



# BUCS YACHTING INSHORE CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026

## SAILING INSTRUCTIONS (SIs)

### 14th - 16th April 2026

The Organising Authority is the British Universities Sailing Association (BUSA), on behalf of the British Universities & Colleges Sport (BUCS).

#### 1. RULES

- 1.1 The event is governed by the rules as defined in [The Racing Rules of Sailing 2025-28](#), the Fairview class rules and the sail plan instructions.
- 1.2 If there is a conflict between the Notice of Race and the Sailing Instructions, the Sailing Instructions shall prevail. This changes RRS 63.7.
- 1.3 Sail plan instructions will be displayed on the signal vessel or other race committee vessel – see SI 3.7.
- 1.4 Notices to Mariners for the Ports of [Southampton](#), [Portsmouth](#) and [Cowes](#) apply.
- 1.5 A boat is permitted to receive outside assistance from the designated coach boat as arranged by the Organising Authority (OA). A boat is not permitted to receive help from any other outside source except for the circumstances as listed in RRS 41.
- 1.6 A boat may continue racing after using her engine to get out of or avoid danger to herself, her crew, or another boat or crew, so long as she does not gain an advantage and has taken one penalty turn.


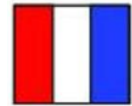


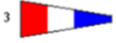
#### 2 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1 Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted before 08:30 on the day it will take effect (08:00 on Thursday), except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 20:00 on the day before it will take effect.

#### 3 COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

- 3.1 Notices to competitors and signals ashore will be posted only on the online official Notice Board located on the BUSA Yachting Championship: [Online Notice Board](#). Attention will be drawn to any notices or signals using the event WhatsApp group.
- 3.2 The race office is located at Fairview Sailing, Port Hamble. Tel: 02380 457 023.
- 3.3 On the water, the race committee intends to monitor and communicate with competitors on VHF Ch 37A.
- 3.4 The following communications will be made by the race committee on VHF Ch 37A and on the event WhatsApp group: [WhatsApp Chat](#)
  - 3.4.1 Intended location of committee vessel – one hour before the first scheduled warning signal each day.
  - 3.4.2 Course to be sailed – promptly after the attention signal is displayed and repeated promptly after the warning signal for a race.
- 3.5 If the race committee displays flag R, alternate VHF Ch P4 will be used.
- 3.6 While racing, except in an emergency, a boat shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats.
- 3.7 Sail plan restrictions

3.7.1 Restrictions are as follows:

Flag displayed on signal vessel at or before the attention signal	Sail plan visual signal	Restriction – from starting signal, whilst racing
Flag O		No sail plan restriction
Flag T		No Spinnaker, no mainsail reef required
NP 1	  	At least one mainsail reef and no spinnaker
NP 2		At least two mainsail reefs and no spinnaker
NP 3		Three mainsail reefs and no spinnaker

3.7.2 Sail plan visual signals may be repeated on VHF and event WhatsApp. Failure to receive such broadcast shall not be grounds for redress.

3.7.3 After the starting signal, if the wind speed changes significantly, sail plan restrictions may be changed. A race committee vessel may display a new sail plan visual signal with repetitive sounds at a mark. The new signal applies after passing the mark and boats shall implement the change promptly.

3.7.4 The penalty for not complying with signalled sail plan restrictions will be disqualification by the Race Committee from any race sailed in which the rule is broken. This changes RRS A5.1.

#### 4 CODE OF CONDUCT

4.1 Competitors shall comply with reasonable requests from race officials.

4.2 Competitors shall handle any charter boats, or equipment provided by the OA with care, seamanship, in accordance with any instructions for its use and without interfering with its functionality.

#### 5 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

5.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed by either or both picture and words, only on the Official Notice Board and on the event WhatsApp group.

5.2 Boats shall not leave the harbour until released by the race committee using VHF Ch 37A and on the event WhatsApp group. The warning signal will not be made before the scheduled time or less than 45 minutes after release by the race committee.

#### 6 SCHEDULE OF RACES

6.1

Date	Time	Warning signal	Other
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> April	0830		All competitor briefing– outside Fairview office
	0845		Earliest competitor departure from harbour
	Before 1000		Conduct safety drill – see NoR 10.2.1
	1000	Practice starts & race	
	After 1000	Race Day 1	



	After racing		Boats return to Port Hamble Marina
	One hour after return		All competitor coach debrief
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> April	0830		Daily briefing outside Fairview office
	0845		Earliest competitor departure from harbour
	1000	Race Day 2	Last race of the day may be a coastal race
	After racing		Boats return to Cowes Yacht Haven
	One hour after return		All competitor coach debrief - Island Sailing Club
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> April	0800		Skipper +1 daily briefing outside Cowes Yacht Haven
	0815		Earliest competitor departure from harbour
	0915	Race Day 3	
	By 1430		Boats return to Port Hamble Marina and cleared
	1500 (target time)		Prize-giving at Port Hamble Marina

- 6.2 The maximum number of races per day is as described in NoR 10.2.2.
- 6.3 To alert boats that a race or sequence of races will begin soon, the orange starting line flag will be displayed with multiple sounds at least five minutes before a warning signal is made.
- 6.5 On the last scheduled day of racing no warning signal will be made after 1500.
- 6.6 Attendance of 'Skipper + 1' at briefings and debriefs is mandatory.

## 7 CLASS FLAG

- 7.1 The class flag is Flag Foxtrot, this does not need to be displayed while racing.

## 8 RACING AREA

- 8.1 The racing area is central, western and eastern Solent.

## 9 COURSES

- 9.1 Courses will be either:
- Windward/Leeward
  - Round the cans
- 9.2 Courses will be announced as provided in SI 3.4. Fixed marks will be identified using the two digit/letter codes as shown on the SCRA 2026 Chart provided by Fairview. Also available to download on the SCRA website:

<https://pgage.co.uk/chart/chart.htm?M=scra>

- 9.3 No later than the warning signal, the race committee signal vessel will display the approximate compass bearing of the first leg.
- 9.4 For 'round the cans' races, legs of the course will not be changed after the preparatory signal. This changes RRS 33.
- 9.5 Where indicated on the course the race committee may lay a mark in the vicinity of a fixed mark to create a gate. Where this is the case, the course will be to round the starboard mark (when viewed from the direction of the previous mark) to starboard or the port mark to port.

## 10 MARKS



#### 10.1 Marks are:

Starting mark one	Ocean 800 Rib signal vessel
Starting mark two	Red inflatable mark
Mark 1a (windward/leeward course only)	Orange inflatable mark
Mark 1b (spreader mark)	Colour to be confirmed on Channel 37a and Competitor WhatsApp
Leeward gate (windward/leeward course only)	Black inflatable marks
Leeward gate at fixed mark (RTC)	Black inflatable marks
Finishing mark one	Ocean 800 Rib signal vessel
Finishing mark two	Red inflatable mark

#### 10.1.1 The windward-Leeward course is shown in Appendix A

### 11 OBSTRUCTIONS

#### 11.1 Southampton Harbour Bye-law

The attention of all competitors is drawn to [Local Notice to Mariners No 5 of 2026](#) and any subsequent update explaining the Moving Prohibited Zone. This Moving Prohibited Zone shall be deemed an Obstruction for purposes of RRS 18 and RRS 19. RRS 60.2(a) and RRS 61.1(b) are changed so that the Race Committee may disqualify without hearing a yacht that infringes this instruction except that the offending yacht shall be entitled to a hearing on request.

#### 11.2 Portsmouth Harbour Regulations

Competitors are reminded of their strict obligation NOT TO IMPEDE SHIPS in Main Buoyed channels and when proceeding in and out of Portsmouth Harbour to use the Small Boat channels as prescribed in the KHM's Notice to Mariners.

#### 11.3 Yachts shall not anchor or kedge in any areas where there are very high tension (132 KV) cables on the sea bed.

### 12 THE START

#### 12.1 The starting line is between a staff displaying an orange flag on the signal vessel and the course side of the other starting mark.

#### 12.2 A boat that does not start within five minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.1 and A5.2.

### 13 CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

#### 13.1 On 'windward/leeward' courses only, to change the next leg of the course, the race committee will move the original mark or the finishing line to a new position.

### 14 THE FINISH

#### 14.1 The finishing line is between a staff displaying a blue flag on the finishing mark one and the course side of finishing mark two.

### 15 PENALTY SYSTEM

#### 15.1 RRS 44.1 is changed so that the Two-Turns Penalty is replaced by the One-Turn Penalty.



- 15.2 RRS Appendix P does not apply.
- 15.3 The Exoneration Penalty, the advisory hearing, and RYA Arbitration of the RYA Rules Disputes Procedure will be available. Decisions from RYA Arbitration can be referred to a protest committee but cannot be re-opened or appealed.
- 15.4 At a protest hearing, the penalty for a breach of any rule other than a rule in Part 2 of RRS, may be less than disqualification at the discretion of the jury.

## 16 TIME LIMITS AND TARGET TIMES

- 16.1 The Mark 1 Time Limit, Race Time Limit (see RRS 35), and the Finishing Window are shown in the table below.

Course type	Mark 1 Time Limit	Target Time	Finishing Window
Windward/leeward	30 minutes	One hour	15 minutes
Round the cans	Not applicable	One to two hours	20 minutes

- 16.2 If no boat has passed the first mark within the Mark 1 Time Limit, the race will be abandoned.
- 16.3 The Finishing Window is the time for boats to finish after the first boat sails the course and finishes. Boats failing to finish within the Finishing Window, and not subsequently retiring, penalised or given redress, will be scored Time Limit Expired (TLE) without a hearing. A boat scored TLE shall be scored points for the finishing place two more than the points scored by the last boat that finished within the Finishing Window. This changes RRS 35, A5.1, A5.2 and A10.
- 16.4 Failure to meet the Target Time will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 62.1(a).

## 17 HEARING REQUESTS

- 17.1 The protest time limit is 90 minutes (60 minutes on Thursday) after the last boat finishes the last race of the day or the race committee signals no more racing today, whichever is later. The time will be posted on the official notice board.
- 17.2 Hearing request forms are available from the race office (Tuesday only – from the race committee in Cowes).
- 17.3 Notices will be posted no later than 30 minutes after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Hearings will be held in the protest room, located at Britannia Events room, above the Port Hamble Harbour Office, beginning at the time posted (Tuesday only – ISC, Cowes).

## 18 SCORING

- 18.1. The Low Point System will apply
- 18.2. In the Race Series:
- 18.3.1. When fewer than five races have been completed, a boat's score will be the total of her race scores.
- 18.3.2. When five or more races are completed a boat's score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst race score. This changes RRS A2.1.
- 18.3. Four races are required to be completed to constitute a championship.

## 19 SAFETY REGULATIONS

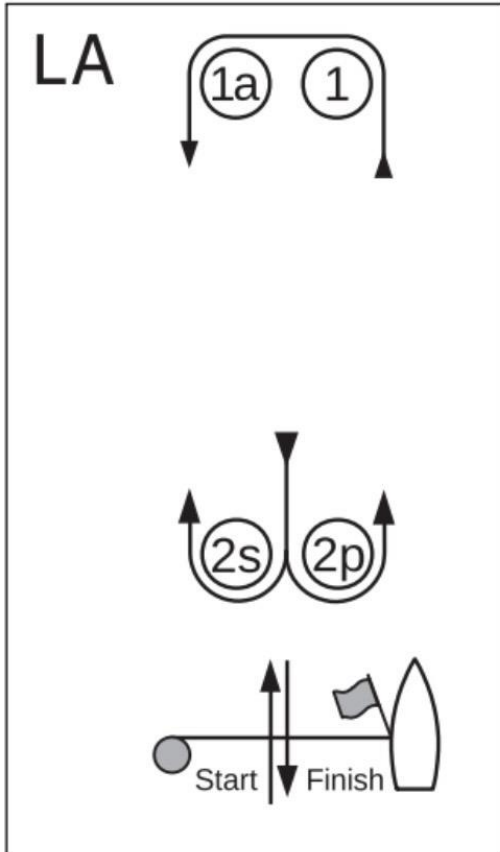
- 19.1 A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee by VHF at the first reasonable opportunity.
- 19.2 All crew shall wear a lifejacket at all times except briefly while changing or adjusting clothing or personal equipment. This changes RRS 40.2. A buoyancy aid does not count as a lifejacket. Lifejackets used must meet the standards of the MCA Code of Practice; including being less than 12 months old, or having been professionally serviced within the last 12 months.

## 20 REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT



- 20.1 Substitution of competitors is not allowed without prior written approval of the race committee.
- 20.2 Substitution of damaged or lost equipment is not allowed unless authorised in writing by Fairview. Requests for substitution shall be made to Fairview.
- 21 EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS**
- 21.1 A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules, notice of race and sailing instructions.
- 21.2 When instructed by a race official on the water, a boat shall proceed to a designated area for inspection.
- 22 SUPPLIED BOATS**
- 22.1 Boats will be supplied by Fairview Sailing Ltd under a separate contract.
- 23 OFFICIAL VESSELS**
- 23.1 Official vessels will be the signal vessel (Ocean 800 Rib) and mark laying RIB(s).
- 24 SUPPORT TEAMS**
- 24.1 See Notice of Race.
- 25 RUBBISH DISPOSAL**
- 25.1 Rubbish shall be brought ashore after racing each day.
- 26 BERTHING**
- 26.1 See Notice of Race.
- 27 HAUL-OUT RESTRICTIONS**
- 27.1 See Notice of Race.
- 28 DIVING EQUIPMENT**
- 28.1 See Notice of Race.
- 29 PRIZES**
- 29.1 See Notice of Race.
- 30 RISK STATEMENT**
- 30.1 See Notice of Race.
- 31 INSURANCE**
- 31.1 See Notice of Race.

APPENDIX A



Course LA – Windward/Leeward with Offset Mark, Leeward Finish	
Signal	Mark Rounding Order
LA2	Start – 1 – 1a – 2s/2p – 1 – 1a – Finish
LA3	Start – 1 – 1a – 2s/2p – 1 – 1a – 2s/2p – 1 – 1a – Finish
LA4	Start – 1 – 1a – 2s/2p – 1 – 1a – 2s/2p – 1 – 1a – 2s/2p – 1 – 1a – Finish

1.1 Windward-Leeward course associated with SI 10.1

End of Sailing Instructions