



# 2026 Sailing Instructions

Primary Points 1 & 2  
Secondary Points 1 & 2



# East Patch Sailing Instructions (SIs) 2026

The notation (NP) in a rule means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1(a). Notation (DP) in breaking that rule may, at the discretion of the protest committee, be less than disqualification. This changes RRS 64.2.

## 1 RULES

1.1 Races will be governed by the rules as defined in the current version of The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS).

## 2. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

2.1 Any changes to the sailing instructions will be posted a minimum of three hours prior to the first race to which the amendment applies on the day it will take effect.

2.2 Notice will be given on [www.eastpatch.org.uk](http://www.eastpatch.org.uk), and may be repeated Rhu Marina. Normally on the CV and at the marina offices or their flag staff.

2.3 The Committee boat will display flag L while on station to draw attention to a change and may announce the change on VHF channel M (37). Failure to do so will not be grounds for redress/protest.

## 3 COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

3.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the website [www.eastpatch.org.uk](http://www.eastpatch.org.uk),

3.2 On the water, the race committee intends to monitor and communicate with competitors on VHF radio channel M (37).

3.3 (DP) while racing from the first warning signal, except in an emergency, a boat shall not make voice or data transmissions nor receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats.

## 4 CODE OF CONDUCT

4.1 (DP) Competitors and support person shall comply with reasonable requests from race officials.

## 5 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

5.1 Signals made ashore will be at, RNYC, HSC. and Rhu Marina. Normally at the flag staff or at the offices of marinas.

## 6 SCHEDULE OF RACES

6.1

Primary Points 1	Primary Points 2	Secondary 1	Secondary 2
P1/1 – 22 April	P2/1 – 27 May	S1 – 1 July	S1 – 5 August
P1/2 – 29 April	P2/2 – 3 June	S2 – 8 July	S2 – 12 August
P1/3 – 6 May	P2/3 – 10 June	S3 – 15 July	S3 – 19 August
P1/4 – 13 May	P2/4 – 17 June	S4 – 22 July	S4 – 26 August
P 1/5 – 20 May	P2/5 – 24 June	S5 – 29 July	S5 – 2 September

6.2 To alert boats that a race or sequence of races will begin soon; the orange flag will be displayed with one sound signal at least 5 minutes before the warning signal for the first warning signal is made.

## 7 CLASS FLAGS

7.1

Class	Flag	Course Pattern	Warning Signal Primary & Secondary Points
Handicap 1	Pdt 1	A	1850
Restricted Sail	Pdt 2	C	1850
National Sonatas	"IC" O	B	1855
Handicap 3	Pdt 3	B	1900

7.2 IF BOARD "B" IS DISPLAYED – Handicap Class 1 shall sail course B

7.3 IF BOARD "D" IS DISPLAYED – All Classes shall sail course D

7.4 From her warning signal until she has finished or retired from any race, each handicap boat shall fly the appropriate class flag from her backstay.

## 8 RACE AREA

8.1 The racing area is shown on the course card (Admiralty Chart 1994 would be useful.)

## 9 COURSES (Amended for 2026)

9.1 Course descriptions are defined on the course card

9.2 Course "D" in very light wind is shown on the course card

Windward/Leeward with a leeward gate formed between mark Z and the Committee vessel (CV). Yachts shall pass through the gate and round the ends either Port or Starboard. Finishing line is through the gate from the previous mark

## 10 MARKS

10.1 The rounding marks are described on the course card

## 11 OBSTRUCTIONS

11.1 Boats crossing the start/finish line. Except on the first leg of the course boats shall cross the finishing line at the start of each round and at no other time. At all other times the finish line shall be deemed to be an obstruction.

## 12 THE START

12.1 In alteration to RRS 26 all races will be started using the following signals, with classes starting at five-minute intervals. Race Officers may announce time signals on VHF CH M (37). Times shall be taken from the visual signals; the absence of a sound signal shall be disregarded.

12.2 Signal

Warning	Class flag and 1 sound
Preparatory	IC flag P and 1 sound
Starting	Class flag removed and 1 sound

12.3 IC flag P shall be left displayed until the last class starts and the warning signal for each succeeding class shall be displayed at the time of the preparatory signal of the preceding class.

12.4 The starting line will be between an orange flag on the committee vessel and Mark Z for all courses. The Committee vessel may lay the starting line on either side of Mark Z. Start by crossing the line in the direction of the first mark.

12.5 Boats whose preparatory signal has not been made **shall keep clear** of the starting area and of all boats whose preparatory signal has been made.

12.6 If any part of a boat's hull is on the course side of the starting line at her starting signal and she is identified; the race committee will attempt to hail her sail number. Failure to hail her number, failure to hear such hail, will not be grounds for a request for redress. This changes RRS 62.1(a)

12.7 A boat that does not start within 15 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.1 and A5.2.

- 12.6 Late Arrival - In alteration of RRS 42.1 a boat arriving late in the vicinity of the starting line may remain under power or tow after the preparatory signal for her class provided that, after stopping her engine, or casting off the tow she carries out two tacks and two gybes in the same direction on the pre-start side of the line or its extensions. While doing so the boat shall keep clear of all other boats until she has completed her turns and is on a proper course. No boat shall start her engine or accept a tow after her preparatory signal.
- 12.7 General Recall – In alteration of RRS 29.2, the First Substitute will be lowered one minute before the starting signal for the next scheduled class WITHOUT A SOUND SIGNAL.
- 12.8 After a general recall of any class, RRS 30.1 will apply to that class. The normal starting sequence will not be interrupted by a general recall. In alteration of RRS 29.2, the Warning Signal for the class that has had the general recall will be at the Preparatory Signal of the last class to start normally. If more than one class is subject to a general recall then the second of these classes will start five minutes after the first, and so on.
- 12.9 In alteration of RRS 26 and 29.2, if the recalled class is the only class racing, or the last class to start, then the next signal after the general recall will be the Preparatory Signal, normally five minutes after its original starting time; and the First Substitute will be lowered one minute before the Preparatory Signal WITHOUT A SOUND SIGNAL.
- 12.10 In the event that there is no Committee Vessel or Race Officer, the Supplementary Sailing instructions for a 'Pathfinder' start shall apply

### 13 CHANGES OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

- 13.1 The course may be changed during a race at the end of any "Round". In this event and in alteration of RRS 33, IC flag C will be flown on the Committee Vessel and the number of the new Course be displayed. Repeated sound signals will be made to draw attention to the change of course.

### 14 FINISHES

- 14.1 The finishing line will be between a Blue flag on the committee vessel and Mark Z for all courses
- 14.2 If a course is shortened at a mark of the course the finishing line will be between that mark and a Blue flag on the committee vessel.
- 14.3 The finishing mark Z is to be left to either Port or Starboard depending on the position of the committee vessel. Finish by crossing the line in the direction from the last mark.
- 14.4 If the race Committee is absent when a boat finishes, she should report her finishing time, and her position in relation to nearby boats.

### 15 PENALTY SYSTEM

- 15.1 RRS 44.1 is changed so that the Two-Turns Penalty is replaced by the One Turn Penalty.

### 16 TIME LIMITS

- | 16.1  | Fixed Time | Extension Time |
|---|------------|----------------|
| Primary 1 & 2 / Secondary 1 & 2 series up to race 3 | 21.15      | 20 min.        |
| Secondary Points Series races SP 4 & 5              | 21.00      | 20 min.        |
- 16.2 In alteration to RRS 35, if by the time limit no boat has finished the race, but one or more boats in that class have completed one round, the race shall be deemed to have finished at the end of the completed round, without regard to any subsequent event. If no boat has finished one round, or completed a shortened course, the race will be abandoned and will not be resailed.
- 16.3 In alteration to RRS 35, if one or more boats in a class have completed the course or a shortened course, within the time limit, the time limit for that class will be extended by the number of minutes detailed at 16.1 for that race. If any boat is considered by the Race Officer to be still racing when the time limit comes into operation, two Sound Signals will be made and the signal IC flag of any class eligible to continue racing shall be hoisted. At the end of the time limit extension, three sound signals shall be made and all flags lowered, and any boats still racing shall be scored did not finish (DNF).
- 16.4 If a race is shortened at a mark other than mark 'Z', the mark selected will be regarded as the last mark of a 'round'.
- 16.5 Failure to meet the Target Time will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 62.1(a).

### 17 HEARING REQUESTS

- 17.1 Protests/Redress must be lodged with the Committee [www.eastpatch.org.uk](http://www.eastpatch.org.uk), as soon as possible after the race and in any event no later than mid-day on the fourth day after the day on which the race takes place.
- 17.2 PROTESTS WILL BE HEARD WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE on the first Thursday evening occurring not less than one week after the race in question (i.e., for a Wednesday evening race, one week after the following day Thursday. Hearing of protests will commence at 19.30 at the location agreed with the Protest Chair.

- 17.3 It is the duty of the PROTESTOR (in addition to the requirements of the RRS) to take all possible steps to ensure AFTER RACING, that the Protestee is informed:  
(a) That the protest has been or will be lodged within the time allowed, and  
(b) Of the subject matter of the protest.
- 17.4 A copy of the protest will either be posted or emailed to the Protestee or be made available by the Committee to the Protestee not less than three days, of the hearing commencing. Protests may be heard "in absence" in the event of either party, his representative or his witnesses failing to attend. ONLY IN EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES and at the discretion of the Protest Committee concerned will any protest be adjourned until a later date.
- 17.5 EVERY PROTEST LODGED SHALL BE ACCOMPANIED BY A PROTEST FEE OF £10.00, which may be returned at the discretion of the Protest committee. Cheques should be made payable to the "East Patch Racing Committee".
- 17.6 Arbitration; The Post-Race Penalty and RYA Arbitration of the RYA Rules Disputes Procedures shall apply (for full Information on the procedures, go to [www.rya.org.uk/go/rules](http://www.rya.org.uk/go/rules) ). The outcome of an RYA Arbitration can be referred to a protest committee, but an arbitration cannot be reopened or appealed.
- 18 SCORING**
- 18.1 The series will be scored using the Low Point scoring system of RRS 90.3 Appendix A. The schedule of races is at 6.1
- 18.2 When few than four races or less have been completed, a boats score will be the total of her race score.
- 18.3 When five races have been completed, a boats score will the total of her race score excluding her worst score.
- 18.4 In all series two races shall be completed to constitute a series.
- 18.5 All series are Long Series and in alteration of RRS A9, the score for DNF, RET, NSC & OCS, finishers + 2; DNS & DNC, starters + 2; DSQ starters + 3.
- 18.6 Rule A5.3 applies.
- 18.7 A lone boat at the start shall not be given a race in her class.
- 19 SAFETY REGULATIONS**
- 19.1 In addition to RRS 1.2, all boats shall carry an anchor and warp, a towline and bailing device, each of which shall be of a type and size suitable for the purpose for which it was intended.
- 19.2 Each crew member will have access to serviceable lifejacket / buoyancy aid.
- 19.3 Each boat shall have valid third-party insurance of at least £3,000,000 whilst racing.
- 20 REPLACEMENTS OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT** not applicable to this event.
- 21 EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS** not applicable to this event.
- 22 SUPPLIED BOATS** - not applicable to this event.
- 24 SUPPORT TEAMS** - not applicable to this event.
- 25 TRASH DISPOSALS**
- 25.1 (DP) Boats may not put trash in water.
- 26 BERTHING** - not applicable to this event.
- 27 HAUL-OUT RESTRICTION** - not applicable to this event.
- 28 BERTHING EQUIPMENT AND PLASTC POOLS** - not applicable to this event.
- 29 PRIZES**
- 29.1 As stated in the Notice of Race.
- 29.2 An overall class series result will be calculated on CYCA handicap results.
- 30 RISK STATEMENT**
- 30.1 As stated in the Notice of Race, para 22.
- 31 (DP) CLYDEPORT/PEELPORT AND KING`S HARBOUR REGULATIONS**
- Attention is drawn to the International Regulations for the prevention of Collisions at Sea, 1972. Particular notice should be taken of rule 9b which states `a vessel less than 20 metres in length or a sailing vessel shall not impede the passage of a vessel which can only navigate within a Narrow Channel or Fairway`. `Recommended Channels` are shown on Admiralty Chart 1994. Yachts must regard any such `Recommended Channel` as a `Narrow Channel` within the

meaning of the IRPCS 9b. Furthermore, Clydeport/Peelports Operations Limited has decreed that any waters of the Firth of Clyde where vessels by virtue of their size, speed or proximity to land, hazards and other vessels are unable to manoeuvre freely must be regarded as a 'Narrow Channel'. This also applies in water of the King's Harbour. CP/PP waters are to the south and west and QH waters to the north of a line from Rosneath Point to a point approximately halfway between Craigendoran Pier and Ardmore Head (Admiralty Chart 1994 refers). Whilst racing, any yacht which is unable to for reasons of lack of wind or other cause, to sail clear of a large power-driven vessel shall start her engine and/or paddle to keep clear and thereafter shall report full detail to the EP Race Committee. Competitors are reminded of the CP/PP Byelaw which prohibits yachts and other craft from manoeuvring within 100 meters of any ferry terminal.

The restricted Channel into the Gareloch, off Helensburgh Sailing Club and extending to the southern limit of the King's Harbour, may be closed by the King's Harbour Master for the passage of large naval vessels. IC Flag U flown by the PCV will indicate if this is likely. The requirement described above MUST be met, any instructions received from MOD Police in accompanying RIBs or launches must be promptly obeyed. Breach of this rule will be decided by the Protest Committee.

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#### **RACE OFFICER DUTY**

Where as a result of an individual being rostered for R.O. duty, a boat does not compete in a race, then if there are any finishers in her class on the occasion in question, she shall be allotted for that race the average points scored in those races in which she started, which would count for the series (i.e. after discounting allowable discards and not including the race when she was on Race Officer duty). A person acting as a substitute for Race Officer shall be treated in the same way. **Any person unable to carry out Race Officer Duty shall be responsible for finding a substitute and notifying [www.eastpatch.org.uk](http://www.eastpatch.org.uk),**

EP SIs  
03/04/26