

Warsash Spring Championship 2025



Image ©P Bateson

BLACK GROUP SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Incorporating Amendment 1 (Class Splits) & Amendment 2 (Change to protest time limit).

1 RACE SCHEDULE

1.1 **Spring Championship**: Saturday and Sunday 12-13 April and 26-27 April. The championship for each class will comprise up to 12 races, intended to be sailed as 4 races on each Saturday and 2 on each Sunday but if fewer races are achieved on either of the Saturdays, a 3rd race may be sailed on either of the Sundays in order to catch up.

2 RULES

- 2.1 Racing will take place under the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS).
- 2.2 Boats shall comply with Southampton Harbour Bye-Laws (and in particular Byelaws 10 & 11) and ABP Southampton Notice to Mariners No. 06 of 2025 concerning the Thorn Channel Precautionary Area. The NTM is available from www.southamptonvts.co.uk or https://warsashsc.org.uk/springseries/wss-notices/.
- 2.3 Subject to SI 5.2, any change to the sailing instructions will be posted on the event web site by 2000 on the day before it will take effect.

3 SAFETY

- 3.1 Boats shall comply with the latest World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations for Category 4 races; or with their Class Safety Regulations if to an equal or higher standard.
- 3.2 If flag "Y" is displayed, lifejackets shall be clearly visible to other boats. This changes RRS 40.1.
- 3.3 **Shipping**: to avoid commercial shipping that is under way, a boat may use her engine, or any other means of propulsion, without retiring. This shall be reported to the Race Committee (RC) at the finish and with full details provided by email to the Race Office (springseries@warsashsc.org.uk) before the protest time limit. The RC may refer the matter to the Protest Committee which may impose a penalty without a hearing if an advantage has been gained. This affects RRS 42.3(i) and changes 63.1.
- 3.4 **Retirement**: boats retiring shall advise the RC as soon as possible, before leaving the race area. Any boat that retires without advising the RC will be scored DNC. This changes RRS A5.
- 3.5 **No anchor** shall be carried forward of the stem or with any part of it outboard, except when anchoring.
- 3.6 **Boats with retracting bowsprits:** Bowsprits shall be fully retracted at all times other than when the spinnaker is set or in the act of being set or recovered. To exonerate herself from each infringement, a boat shall take a One-Turn Penalty as described in RRS 44.1 and 44.2.

4 GENERAL

4.1 The IRC class splits

The IRC class splits are as follows:

IRC Class 1 TCC 1.041 and above

IRC Class 2 TCC 0.961 to 1.040

IRC Class 3 TCC 0.960 and below

It is each boat's responsibility to race in the correct class, whether or not the RC publishes lists suggesting which classes may apply. That includes boats whose IRC rating is awaited. If any boat without a rating chooses the wrong class, she must move

WSS25 SIs BG 1_2.docx at 21-Apr-25 Page 1 of 7

to the right class once her rating is known; Boats will not change class on change of rating.

- 4.2 **Keeping clear of committee boats**: boats are strongly urged to keep at least 5 metres away from all RC boats. Boats shall not touch any RC boat or her anchor line or chain, or any buoy, RIB or tender attached to any RC boat. Any boat that does so may be protested by the RC but not by another boat. This changes RRS 60.1.
- 4.3 **Any boat damaging or moving a mark** or its ground tackle shall inform the RC as soon as possible, normally immediately.

4.4 Sail numbers

- a) Sail numbers must be easily legible to the RC in all conditions and of a contrasting colour to the body of the sail in accordance with RRS G1.2. Otherwise, boats may be scored DNC or DNF and will be ineligible for redress. This changes RRS 61.1, A5 & A10.
- b) In exceptional circumstances, a boat may seek consent from the RC before 0900 on the race day to use sails with a number not complying with the RRS for that day only. If consent is given, this changes RRS 77.
- 4.5 **Equipment checks and measurement**: the RC may make spot checks on equipment and may require any boat to be measured at any time.

5 COMMUNICATIONS and COMMITTEE BOATS

- 5.1 **Notices to Competitors and Changes to the Sailing Instructions**: notices will be posted on the official notice board which is on the Spring Series web site at https://warsashsc.org.uk/springseries/wss-notices/.
- 5.2 **New changes in SIs**: IC flag "L" will be displayed on the Race Control boat and the changes advised by radio (See SI 5.8) at about 0945 and 1000. This changes RRS Race Signals.
- 5.3 **Race Office:** On Friday afternoons before race days and on race days, the Race Office may be contacted on 07935 560727 or by email at any time (springseries@warsashsc.org.uk).
- 5.4 **Event WhatsApp Group** competitors may join the event WhatsApp group to receive general information about the event. The link to join the event can be found on page 5, or at https://warsashsc.org.uk/springseries/wss-notices/.
- 5.5 **Abandonment**: if a day's racing is to be abandoned ashore it will be signalled at Warsash SC. It may also be advised by: WhatsApp, by radio; on the Series website; and/or on a committee boat in the start area.
- 5.6 **The class flags** set out below will be used.

IRC 1 to 3: International Code Numerals 1 to 3.

Boats shall display their class flag prominently in the aft part of the boat at least 1.5 metres above deck level.

5.7 **Committee Boats**

- a) The **Warsash Black Race Control** boat will display International Code Flag 3rd Substitute and a yellow Warsash Committee flag.
- b) If used, an Outer Distance Boat or Finish Boat will display a yellow Warsash Committee flag.
- c) RC RIBs will display a yellow WSC burgee or logo.

5.8 Radio Communications

- a) **Courses and other information** will be advised by VHF radio on international channel 04. Boats should monitor this traffic throughout. Note that international (INT) channel 04 must be selected and not USA channel 04.
- b) If transmissions on channel 04 fail, IC flag "D" will be displayed. Channel M1 (37A) will be used instead.
- c) Warsash Black Race Control will transmit the start location from about 0930 and other information at about 0945 & 1000. Boats should check their radio reception from this and not call for radio checks.
- d) Any boat needing to contact the RC may call Warsash Black Race Control on VHF channel M1 (37A) but not when the RC is transmitting on channel 04 and should return to monitoring channel 04 after speaking to the RC. Competing boats cannot be heard on channel 04.

6 STARTS

- 6.1 **Starts** will usually be in the area Bramble Bank/Hill Head/Ryde Middle.
- 6.2 **Time of starts:** The first start will be at 1030 each day. The starts of two or more classes may be combined. Competitors are advised to be in the area before 1030. Any further races will be started as soon as possible with the starting times and order dependent on when classes finish their previous race.

6.3 Starting Order

a) The Starting Order each day is expected to be:

IRC1, IRC2, IRC3.

Any change will be advised by Amendment to SIs or by radio before the warning signal for any class affected.

- 6.4 **To alert boats** that a race or sequence of races will begin soon, the orange starting line flag will be displayed with one sound five minutes before a warning signal is made.
- 6.5 **Starting Line**: between a staff displaying an orange flag on the Race Control boat and an Outer Distance Mark (ODM) which will be described by the RC by radio before the preparatory signal. The ODM may sometimes be a staff displaying an orange flag on an Outer Distance Boat (ODB).

- 6.6 **An Inner Distance Mark** (IDM) may be laid near the Race Control boat. Boats shall not cross the line between an IDM and the Race Control boat after the one-minute signal for each race and before starting and clearing the line. A boat infringing this rule may exonerate herself by rounding the end of the starting line to the pre-start side before starting. The Race Control boat, IDM and ODM all rank as starting marks.
- 6.7 **Races will be started** using RRS 26. The warning signal may be at the same time as the start of the previous class, or after a short interval. The arrangement will be advised by radio.
- 6.8 **Individual Recall:** At least one minute after the display of IC flag "X", the RC may make a radio announcement identifying any boat that remains OCS. Failure to make this announcement will not be grounds for redress.

6.9 General Recalls and Starting Penalties

- (a) After a general recall, the arrangements for re-starting will be advised by radio and as signaled. The re-start may be after one or more other classes in which case the First Substitute will be removed after 4 minutes with no sound signal. Alternatively, the re-start may immediately follow the original start with signals in accordance with RRS 29.2.
- (b) If a U Flag or Black Flag starting penalty applies, the RC may advise sail numbers of infringing boats by radio.
- (c) This SI changes RRS 29.2, 30.4 and Race Signals.

7 COURSES

- 7.1 Courses will be announced on VHF radio (see SI 5.8) and will either:
 - a) comprise marks listed in Appendix B using the 2-character codes; or
 - b) use one of the Windward-Leeward courses listed in Appendix C.
- 7.2 The course will normally be read before the warning signal for each class and repeated after the preparatory signal. The description and position of inflatable laid marks will be given.
- 7.3 **Shortening or Changing Course, or abandoning a race** (changes RRS 33 and Race Signals):
 - Course change: If a committee boat, which may be a RIB, is on station near to any rounding mark making repetitive sound signals and displaying IC flag "F" and a board showing a 2-character mark code, this indicates a change to the announced course. The 2-character code identifies the next mark which shall be the finish. This mark may not have been part of the original course. Boats shall round the mark at which the change of course is displayed and then proceed directly to the mark indicated and finish between it and a staff displaying IC flag "S" on the nearby committee boat. Should a class flag(s) also be displayed, then the change only applies to the signalled class(es).
 - b) Shortening or changing course: relevant information may also be announced on VHF radio (see SI 5.8).
 - c) A change in the position of a laid mark will not be signalled if it involves shortening or lengthening a leg by up to 0.25 mile, or changing its direction by no more than 20°. Any such change may be advised by radio.
 - d) The RC may shorten or abandon a race for major wind shifts or irregular or inadequate winds. This changes RRS 32.1.
- 7.4 **Special scoring provisions.** Changing RRS 35, RRS A5.2 and RRS A9:
 - a) In addition to RRS 32, the Race Committee may score boats in the order, corrected on handicap if appropriate, that they passed through the last gate or mark at which the Race Committee are able to establish a finishing order. Such a line becomes the finishing line for those boats.
 - b) The race committee may signal this by the display of flags "S" over "3rd Substitute" and by announcement by VHF.

8 FINISHING

8.1 **The finishing line** is between the last mark of the course and the spar displaying a blue flag on the finishing boat. The finishing boat will display a Warsash Committee flag and may additionally display an orange diamond shape to help identification.

8.2 Finishing Window

- a) The RC may notify a time limit for a class when announcing the course. This changes RRS 35.
- b) **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, penalized or given redress, may be scored Time Limit Expired (TLE) without a hearing. See NOR 15 for scoring.
- c) Unless otherwise notified for a class when announcing the course, the **Finishing Window** will be 30 minutes on Saturdays and 45 minutes on Sundays.

9 PENALTIES

- 9.1 RRS 44.1 is changed so that the Two Turns penalty is replaced by the One-Turn penalty.
- 9.2 A boat that may have broken a rule of Part 2 or Rule 31 but which does not take a penalty in accordance with SI 9.1 may, after finishing the race concerned and before the start of the first related protest hearing, notify the RC that she accepts a 30% scoring place penalty as stated in RRS 44.3(c), unless RRS 44.1(b) applies. When accepted, a protest committee cannot penalize that boat further over the same incident, except under Rules 2 or 69, or when rule 44.1(b) applies.

10 PROTESTS

- 10.1 **The time limit for lodging protests** is 1900 hours on the day of the race, except for the final weekend 26/27 April when it is 90 minutes after the last boat in the class finishes the last race of the day or racing is postponed/abandoned for the day, whichever is the later.
- 10.2 **Protests and requests for redress,** complying with RRS 60.3 and 61.2 respectively, shall be submitted in person to the Race Office at Warsash Sailing Club or by email to springseries@warsashsc.org.uk. Hearing request forms are not required but are acceptable, they are available from the documents section of the event or RYA web sites.
- 10.3 The list of protests received will be published on the ONB after the time limit.
- 10.4 Protests will be heard at Warsash Sailing Club as follows:
 - a) Protests from 12 April will be held on Sunday 13 April.
 - b) Protests from 13 April will be heard on Saturday 26 April.
 - c) Protests from 26 & 27 April will be held on those days.
- 10.5 **On 26 & 27 April, any boat involved in an incident** that might result in a protest hearing or request for redress must send a representative to the Race Office at Warsash SC as soon as possible after racing and be available for a hearing. Hearings may start within 30 minutes of the protest time limit. If any boat's representative is not present at Warsash SC the PC may nevertheless decide the protest or request.
- 10.6 **Protests brought by the RC or the Protest Committee** (PC) will be notified to boats involved by email or other means. RRS 60.2(a)(2) is changed so that the time limit shall not apply to RC/PC protests.
- 10.7 The RC or the PC may protest a boat for a breach of the IRPCAS under the preamble to Part 2 of the RRS or of SI 2.2 as a result of information arising from a request for redress or an invalid protest or from a report from any source including a person with a conflict of interest. This changes 60.4(b).

11 SCORING SYSTEM AND RACES TO COUNT

- 11.1 **Three races** are required to be completed to constitute a series.
- 11.2 **Spring Championship Discards:** when fewer than 5 races have been completed, a boat's Championship score will be the total of her race scores. When 5 or more races have been completed, a boat's Championship score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.
- 11.3 RRS A8.2 shall not apply: ties unbroken after RRS A8.1 shall stand.
- Boats that change ownership or are chartered by a different charterer during a series will not count points scored by a previous owner/charterer. Before racing, the new owner/charterer must submit a completed entry form.

12 RESULTS and PRIZES

- 12.1 **Provisional results** will be displayed on the website at https://warsashsc.org.uk/springseries/black-group-results/. Final results will be displayed on the website after the end of the Series.
- 12.2 **A Winner's Trophy** will be awarded to the winners of each class. Second and subsequent prizes will be presented according to the number of entries. These trophies and prizes are retained permanently by the winners.
- 12.3 **Perpetual Trophies**, for which the winners are selected on merit at the discretion of the organising committee:
 - a) The Commodore's Trophy for a boat in a class for IRC-rated boats.
 - b) The Founder's Salver for a boat in a non-IRC-rated class.
 - Those trophies are held by the winners for a year and then returned to the Club to be awarded for next year's event.
- 12.4 **The Prize Giving** will be held after racing on Sunday 27 April at Warsash Sailing Club. The target time is 1630. All competitors are invited.

13 RISK STATEMENT

- 13.1 **Attention is drawn to the Risk Statement** set out in the Notice of Race paragraph 22 and the undertaking by the entrant when entering to accept the Notice of Race and comply with its provisions.
- 13.2 In addition, it is the responsibility of each competitor to familiarise themselves with any risks specific to this venue or this event drawn to their attention in any rules and information produced for the venue or event.

APPENDIX A - SPECIAL FLAGS & SIGNALS FOR BLACK GROUP

The list shows some signals with special meanings for the Warsash Spring Series and Championship; these meanings may replace or add to RRS Race Signals. See the SIs for further details.

Flag	Meaning	Flown where	SI ref
D	Black Group: Radio channel 37A in use, as channel 04 is unavailable	Warsash Black Race Control boat and/or Finishing boat	5.8
F	Round this mark and go directly to the mark whose number is displayed	RIB or committee boat near a rounding mark	7.3
L	Amendment to SIs	Warsash Black Race Control boat	5.2
Υ	Lifejackets to be worn visibly	Warsash Black Race Control boat	3.2
3 rd Sub	Warsash Black Race Control boat	Warsash Black Race Control boat	5.7
Orange Diamond	Finish boat on station (the diamond is a shape not a flag)	Warsash Black Finishing committee boat	8.1
Yellow	Committee Boat (flag reads "Warsash Committee")	Race Control, Outer Distance or Finishing Boat	5.7



Warsash Spring Series 2025

WhatsApp group



APPENDIX B - LIST OF MARKS and 2-CHARACTER CODES

MARKS with CODES 3G to 5C are FIXED MARKS					
Code Name Colour I	Latitude N	Longitude W			
3G Cowes Week 2026 Y	50 46.58	01 21.46			
3H East Lepe R	50 45.93	01 21.07			
3K Lepe Spit YB	50 46.78	01 20.64			
3N MDL Marinas (ex Royal Cork) Y	50 47.07	01 19.88			
3S TeamO Y	50 47.81	01 19.25			
3U Gurnard BY	50 46.22	01 18.84			
3W Williams Shipping Y	50 47.20	01 18.55			
3Y West Knoll Y	50 47.43	01 17.84			
30 RORC Y	50 47.12	01 17.72			
31 South Bramble G	50 46.98	01 17.72			
33 Prince Consort BY	50 46.41	01 17.56			
34 Cowes Corinthian Y	50 46.15	01 17.20			
4B Coronation Y	50 49.55	01 17.62			
4C Fumesy Y	50 49.21	01 17.46			
4D Calshot (see note #) BY	50 48.44	01 17.03			
4E Jane Y	50 47.67	01 17.00			
4F Royal Thames Y	50 47.20	01 17.00			
4G Chieftain Training Y	50 49.45	01 16.91			
4H East Knoll G	50 47.96	01 16.83			
4J hamblewinterseries.com Y	50 48.63	01 16.56			
4K Royal London YC Y	50 46.15	01 16.65			
4L William Y	50 49.03	01 16.49			
4M Hill Head R	50 48.07	01 16.00			
4N Ben F Wood Y	50 47.27	01 15.90			
4P West Ryde Middle YBY	50 46.48	01 15.79			
4Q John Fisher Y	50 48.46	01 15.72			
4R Darling Buoy Y	50 49.18	01 15.71			
4S Royal Southern Y	50 48.86	01 15.43			
4T Norris (see note #) R	50 45.97	01 15.51			
4U Goodall Roofing Y	50 46.43	01 15.09			
4V Hamble Yacht Services Y	50 48.13	01 14.64			
4W Ancasta Y	50 47.33	01 14.59			
4X Colette Y	50 45.53	01 14.39			
4Y North Ryde Middle R	50 46.61	01 14.31			
4Z South Ryde Middle G	50 46.13	01 14.16			
40 Haven Knox Johnston Specialist Y	50 47.66	01 13.65			
41 East Bramble BYB	50 47.23	01 13.64			
42 Peel Bank R	50 45.49	01 13.35			
43 Little Ship Club Y	50 46.16	01 13.09			
	50 47.31	01 12.10			
45 South East Ryde Middle YB	50 45.93	01 12.10			
	50 46.21	01 11.88			
47 Contessa 32 Class Y	50 47.70	01 15.25			
	50 48.21	01 16.68			
49 250th Anniversary Y	50 46.40	01 13.58			
5A Quarr Y	50 45.03	01 11.89			
	50 45.49	01 11.21			
	50 46.57	01 10.95			
5E Warsash Sailing Club (ex Y	50 46.26	01 08.76			
		,			

8L - 8Y are STANDARD POSITIONS FOR INFLATABLE MARKS					
	The description of the buoy will be advised by radio				
Code	Location	Latitude N	Longitude W		
8L	0.2M SSE of 4D Calshot N Cardinal	50 48.28	1 16.90		
8M	0.4M E of 4F Royal Thames	50 47.22	1 16.46		
8P	0.4M W of 4W Ancasta	50 47.30	1 15.25		
8Q	0.4M SE of 4Q John Fisher	50 48.28	1 15.21		
8R	0.3M SE of 4S Royal Southern	50 48.64	1 15.00		
85	0.4M SE of 4T Norris	50 45.72	1 14.95		
8T	0.3M SSW of 4Y North Ryde Middle	50 46.33	1 14.50		
8U	0.4M SE of 4V Hamble Yacht Servs	50 47.90	1 14.20		
8V	0.5M ENE of 4V Hamble Yacht Servs	50 48.28	1 13.98		
8X	0.5M WNW of 44 Royal Yacht Squadron	50 47.47	1 12.90		
8Y	0.5M NNW of 5C Browndown	50 47.00	1 11.30		

9A- 9N are STANDARD INFLATABLE MARKS			
The position and description of the buoy			
	will be advised by radio		
9A	Windward Laid Mark		
9B	Windward Spreader Mark		
9C	Leeward Laid Mark		
9D	Leeward Spreader Mark		
9E	Leeward Gate Above Start Line		
9F	Leeward Gate Below Start Line		
9G	Wing Mark		
9H	Outer Distance Mark		
9J	Finish Mark		
9К	Far Windward Mark		
9L	Far Windward Spreader		
9M	Near Windward Mark		
9N	Near Windward Spreader		

9P to 9Z and **90 to 99 are INFLATABLE MARKS** whose position and description will be advised by radio

OTHER SOLENT MARKS may be used, being named in full

Colours: **B**=Black **G**=Green **R**=Red **Y**=Yellow

Only used for passing and keeping boats out of channel, not for ordinary rounding.

Use of other main channel marks should be minimised

Codes are consistent with the current Cowes Week/SCRA Mark Code lists

No responsibility is accepted for any error in positions

APPENDIX C – WINDWARD-LEEWARD COURSES

