

## 2026 AJAX SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

### 1. Rules

- 1.1 Each event to which these sailing instructions apply is governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing 2025 - 2028*.
- 1.2 The Port of Ipswich and the Harwich Haven Authority Byelaws also apply. Competitors should note in particular "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." Competitors should be aware that a boat sailing on a converging course towards a large or unwieldy commercial vessel might be held to have impeded its movement by approaching within its restricted visibility zone, even without having encroached within the deep-water channel.
- 1.3 Competitors shall not enter the navigation channel while a commercial vessel is passing through the racecourse to ensure sufficient clearance from the side of any commercial vessel. In addition, the exclusion zone shall be 200m from the bow or as defined by a support boat with a red flag whichever is the greater and 50m from the stern of the vessel.
- 1.4 Competitors shall not enter the deep-water channel from Guard buoy to Landguard
- 1.5 Failure to comply with rules 1.2 and 1.3 shall result in disqualification without a hearing. This changes RRS 63.1 and A5.1. The race committee may give warning of the approach of a commercial vessel by making five sound signals
- 1.6 Competitors and support persons shall comply with all reasonable requests from race officials.
- 1.7 For the avoidance of doubt the old rules regarding Pepys and College, and the navigation buoys in the Stour have been cancelled by the harbour authority.

### 2. Notices to Competitors

- 2.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board on the outside of the Race Office at the north east corner of the club lawn.

### 3. Changes to Sailing Instructions

- 3.1 Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted on the official notice board at

least half an hour before the start of the first race of the day.

#### 4. Signals made ashore

- 4.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed on the black and white flag mast near the Race Office.
- 4.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 1 minute' in Race Signals AP.

#### 5. Schedule of Races

- 5.1 The schedule of races will be as published in the Notice of Race for the relevant event or series.

#### 6. Class Flags

- 6.1 Class flags are as follows:

<b>Class</b>	<b>Class flag</b>
Ajax	3 <sup>rd</sup> substitute
ILCA	Laser star
Handicap	Z (Zulu)

This changes the meaning of Race Signal Z and RRS30.2 is deleted.

- 6.2 Races to be started from the Race hut will be signalled using either flags on the black and white flag mast behind the Race Office, or boards on the front of the Race Office, or lights in the window of the Race Office.
- 6.3 If boards are used then the class flag for each start in a sequence is a board displaying the number of that start ('1' to '4'). If there are more than four starts in a sequence then the class flag for the fifth start will be the board displaying number '1' again, and so on.
- 6.4 If lights are used then they replace flags as follows (with illumination of each light replacing display of the relevant flag):

<b>Left-most lights when viewed from the river</b>						<b>Right-most lights when viewed from the river</b>

Preparatory flag	Class flag for 1 <sup>st</sup> start	Class flag for 2 <sup>nd</sup> start	Class flag for 3 <sup>rd</sup> start	Class flag for 4 <sup>th</sup> start	Individual recall (X)	General recall (1 <sup>st</sup> sub)
Shortened course (S)						Postpone-ment (AP)

6.5 When starts are from Lion committee boat courses and number of laps may be displayed on a board lion, or called over the radio. Courses starting from a yacht on the river may have sound signals but could also have courses and times called over the radio.

## 7. Racing Area

7.1 The racing area for each race will be as specified in the course description.

## 8. Courses

8.1 The course to be sailed in each race, including the starting line to be used (including the description of any starting marks), the marks to be passed or rounded (including the description of any temporary marks), the order in which they are to be passed or rounded, the side on which each mark is to be left, the number of laps to be sailed, and the finishing line to be used (including the description of any finishing marks), will be displayed on the official notice board and/or on a board on the starting line committee vessel and/or broadcast over the radio.

## 9. Marks

9.1 Marks will be selected from the following: navigation buoys, club racing posts, permanent racing buoys, and temporary racing buoys (danbuoys and/or inflatable buoys). A chart showing the approximate location of the navigation buoys, club racing posts and permanent racing buoys in the vicinity of the club is provided in Annex A.

9.2 For starts or finishes using Line C, the committee vessel will be 'Lion' unless otherwise specified in the course description.

## 10. Obstructions

10.1 Except when coming ashore to effect repairs, boats racing shall not sail anywhere within the area between the club marina and the club slip (out to the post marking

the end of the slip), bounded on the channel side by the straight line between the post at the end of the club slip and the north east corner of the marina pontoons, nor anywhere within the club marina itself (inside the straight line joining the channel side of the hammer head pontoons). These areas are obstructions.

## **11. The Start**

11.1 Races will be started using RRS 26 with the warning signal made 5 minutes before the starting signal. An alternative start sequence may be used if advised in the Notice of Race.

11.2 The starting line will be one of the following (as specified in the course description):

Start Line A – The starting line will be between the red post with an orange triangle top mark in front of the Race Office and ODM (post).

Start Line B – The starting line will be between ODM (post) and Middle (post).

Start Line C – The starting line will be between the mast or pole on which an orange flag is flying on the committee vessel and the course side of the starting mark at the other end of the line.

Start Line D – The starting line will be between the course sides of the two marks identified in the course description.

11.3 [Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall keep clear of the starting area during the starting sequence for other classes.

## **12. Changing the next leg of the course.**

12.1 Changes to the position of marks will not be signalled. This changes RRS 33.

## **13. The Finish**

13.1 The finishing line will be one of the following (as specified in the course description):

Finish Line A – The finishing line will be between the red post with an orange triangle top mark in front of the Race Office and ODM (post).

Finish Line B – The finishing line will be between ODM (post) and Middle (post).

Finish Line C – The finishing line will be between the mast or pole on which an orange or blue flag is flying on the committee vessel and the course side of the finishing mark at the other end of the line.

Finish Line D – The finishing line will be between the course sides of the two marks

identified in the course description.

- 13.2 After finishing and clearing the finishing line, boats shall keep clear of the finishing area and of all boats not yet finished.

#### **14. Penalties**

- 14.1 For the Ajax class, RRS 44.1 is changed so that the Two-Turns Penalty is replaced by the One-Turn Penalty.

#### **15. Time Limits**

- 15.1 The Race Time Limit is 75 minutes unless the Notice of Race says otherwise.
- 15.2 Boats that start, but fail to finish within 15 minutes of the first boat to start, sail the course and finish (the Finishing Window) will be scored DNF without a hearing, unless the Notice of Race says otherwise. This changes RRS 35, A5.1 and A5.2.

#### **16. Protests**

##### **16.1 *The requirements of RRS 61 will apply in all cases.***

- 16.2 Protest forms are available from the Race Office. Protests shall be delivered there within the protest time limit.
- 16.3 Boats intending to protest are asked to inform the race committee either while afloat or at the first reasonable opportunity upon returning to shore.
- 16.4 The protest time limit is 30 minutes after the last boat has come ashore after the last race of the day or the race committee has signalled 'no more racing today', whichever is the later.
- 16.5 The Post-Race Penalty, Advisory Hearing and RYA Arbitration procedures of the RYA Rules Disputes Procedures are available.

#### **17. Scoring**

- 17.1 Each event and series to which these sailing instructions apply will be scored in accordance with the rules set out in the relevant Notice of Race.

#### **18. Safety Regulations**

- 18.1 On each day of racing, competitors intending to race shall complete the sign-on form in the Race Office before racing. Competitors may sign in over VHF to the committee boat when appropriate.

- 18.2 Retiring boats shall inform the race committee or a safety boat at the first reasonable opportunity.
- 18.3 Rule 40.1 Personal Floatation Devices applies to all competitors at all times while afloat. Crews shall wear PFD's when racing offshore of the Dovercourt breakwater.
- 18.4 All boats should shall Carry a VHF radio.

## **19. Support Vessels**

- 19.1 Only support vessels registered with the race officer as support boats may enter the course area. All other support personnel shall stay outside the racing area from the time of the preparatory signal until all boats have finished or retired, or the race committee signals a postponement, general recall or abandonment.
- 19.2 Crews of authorised support boats may provide coaching assistance to competitors. This changes RRS 41.

## **20. Risk Statement**

- 20.1 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 inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in any event governed by these sailing instructions, 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 omissions;
  - 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, support boats and other officials and volunteers by the event organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities;
  - f) The provision of support boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the

circumstances; and

- g) It is their responsibility to familiarise themselves with any risks specific to this venue or this event drawn to their attention in any rules and information produced for the venue or event, and to attend any competitor briefing held for this event.

20.2 The fact that race officials may conduct inspections of boats does not in any way reduce the responsibilities of each competitor under the rules.

## **21. Insurance**

21.1 Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £2m per incident or the equivalent.

## **22. Local Rules**

22.1 Moored Vessels. Any boat, even if capsized, whose hull or equipment touches a moored vessel (excluding her mooring buoy) shall retire immediately unless she claims that she was wrongfully compelled to touch it by another boat, in which case she shall protest. Fending off by crew or helm is permitted.

Annex A. Approximate position of buoys and posts in the vicinity of the club

