance on the responsibilities of the helmsman for the crew, the boat and her management. Cadet entries shall be counter-signed by a parent or guardian. Helms failing to complete the form prior to racing will be scored DNS.

**2.2** Upon demand the owner/competitor shall present a valid measurement, rating certificate or proof of insurance, or shall sign an undertaking to present one within a prescribed time, to the appropriate Race Officer.

**2.3** Notices to competitors will be posted on the Sailing Notice Board opposite Mall House.

### **Safety Afloat & Equipment.**

**2.4** The sea is a potentially hostile environment; by the very act of going afloat, competitors must accept that the safety of the boat they are in is the sole responsibility of the helmsman. It follows therefore that by participating in a race or activity afloat, competitors shall accept full responsibility for:-

- (a) The boat's safe navigation and the competence of the crew.

(b) The decision as to whether to start, continue in or retire from a race in the light of existing or forecast weather conditions or any gear failure on the boat.

(c) The suitability of the entered boat for the races or sailing activity, its insurance and buoyancy.

**2.5** Adequate personal floatation devices EN393/ISO 12402-5 (or EC 50N) compliant for all crew members shall be worn at all times afloat. Wet suits or dry suits do not constitute adequate personal buoyancy.

**2.6** The responsibility of allowing a Cadet to race rests with the Parent or Guardian, who must ensure that they can swim at least 50 metres and can row or paddle a boat.

**2.7** Parents and Guardians are responsible for ensuring that dinghies where crews are under 18 can be righted after capsizing, and that they contain sufficient buoyancy to remain afloat for at least half an hour. They should consider using mast head buoyancy if considered necessary to prevent inversion and ensure appropriate retention is fitted to the centre board and rudder to prevent displacement of foils in the event of inversion.

### **3 - CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

**3.1** Changes to the SIs made prior to 1 hour before the starting time of the race will be advised at the Pre-Race meeting and thereafter posted on the Club website or communicated to helms via the Whatsapp group.

### **4 - SIGNALS MADE FROM ASHORE**

**4.1** Signals made from ashore will be flown from or adjacent to the flagpole at Rocket House.

### **5 - SCHEDULE OF RACES**

**5.1** Please see Notice of Race

### **6 - CLASS FLAGS**

**6.1** There are no Class flags in use

### **7 - RACING AREA**

**7.1** The racing area is shown on Page 4.

### **8 - THE COURSE**

**8.1** The course to be decided upon at the Pre-Race meeting and posted thereafter on the Club Website and the WhatsApp group

**8.2** Should the wind change (as it often does!), between setting a course and the starting time, to a prevailing South Westerly then at the discretion of the Race Officer the course may be changed to a default course of Flea - Castlehaven - Harbour, all to Starboard, Twice round.

### **9 - MARKS**

**9.1** Marks of the course will be either Inflatable moveable buoys or Racing Marks, as shown on the chart of the area.

### **10 – Safety boat**

**10.1** Appropriate safety boat cover will be provided for the conditions.

**10.2** If in a championship race for whatever reason adequate safety boat cover is not available the helms competent to provide safety cover will draw lots as to who will do so and that helm will score 'average points' for that race taking into account all their other championship races in that series.

### **11 - THE START**

**11.1** Races will be started in accordance with RRS 26 (or as shown in the NoR):

**11.2** Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall keep clear of the starting area.

**11.3** A boat starting later than 15 minutes after her starting signal will be scored DNS without a hearing.

**11.4** Championship and Sunday all-comers races and Mahony cup race will be started by the Race Officers situated on the wall of Rocket House Garden. The races are started on a line extending between the flagpole and the south distance/outer limit marker. A North Distance/inner distance marker is laid but will not be exactly on the line – however all boats must pass between the two marks to start.

**11.5** Cadet races may be started either using the start line above (as in 11.4) or by a race officer situated in a committee boat on the water where the line will be between the Flag on the committee boat and the south distance/outer limit marker or suitable pin end buoy. Cadets will be informed about this prior to the warning signal.

## **12 - CHANGES OF COURSE AFTER THE START**

**12.1** A change of course after the start will be signalled at the flagpole before the leading boat has begun the altered leg. A periodic sound signal will be made and Flag C will be raised.

## **13 - THE FINISH**

**13.1** The Finishing Line is a line extending between the flagpole and the south distance/outer limit marker. Boats must cross the line such that they are between the North and South distance marks. If the course has been shortened boats may finish anywhere on the line or its extensions outside the limit markers

13.2 Cadets may be finished on the line as in 13.1 above or between the committee boat and a suitable finishing mark.

## **14 - PENALTY SYSTEM**

**14.1 Penalty** - the penalty shall be to sail clear immediately and undertake two tacks and two gybes

## **15 - TIME LIMIT**

**15.1** A dead time will be decided on at the Pre-Race meeting and boats failing to finish within the allowed time will be scored "Did Not Finish"

## **16 - PROTESTS & REQUESTS FOR REDRESS**

**16.1** RRS 60 applies; however boats must inform the Race Committee (officer of the day) immediately after finishing that they wish to bring a protest. This must be before they return to their mooring or the slipway.

**16.2** Protest notices will be posted as soon as possible after the completion of the race to inform competitors where and when there is a hearing in which they are parties to a hearing or named as witnesses.

**16.3** All protests shall be settled by a protest committee. This will consist of available members of the Executive Committee and also the helmsman of the other craft in the race concerned that are present. This will be chaired by the Commodore (if not available then by the Racing Secretary or another member of the executive committee). Should helms be unduly delayed and both protesting parties are agreeable, the chairman of the meeting may proceed with the meeting. If the committee vote is split the chairman shall have the deciding vote.

**16.4** When the protest committee decides that a boat that is party to a protest hearing has broken a rule and is not exonerated, it shall disqualify her unless some other penalty applies.

**16.5** When a boat has protested another boat and after discussion with the protest committee the protest is not withdrawn and goes to a vote of the committee the losing boat of the protest shall be disqualified unless some other penalty applies.

## **17 - SCORING** – ¾ for first, 2 for second etc

Rule A5.3 will apply. A boat that came to the starting area but did not start, did not sail the course, did not finish, retired or was disqualified shall be scored points for the finishing place one more than the number of boats that came to the starting area, and a boat that did not come to the starting area shall be scored points for the finishing place one more than the number of boats entered in the series

## **18 - SAFETY REGULATIONS** - see SI 2.4 to SI 2.7.

**19 - REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT** – no restriction on changes – the boat is entered for a race or race series and unless advised helms and crew may be changed at will.

## **20 - EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS** - see SI 2.2.

**21 - OFFICIAL BOATS** - Club owned craft may be used; if private craft are used they will identify themselves to competitors.

**22 - SUPPORT BOATS** - unless declared as a training race (which includes most cadet races), no outside assistance shall be given after the Preparatory Signal of the class starting.

**23 - TRASH** - trash may be placed aboard support or official boats. The penalty for breaking rule 55, Trash Disposal, is at the discretion of the protest committee (DPI) and may be less than disqualification.

## **24 - RADIOS AND MOBILE PHONES**

**24.1** Use of VHF radio or mobile phones to gain information that may assist a boat to improve its position is not allowed. VHF may be carried and tuned to Channel 11 so that safety & race management information may be passed.

## **25 - DECLARATIONS, RETIREMENTS, RESULTS & PRIZES**

**25.1** Any boat which crosses the Finishing Line and does NOT signify EITHER that she has retired OR that she is protesting in accordance with RRS 61.1(a) shall be deemed to have completed the race in accordance with the Sailing Instructions and declarations will NOT be required. Boats retiring from a race shall inform the Race Officer or Club Secretary as soon as possible.

**25.2** Results will be posted on the Club Notice Board and on the Club Website.

**25.3** Prizes as detailed in the Club programme or NoR.

**26 - RISK STATEMENT** - see the Risk Statement on page 1 of these Instructions.

**27 - INSURANCE** – each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of Euro 2m.

**FLAGS AND SIGNALS** (refer to RRS for full list)

**Before the start**

| <b><u>Warning Signal</u></b> | <b><u>Preparatory Signal</u></b> | <b><u>One minute</u></b>   | <b><u>Start</u></b> |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Recall letter on wall        | P flag to half flag pole         | P flag to top of flag pole | P Flag removed      |
| Start – 5 mins               | Start – 4 mins                   | Start – 1 mins             | Start               |

**NB – timing is as per flags not accompanying sound signals**

**At the start (only where recalls are being made)**

| <b><u>Over the Line</u></b>   | <b><u>General Recall</u></b>                             |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| Boat's individual recall letter displayed and hailed where possible | X Flag<br>Or First Substitute                            |   |  |
| One additional (to start gun) sound signal                          | Two additional (to start gun) sound signals              |   |  |
| <b><u>Shorten Course</u></b><br><b><u>(S Flag)</u></b>              | <b><u>Change of Course</u></b><br><b><u>(C Flag)</u></b> | <b><u>Protest</u></b><br><b><u>(Z Flag)</u></b> | <b><u>Race Abandoned</u></b><br><b><u>(N Flag)</u></b> |

