British Universities & Colleges Sport

Fleet Racing Championship 2026

7th – 8th November 2026 | Rutland Sailing Club

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

The Organising Authority (OA) is the British Universities Sailing Association (BUSA), in conjunction with Loughborough Students Sailing and Windsurfing Club (LSSWC) and Rutland Sailing Club (RSC). The event is held at RSC on behalf of British Universities & Colleges Sport (BUCS).

> **Notation**
>
> **[DP]** *means that the penalty for a breach of that rule may, at the discretion of the protest committee, be less than disqualification.*
>
> **[NP]** *means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1.*

1. RULES

1.1 The event will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing 2025–2028 (RRS), including the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) prescriptions.

1.2 **[NP]** Class rules will apply, except where changed by the Notice of Race (NoR) or these Sailing Instructions (SIs).

1.3 **[DP]** RRS 40.1 (Personal Flotation Devices) applies at all times while afloat. Wetsuits and drysuits are not personal flotation devices.

1.4 Handicap racing will be scored using the RYA Portsmouth Yardstick scheme.

1.5 In accordance with RRS Appendix G3, a boat chartered or loaned for this event may carry national letters or sail numbers that do not comply with her class rules.

1.6 If there is a conflict between the NoR and these SIs, the SIs will take precedence. This changes RRS 63.5(c).

2. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

2.1 Any change to the SIs will be posted on the Official Notice Board (ONB) not less than 45 minutes before the start of any race affected. Any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 19:00 on the day before it takes effect.

3. COMMUNICATION WITH COMPETITORS

3.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the ONB on the BUSA website. A copy will also be displayed in the wet bar on the first floor of the RSC clubhouse.

3.2 The race office is at RSC Reception, on the ground floor of the clubhouse.

3.3 **[DP]** 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. This includes mobile phones.

3.4 The event WhatsApp group, called “BUCS Fleets 2026”, may be used for additional notices and race committee communications while ashore. Failure to receive a WhatsApp message will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 61.4(b)(1).

4. CODE OF CONDUCT

4.1 **[DP]** Competitors and support persons shall comply with reasonable requests from race officials.

5. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

5.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed on the halyards on the balcony at the north-west end of the clubhouse.

5.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 20 minutes' in the race signal AP.

5.3 **[DP]** Flag D displayed with one sound means 'Boats may now launch'. Boats shall not launch until this signal is made. The warning signal will not be made before the scheduled time, or less than 20 minutes after flag D is displayed.

6. REGISTRATION AND SCHEDULE OF RACES

6.1 Registration will open at 18:00 on Friday 6th November at The Blacksmiths, 47 Ward's End, Loughborough LE11 3HB, and close at 21:00. It will reopen at 08:30 on Saturday 7th November in the RSC clubhouse. Competitors must bring their university registration or matriculation card (NoR 5.11).

6.2 The schedule of races is:

Date	Event	Time	Number of Races
Friday 6th November	Registration opens (The Blacksmiths, Loughborough)	18:00	–
	Registration closes	21:00	
Saturday 7th November	Registration (RSC clubhouse)	08:30 – 09:15	4 (maximum 5)
	Competitors' briefing (RSC clubhouse)	09:30	
	First warning signal not before	10:55	
Sunday 8th November	Competitors' briefing (RSC clubhouse)	09:15	3 (maximum 4)
	First warning signal not before	10:25	
	No warning signal after	15:00	
	Prize giving	As soon as possible after racing	

6.3 Seven races are scheduled over the two days. The number of races sailed each day will depend on the weather and the forecast.

7. CLASS FLAGS

7.1 The class flags are:

Firefly Fleet		**Fast Handicap Fleet**	
ILCA Handicap Fleet		**Slow Handicap Fleet**	

7.2 The split between the Fast Handicap and Slow Handicap fleets will be posted on the ONB. See NoR 5.9.

8. RACING AREA

8.1 The racing area will be on Rutland Water and will be explained at the briefing.

9. THE COURSES

9.1 The diagrams in Appendix 1 show the courses, including the approximate angles between legs, the order in which marks are to be passed, and the side on which each mark is to be left.

9.2 No later than the warning signal, the race committee vessel will display the course and the number of beats to be sailed.

9.3 If one of the two gate marks is missing, the remaining mark shall be rounded to port.

9.4 If a course is shortened so that the finish is at the leeward end of the course, the finishing line will be as defined in SI 14.1. This changes RRS 32.

10. MARKS

10.1 Course marks will be inflatable marks, as described at the briefing.

10.2 The starting and finishing marks are described in SI 12 and SI 14.

11. OBSTRUCTIONS AND EXCLUDED AREAS

11.1 The following are obstructions, and competitors shall give them reasonable clearance: the Rutland Belle (a pleasure cruiser); the no-sailing zones at the western ends of the northern and southern arms; and moorings and moored boats in the East and West Creeks.

11.2 Competitors shall keep at least 50 metres clear of drifting boats from which people are fishing.

11.3 A safety boat in close attendance to a boat or competitor in difficulty is an obstruction.

12. THE START

12.1 Races will be started using RRS 26, with the warning signal made 5 minutes before the starting signal.

12.2 The starting line will be between the mast displaying an orange flag on the race committee vessel at the starboard end and the start mark at the port end.

12.3 To alert boats that a race will soon begin, the orange starting line flag will be displayed with one sound at least 1 minute before a warning signal is made.

12.4 The race officer may combine the starts of more than one class if numbers allow. Classes starting together will have their class flags displayed together as the warning signal.

12.5 **[DP]** Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall keep clear of the starting area.

12.6 A race will not be started until the race officer is satisfied that the wind strength across the course is 4 knots or more.

12.7 A boat that does not start within 4 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start (DNS) without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.1 and A5.2.

13. CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

13.1 To change the next leg of the course, the race committee will move the original mark, the gate or the finishing line to a new position.

13.2 The race committee does not need to signal a change when the next leg is changed by up to 10 degrees in direction or up to 100 metres in length. This changes RRS 33.

14. THE FINISH

14.1 The finishing line will be between the staff displaying a blue flag on the race committee vessel at the starboard end and the course side of the finishing mark at the port end.

14.2 In the Firefly class only, after the first boat has sailed the course, boats may be finished on their observed position on the course by a race committee vessel displaying flag W. Boats finished in this way shall return to the starting area immediately. This changes RRS 35, A4 and A5.

14.3 Any boat failing to finish a lap within 20 minutes after the first boat in her class will be scored Did Not Finish (DNF). This changes RRS 35, A4 and A5.

15. PENALTY SYSTEM

15.1 Penalties will be in accordance with RRS 44, except that RRS 44.3 will not apply. This changes RRS 44.

16. TIME LIMITS AND TARGET TIMES

16.1 There are no time limits.

16.2 The target time for the first boat to finish is 45 minutes.

16.3 Failure to meet the target time will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 61.4(b)(1).

17. HEARING REQUESTS

17.1 RRS Appendix T will be used for arbitration. This changes NoR 2.4 and 14.1.

17.2 The protest time limit is 1 hour after the last boat finishes the last race of the day, or after the race committee signals no more racing today, whichever is later.

17.3 Hearing request forms are available from the race office.

17.4 A boat intending to protest should tell the race committee vessel as soon as possible after she finishes.

17.5 Notices will be posted within 30 minutes of the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Each notice will include the hearing location.

18. SCORING

18.1 See NoR 15.

19. SAFETY REGULATIONS [DP] [NP]

19.1 Competitors take part in the event entirely at their own risk. See NoR 19.

19.2 RRS 40.1 (Personal Flotation Devices) applies at all times while afloat or on the club pontoons.

19.3 A boat that retires from a race shall tell the race committee, directly or via a safety boat, at the first reasonable opportunity.

19.4 It is a condition of entry that competitors comply with the instructions of safety boat crews. Their priority is to help competitors in distress or danger before recovering boats.

19.5 Any action by a safety boat crew solely to ensure a competitor's safety, such as recovering crew or separated parts of the boat, is not outside help under RRS 41, provided it does not materially advantage the boat. It cannot be protested by another boat, and the competitor may continue racing. This changes RRS 41.

19.6 If a safety boat crew gives help beyond what is needed for safety, such as righting or re-orientating the boat, providing spares or making repairs, the crew may tell the competitor, who shall then retire immediately.

19.7 No action taken by a safety boat for safety reasons will be grounds for redress.

20. REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT [DP] [NP]

20.1 Substitution of competitors is not allowed without the prior written approval of the OA. See NoR 5.8.

20.2 Replacement of damaged or lost equipment is not allowed without the written approval of the race committee. Requests shall be made in writing to the race office at the first reasonable opportunity.

21. EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS [DP] [NP]

21.1 See NoR 9.

22. CHARTER BOATS

22.1 See NoR 12.

23. SUPPORT VESSELS [DP] [NP]

23.1 Support vessels are not permitted. See NoR 16.

24. RUBBISH DISPOSAL [DP] [NP]

24.1 Rubbish may be placed aboard official vessels or brought ashore for disposal.

25. BERTHING [DP] [NP]

25.1 Boats and trailers shall be parked as directed by club volunteers.

26. PRIZES

26.1 See NoR 21.

27. RISK STATEMENT

27.1 See NoR 19.

28. INSURANCE

28.1 See NoR 20.

Event contact: Rose Ling, BUSA Fleet Racing Officer | fleet-racing@busa.co.uk

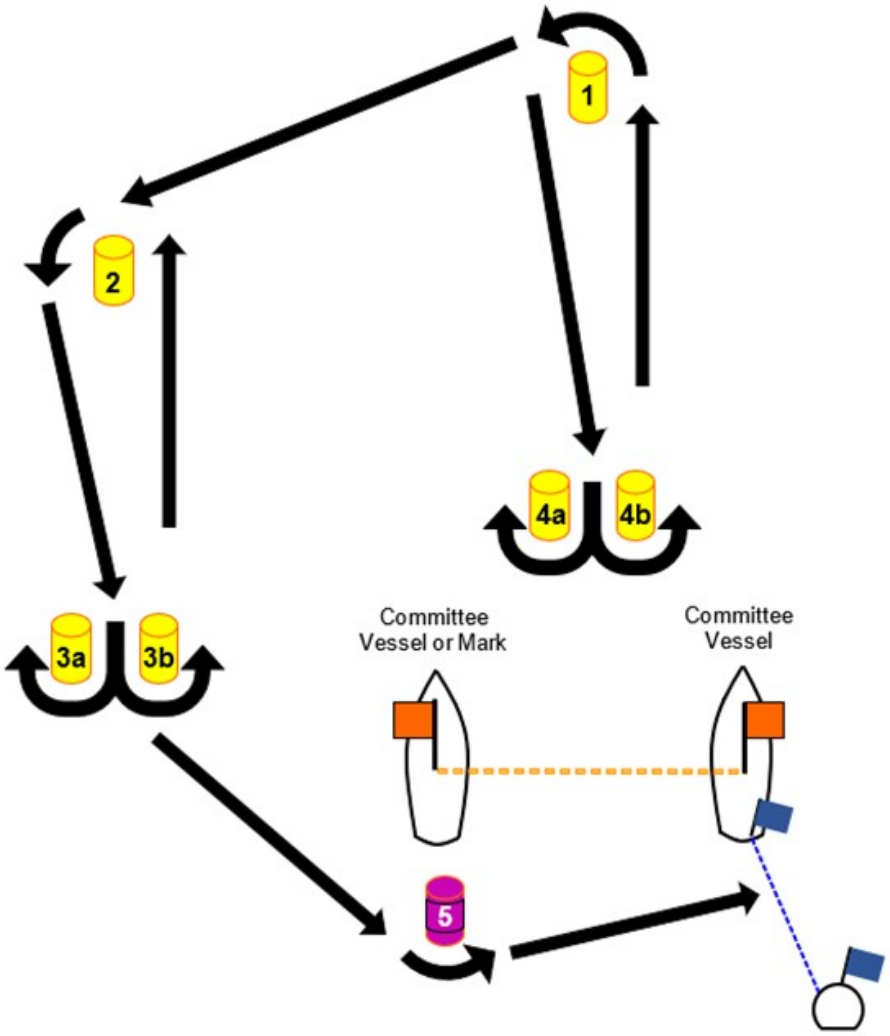
APPENDIX 1: COURSE DIAGRAMS — COURSE A

Course Card "A"

COURSE A – Outer and Inner Loop Trapezoids with Leeward Gate				
Course signal	1	2	3	4
Number of beats	1 beat	2 beats	3 beats	4 beats
1st Start (OL)	1, 2, 3a/b, 5, Finish	1, 2, 3a/b, 2, 3a/b, 5, Finish	1, 2, 3a/b, 2, 3a/b, 2, 3a/b, 5, Finish	1, 2, 3a/b, 2, 3a/b, 2, 3a/b, 2, 3a/b, 5, Finish
2nd Start (IL)	1, 2, 3a/b, 5, Finish	1, 4a/b, 1, 2, 3a/b, 5, Finish	1, 4a/b, 1, 4a/b, 1, 2, 3a/b, 5, Finish	1, 4a/b, 1, 4a/b, 1, 4a/b, 1, 2, 3a/b, 5, Finish

And so on…

All individual marks are to be left to port. Marks 3a/3b and 4a/4b are gates.



APPENDIX 1: COURSE DIAGRAMS — COURSE B

Course Card "B"

COURSE B – Outer and Inner Loop Trapezoids (No Gate)				
Course signal	1	2	3	4
Number of beats	1 beat	2 beats	3 beats	4 beats
1st Start (OL)	1, 2, 3a/b, 5, Finish	1, 2, 3, 2, 3, 5, Finish	1, 2, 3, 2, 3, 2, 3, 5, Finish	1, 2, 3, 2, 3, 2, 3, 2, 3, 5, Finish
2nd Start (IL)	1, 2, 3, 5, Finish	1, 4, 1, 2, 3, 5, Finish	1, 4, 1, 4, 1, 2, 3, 5, Finish	1, 4, 1, 4, 1, 4, 1, 2, 3, 5, Finish

And so on...

All individual marks are to be left to port.

