



British Dragon Association
Medway Dragon Fleet
East Coast Dragon Championship
12th September – 13th September 2026
MEDWAY YACHT CLUB
www.medwayyachtclub.com

Organising Authority
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SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

The notation '[DP]' in a rule in the Sailing Instructions (SIs) means that the penalty for a breach of that rule may, at the discretion of the Protest Committee, be less than disqualification.

1. Rules: The Championship will be governed by:

- 1.1. The Rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS).
- 1.2. The International Dragon Class Rules, except 13.3 will not be in force.
- 1.3. The British Dragon Association Rules.
- 1.4. The byelaws and directives of Peel Ports Medway (Medway Ports).
- 1.5. The Notice of Race and the Sailing Instructions. In the event of conflict, rule 63.7 applies.
- 1.6. The rules of the MYC Minimum Equipment List (MEL) 2024. As defined on MYC website.
- 1.7. The navigation rules of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (IRPCAS)
- 1.8. Competitors should note that the Medway Yacht Club implements the RYA Racing Charter and that they will be expected to sail in compliance with it.
- 1.9. The Post-Race Penalty and Appendix T will be available. The Post-Race Penalty will be 30% of the number of boats (rounding 0.5 upwards) entered.
- 1.10. These sailing instructions and other rules as described in the NOR.
 - 1.10.1. RRS changes: RRS Race Signals (see 4.2); RRS 35, A4, A5; RRS 66.

2. Changes to Sailing Instructions: Any change to the Sailing Instructions will be posted before 0830 on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 1830 on the day before it will take effect.

3. Communication with Competitors:

- 3.1. Notices to competitors will be posted on the online official notice board located at <https://www.medwayyachtclub.com/racing/dragon-east-coast-championships/>. Notices may also be published via the Event What's App group and on the event noticeboard located in the entrance lobby of the Medway Yacht Club (at the discretion of the Organising Committee).
- 3.2. The Regatta Office will be situated in the Library at the Medway Yacht Club.
- 3.3. All boats shall carry a VHF radio capable of communicating on channel 72, 37A and 16.
- 3.4. On the water, advisory VHF communication from the Race Committee may be available on channel 72.
- 3.5. [DP] Whilst racing, except in an emergency, a boat shall not make a voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is unavailable to all boats.

4. Code of Conduct: [DP]

- 4.1. [DP] Competitors and support persons shall comply with reasonable requests from race officials.
- 4.2. [DP] N/A.

5. Signals Made Ashore:

- 5.1. Signals made ashore will be displayed from MYC Race Hut mast.
- 5.2. When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 60 minutes' in the race signal AP. This changes RRS Race Signals AP.

6. Schedule of Races:

- 6.1. Saturday 12th September: Warning signal for the first race of the day will not be before 10:55.
- 6.2. On all Sunday 13th September the warning signal for the first race of the day will not be before 9:55.
- 6.3. 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.
- 6.4. No warning signal will be displayed after 15:00 on Sunday 13th September
- 6.5. The daily maximum number of races will be 4 on Saturday 12th September and if required 4 on Sunday 13th September. The maximum number of races for the event will be 6 in total.

7. Class Flags: Class flag will be ICF "D".

8. Racing Areas: Racing will be on the River Medway (Imray chart Y18 River Medway and Approaches) between buoys 12 and 30.

9. The Course:

- 9.1. Appendix One provides a diagram of each of the set of courses which may be sailed, at the discretion of the Race Committee. The course to be sailed will be displayed on the committee boat no later than the warning signal.
- 9.2. One lap of Course A is: 1P, 1aP, 2P, start/finish line.
- 9.3. The number of laps of the course to be sailed will be displayed on the committee boat no later than the warning signal.

10. Marks: Racing marks will be orange or white inflatable buoys.

11. Obstructions:

- 11.1. Boats will not sail on the shore side of Folly Beacon or Darnet Beacon nor cross Bishop's Marsh which lies between Darnet Ness and Bishop Ness.
- 11.2. Competitors are reminded that they are sailing on a commercial river and such ships or other large vessels have right of way. Boats shall not obstruct the fairway.
- 11.3. From time to time deep draught vessels may pass through the racing area. These vessels may be preceded by a patrol boat flying flag ICF 9 and in addition a Naval Numeral Zero flag. No boat may pass between this patrol boat and the vessel. Any competitor who contravenes this instruction or causes any perceived danger to the navigation of the vessel may be subject to protest by the Race committee and liable to be scored DNE.

12. The Start:

- 12.1. Races will be started using RRS 26 with the warning signal made 5 minutes before the starting signal.
- 12.2. To alert boats that a race will soon begin, the Orange Starting Line Flag will be displayed on the CV signal vessel with one sound signal at least five minutes before a Warning Signal is made.
- 12.3. The starting line will be between a staff or mast displaying an orange flag on the race committee boat and either an inflatable buoy or a staff/mast displaying an orange flag or an outer distance boat/rib.
- 12.4. Boats, marks or other items attached to the race committee boat for the duration of the starting sequence are deemed to be part of the committee boat and are not temporary attachments.
- 12.5. If any part of a boat's hull and equipment 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 using the designated VHF channel. 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 request for redress; this changes RRS 62.1(a).
- 12.6. 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 and remove the original mark as soon as practicable.
- 13.2. When in a subsequent change, a new mark is replaced, it will be replaced by an original mark.

14. The Finish:

The finishing line will be a line between a staff or mast displaying a blue flag on the race committee boat and either an inflatable buoy or a staff/mast displaying an orange flag on an outer distance boat/rib.

15. Penalty System:

- 15.1. The Scoring Penalty RRS 44.1 applies except a boat shall take a one turn penalty when she may have broken one or more rules of Part 2 in an incident while racing.
- 15.2. The Post-Race Penalty and Appendix T will be available. The Post-Race Penalty will be 30% of the number of boats (rounding 0.5 upwards) entered.

16. Time Limits:

- 16.1. The target time for each race is 60 minutes.
- 16.2. The race time limit is 90 minutes.
- 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, penalized 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. The Finishing Window is 20 minutes after the first boat finishes
- 16.4. Failure to meet the Target Time will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 61.4(a).

17. Hearing Requests and Requests for Redress:

- 17.1. Hearing Request forms are available from the Regatta Office.
- 17.2. Hearing Request Forms shall be delivered there within the appropriate time.
- 17.3. The Protest time is 120 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.
- 17.4. 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.
- 17.5. Hearing Requests will be held in the library (Regatta Office) at the time stated on the notice.
- 17.6. A schedule of hearings will be displayed on the official notice board 2¼ hours after the last boat finishes or retires from the last race of the day.
- 17.7. Further hearings may be added to the schedule.
- 17.8. Notices of Hearing Requests by the race committee or the Hearing Request committee will be posted to inform boats under RRS 61.1(b).
- 17.9. 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 62.2.
- 17.10. The Exoneration Penalty, the Advisory Hearing and RYA Arbitration of the RYA rules disputes process will be available.

18. Scoring: See NOR 15

19. Safety: [DP] Boats retiring shall notify the Race Committee at the first opportunity by VHF or notifying an Official Vessel

20. Official Vessels: Official boats will be marked by displaying 'ICF' Numeral 9.

21. Prizes: See NOR 24.

22. Replacement of Crew or Equipment:

- 22.1. [DP] Substitution of competitors is not allowed without prior written approval of the Race Committee.
- 22.2. [DP] Substitution of damaged or lost equipment is not allowed unless authorized in writing by the race committee. Requests for substitution shall be made to the committee at the first reasonable opportunity, which may be after the race.

23. Berthing:

- 23.1. [DP] Boats shall be kept in their assigned moorings during the event

24. Haul out Restrictions:

- 24.1. [DP] Boats shall not be hauled out during the event except with and according to the terms of prior written permission of the race committee.
- 24.2. [DP] Boats shall not be cleaned below the waterline by any means during the event from 0900 on Saturday 12th September to the completion of the Regatta on Sunday 13th September.

25. Equipment and Measurement Checks:

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

26. Risk statement:

Rule 3 of the RRS states “The Responsibility for a boat’s decision to participate in a race or 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:

- 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.
- 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 and other officials and volunteers by the event organizer 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 practically be provided in the circumstances.

27. Insurance: See NOR 23

28. Further Information: See NoR 25 or contact the MYC office.

ECDC Race Committee 1st September 2026

Appendix One

Course A

