

# Sailing Instructions

## RHYC Tuning Fork Trophy Race 2025

### Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2025

#### 1. Rules

- 1.1. Racing will be governed by the Racing Rules of Sailing for 2025-2028 ("RRS") as issued by World Sailing, the prescriptions of the Royal Yachting Association, the RYA Racing Charter, the class rules of the classes racing, and the RHYC Yacht and Cruiser Notice of Race, except as any of these are changed by these sailing instructions.
- 1.2. The Ipswich Port Authority and Harwich Haven Authority Bylaws also apply. Quote: 'A vessel which is not confined to the Deep Water Channel by reason of her draught shall keep clear of the Deep Water Channel when necessary to avoid impeding the movement of a vessel which is proceeding in, and by reason of her draught is confined to that channel.' Note: "Competitors should be aware that a yacht sailing on a converging course towards a large or unwieldy commercial vessel might be held to have impeded its safe passage by approaching within its restricted visibility zone, even without having encroached within the deep-water channel."
- 1.3. Competitors are required, while racing, to avoid navigating within the limits of the deep water channel or passing on the channel side to seaward of the Grisle buoy, as defined by straight lines joining consecutive channel marks including the Landguard buoy, and out to sea as far as the Cross buoy. For the purposes of the RRS such lines are to be regarded as a continuing obstruction.

#### 2. Entries

- 2.1. Entry is open to all monohull cruisers as specified in the Notice of Race. Entries can be made via the RHYC website by end of Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2025.

#### 3. Notices to Competitors / Information afloat.

- 3.1 Notices to Competitors shall be communicated by the Race Officer on Channel 72. Competitors are required to monitor the VHF Channel from 1 hour before the published start time to their finish of the race.
- 3.2 In an emergency competitors may communicate with the Race Officer, Peter Cockayne on VHF 72 or on 07712 183746.

#### 4 Signals Made Afloat

- 4.1 Signals shall be made from the RHYC Committee Boat

#### 5 Race Schedule

- 5.1 The race will start in the vicinity of River Orwell No 3 green conical buoy.
- 5.2 The race will start at 11.00am. Warning signal at 10.55am.
- 5.3 The course for the race will be decided on the day dependant on the weather conditions; this may be out to the Harwich approaches and Dovercourt Bay or the rivers Orwell and Stour.

#### 6 Class Flags

- 6.1 Class flag for the event is the yacht's club Burgee, to be flown from the yacht's backstay whilst racing; no ensigns to be flown.

## **7 The Course**

7.1 The course to be sailed will be announced by VHF Channel 72 prior to the warning signal.

7.2 A VHF announcement with time checks will be made before the Warning Signal. At least one repeat broadcast will be given, and further repeats to competitors may be made on request by any boat when convenient, but not during the starting sequence.

7.3 If a course that has been broadcast is subsequently changed, IC flag L will be displayed and a sound signal will be made. The change of course signal will be made at least 5 minutes before the Warning Signal. The signal flag L will be removed at the Start Signal.

7.4 In the event that the course provided on the day explicitly conflicts with any Sailing Instruction, the course provided by the Race Officer shall prevail.

## **8. SHORTENING COURSE**

8.1 The course may be shortened to finish at any mark of the course for any reason at the discretion of the Race Officer.

8.2 A Committee Boat may display IC flag S and the line shall be crossed from the direction of the last mark, on the proper side of the mark as prescribed by the course definition. The finish line will be defined by the mark in question and a staff or mast displaying an orange flag on the Committee Boat, or the fore mast of the Committee Boat (this changes RRS Rule 32.2 the definition of "Race Signals").

## **9. START AND FINISH LINES**

9.1 Start Line will be between the Committee Boat and River Orwell No 3 buoy.

9.2 The finish could be either the Start Line or the RHYC line depending on prevailing conditions. This will be confirmed with the course announcement.

9.3 **RHYC Line** This line is a transit of two posts on the south bank of the Orwell, just to eastward of RHYC Marina, the riverside post marked with red and white hoops with a yellow triangular top mark, the rear post is a black and white mast behind the starting box. The northern limit of this line is a white-topped wooden pole to the north side of the buoyed channel and moorings.

9.4 The Race Committee may shorten the course at any point during the race dependent upon conditions and fleet progress.

9.5 Committee Boat will be a Starlight 35 named Reflection displaying a Royal Harwich Yacht Club ensign.

## **10 Check in**

10.1 Competing Yachts shall identify themselves to the Race Officer on the Committee Boat by hailing at least 10 minutes before the start and state the number of persons on board, also confirm whether sailing with Spinnaker or White Sails.

## **11 The Start**

11.1 Races shall be started using a 5,4,1,0 start sequence.

11.2 Times shall be taken from the visual signals; the failure of a sound signal shall be disregarded.

11.3 The Start Line will be between River Orwell No 3 buoy and the Committee Boat.

11.4 Recalls - Individual or general recalls will be signalled according to Rules 29.1 and 29.2 respectively.

## **12 Time Limit**

12.1 The race time limit shall be 16:00 BST

## **13 The Finish**

13.1 If the Race Officer is not on station for the finish, competitors shall take their own finishing times and report them to the Race Officer by VHF (or telephone if available).

13.2 Where participants self-finish on a mark determined by the Race Officer then the finish will be when the mark bears 90 degrees to the hull and within two boat lengths, unless varied by the RO on the day.

13.3 Retiring boats shall inform the RO by VHF or mobile at the first reasonable opportunity.

## **14 Protests**

14.1 Protesting boats shall advise the Race Committee of their intent to protest when finishing and receive an acknowledgement.

14.2 Protest forms must be submitted to RHYC at the earliest practical opportunity. Protests will be heard at a time and place appointed by the Race Officer.

## **15 Risk Statement**

Rule 3 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 involves an element of risk.

By taking part in the event, each competitor agrees and acknowledges that:

- i. 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.
- ii. They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore.
- iii. They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions.
- iv. Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate.
- v. The provision of a Race Management Team by the organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities.
- vi. Their boat is adequately insured for racing, with cover of at least £5,000,000 against third party claims.

## **16 Safety Regulations**

16.1 Yachts must meet the minimum standards laid out in the World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations Appendix B Special Regulations for Inshore Racing, which includes a functional engine with adequate fuel, and a marine VHF transceiver.

16.2 All yachts must carry a working VHF radio (fixed or handheld), capable of working on Channel 72. The Race Officer will monitor Channel 72 throughout the race. A contact telephone number for the day is in the Sailing Instructions.

16.3 Personal buoyancy must be carried for all crew members on board.

16.4 If a yacht has no guard rails fitted, personal buoyancy must be worn by all crew members whilst on deck.

## **17 Prizegiving**

17.1 Prizegiving will be as soon as possible after all yachts have finished at the RHYC on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2025.