

Sailing Instructions



The RYA South Zone Championships

Oxford Sailing Club

23rd & 24th September 2017

www.ryaracingevents.org.uk

***The 2017 RYA Zone Championships will be held at Oxford Sailing Club (OSC).
The Organizing Authority is the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) in conjunction Oxford Sailing Club.***

1. Rules

The Racing will be governed by the 'rules' as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing. Special attention is drawn to the RYA Racing Charter.

Competitors' attention is drawn to the local rules as detailed in the Notice of Race.

2. Briefing

The briefing for Optimist, Topper, competitors will take place in the club room at OSC, followed straight after by the Regatta fleet briefing at 10.30 on Saturday 23rd September 2017

3. Notices to Competitors

Notices to Competitors will be posted on the Official Notice Board, located in the hallway entrance to OSC. For the convenience of sailors, official notices and changes to Sailing Instructions may be replicated on the Event website, but failure to display them on the Event website will not be grounds for redress.

4. Changes to Sailing Instructions

Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted on the Official Notice Board at least one hour before the advertised warning signal of the race or races concerned, and signaled by displaying flag L ashore (SI 5). However, any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 19:00 hours on the day before it will take effect.

5. Signals Made Ashore

Signals made ashore will be displayed on the club signals mast.

Signals displayed over a class flag apply to that class only.



If Flag L is displayed (A notice to competitors has been posted) it will be flown with a numeral pennant indicating the latest notice posted.





Competitors may tally out (SI 23) before the class flag is displayed.

No boat shall leave the shore until Flag D over class flag (SI 7) is displayed with one sound signals.

Flag AP may be displayed ashore to signify racing is postponed. Should AP be displayed with a Class Flag, the postponement will apply only to the fleets whose Class Flags are displayed.

Flag	Description
D 	Boats may not launch until Flag D is displayed with a sound signal. The warning signal will be made not less than 30 minutes after Flag D is displayed and not before the scheduled time, whichever is later.
AP 	When Flag AP is displayed ashore race signal AP is changed in that "1 minute" is replaced by 'not less than 30 minutes'. This changes race signal AP.

	Support Boats may tow competitors from or to the race areas
	The Onboard Regatta Fleet may not launch until the Onboard White Flag is displayed with a sound signal. Launching and race times' maybe further communicated by the Regatta fleet coaches assigned to this course area.

6. Schedule of Races

Racing is scheduled as follows (with approximate timings):

Day	Course	Races	Time of Warning Signal
Saturday	All	Up to 4 Races Dinghies	Scheduled time of warning signal for first race 11:25
Sunday	All	Up to 3 Races Dinghies	Scheduled time of warning signal for first race 10:25

The race committee will endeavour to announce their intentions for the race schedule at the briefing, however dinghy competitors should be prepared to do a number, or all, of the day's races as soon as practically possible after the finish of the previous race.

There will be a maximum of 7 races for dinghies.




Races will start as soon as practically possible after the finish of the previous race.

To alert boats that a race or sequence of races will begin soon an orange flag will be displayed with one sound at least five minutes before a warning signal is displayed.

No warning signal will be made after 15:00 on Sunday.

7. Class Flags & Identification

Dinghy

Class	Description	Picture
Topper	Code Flag T	
Optimist	Code Flag O	
Regatta fleet	OnBoard Flag	

8. Female Participants

Will be required to Display a Red Diamond on their sail for the duration of the event. The event organisers will provide the Diamonds. Position on sails are defined in attachment B

9. Topper Championship Numbers

Communication with Topper sailors will be by their Championship number. All Toppers will be expected to use their 2017 Topper Championship Number. (This Changes rule 77) Those without such numbers will be allocated a number at registration to use for this championship. It is the responsibility of the competitor to position this number on their sail in the required place. All identifications of Toppers, including scores and protest notices, will be by championship number.

10. Racing Area

Racing will take place on Farmoor Resouvoir .

The location of racing areas *Orange* and *Regatta Fleet* will be explained at the briefing and are dependent on the conditions.

Classes are assigned to racing areas as follows:

Race Area and Mark Colour	Classes
Orange course with Orange Marks	Toppers and Optimist
Reggata Fleet with Yellow Pillermarks	Coached Regatta Fleet (Toppers, Optmist and RS Tera (sports rig)

11. The Courses

The diagrams in Attachment A show the courses, including the course letters, the order in which marks are to be passed, and the side on which each mark is to be left.

When there is a gate, boats shall sail between the gate marks from the direction of the previous mark and round either gate mark. The gate may at the discretion of the race committee be replaced by a single mark to be left to port.

Race Committees shall display the class the course letters and the number of Beats to be sailed for dinghies on a board at the back of each of the Committee Boat.

Courses Inner Loop I or IX or Outer loop O or OX as specified in attachment A.

This adds to RRS 28.1: 'If the Race Committee observes a boat failing to sail the correct course, then she may be disqualified without a hearing.' This also changes RRS A5.

12. Obstructions

A safety boat in close attendance to a craft or competitor in difficulty is an obstruction.

13. Marks

Marks 1, 2, 3, 3s, 3p, 4, 4s, 4p and 5 (where used) will be inflatable dumpy buoys (similar to that shown below) See SI 10 Racing Area for Mark colours.



Starting marks will be a race committee boat displaying an orange flag at the starboard end and a boat or a dan-buoy displaying an orange flag at the port end:

Finishing marks will be a race committee boat displaying a blue flag and a boat or a dan-buoy displaying a blue flag.

14. The Start

Races will be started in accordance with rule 26.

Title	Minutes Before Starting Signal	Flag & Sound
Warning	5 minutes	Class Flag ;Displayed 1 sound signal
Preparatory	4 minutes	Either Flag P or Flag I or Flag U or Black Flag up ;Displayed 1 sound signal
1 minute period	1 minute	Either Flag P, I, U, or Black Removed and one long sound signal
Starting	0 minute	Class Flag Removed ; 1 sound signal



P Flag



I Flag



Black Flag



U Flag

The start for one class may be at the same time as the warning signal for the subsequent class. If there is a General Recall, then the subsequent classes' start will be delayed in order to maintain the start sequence.

The starting line will be between staffs displaying orange flags on the starting marks.

Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall keep at least 50m clear of the starting area.

A boat starting later than 4 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start. This changes rule A4.1.

15. CHANGE OF COURSE AFTER THE START

A change of course after the start will be signaled before the leading boat has begun the leg, although the new mark may not then be in position. Subsequent legs may be changed without further signaling to maintain the course shape.



The race committee may move a mark (or the finishing line) up to 100m without signalling the change. This changes rule 33.

16. The Finish

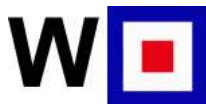
The Finishing line will be a mast on the Race Committee boat displaying a Blue flag and a mast on a boat or a dan-buoy displaying a blue flag.

16.1. Alternative Finishing Line

After the first boat has finished the Race Committee may finish other boats at a mark of the course or on a leg of the course.

When a committee boat displays flag W with two sounds, boats may be finished by this Official Boat.

When a boat finishes in accordance with this instruction she shall be given a finishing place after all boats which complete more legs of the course and then finish. This changes rule 28, 35, A4 and A5.



17. Time limit.

Dinghies failing to finish within 20 minutes of the first boat in their class will be scored as DNF. This changes rule 35, A4 and A5.

Class	Target Time	Time Limit for First boat to Finish
Dinghies	30 Minutes	50 Minutes

18. Radio Communication

A boat shall neither make radio transmissions while racing nor receive radio communications. This restriction includes mobile telephones

19. Exoneration Penalty, Advisory Hearings & Arbitration Hearings.

Exoneration penalties, and the Advisory Hearing and RYA Arbitration procedures of the RYA Rules Disputes procedure will be available. Attachment C, which forms part of these sailing instructions,

gives the detailed arrangements.

20. Protests

Boats intending to lodge a protest shall inform the race committee finishing vessel upon finishing the race. Note that an Advisory Hearing as defined in Attachment C.2 does not require a sailor to inform the race committee boat at the finish of the race.

Protest forms are available at the race office. Completed protest forms and requests for an RYA Arbitration hearing shall be delivered there within the protest time limit.

The end of protest time for each class will be 45 minutes after the last boat in that class finishes the last race of the day, this will also be posted on the official notice board each day.

Notices will be posted on the official notice board within 15 minutes of the end of protest time. The purpose of the notices is to inform competitors of any hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Competitors should ensure they are not involved with a protest before leaving the club.

Notices of protests by the race committee or protest committee will be posted on the official notice board to inform boats under rule 61.1(b).

On the last day of scheduled racing, a party to a hearing may ask for a re-opening no later than 30 minutes after being informed of the decision. This changes rule 66.

Protests under Sailing instruction points 23, 24, 25, 26 & 27 maybe be brought only by the Race Committee or Protest Committee and not by a competitor.' This changes rule 60.1

21. Scoring

The Low Point scoring system of Appendix A will apply, Rule B8 is deleted.

One race is required to be completed to constitute a regatta for all boats.

Each boat's series score will be the total of her race scores with her worst score discarded if three or more races are completed.

To request correction of an alleged error in posted race or series results, a boat shall complete a scoring enquiry form available at the race office.

Competitors in the Topper Fleet using either the 5.3m² or 4.2m² sailis will be scored as a single fleet.

22. Safety

All competitors shall wear a personal flotation device at all times when afloat, except briefly when changing or adjusting clothing or personal equipment. Wet suits and dry suits are not considered personal flotation devices. This changes Part 4 preamble, Race Signals and Rule 40.

A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee as soon as possible.

Boats wishing to sail ashore before the end of the day's racing shall not do so unless authorized by a safety boat. The safety boat will instruct boats in the procedure for returning ashore

Boats shall follow the instructions of the safety boats. Failure to do so will be reported to the race committee, which may protest the boat. Boats penalised under this instruction may be scored DNE, or such other penalty that the protest committee may decide. This changes rule 64.1(a).

23. Tallies [DP]

(a) The Tally System to check-in and check-out competitors will be at located at the top of the slipway.

(b) Tallies comprise numbered and colour coded rubber wrist bands Tallies shall be worn visibly, over clothing, on the right wrist and shall be worn by both helm and crew whilst float.

(c) Both helm and crew shall individually tally-out before racing by personally collecting their tally, and individually tally-in as soon as practically possible upon returning to shore after racing by returning the tally personally to tally control. Tally numbers will be issued at registration.

24. Replacement of Crew or Equipment [DP]

Substitution of competitors will not be allowed without prior written approval of the Race Committee. Requests shall be submitted in writing using forms available from the race office.

Substitution of damaged or lost equipment will not be allowed unless approved by the Race Committee. Requests for substitution shall be submitted in writing using forms available from the race office. Failure to do so, the refusal of the request, or the replacement equipment not complying with the class rules, may result in the boat being penalised.

Only one sail may be registered during the event except if loss or damage beyond repair. (NB this will apply to Toppers wishing to Change Rigs between 5.3 & 4.2)

25. Official Boats [DP]

Official boats will be marked as follows:

Boat	Flag
Race Committee Boats	Course Area Flag
Safety Boats	Course Area Flags
Media Boats	Green Flag "MEDIA"
Coach Boats	RYA Flags

Course	Colour
Orange	Orange Flag
Reggata Fleet	Yellow Flag

26. Support Boats [DP]

Only official boats (those invited by and registered with the organisers) may launch at Oxford SC Slipway. There shall be no communication with competitors while afloat except by official boats.

Food and drink may be placed on official boats, as well as rubbish.

Gear shall not be placed on any boat.

27. Outside Help [DP]

Penalties for breaking rule 41 (outside Help) shall be at the discretion of the Protest Committee.

When a boat has received help, a request for a lesser penalty than retirement may be made to the Protest Committee in writing before the protest time limit on the day concerned.

28. Boats and Competitors in Difficulty

When the race committee considers that a boat or competitor is in difficulty it may instruct the boat or competitor to accept outside help, retire or sail ashore.

29. Regatta Fleet Racing

The RYA South Zone Championships is open to less experienced club sailors in Optimists, Toppers (Including 4.2 rig) & Teras (sport rig only) who are learning how to race. The racing will be organised by coaches and run on an informal basis with coaching. Racing starting at around the same time as the main fleets, on both days.

30. Rubbish Disposal

Boats shall not put rubbish into the water. Rubbish may be placed official boats.

31. Prizes

Prizes are detailed in the Notice of Race.

RYA Zone Championships Club Trophy, will be awarded to a club that brings the most competitors to the event

32. Disclaimer of liability

Risk Statement

Rule 4 of the Racing Rules of Sailing 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 whilst taking part in the event;
- b) They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore;

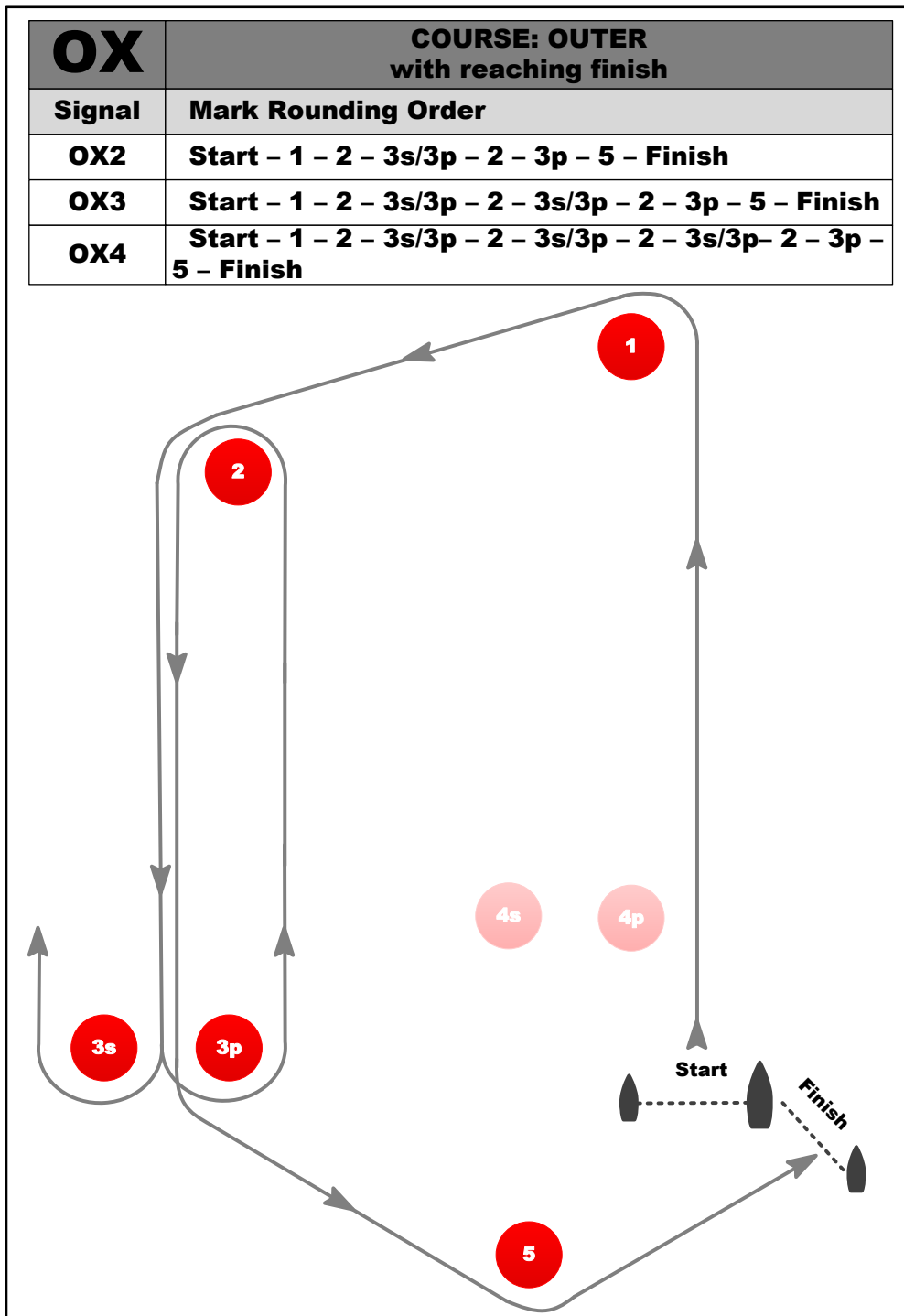
- c) They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omission;
- d) Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate;
- e) The provision of a race management team, patrol boats and other officials and volunteers 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;

33. Insurance

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

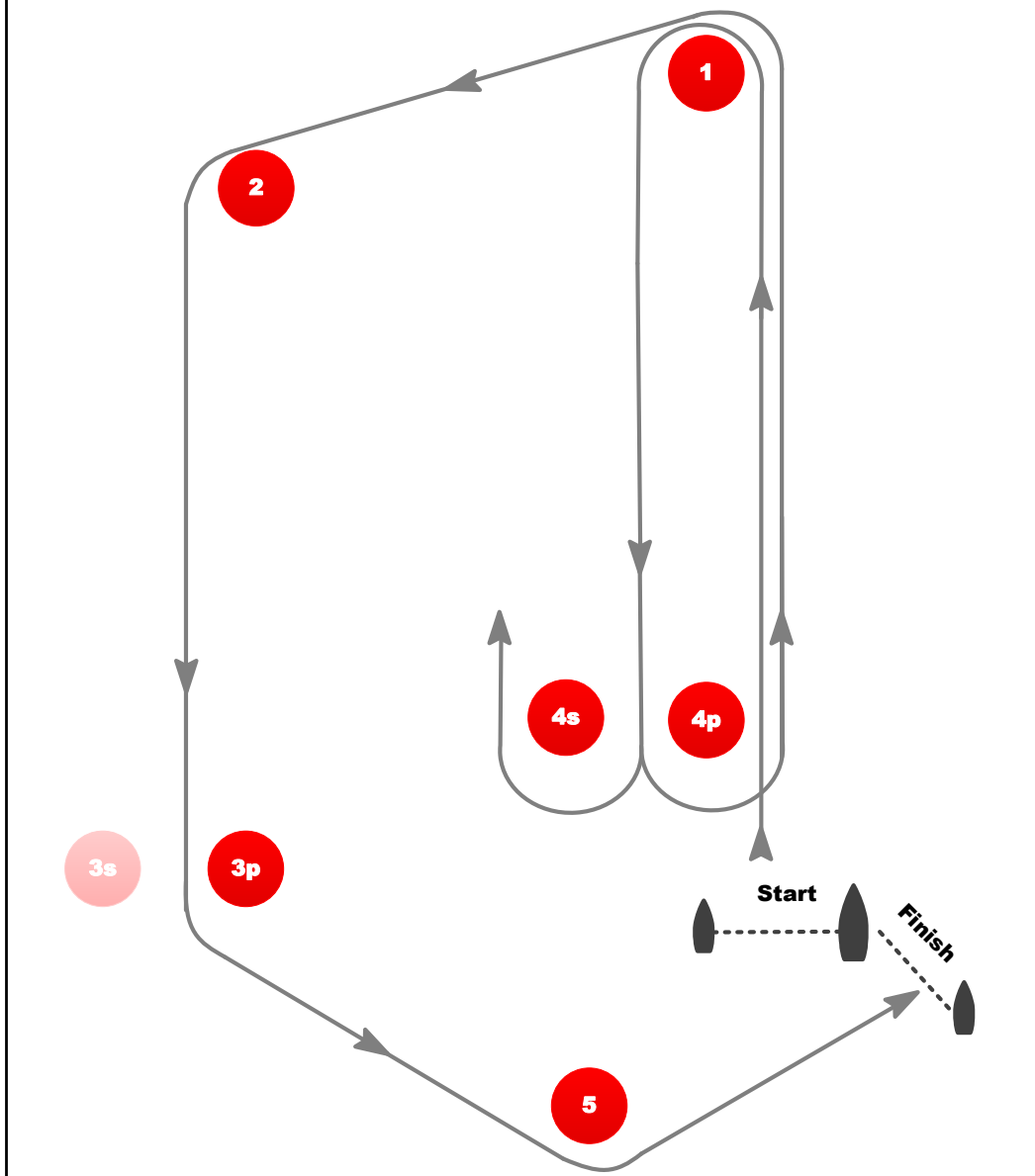
Attachment A - Courses

Course OX Outer Loop & Gate



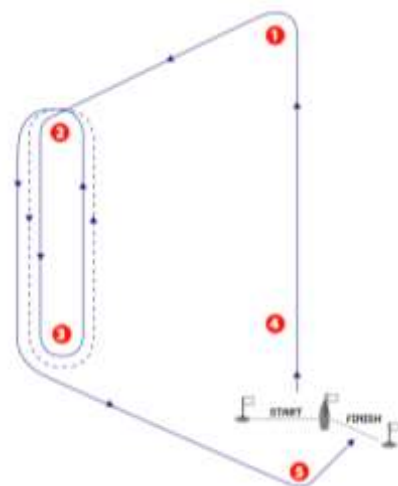
Course IX Inner Loop & Gate

IX	COURSE: INNER with reaching finish
Signal	Mark Rounding Order
IX2	Start - 1 - 4s/4p - 1 - 2 - 3p - 5 - Finish
IX3	Start - 1 - 4s/4p - 1 - 4s/4p - 1 - 2 - 3p - 5 - Finish
IX4	Start - 1 - 4s/4p - 1 - 4s/4p - 1 - 4s/4p - 1 - 2 - 3p - 5 - Finish



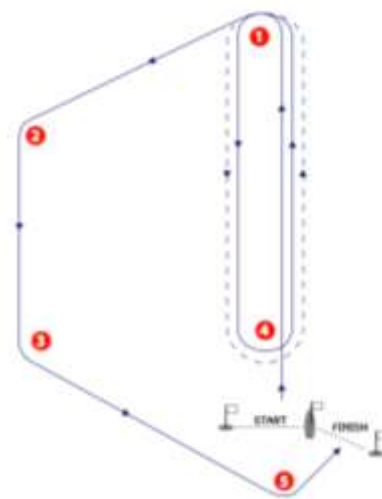
**Course O
Outer Loop**

Course O: Outer Loop, Reaching Finish No Gate	
Course Board	Mark Rounding Order
O2	Start – 1 – 2 – 3 – 2 – 3 – 5 - Finish
O3	Start – 1 – 2 – 3 – 2 – 3 – 2 – 3 – 5 - Finish
O4	Start – 1 – 2 – 3 – 2 – 3 – 2 – 3 – 2 – 3 – 5 - Finish



**Course I
Inner Loop**

Course I : Inner Loop, Reaching Finish No Gate	
Course Board	Mark Rounding Order
I2	Start – 1 – 4 – 1 – 2 – 3 – 5 - finish
I3	Start – 1 – 4 – 1 – 4 – 1 – 2 – 3 – 5 - finish
I4	Start – 1 – 4 – 1 – 4 – 1 – 4 – 1 – 2 – 3 – 5 - finish



Attachment B – Female Participants position of red diamond

ALL Female Boats (Feva Helm & Crew) will be issued with two Red diamonds to be attached to the sail. Make sure your sail is clean and dry before applying. The diagrams below show the approximate position for the diamond, the Diamonds should be placed back to back on the sail.

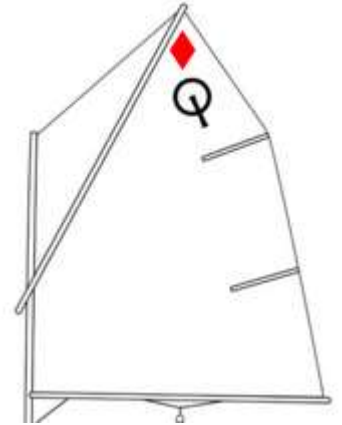
Topper 5.3 & 4.2
Placed just above the top hat in the WHITE area of the sail



RS Tera Sport
Placed just above the RS Tera logo in the White panel



Optimist
Placed just above the optimist logo.



Laser 4.7
Placed just above the top battens in the top most panel of the sail



RS Feva XL
Placed just above the top battens in the top most panel of the sail



All Windsurfers
Diamonds should be placed in the top 1/4 of the sail above any class logo

Attachment C

Exoneration Penalty, Advisory Hearings & Arbitration Hearings

C.1 Exoneration Penalty

- a) A boat that may have broken a rule of Part 2, or rule 31 or 42, may, after finishing the race concerned and before the start of a related protest hearing, notify the Race Committee that she accepts a 30% scoring penalty as stated in rule 44.3(c), (except that the minimum penalty is two places if that does not result in a score worse than DNF). This penalty does not reverse an OCS score, a disqualification under rule 30.3 or a penalty under Appendix P. It is not available for a breach of rule 2 or of class rules or for gross misconduct under rule 69. Nor is it available to a boat that caused injury or serious damage, or gained a significant advantage by her breach: in these circumstances, her penalty is to retire.
- b) When an Exoneration Penalty is accepted,
 - i. Neither the boat nor a Protest Committee may then revoke or remove the penalty.
 - ii. The boat shall not be penalized further in a protest hearing when the Protest Committee decides that it was appropriate to the facts found and the applicable rules.

C.2 Advisory Hearing

When there is an incident that will not result in the lodging of a protest or a request for redress, a boat, Protest Committee or Race Committee may request an advisory hearing with the race office, and notify any boat involved in the incident. An Adviser will then call a hearing to learn what may have happened and will state whether any rule appears to have been broken, and by which boat. A boat may as a result notify the race office that she accepts an Exoneration Penalty when it applies to the incident, or choose to retire, although there is no requirement for her to do either.

C.3 RYA Arbitration

- (a) When a protest or request for redress is lodged, a boat may at the same time request RYA Arbitration, or the Protest Committee or Race Committee may offer it.
- (b) 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) shall call a hearing conforming to Section B of Part 5 of the Racing Rules of Sailing, except that rule 64.1 will not apply. Instead, when the Arbitrator decides 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 it is accepted by a protested boat, the protesting boat will be allowed to withdraw the protest, changing rule 63.1.
- (c) When there is not an 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. Rule 66 will not apply to the arbitration decision. A boat may still accept an Exoneration Penalty at any time before the start of a protest hearing and receive its protection from further penalization. She may also retire.
- (d) When redress is offered and accepted at the RYA Arbitration, the Protest Committee or Race Committee may seek to have this reviewed by asking for a full hearing. When redress is offered and not accepted, or not offered at all, the boat may have her request heard before a Protest Committee.

RYA RULES DISPUTES – WHAT TO DO

The best way of dealing with incidents (rules disputes) on the water, if no boat takes a penalty at the time, is to offer a choice of:
(i) an ADVISORY HEARING, (ii) RYA ARBITRATION or (iii) a PROTEST HEARING



ADVISORY HEARING

USE THIS IF YOU JUST WANT TO LEARN WHETHER YOU WERE IN THE RIGHT OR WRONG

- An incident has occurred and no party wishes to protest, but instead want to learn for the future from what happened
- No protest form is required
- All parties meet informally with a Rules Adviser
- The parties describe what happened
- The Rules Adviser explains what rules may have been broken and whether anyone was in the wrong
- No one is disqualified or penalised, although a boat in the wrong **may** accept an exoneration penalty (specified in the SIs and commonly a 20% scoring penalty) or retire



RYA ARBITRATION

USE THIS IF YOU WANT THE DISPUTE RESOLVED QUICKLY AND SIMPLY. THIS IS NOT AS FORMAL AS A PROTEST HEARING, AND THE POTENTIAL PENALTY NOT AS DAMAGING TO A BOAT'S SCORE

- An incident has occurred and a valid protest is lodged within the normal time limit
- All parties agree to opt for RYA Arbitration and meet with a Rules Adviser
- The parties describe what happened, and the Rules Adviser will decide whether any witnesses should be called
- The Rules Adviser explains what rules may have been broken and whether anyone was in the wrong
- A boat in the wrong is asked to accept the exoneration penalty
- No one is disqualified
- If the exoneration penalty is not accepted, the protest may go to a formal protest hearing
- There are very occasional scenarios when it is not possible or correct to resolve a dispute by RYA Arbitration and instead it has to be taken to a formal protest hearing



PROTEST HEARING

USE THIS IF THE DISPUTE IS COMPLEX, OR IF THERE HAS BEEN INJURY OR SERIOUS DAMAGE, OR IF YOU FEEL AN EXONERATION PENALTY WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE

- An incident has occurred and a valid protest is lodged within the normal time limit
- A traditional formal hearing of the parties with a Protest Committee (usually of 3 people) will be arranged
- Any boat that has broken a rule will be disqualified