

Sailing Instructions

RHYC Sunk & Bell Races– Yachts and Cruisers 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.
- 2.2. All entries should be made by 10am on Thursday 2nd October. Late entries for both races will be at the Handicaps Committee's discretion.

3. Notices to Competitors/Information Afloat

- 3.1. Notices to Competitors shall be communicated by the Race Officer on Channel 72 and the RHYC Yacht Racing Whats app group. Competitors are required to monitor VHF Channel 72 and the Whats App group from 1 hour before the published start time to the finish of their race.
- 3.2. The race officer is Peter Cockayne and his mobile phone number is 07712 183746. In emergency, or for purposes stipulated in these Sailing Instructions, competitors may communicate with the Race Officer using VHF or the mobile telephone number.
- 3.3. The race officer may at his absolute discretion appoint one individual from the Sunk and Bell fleets to be a Race Officer Afloat, able to alter or shorten courses by using VHF Ch 72 and the RHYC Yacht Racing Whats App group. This alters RRS 32.1

4. Signals Made Afloat

- 4.1. Starting sequence information shall be made on the RHYC Committee Boat. These will include broadcasts over VHF channel 72 and may also be displayed visually with flags.

5. Schedule of Races

- 5.1. The Sunk Race will start at 11.00am and the use of spinnakers and asymmetric will be allowed. Results will be calculated using YTC handicaps.
- 5.2. The Bell Race will start at 11.10am and will be for white sails only. Results will be calculated using YTC handicaps.

- 5.3. The Handicap Committee will provide a handicap for those yachts which do not have a YTC.
- 5.4. Races will start at the Beacon Hill line, unless advised otherwise. Courses set for the races may include the Rivers Orwell and Stour and Dovercourt Bay.
6. **Class Flags**
- 6.1. Class flag for the Sunk Trophy race will be the IC flag H and class flag for the Bell Trophy will be RHYC Burgee, to be flown from the yachts backstay whilst racing and with no ensigns to be flown.
7. **The Course**
- 7.1. The course(s) to be sailed will be announced on VHF channel 72. They may also be posted on the RHYC Yacht Racing Whats App.
- 7.2. A VHF announcement 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 any starting sequence.
8. **Check in**
- 8.1. Competing Yachts should identify themselves to the Race Officer on the Committee Boat by hailing and advising crew number on board prior to the Warning Signal. Yachts running late may attempt to check in by VHF.
9. **The Start**
- 9.1. Both the Sunk and Bell Races shall be started using a 5,4,1,0 start sequence.
- 9.2. The Start Line is a line drawn between the Committee boat and Beacon Hill (or in the absence of that a yellow or orange buoy in the proximity of Beacon Hill).
- 9.3. Individual or general recalls will be signalled by VHF where possible.
10. **Time Limits**
- 10.1. The race time limit shall be 4 hours for both the Sunk and Bell races.
- 10.2. This time limit shall not apply to a boat which, though finishing outside the time limit, would still place above a boat finishing inside the time limit after handicap is applied.
11. **The Finish**
- 11.1. 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 mobile.
- 11.2. Retiring boats shall inform the Race Officer by VHF or mobile at the first reasonable opportunity.
12. **Prizes**
- 12.1. Prizes will be presented later in the afternoon on the lawn.
13. **Protests**
- 13.1. Protesting boats shall advise the Race Committee of their intent to protest when finishing and receive an acknowledgement.
- 13.2. Protest forms must be submitted to RHYC at the earliest practical opportunity. Protests will be heard at a time and place appointed by the RO.
14. **Risk Statements**

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, patrol boats, umpires and other officials and volunteers 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.

15. Safety Regulations

15.1. All yachts must carry a working VHF radio (fixed or handheld), capable of working on Channel 72. The race office will monitor Channel 72 throughout the race.

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

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

Updated on 12/09/2025

See below for Race Chart.

RACE CHART

COURSE

MARK							
PORT / STARBOARD							
MARK							
PORT / STARBOARD							

RIVER MARKS

- BL Bristol Buoy
- BY Bay Buoy
- CR Collimer Buoy
- FY Fagbury Buoy
- O1 Orwell Number 1 Buoy
- O2 Orwell Number 2 Buoy
- O3 Orwell Number 3 Buoy
- O4 Orwell Number 4 Buoy
- O5 Orwell Number 5 Buoy
- OL Orwell Buoy
- RY Ramsey Buoy
- S1 Stour Number 1 Buoy
- SH Shotley Horse
- SN Stratton Buoy
- SS Shotley Spit Buoy
- SY Offing Buoy (R/W)
- TY Trimley Buoy

SEA MARKS

- AA Armada Racing Mark
- BH Beacon Hill Racing Mark
- CL Cork Ledge Racing Mark
- FX Foxes Racing Mark
- HS Harwich Shelf Buoy
- H2 OYC Hanford Channel No 2
- LD Landguard Buoy
- MA Medusa Buoy
- OR Outer Ridge Buoy
- PE Pye End Buoy
- PH Pennyhole Racing Mark
- SB Stone Banks Buoy

