



Founded 1858

ELTON SAILING CLUB

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

for the

CLUB SAILING PROGRAMME



Affiliated to the RYA

1 RULES

These rules apply for all organised club series racing at Elton Sailing Club, including any club series which is open to visitors.

Separate sailing instructions apply for Open Events held at Elton Sailing Club.

Racing will be governed by the current ISAF rules as defined in the 'Racing Rules of Sailing', the prescriptions of the RYA, the Sailing Instructions and any Class Rules as appropriate.

Rules pertaining to the avoidance of collisions will apply during all sailing regardless of whether a boat is racing or not.

If you are not racing, please keep clear of racing boats.

2 ENTRIES

Boats should be signed on using the forms posted in the Boathouse prior to the start of each race.

There is no requirement to sign off at the end of the race.

All entrants must hold a current measurement certificate with a buoyancy endorsement and third party insurance liability cover in the sum of a minimum of £2,000,000.

3 PERSONAL BUOYANCY & SAFETY

Participants are entirely responsible for their own safety, whether afloat or ashore, and nothing reduces this responsibility. It is for participants to decide whether their boat is fit to sail in the conditions in which it will find itself. By launching, participants confirm their boat is fit for those conditions and they are competent to sail in them. Nothing done by the RACE OFFICERS can reduce the responsibility of the owners and/or participants, nor will it make the RACE OFFICERS responsible for any loss, damage, death or personal injury, however it may have occurred, as a result of the boat taking part in the racing. The race officers encompass everyone helping to run the racing. The provision of safety boats does not relieve owners and competitors of their responsibilities.

Adequate personal buoyancy must be worn at all times when afloat, and if of the inflatable type must be inflated. Wetsuits, drysuits and sailboard buoyancy harnesses will not be considered as approved buoyancy for dinghy sailing.

Wetsuits, drysuits or steamers shall be worn whilst sailing between November the 1st and the last day of February.

Any person who does not comply with these rules will be disqualified from the race in question without a hearing.

4 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board, close to the race office.

5 CHANGES IN THE SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any changes in the Sailing Instructions will be posted on the official notice board, not less than 20 minutes before the start time of the race.

6 SCHEDULE OF RACES

The type of race and starting times are published in the annual racing programme. A copy will be displayed on the official notice board.

7 SIGNALS

Where ISAF & these sailing instructions refer to “FLAGS” this shall be substituted by; “SWITCHING OF TWO LIGHTS”, an upper & lower, and/or a SOUND signal.

The sequence of switching shall be:-

CLASS FLAG (6 minute warning signal)	UPPER light will ILLUMINATE
P FLAG (3 minute preparatory signal)	LOWER light will ILLUMINATE
START (DIPPING of FLAGS)	BOTH lights will EXTINGUISH
INDIVIDUAL RECALL (X FLAG)	LOWER light will FLASH This will flash for 2 minutes or until all premature starters have exonerated themselves, which ever is earlier.
GENERAL RECALL (1 st SUB)	UPPER light will ILLUMINATE (new 6 minutes) LOWER light will FLASH (This will flash for 2 minutes) LOWER light will ILLUMINATE (new 3 minutes) BOTH lights will EXTINGUISH (Start)
GENERAL RECALL (1 st SUB) – multiple fleet starts where the class is not the last start	UPPER and LOWER lights will flash At 1 minute before the next signal both the UPPER and LOWER lights will be EXTINGUISHED. The recalled class start will be added to the end of the start sequence for the last class start.
SHORTEN COURSE (S FLAG)	UPPER light will FLASH This will flash until the end of the race.
ABANDONING AFTER THE START (N FLAG)	ALL warning lights will FLASH alternatively and a klaxon or other sound signal will sound continuously.

OTHER FLAGS

All other flags will be substituted by oral instructions.

ALL THE ABOVE LIGHTS WILL BE ACCOMPANIED WITH APPROPRIATE SOUND SIGNALS.

For multiple fleet starts, the start signal for each fleet shall initiate the warning signal for the next fleet scheduled to start.

The order of fleet starts shall be posted on the official notice board.

All above rules assume that the 6 & 3 minute rules apply. If 10 & 5 minute rules are to be used, then substitute 10 minutes for 6, 5 minutes for 3 and 4 minutes for 2.

8 THE COURSE

A course for each race will be displayed at the front of the race office not less than 20 minutes before the start of the race. It will show the order in which the marks are to be rounded or passed and the side on which the mark is to be left.

9 MARKS

COURSE MARKS are spherical buoys.

10 STARTS

The start line will be detailed on the course board and will be:-

Between the mast on the committee boat and the OUTER limit marker.

An INNER limit marker may be placed adjacent to the committee boat.

No boat shall pass between the INNER limit marker and the committee boat after the preparatory signal. The penalty shall be disqualification.

11 PROHIBITED AREA PENALTIES

ONE MINUTE RULE

For all Wednesday evening handicap racing and after a General Recall in other races, the following rule will apply to all subsequent starts for that race:-

No boat shall sail within an area formed by the mast of the committee boat – the outer limit marker - and the first mark of the course during the one minute before the starting signal, unless she subsequently passes outside round and to leeward of either the outer limit marker or the committee boat.

A sound signal will denote that the one minute rule is in effect.

12 FINISHING

The FINISHING LINE will be indicated on the course board and shall be:

- a) Between the mast of the committee boat displaying the blue flag and the nearby rounding mark.

Or

- b) a fixed line between the Race Office and mark "F".

It is the responsibility of the boat to finish correctly as per ISAF definitions.

13 SHORTENING THE COURSE

The Race Officer may shorten the course should conditions demand. A shortened course will be signalled as the leading boat in the relevant Class approaches the last mark of the course at the end of a lap. The leading boat shall then proceed to finish.

If a race is shortened in the middle of a lap the shorten course signal shall apply as the leading boat in the relevant Class rounds what will become the penultimate mark. Boats shall finish between the mast of the Committee Boat displaying a blue flag and the next turning mark of the course.

Should the Race Officer feel that conditions demand the abandonment of sailing, the appropriate light & sound signals will be made. On hearing and seeing these signals, all boats should immediately clear the water.

14 ALTERNATE PENALTIES

The 720 degree penalty shall apply for an infringement of Part 2 of the ISAF rules.

15 TIME LIMIT

The time limit for a race will be 100 minutes for the leading boat. The race will be valid for any boat finishing within 30 minutes of the leading boat on corrected time. Boats finishing outside this time will be recorded as 'Did Not Finish' (DNF).

If no boat finishes within the time limit the race will be abandoned.

16 PROTESTS

Protests in writing, on the forms obtainable from the Race Officer, should be lodged with the Race Officer within 30 minutes of the helm of the last boat to finish reaching the shore for that race, or after the last race if back to back. This time may be extended at the discretion of the Race Officer.

Protests will normally be heard in the club at the earliest convenient time that day.

17 DECLARATIONS

Declarations are not required, but helms must sign on for the appropriate class series before each race, indicating where 'NOT NOMINATED' (See Instruction 19)

18 SCORING SYSTEM

Scoring will be in accordance with the current ISAF Racing Rules of Sailing, Appendix A.

The following rules will also apply:

NUMBER OF RACES	The number of races scheduled for a series will be published in the annual sailing programme.
SERIES SCORES (Non-Declared Entry series)	The number of races to count in a series will be the same as the number required to qualify, as defined in Instruction 19.
FINISHING POINTS	Scoring will be in accordance with the current ISAF Racing Rules of Sailing, Appendix A - Low Points Scoring system, with the following exceptions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Boats that did not start (DNS) or did not finish (DNF) shall be awarded points equal to the number of starters + 1.• Boats that have been disqualified (DSQ) shall be awarded points equal to the number of starters + 5. This score MUST be counted.• All other codes as defined in Appendix A shall be awarded points equal to number of starters + 2.
RACE TIES	In accordance with Appendix A – Race Ties
BREAKING OF TIES	In accordance with Appendix A – Series Ties

19 QUALIFICATION

For all Club series the number of races to be competed in to qualify (race result of other than DNC) will be half the number of races sailed plus 1 (rounded down).

For all Club series, three entries will constitute a race.

A boat which is sailed under family membership or which is jointly owned may be helmed by any family member or joint owner to qualify in a Club Series.

In this case details of the boat and qualifying helmsmen/women must be given to Sailing Committee in writing before the boat is sailed in the series.

For the purposes of these sailing instructions the definition of Family Membership will be as stated in the Club Constitution.

If a helm other than from a family membership or joint ownership wishes to race a boat then he/she must sail the same boat, and class of boat, throughout the series in order to qualify. Results from races sailed in other boats, or class of boat, will not be counted, and the helmsmen is required to declare himself as 'NOT NOMINATED' when signing on for such races.

If a helm changes ownership of boat, or class of boat, during a series, then both sets of results may be combined, but this must be confirmed in writing to Sailing Committee before the second (and subsequent) boat(s) is/are sailed in the series.

20 PURSUIT RACING

Start times for each fleet will be posted on the official notice board prior to the start of the race.

Positions at the end of the allotted time period for a pursuit race will be determined by the Race Officer.

All boats will continue to sail in a competitive manner until it is indicated to them that the Race Officer has decided upon their finishing position.

Where it is not possible for the Race Officer to be certain of positions at the end of the time period, he/she will decide upon positions to the best of his/her ability. The Race Officer's decision will be final.

21 MEMBERSHIP

All visitors attending a club 'open series' meeting will become temporary members of Elton Sailing Club for the duration of the meeting and thus be bound by the rules of the club.