



A-class & Unicorn Open

Eastbourne Sovereign Sailing Club

25th & 26th July 2026

Sailing Instructions



1. RACING RULES

Racing rules, except as specified herein, will be those currently issued by ISAF and RYA, The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) 2025 – 2028. All boats must comply strictly with their class rules. In the case of conflict between the Notice of Race (NOR) and the sailing instructions (SI's), the sailing instructions shall prevail. This changes rule 63.7.

2. SAFETY

All boats shall be able to support the occupants when capsized. All occupants of boats whilst afloat must wear personal buoyancy. When racing, failure to do so will result in disqualification. Wet suits do not constitute personal buoyancy.

3. TALLIES

A normal tally system is replaced by a sign on/sign off system, operated from the club patio underneath the course board. Competitors should sign on before going afloat and sign off once they have returned to shore. Failure to comply with this will result in a £10 donation to the RNLI per occurrence.

4. COURSES

The course will be a windward/leeward sausage with the committee boat & start/finish line positioned to windward of the leeward mark. The start/finish line must be passed through on each upwind leg. Boats may pass downwind through the start/finish line. Each race shall conclude when the shorten course flag S is displayed on the committee boat. Races are expected to last around 45 minutes each.

Course marks will be:

Start = Large Black Pimple

Mark 1 = Tall Orange Pillar

Mark 2 = Red Square

Committee boat = Yellow Cheeta Catamaran

Course map available during the event from reception and online at ESSC's event page found here <https://w3.sailing-at-eastbourne.co.uk/events/>.

5. TIDES

Tide times: Saturday – High 08:43 – Low 15:37 – 5.19m
 Sunday – High 09:59 – Low 16:34 – 5.52m

6. SCHEDULE OF RACES

Saturday – 1st race warning signal - 11:55
 2nd race to follow 1st race
 3rd race to follow 2nd race
Sunday - 4th race warning signal - 10:55
 5th race to follow 4th race
 6th race to follow 5th race

7. WIND LIMITS

Wind Limits will be defined as an upper limit of 22 knots and a lower limit of 5 knots. Warning signals will not be made unless the wind strength is inside the wind limits.

8. START LINE

A mast with an orange flag on the Committee Boat and large black pimple buoy will form the start/finish line. A boat starting later than five minutes after her starting signal may be scored Did Not Start.

9. START SEQUENCE

The starting procedure will be conducted from the Committee Boat. The sequence will be 5,4,1,Go.

10. LIMIT MARK

All craft must pass between the committee boat and the limit buoy on each upwind leg. The limit mark will be a large black pimple buoy.

11. FINISH LINE

The mast with a blue flag of the Committee Boat and the limit buoy will denote the line, but not be in effect until the shorten course flag S is being flown from the committee boat.

12. FLAGS

The following flags shall be used:

Class flag / Warning signal - Numeral Pennant 1



4 minute signal - P flag



13. OTHER SIGNALS

13.1 Individual recalls

A sound signal will be made immediately after the start and flag X will be displayed & left flown until the offending craft(s) have restarted correctly. Exception to Rule 29.2 the signal will be removed after a maximum of 4 minutes. No recall numbers will be used. It is the individual helm's responsibility for returning. Failure to do so will result in disqualification from the race.

13.2 General Recall

Two sound signals will be made immediately after the start. The General Recall flag (First Substitute) will be displayed. After a reasonable time has been given for all craft to return the General Recall flag will be removed. A new full starting sequence will be run for the recalled fleet, keeping to the scheduled start sequence of fleets.

13.3 U Flag

If flag U has been displayed, no part of a boat's hull shall be in the triangle formed by the ends of the starting line and the first [mark](#) during the last minute before her starting signal. If a boat breaks this rule and is identified, she shall be disqualified without a hearing, but not if the race is restarted or resailed.

13.4 Black Flag

A black flag rule may be introduced in accordance with rule 30.4 at the discretion of the race officer. No part of a boat's hull, crew or equipment shall be in the triangle formed by the ends of the starting line and the first mark during the last minute before her starting signal. If a boat breaks this rule and is identified, she shall be disqualified from the race, even if the race is restarted or resailed, but not if it is postponed or abandoned before the starting signal.

13.5 Shorten course

To be signalled when the first boat to be shortened on the course rounds the leeward mark prior to the finish line. Two sound signals together with Flag S & class flag displayed at the same time from the committee boat signifies a shortened course.

13.6 Postponement

Two sound signals and display the Answering Pennant flag. When ready to restart 1 sound signal will draw attention to the flag being removed. Warning signal to follow 1 minute later.

13.7 Abandonment

Three sound signals with Flag N.  When ready to restart one sound signal and lower flag. Warning signal to follow 1 minute later.

If cancelled, 3 sound signals with Flag N over Flag A.   All competitors should return to shore immediately.

14. TIME LIMIT

The time limit for the leading boat in each class or fleet to finish is 1 hour 30 minutes.

Remaining boats are allowed 20 minutes from the time when the leading boat on their fleet finishes.

Boats failing to finish within the Finishing Window of 20 minutes shall be scored Did Not Finish without a hearing. This changes RRS [35](#), [A5.1](#) and [A5.2](#).

If no boat has passed mark 1 within 30 minutes the race shall be abandoned.

15. SCORING

1 discard to come into effect after 4 races have been sailed.

16. PROTESTS

All competitors should read RYA Racing Rule 61 regarding protest requirements. (a) Protest time limit: – Rule 61.3. The time limit shall be 45 minutes after the last boat finishes. Protest forms will be available from reception.

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 and where the hearings will be held.

17. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

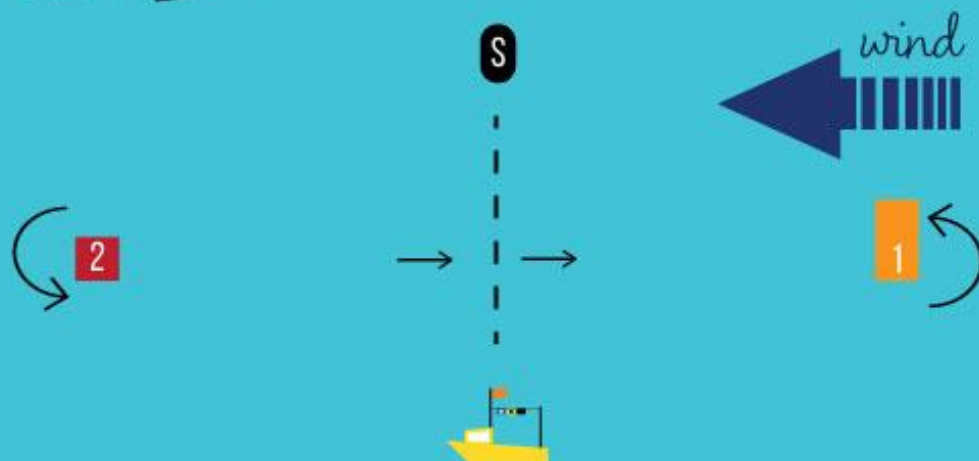
Any signals made ashore will be displayed from the club flagpole, found on the club patio.

18. AMENDMENTS

Any amendments or additions to these instructions will be posted on the notice board, no later than thirty minutes before the advertised start time. Flag W  will be flown from the club mast accompanied by a single sound signal.

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COURSE
MAP



TIDES:

	HIGH	LOW	HEIGHT
SATURDAY:	08:43	15:57	5.19M
SUNDAY:	09:59	09:59	5.52M