

Maidenhead Sailing Club - Operations Manual



Section 11B – Open Meeting Sailing Instructions

Version history

V3 James Gladwyn – April 2019

V4 James Kearns – September 2019

V5 James Kearns – April 2021

1 Rules

Racing will take place under the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) and other rules listed in the Notice of Race (NOR).

2 Notices to competitors


Notices to competitors will be posted on the Sailing Committee notice board in the Clubhouse or at the Race Hut.

3 Changes to Sailing Instructions

Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted 30 minutes before race start time on the day it will take effect. Where this is not practical, for example if boats are already on the water, changes may be communicated orally to each boat.

4 Signals made ashore

4.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed on the flagstaff of the Race Hut.

4.2 When flag AP  is displayed ashore, “1 minute” is replaced with “not less than 15 minutes” in the race signal AP.


5 Sail number


Under exceptional circumstances, the race committee may permit a boat to use sails carrying a distinguishing number other than that required by RRS 77 (identification etc). Such permission must be requested prior to use of the boat for racing.

6 Course






6.1 There is a chart of the lake at the end of these instructions.

6.2 The course to be sailed will initially be displayed on the Course Board at the race hut, along with a description of the marks to be used. It may also be indicated on a board on the committee boat. The letters on the board on the committee boat are coloured **red** or **green** to indicate which side the relevant marks are to be left. A white plaque with the word “line” on it, if displayed, indicates that the course includes a requirement to sail between the committee boat and outer distance marker (ODM) at the indicated sequence within each lap.

6.3 Flag L  will be flown on the committee boat if the course is changed from that indicated at the race hut. If possible, an official boat will indicate the new course to competitors, but no other signals will necessarily be made. This is a change to RRS 33 (course changes etc).

6.4 Shortening the course. Unless a number of laps are stated, the course should be sailed until the race is finished by shortening the course. Individual fleets may be shortened by displaying Flag S  with the Class Flag of the class that is finishing.

7 Class flags

Albacore	Laser	Solo	British Moth	Optimist
Naval Numeral 1	Class Association	Numeral 1	Class Association	“O”
				

8 Areas that are obstructions

Any area of the lake marked by white stakes is designated as a hazard. A boat hailing for water to avoid the area must be given room to clear, however the area is not out of bounds and can be sailed over.

9 Safety

9.1 RRS 1.2 (life-saving equipment etc.) is replaced by: Adequate personal flotation devices shall be worn by all crew members whilst afloat and on pontoons.

9.2 Every boat shall carry a painter of at least 3m in length, suitable for being towed by a safety boat.

10 The start

10.1 RRS 45 (requirement to be afloat at preparatory signal etc.) does not apply.

10.1 Unless otherwise described on the Course Board, the starting line is defined as the line between the staff on the committee boat and an outer distance marker (ODM).

10.2 Inner distance markers (IDMs) may be laid adjacent to the committee boat. IDMs are marks of the course. Any boat that passes between the IDM, and any part of the committee boat it guards, after the preparatory signal will be disqualified. IDMs if used, are described on the Course Board on the race hut and/or committee boat.

11 The finish

The finishing line shall be defined by the course board and shall normally be a line between the staff on the committee boat and an outer distance marker.

12 Propulsion

The race committee may, without a hearing, penalise a boat that has broken RRS 42 (propulsion etc).

13 Time limit

Unless modified by the competition rules, any boat not finishing within 20 minutes of the leading boat shall be deemed to have retired. Boats which have been lapped by the leading boat will be finished on the lap they are on as they cross the line.

14 Declarations

Each competitor shall sign a declaration within 30 minutes of finishing the race to the effect that all the rules listed in the NOR were observed in the race. A competitor who fails to do this shall be regarded as having retired.

15 Protests and requests for redress

15.1 Protest forms are available in the Race Hut. Protests shall be delivered there within the protest time limit.

15.2 For each class, the protest time limit is 30 minutes after the last boat has finished the last race of the day. The same time limit applies to protests by the race committee and protest committee about incidents they observe in the racing area and to requests for redress. This is a change to RRS 61.3 and 62.2 (protests, redress etc).

16 Equipment and measurement checks

A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules and sailing instructions. On the water, a boat can be instructed by a race committee measurer to proceed immediately to a designated area for inspection.

17 Radio communication

A boat shall neither make radio transmissions while racing nor receive radio communications not available to all boats. This restriction also applies to mobile telephones.

18 Disclaimer of liability

Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. The organizing authority (MSC) will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the regatta.

19 Lake Chart

Showing approximate position of the marks from which the course will be selected.

