



Hurst Castle Sailing Club - Dinghy Pursuit Racing 2025

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS



1. RULES

1.1 HCSC Dinghy Pursuit Racing will be governed by the rules as defined in the 2025-28 Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), appropriate Class Rules and/or the RYA Portsmouth Yardstick Scheme (except as any of these are changed by the Sailing Instructions).

1.2 No yacht may take part in HCSC racing unless it is covered by Third Party Insurance with a minimum cover of £3,000,000 per incident

1.2 Rule RRS 28.1 (Sailing the Race) is modified by addition of:- "The Race Committee may disqualify (DSQ) without a hearing a boat that has broken this rule but only when a member of the Race Committee has seen the incident. A boat so penalised shall be informed by notification in the race results."

1.4 Rule RRS 40 (Personal Flotation Devices) Rule 40.1 shall apply. Wet or dry suits do not constitute adequate buoyancy."

1.7 Rule RRS 44.1 (Penalty for infringing Part 2 – When boats meet, or RRS 31 – Touching a Mark) is changed so that only one turn including one tack and one gybe, is required in either case.

2. CLASSES TO BE RACED and HANDICAPPING

2.1 Races are open to all sailing dinghies.

2.3 Classes will be allocated HCSC Club Handicaps, where these exist on the basis of previous local experience, or Portsmouth Numbers as published on the RYA website. Where no Number is published, a yacht will be allocated Trial Numbers by the Race Committee. The Race Committee may adjust Numbers during any series. For more information on the Portsmouth Number scheme, see (<http://www.rya.org.uk/infoadvice/racing/Pages/portsmouthyardstick.aspx>).

3. SAFETY

3.1 A boat is entirely responsible for her own safety, whether afloat or ashore, and nothing, whether in the Notice of Race or Sailing Instructions or anywhere else reduces this responsibility. It is for the boat to decide whether she is fit to sail in the conditions in which she will find herself. By launching or going to sea, the boat confirms that she is fit for those conditions and that her crew is competent to sail and compete in them.

3.2 Nothing done by the organisers can reduce the responsibility of the boat nor will it make the organisers responsible for any loss, damage, death or personal injury, however it may have occurred, as a result of the boat taking part in the racing. The organisers encompass everyone helping to run the race and the event, and include the organising authority, the Race Committee, the Race Officer, patrol boats and slipway marshals. The provision of patrol boats does not relieve the boat of her responsibilities. The fact that the Race Committee may conduct inspections of a boat does not reduce the responsibilities of the boat set out in these Sailing Instructions.

3.3 The helmsman or crew of each boat must sign on prior to racing and must sign off for each race in which he / she has competed within one hour of the finish of the last race of the day. Failure to sign on or off may be scored DNS.

3.4 It is a pre-requisite for Junior members to take part in racing that a Parental Disclaimer Form is completed by a responsible adult. Such forms are valid only for the year in which they are completed.

3.5 Any boat in the Keyhaven River shall not cause Hurst ferries to take avoiding action

3.6 All boats shall comply with instructions given by any HCSC official Committee Boat or Patrol boat. Failure to do so may lead to disqualification from the race.

3.7 All boats shall comply with their class rules and prescriptions as appropriate with regard to safety.

3.8 All boats shall comply with RRS 77 Appendix G (Class Insignia, National Letters and Sail Numbers) and the RYA prescription thereto.

4. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS, COMPETITOR BRIEFING AND CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

4.1 Notices to competitors will be posted at the Clubhouse.

4.2 A Competitor Briefing will be held at the Clubhouse, as advertised in the Notice of Race. This Briefings will be used to inform Competitors of the list of Start Times and signals and the Course to be sailed, as well as other elements of information.

4.3 Any change to the Sailing Instructions will be posted at the Club at least an hour before the published first start time on the day it will take effect.

5. CLASS FLAGS, ANTICIPATED STARTING TIMES

5.1 Unless otherwise specified at the Competitor Briefing for a particular race, Warning, Preparatory and Starting Signals will be made using letter and / or number boards displayed at the Start Line. The allocation of letters to particular signals and / or starts will be publicised at the briefing prior to the event

5.2 The first Start signal (which may not have an associated entrant) will be at the time advertised in the Notice of Race. Subsequent starts will be in accordance with the Start List publicised on the Club noticeboard and / or at the Competitor Briefing

6. RACING AREA and COURSE

6.1 The racing area for Dinghy Pursuit Racing will be the Keyhaven Creeks and the Western Solent immediately outside Keyhaven River. The course will be set using Crewsaver orange inflatable race marks and / or Keyhaven River navigation marks. The approximate layout of the marks will be posted on the blackboard at the Club prior to going afloat. Competitors should obtain confirmation of the sequence and direction of rounding of the marks from the Race Committee prior to the Start.

6.2 All marks shall be rounding marks unless the alteration of course is clearly less than 45° when they shall be passing marks.

7. STARTING AND FINISHING

7.1 The Start Sequence will be begun in accordance with RRS 26 (Starting Races). Times shall be taken from the visual signals. The absence of a sound signal shall be disregarded

The warning signal (Normally letter A) will be 5 minutes before the first start

The preparatory signal (Normally letter B) will be 4 minutes before the first start.

At one minute before the first start, Letter B will be removed and letter C displayed.

Numeral 1 will be displayed for the first start.

7.2 The second and subsequent starts will be signalled according to the time schedule publicised on the Noticeboard and / or at the competitor Briefing. Where there is a gap of four minutes or more in the schedule, at least a sound signal will be made one minute before the next start. Normally, the letter for the previous start will be replaced by the letter for the particular start at the time advertised for that start.

7.3 Unless otherwise advertised in the specific Notice of Race and at the Competitor Briefing, The Start Line will be between the KYC Pontoon pile with a triangle top-mark and the red / white chequered marking on the eastern sea-wall.

7.4 If any boat due to start is on the course side of the line when its start signal is made, a second sound signal will be made, and Flag "X" displayed until all such boats have returned to the pre-start side of the line.

7.5 The race will be finished from the advertised Finishing Time. Finishing places will be determined by the Race Committee, according to the order of boats on the course as the Race Committee moves back through the fleet after the Finishing Time. Decisions of the Race committee on finishing order will be final, with no appeal. Boats should continue to race until such time as they are given a finishing signal by the Race Committee.

8. PENALTY SYSTEM AND PROTESTS

8.1 Protests shall be written on forms available from the Club and delivered there within thirty minutes of the protesting boat coming ashore. RYA Rules Dispute Advisory and Mediation Hearings are available.

8.2 Unless notified otherwise, full protest hearings will be heard as soon as possible after racing.