



SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

ANNUAL CHALLENGE REGATTA

Saturday 21st & Sunday 22nd June 2025

1. **Rules:** Racing at Gairloch Boat Club (GBC) will be conducted in the spirit of the RYA Racing Charter. The regatta will be governed by The Racing Rules of Sailing 2025-2028 (RRS) including the RYA prescriptions, the notice of race (NoR), these sailing instructions (SI) and the appropriate class rules of participating boats, except as any of these rules are changed by these instructions. In the event of conflict with the NoR, these Sailing Instructions shall prevail.
 - 1.1 **Personal Buoyancy:** Adequate personal buoyancy for all crew members shall be worn at all times whilst afloat. This alters RRS 40.
2. **Notices to Competitors:** Notices to competitors will be posted on the notice board in the clubhouse.
3. **Changes to Sailing Instructions:** Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted a minimum of 30 minutes before the scheduled start to which it applies and will be indicated on the notice board in the clubhouse before going afloat. Any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 18:00 on the day before it will take effect. In any case, the Race Officer shall be in control of the event while on the water, and shall indicate specific rules or requirements at the pre-race briefing while ashore.
4. **Racing Area:** The racing area will be defined on the notice board in the clubhouse.
5. **The Course:** Courses will be displayed on the notice board in the clubhouse and described at the briefing before boats go afloat. When code flag "B" is flown from the Committee Boat– the course displayed will be reversed.
6. **Marks:** Racing marks and their approximate positions will be shown on the notice board in the clubhouse and described at the briefing.
7. **The Start:** Class starts and signals will be declared during the pre-race briefing.
 - 7.1 **Start Sequence:** Races will be started as described in RRS 26. Times shall be taken from the visual signals. The failure of a sound signal shall be disregarded. Where more than one class is sailed, the warning signal (class flag) will normally be flown at the start of the preceeding class. In the event of a general recall, the new start of the recalled class will be as soon as practical after the start of the last scheduled class.
 - 7.2 **Committee Boat Start:** The starting line will be between a mast or given point of the Committee Boat at the starboard end and a port end starting mark. Courses will be displayed in the clubhouse before going afloat. A buoy may be trailed from the stern of the Committee Boat – competing boats passing between this buoy and the Committee Boat at any time will be disqualified.
 - 7.3 **Starting Penalty:** A boat starting later than five minutes after her starting signal shall be scored "Came to Starting Area but did not start" (DNS). This alters RRS A4 and A5.

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- 7.4 Class Starts:** Boats that have not been shown their warning signals must avoid the starting area during the start sequence for other classes.
- 7.5 Low Entry Numbers:** The Race Committee may decide to combine classes if the entry numbers for any class are deemed too low.
- 8. Shortened Course:** The Race Officer may shorten a course for any reason. When flag “S” is flown, all boats crossing the line thereafter will finish and have the result calculated by the method described below.
- 9. The Finish:** The finish line will be between the main mast or given point of the Committee Boat and the finish mark, which is a mark of the course. Unless described otherwise by the Race Officer, the finish line will be the same as the start line.
- 9.1 Clearing the Finish Area:** All boats must stay clear of the Finish Line and its immediate area once they have completed their race, or (and especially) if they have not been competing in the current race.
- 10. Penalty System:** The one or two-turn penalty as in rules 44.1 & 44.2 shall apply. Rule 44.3 shall not apply.
- 11. Time Limit:** It is intended that each race will last approximately 45 mins. The time limit for each race will normally be 20 mins after the first boat finishes but can be extended at the Race Officer’s discretion and in exceptional circumstances. This changes Rule 35. Any entrant observed not to have sailed the correct course by a member of the Race Committee will be disqualified without a hearing. This changes rule 63.1.
- 12. Protests:** Standard RYA protest forms are available at the clubhouse. The protest time limit shall be 30 mins after the boat comes ashore. This changes rule 61.3.
- 13. Scoring:** All races will be scored as provided by Appendix A of the Racing Rules of Sailing 2025-2028 using the low points system.
- 13.1 PY Number:** The RYA Portsmouth Yardstick Scheme as set out in the current RYA documentation will be used. Boats without a published PN shall be issued with a rating based upon good evidence supplied by the competitor or by GBC based upon investigation and entirely at the discretion of GBC.
- 13.2 Calculation of Results:** The elapsed time of a boat to complete the course will be modified by its PN to produce a corrected time. In the event that a slower boat is shown the Shortened Course flag (“S”) and therefore sails fewer laps, its corrected time will take this into account so that it is not possible for such a boat to score better than one with the same PN that completed the course. This adjustment shall be at the discretion of the Race Committee.
- 13.3 Incomplete Race:** When all boats in a race are unable to complete the full or shortened course for any reason, then at the discretion of the Race Committee, the results of the race may be calculated from the times of the boats as they completed the previous round.
- 14. Series:** Six races are scheduled. One race shall constitute a series. If more than three races are sailed and completed, a boat may exclude its worst score in calculating its final position.
- 15. Signing On and Off:** Declarations will be required for all boats before going afloat and on coming ashore in all circumstances. A signing on and off sheet will be available in the clubhouse and competitors must strictly adhere to this rule on pain of an appropriate penalty.

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