



Medway Yacht Club



Sonata National Championships 2024

10th-14th August 2024

Sailing Instructions

The notation '[NP]' in a rule of the sailing instructions (SIs) means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1(a).

1 RULES

The Event will be governed by:

- 1.1 The Rules as set out in the Notice of Race for the Sonata National Championships 2024.
- 1.2. These Sailing Instructions (SI's) and other rules and bylaws as detailed in the Notice of Race (NOR).
- 1.3. In the event of any conflict in these rules, those of the SI's shall prevail, except over those of the Peel Ports and the London Port Authority. This changes rule 63.7.
- 1.5. RRS Changes: RRS 35: RRS 64.1 RRS 66: RRS A4 & A5: RRS Race Signals: see details below.

2 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1 Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted before 0900 on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 20:00 on the day before it will take effect.
- 2.2 Changes to a sailing instruction may also be made on the water by communication through VHF radio from the race committee.

3 COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

- 3.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the event website.
- 3.2 The race office is located in the library of Medway Yacht Club. Email Sonatas@medwayyachtclub.com
- 3.3 On the water, the race committee intends to monitor and communicate with competitors on VHF radio channel [72](#). If the race committee displays flag 'X', alternate VHF channel [37a \(M1\)](#) will be used.
- 3.4. Course details may be sent via WhatsApp to competitors who register a mobile phone number or numbers on the entry form. These are for information only and errors, contradictions or anomalies will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 62.1(a).

4 CODE OF CONDUCT

- 4.1 [DP] Competitors and support persons shall comply with reasonable requests from race officials.
- 4.2 [DP] Competitors and support persons shall place advertising provided by the organizing authority with care, seamanship, in accordance with any instructions for its use and without interfering with its functionality.

5 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 5.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed on the flag poles of the *Medway Yacht Club Race Hut* which is located upriver of the clubhouse.
- 5.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 60 minutes' in Race Signals AP.

6 SCHEDULE OF RACES

6.1

Date	No. Scheduled Races	First Warning Signal not before	High Tide Sheerness
11 th August	3	10:30 hrs	17:31 hrs
12 th August	4	10:15 hrs	18:13 hrs
13 th August	4	10:15 hrs	19:02 hrs
14 th August	3	10:15 hrs	20:01 hrs

- 6.2 One additional race per day may be sailed provided that the event does not become more than one race ahead of schedule.
- 6.3 The scheduled time of the warning signal for the first race each day is as per the above table
- 6.4 To alert boats that a race or sequence of races will begin soon, the orange starting line flag will be displayed with one sound at least five minutes before a warning signal is made.
- 6.5 On the last scheduled day of racing no warning signal will be made after 15:00 hrs.

7 CLASS FLAGS

- 7.1 The Sonata Class flag is 'F' or 'Numeral pennant 1'

8 RACING AREA

- 8.1 The racing area will be set within the Reaches and Creeks of the River Medway and Thames Estuary. All starts shall be down river of buoy 27.

9 COURSES

- 9.1 Except where the course to be sailed is round-the-cans style, the diagram(s) in SI Appendix A show(s) the course(s), including the approximate angles between legs, the order in which marks are to be passed, and the side on which each mark is to be left.
- 9.2 The course to be sailed will be announced on channel 72 prior to the warning signal. See also SI 3.3. If the course is one of the courses shown in Appendix A it will also be displayed on boards from the committee boat.
- 9.3 No later than the warning signal, the race committee signal vessel will display the approximate compass bearing of the first leg.
- 9.4 When a gate is used, if a gate mark is not on station the remaining mark is to be left to port
- 9.5 Up to two races in the schedule may be round-the-cans style where the course will not be chosen from Appendix A. Competitors will be informed of the course by VHF Radio and Board '0' will be displayed from the committee boat.

10 MARKS

- 10.1 Marks for courses from Appendix A will be orange or white inflatable buoys. *Marks for round-the-cans style courses as referred to in SI 9.5 will be Medway/Thames Estuary navigation buoys and permanent yellow horizontal barrels and temporarily laid inflatable orange buoys which, if used, will have their approximate position and description announced in accordance with SI 9.2.*
- 10.2 *Marks may display sponsors names and logos.*

11 OBSTRUCTIONS

The Medway is a commercial navigable river and as such various international regulations and local bylaws apply to vessels using the marked fairways or jetties, piers, moorings etc

- 11.1 At any time, an official vessel displaying Naval Numeral Zero and ICF Pennant Number Nine may escort such vessels through the racing area. No boat shall sail between the escort and the vessel being escorted. Any boat reported by an official boat as deemed to have caused a perceived obstruction, may be subject to protest by the race committee and liable to be scored DNE.
- 11.2 Boats shall not sail on the shore side of Folly Beacon, Darnett Beacon, Bee Ness Jetty and its outlying dolphins or the North Cardinal marking the outfall to the north east of Garrison Point. Boats may not sail across Bishop Marsh which lies between Darnett Ness and Bishop Ness.
- 11.3 Attention is drawn to the exclusion zone around the LNG terminal on the North shore between Z1 and Victoria. It is advised that boats should stay to the south of a line between Z2 and South Kent Buoys unless rounding. Failure to observe this exclusion zone can result in a heavy fine from the Port Authority.
- 11.4 Please note that if a gas vessel is manoeuvring all vessels should stay well clear at all times.
- 11.5 Vessels on moorings or at anchor are deemed to be obstructions for the purpose of the RRS. If a boat or its crew make contact with a moored or anchored

vessel, she shall declare the contact at the end of the race and accept a 20% scoring penalty as per RRS 44.3(c).

- 11.6 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 vessel is not part of it.
- 11.7 Any reasonable means of propulsion including the use of an engine may be used by a boat to avoid making contact with a moored or anchored boat provided that the use of the engine or other means of propulsion ceases as soon as the boat is clear and she does not gain a significant advantage in the race.
- 11.8 Boats shall not sail over span lines or fore and aft moorings.

12 THE START

- 12.1 Races will be started using RRS 26.
- 12.2 The starting line is between a staff displaying an orange flag on the signal vessel at the starboard end and the course side of the port-end starting mark
- 12.3 If any part of a boat's hull is on the course side of the starting line at her starting signal and she is identified, the race committee will attempt to hail her sail number. Failure to hail her number, failure of her to hear such a hail, or the order in which boats are hailed will not be grounds for a redress for request. This changes RRS 62.1(a).
- 12.4 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 A5.1 and A5.2.

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 or the finishing line to a new position.

14 THE FINISH

- 14.1 The Finishing line is between a staff displaying a blue flag on the finishing vessel and the course side of the finishing mark as identified by the race committee.
- 14.2 [DP] If the race committee is absent when a boat finishes, she shall report her finishing time, and her position in relation to nearby boats, to the race committee at the first reasonable opportunity.

15 PENALTY SYSTEM

- 15.1 The Scoring Penalty, RRS 44.3, applies.

16 TIME LIMITS AND TARGET TIMES

- 16.1 The Race Target Time, Mark 1 Time Limit, Race Time Limit (see RRS 35), and the Finishing Window are shown in the table below.

Course type	Race Target Time (first boat)	Mark 1 Time Limit	Race Time Limit	Finishing Window
<i>Appendix A Courses</i>	<i>50 minutes</i>	<i>30 minutes</i>	<i>90 minutes</i>	<i>20 minutes</i>
<i>Round-the-Cans</i>	<i>120 minutes</i>	<i>40 minutes</i>	<i>210 minutes</i>	<i>30 minutes</i>

- 16.2 If no boat has passed the first mark within the Mark 1 Time Limit, the race will be abandoned.
- 16.3 The Finishing Window is the time for boats to finish after the first boat sails the course and finishes. Boats failing to finish within the Finishing Window, and not subsequently retiring, penalised or given redress, will be scored Time Limit Expired (TLE) without a hearing. A boat scored TLE shall be scored points for the finishing place one more than the points scored by the last boat that finished within the Finishing Window. This changes RRS 35, A5.1, A5.2 and A10.
- 16.4 Failure to meet the Target Time will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 62.1(a).

17 HEARING REQUESTS

- 17.1 The protest time limit is 90 minutes after the crew of the last boat returns to shore on the day or the race committee signals no more racing today, whichever is later. The time will be posted on the official notice board.
- 17.2 Hearing request forms are available from the race office at the MYC Library.
- 17.3 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 the race office, on the date and at the time stated in the notice.
- 17.5 On the last day of the Regatta a request for re-opening a hearing shall be delivered within the Hearing Request time limit when the party requesting the re-opening was informed of the decision on the previous day and no later than 30 minutes after the party requesting re-opening was informed of the decision on the last day. This changes RRS 66.
- 17.6 The RYA Post-Race penalty, the Advisory Hearing and RYA Arbitration of the RYA

rules disputes process will be available.

18 SCORING

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

18.3 A boat's series score will be calculated as follow:

18.4 (a) When fewer than four races have been completed, a boat's series score is the total of her race scores.

(b) When from four to seven races have been completed, a boat's series score is the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.

(c) When eight or more races have been completed, a boat's series score is the total of her race scores excluding her two worst scores.

18.6 Rule A5.3 applies.

19 SAFETY REGULATIONS

19.2 [DP] A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee at the first reasonable opportunity. Promptly after returning to shore, the boat shall complete a retirement declaration form, which is available at the race office in the MYC Library.

20 REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT

20.1 [DP] No crew member may be substituted, removed or added without prior written approval of the race committee

20.2 [DP] Subject only to SI 20.3, substitution of damaged or lost equipment is not allowed unless authorised by the race committee. Requests for substitution shall be made to the committee at the first reasonable opportunity

20.3 [DP] A boat may carry two spinnakers on board to substitute the first spinnaker in the event of damage or loss. The boat shall gain authorisation from the race committee prior to substituting the spinnaker. This authorisation may be via VHF radio during the race.

21 EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

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

21.2 [DP] When instructed by a race official on the water, a boat shall proceed to a designated area for inspection.

23 OFFICIAL VESSELS

23.1 Official vessels will be identified by displaying ICF Numeral 9.

24 [DP] SUPPORT TEAMS

24.1 [DP] Support teams, including all support persons and support person vessels,

shall comply with the reasonable requirements of the race committee.

25 TRASH DISPOSAL

25.1 Trash may be placed aboard official or support person vessels.

26 BERTHING

26.1 [DP] Boats shall be kept on their assigned moorings during the event

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27 HAUL-OUT RESTRICTIONS

27.1 [DP] See Notice of Race 17.1.

28 DIVING EQUIPMENT AND PLASTIC POOLS

28.1 [DP] Underwater breathing apparatus and plastic pools or their equivalent shall not be used around boats between 09:00 hrs on 11th August 2024 and the end of the last race of the event.

28.2 [DP] see Notice of Race 17.2.

29 PRIZES

29.1 See Notice of Race 21.2.

30 RISK STATEMENT

30.1 RRS 3 states: 'The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue to race is hers alone.' By participating in this event each competitor agrees and acknowledges that sailing is a potentially dangerous activity with inherent risks. These risks include strong winds and rough seas, sudden changes in weather, failure of equipment, boat handling errors, poor seamanship by other boats, loss of balance on an unstable platform and fatigue resulting in increased risk of injury. **Inherent in the sport of sailing is the risk of permanent, catastrophic injury or death by drowning, trauma, hypothermia or other causes.** Also please see the Risk Statement in the Notice of Race 20.1 - 20.9.

31 INSURANCE

31.1 Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £3,000,000 per incident or the equivalent.

Medway Yacht Club

June 2024

