BRSC General Sailing Instructions

Rules

All races will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing 2025 - 2028. In addition the following amendments to the rules will apply:

Over-the-line Penalty

Because of poor visibility on the starting line, anyone the course side of the Starting Line between 1 minute and Start will receive a standard 360˚ turn penalty which must be completed as soon as possible after the Start.

Penalty Turns

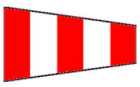
Scows and Optimists only need to do a 360˚ penalty turn if they break a rule under Part 2 – "When Boats Meet", whilst Lasers and Toppers will need to do the standard 720˚. All classes touching a mark will have to do a 360˚ penalty turn.

Starting Times

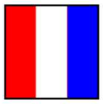
The starts will be synchronised with GMT using a radio controlled clock. Starts will be on whole 5 mins so if you hear a sound signal at 1041hrs, then it is your 4 min gun before your start at 1045hrs.

Starting Procedures

The standard 5 – 4 – 1 – 0 sequence will be used, with the one minute blast being a long (2 secs) blast. 1 min before Warning Signal Answering Pennant Warning Signal (- 5 mins) Class Flag Preparatory Signal (- 4 mins) P Preparatory Signal (- 1 min) P Start Signal

1 min before Warning Signal	Answering Pennant  	
Warning Signal (- 5 mins)	Class Flag  	
Preparatory Signal (- 4 mins)	P  	
Preparatory Signal (- 1 min)	P  	
Start Signal	Class Flag  	

Class Flags

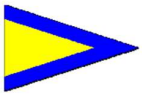
Scows **W**  Lasers **L**  Toppers **T**  Optimists **O** 

Individual Recalls



If a few boats are over the line at the start an individual recall will be announced by one blast signal and the displaying of the X flag. It is the responsibility of those boats which are over the line to restart according to the racing rules.

General Recall



If the majority of the fleet are over the line at the start then a General Recall will be announced by two blast signals and the displaying of the 1st Substitute flag. The starting sequence will resume one minute after the flag is removed.

Shorten course



If the course needs to be shortened, the S flag will be flown as the lead boat rounds the last mark with the finish being either at the Line or at the next mark. Safety boats may fly the S flag and announce it to boats on that final leg.

Change of course



If there is the need to change a course the C flag will be flown and the new course indicated either on the course board or orally by a safety boat.

Finishing

The first three finishers in each class will receive a hoot on crossing the line. However if their finish coincides with the start of another race then they will not receive a hoot.

Reefing

If the wind is over 20knots or gusting 25knots the Race Officer will enforce reefing. Anyone not reefed will not be allowed to compete.

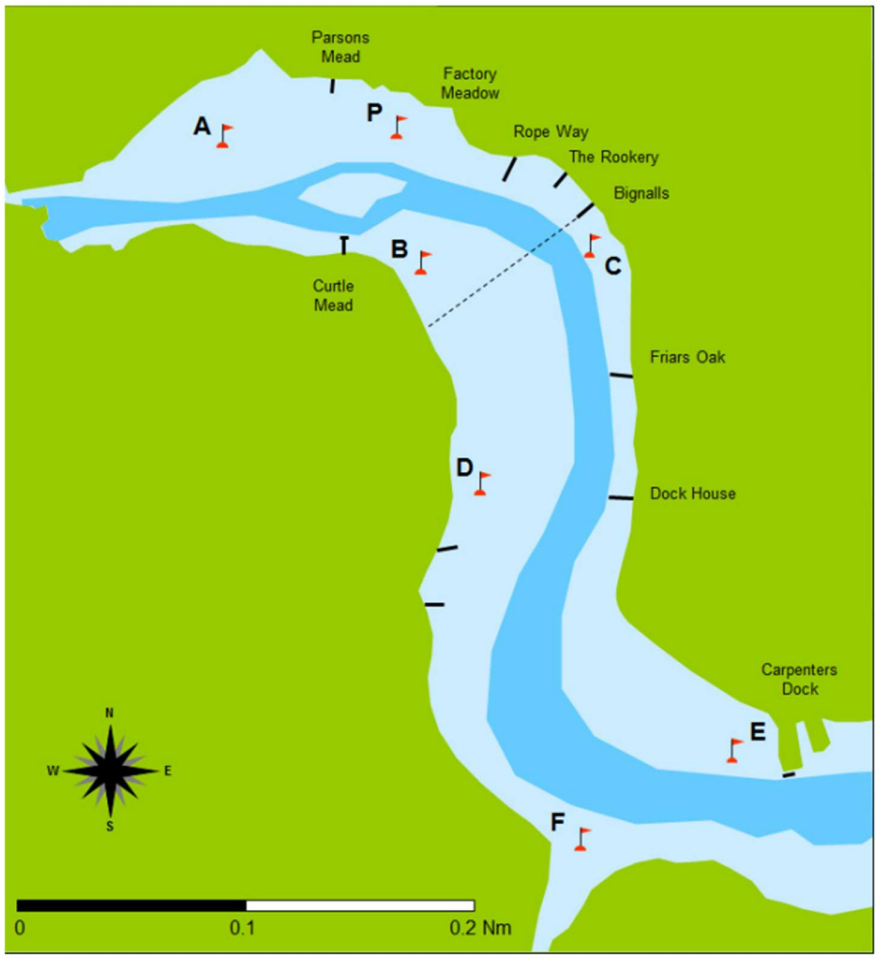
Courses

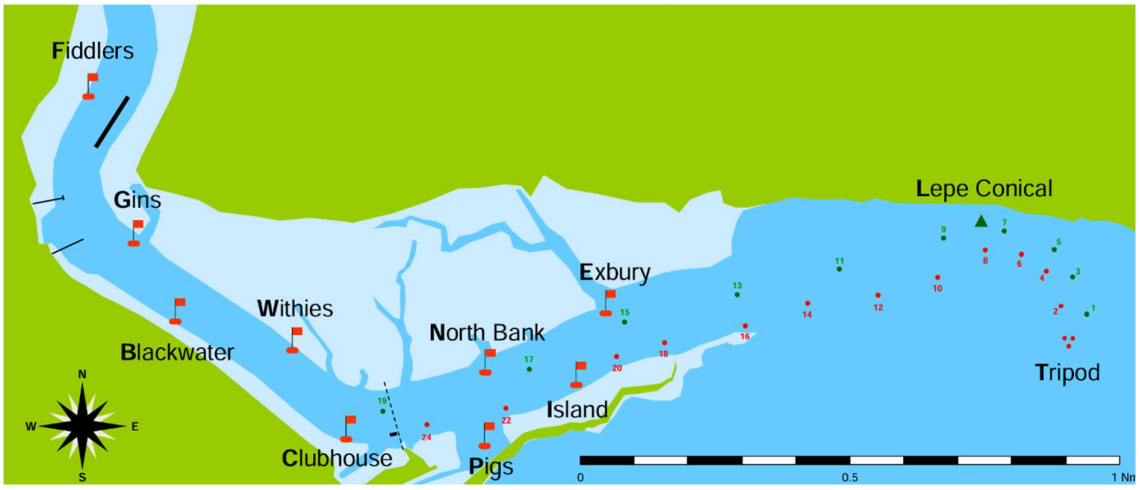
The course to be sailed will be displayed on a board on the Starting Platform 10mins before the start of each race. The courses will be indicated by using white letter and numbers on a coloured background indicating which marks to be rounded and in what direction.



For example: Club to Starboard, Withes to Starboard, Pigs to Port, Exbury to Port. Two Laps

The standard marks are shown on the Racing Mark Charts.





Results
The results will be calculated according to the Racing Rules of Sailing 2025 – 2028. Appendix A. In the event of a duty (DTY), the points given will be the mean of the points over the whole series, discounting the discarded race. Only 1 duty can be applied in each series.

Rules Dispute Procedures
Please avoid the need to protest by sailing according to the Racing Rules and taking a Penalty Turn if you think you are in the wrong. However, in accordance with current RYA procedures, there will be an opportunity to follow the following rules dispute procedures:

- **Exoneration Penalty** – If you believe that you were in the wrong and failed to take a Penalty Turn immediately after the incident, then you may agree to a 20% scoring penalty. E.g. if you finished 3rd out of 26 boats, you would have 5 points (20% of 26) added to your score, giving you 8 points for that race.
- **Advisory Hearing** – If there is doubt between the two boats as to who was in the wrong, then both boats can discuss the incident with the Rules Adviser. No one is disqualified or penalised, although a boat in the wrong may accept an exoneration penalty or retire.
- **RYA Arbitration** - When a protest or request for redress is lodged, a boat may at the same time request RYA Arbitration, or the protest committee / race committee may offer it. If a boat is found to be in the wrong, then that boat will be invited to accept the Exoneration Penalty, and if it is accepted by a protested boat, the protesting boat will be allowed to withdraw the protest. When there is no agreement, then the dispute will be taken to a protest committee.
- **Protest Hearing** – If the dispute is complex, or if there has been injury or serious damage, or if the protesting boat believes that an Exoneration Penalty is inappropriate, then a protest should be lodged within 30mins of the finish of the race and a protest hearing will be convened with a boat breaking a rule being disqualified.