

Roach Sailing Association

General Sailing Instructions

The aim of RSA racing is to enjoy a little competition and provide an opportunity for members to meet and sail together. These instructions aim to provide a simple set of guidelines for participants. It is assumed that members will adhere to the Rule of the Road during racing as at all other times, and that Safety and Fairness will always be a priority.

In the event of these Instructions and the Racing Officer's directions proving inadequate, the Racing Rules of Sailing (published by the RYA) will apply.

Safety

- A boat should give all possible help to any person or vessel in danger.
- Each boat must carry adequate life-saving equipment for those on board, including one item for immediate use. Each competitor is individually responsible for wearing personal buoyancy adequate for the prevailing conditions.
- A boat is solely responsible for deciding whether or not to start, or to continue racing.

Course

The racing officers will endeavour to post the course on the RSA Notice Board on Paglesham Hard, at least half an hour before the race start. However competitors should always check with the race officers on the water before the race.

Race Start

- The Racing Officers will start races, or appoint another member to do so. If the start is staggered (e.g. by handicap), some boats may be asked to start themselves.
- The Racing Officers may at any time abandon a planned race if conditions are considered unsuitable.
- A sound signal (single blast) will be made at five minutes and one minute before the start, and again at the start.
- Unless otherwise instructed, the start line is in line with the Hard in Paglesham Reach.

Race Finish

- If a Race Officer or appointed member is available at the finish line, they will sound a signal and note the time for each boat. Otherwise each boat should note their own finish time and inform the racing officer. Competitors can leave a note of their times on the race notice on the RSA board near Paglesham Hard.
- Unless otherwise stated, the finish line is a line across the river from Paglesham Hard.

Handicaps and Race Results

- RSA races involve boats of many types and classes, and the Portsmouth Yardstick Scheme published by the RYA will be used to allocate handicaps.
- Handicaps are used to determine a corrected time for each boat, using the method described in the RYA publication YR2. The final positions for a race will be based on the corrected times.
- Handicaps for newly entered boats will be either:
 - A published Portsmouth Number with suitable adjustment from Base Rig (if one exists), or
 - A number allocated by the Racing Officers by agreement with the Owner based on similar boats.
- Handicaps will be adjusted after each race, using the method described in the RYA publication YR2.
- The racing officers may from time to time recalculate the handicaps based on performance over a series of races, particularly at the end of the season. This may be considered necessary if individual boats' handicaps vary erratically due to frequent adjustment.

Series Score

Points are allocated to boats after each race, as follows:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
| • First place | 4 |
| • Second Place | 3 |
| • Third Place | 2 |
| • Fourth and subsequent Places | 1 |
| • Started, but not Finished | $\frac{1}{2}$ |

The winner of the series is the boat with the highest score. In the event of a draw, the boat with the highest number of first places, or second places, etc takes the prize.