



## **Skerries Sailing Club**

### **Mermaid National Championships 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> August 2023**

## **Sailing Instructions**

#### **1. RULES**

Racing will be governed by the current Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) (2021-24) the prescriptions of the ISA, the specifications, rules & regulations of the Mermaid Sailing Association, these Sailing Instructions (SIs) and any amendments thereto.

#### **2. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS**

Notices to competitors will be posted on the official regatta notice-board.

#### **3. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS OR SCHEDULE**

Any changes to the SIs will be posted not later than 90 minutes prior to the scheduled start of the first race on the day it will take effect, except that any change in the schedule of races will be posted by 20:00 hrs on the day before it will take effect, subject to the provisions of SI 5. It is the sole responsibility of each competitor to ensure that they have apprised themselves of any such alterations.

#### **4. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE**

Signals made ashore will be displayed on the flagpole outside Skerries Sailing Club.

When Int. Code Flag 'L' is displayed ashore, check the official regatta notice board.

#### **5. SCHEDULE OF RACES**

Eight Championship races and one Crew's race are scheduled. The warning signal for Race One is 12:00 on Thursday August 3<sup>rd</sup> with Race Two to commence as soon as possible after the completion of Race One. The warning signal for the Race Three is 12:00 on Friday August 4<sup>th</sup> with Race Four to commence as soon as possible after the completion of Race Three. The warning signal for the Race Five is 12:00 on Saturday August 5<sup>th</sup> with Race Six to commence as soon as possible after the completion of Race Five. The Crew's Race will

commence as soon as possible after the completion of Race Five. The warning signal for the Race Seven is 13:00 on Sunday August 6<sup>th</sup> with Race Eight to commence as soon as possible after the completion of Race Seven. At the discretion of the Race Officer, the schedule of races may be advanced by not more than one race per day; this will be indicated by displaying International Code Flag "A" on the Committee Boat while the last scheduled race is being finished.

## **6. FLAGS**

The Class Flag for the Mermaids will be international Code Flag "G".

## **7. SAILS AND SAIL NUMBERS**

Only certified sails shall be used. Except as permitted by these SI's, boats shall use their correct sail numbers which shall be clearly readable on both sides of the mainsail. RRS G4 shall not apply. Permission to sail under any other number shall be sought in writing from the Race Committee before the crew going afloat and will be granted only in exceptional circumstances.

## **8. THE COURSE**

**The course will be an Olympic style course, designated by the flying of International Code Flag "O".**

The Olympic course will be laid as an approximately equal-sided triangle. See Appendix 1

After starting the marks shall be rounded to port in the following order:-  
1 – 2 – 3 – 1 – 3 – 1 – 2 – 3 - Finish.

### **8.1 Change of Course**

For a minor adjustment to the configuration of the course, the Race Committee will relocate the mark(s). This will not be signalled. This changes RRS 33.

For a significant change of course, the Race Committee will lay new marks. This change will be signalled in accordance with RRS33 before the leading boat has begun the leg, although the new mark(s) may not yet be in the new position(s).

Any mark to be rounded, after rounding the moved or new mark(s) may be relocated without further signalling.

## **9. MARKS**

Marks 1, 2, & 3, will be yellow inflatable marks.

## **10. THE START**

Races will be started by using RRS 26. The starting line will be between the mast of the Committee Boat and an outer limit mark.

### **10.1 Starting Time Limit**

A boat starting later than 10 minutes after her starting signal will be scored DNS, Did Not Start. This changes RRS A4 & A5.

## **11. SHORTENING COURSE**

RRS 32.2 shall apply. However, should the race officer wish to shorten a race in order to finish at the start finish line, it will be signalled by displaying code flag 'F' from a rib close to a mark on the course accompanied by repeated sound signals. Boats rounding this mark should then sail directly to the start/finish line.

## **12. THE FINISH**

The Finishing Line shall be between the mast of the finish boat and a red spherical mark.

## **13. TIME LIMIT**

Any boat which fails to finish within 30 minutes of the first boat shall be scored "Did Not Finish". The time limit for the leading boat shall be 1 hour and 30 minutes. This changes RRS 35.

The last boat(s) in the fleet may be offered finishing positions prior to reaching the finish. Acceptance of same is at the competitor's discretion.

## **14. PROTESTS**

In addition to the obligations in RRS 61, protesting boats shall, immediately after finishing, inform the Race Committee member on the Finishing Boat of the sail number(s) of boats protested against. Protest forms will be available from the Race Office and all protests shall be delivered to the Race Office within Protest Time. A schedule of Protest Hearings will be posted on the Official Notice Board as soon as practicable each day.

## **15. PROTEST TIME**

Protest Time limit will be 2 hours after the last boat has finished in the last race of the day. The closing time for protests will be displayed on the Official Notice Board. Where the parties to a protest are available and willing to commence the hearing before the expiry of the time limit, the Race Committee should facilitate that process.

## **16. SCORING SYSTEM**

- a) The Low Point Scoring System in RRS Appendix A4 will apply.
- b) Rule A5 is amended as follows: A boat that does not start, does not finish, or is disqualified, shall score one point more than the number of boats that started. Rule 30.2 and 44.3 do not apply.

- c) Discards: When four or more races are completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her races scores excluding her worst score.
- d) If eight races have been completed, a boats series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her two worst scores.
- e) Four races are required to complete a series.

## **17. SAFETY**

Competitors participate entirely at their own risk see Fundamental Rule 4, Decision to Race.

The responsibility for the safety of competing boats and their crews lies solely with the said competitors. Skerries Sailing Club and/or the Organising Committee will not accept any liability for material damage, personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with, prior to, during or after racing.

Boats shall keep clear of race committee vessels (committee boats, mark laying boats and patrol boats), from the time the committee boat is on station, prior to starting racing.

Personal buoyancy shall be worn at all times when afloat. This changes RRS 40. Wet or dry suits are not acceptable as substitutes.

## **18. INSPECTIONS**

The Race Committee or an Official appointed by the Race Committee may inspect any competing boat at any time and any boat found not to be in compliance with the Rules of the Mermaid Sailing Association may be debarred from further competition until the offending matter has been rectified. If any races have already taken place the boat may at the discretion of the Protest Committee and the Mermaid Sailing Association, be disqualified from any or all of such races. This changes RRS 64.4.

## **19. SUBSTITUTION**

The Race Committee is authorised to permit, if the Mermaid Sailing Association approves, a competitor to **substitute another boat if his/her own boat has been damaged in transit or during racing.** Crew substitution shall be at the sole discretion of the Race Committee.

## **INFORMATION FOR COMPETITORS**

### **a. RESPONSIBILITY**

The Organising Club, its Officers and agents, accept no responsibility for any damage to boats or for personal injury occurring while afloat. Competitors' attention is drawn to RRS Fundamental Rule 4, especially in relation to races being run in adverse weather conditions.

b. **STORAGE OF BOATS**

Neither Skerries Sailing Club nor the Mermaid Sailing Association accept responsibility for boats or property left on Club property.

c. **SECURITY**

All competitors should note the necessity to secure their valuables before going afloat.

d. **MEMBERSHIP**

All competitors will be granted Temporary Membership of Skerries Sailing Club for the duration of the event.

e. **WEATHER FORECAST**

The weather forecast will be posted daily on the Official Notice Board.

f. **Tide Times**

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> HW 12.31 - Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> HW 13:17 - Friday 4<sup>th</sup> HW 14:04  
– Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> HW 14:52 – Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> HW 15:51

## **Appendix 1 Courses**



**Olympic Course, Designated by International Code Flag "O"**



