

Topper Open 2007

Sailing Instructions

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Introduction

The event will be sailed on an area between Calshot Spit Buoy, Bourne Gap Buoy and the NE Gurnard Buoy, remaining to the North of the Thorn channel, and Western Approach Channel. The course will be within 1.5 Nautical miles of the Sailing Club.

Local Conditions.

The slipway at Calshot Sailing Club is quite narrow, and has a drop of about 1m either side at high water.

If a Southerly sea breeze occurs during the event, then beach recovery could become a little difficult. Beach parties will be on hand to assist.

A public road borders the sailing club compound. The general public have right of way and should be treated with courtesy and consideration at all times by competitors.

Competitors are warned that windsurfers and other vessels also use the area and must not be expected to give right of way to racing boats.

Competitors are asked to keep well clear of fishermans lines whether cast from the bank or from moored boats.

Organising Authority

The Organising authority is the Royal Yachting Association.

Rules

The event will be governed by

- 1.1. The *racing rules of Sailing* except as changed by these sailing instructions.
- 1.2. The prescriptions of the RYA
- 1.3. The notice of race, except as changed by these instructions.

Conditions of Entry

General

The race organisers shall not be responsible for any loss, damage, death or personal injury howsoever caused to the owner / Competitor as a result of their taking part in the race or races. Nothing done by the organisers can reduce the responsibility of the owners and / or competitors. Nor will it make the organisers responsible for any loss, damage, death or personal injury to the owner / Competitor. The organisers encompass everyone helping to run the event. The provision of patrol boats does not relieve owners and /or Competitors of their responsibilities. Moreover every owner / Competitor warrants the suitability of his / her boat for the race or races.

Insurance

No boat shall Race unless the boat is currently insured for third party risks to a minimum sum of £2,000,000 (Two Million pounds Sterling) or its equivalent in any other currency, and such insurance shall be valid for the helmsperson who will be racing the boat

The Start

The race will be started in accordance with RROs 26. Times shall be taken from the visual signals: the failure of a sound signal shall be disregarded.

Warning 5 Minutes before start T Flag Raise

1 sound Signal

Prep 4 Minutes before start P Flag Raise

1 Sound Signal

Prep 1 Minute before start P Flag Lower

1 Sound Signal

Starting Start T Flag Lowered

1 Sound Signal

Prizes

**The Calshot Topper Traveller Trophy
Will be awarded to the 1st competitor overall.**

Other prizes will be awarded at the race Committee 's
decision.

Results

**Results will be displayed in the Clubhouse as soon as possible and will
be posted on the Calshot website:**

<http://www.calshot-sailing.co.uk>

Protests

Protests will be heard in the approximate order of receipt as soon as possible, except that protests, the results of which may affect others, may be heard first. The time and venue for the protest hearing will be displayed on the race notice board in the Sailing club following receipt of the protest.

Any competitor(s) wishing to lodge a protest should submit as soon as possible after finishing or retiring from racing. They shall inform the Committee Boat of their intentions together with the sail number(s) of Topper(s) being protested. The time limit for submitting a written protest shall be 30 minutes after the last boat has returned to shore.

Scoring system

The low point scoring system will be used.

Boats will be scored using the designations below.

DNF	Number of starters +1
DNS	Number of starters +2
DNC	Number of starters +3
All others	Number of starters +4

When a discard is permitted, ties shall be broken by taking "Best Discard". Otherwise ties shall be broken in favour of the boat, or boats, with the lowest score in the last race that the tied boats were eligible to sail.

Draft Results will be published at the end of every race.

Number of races to count

One discard will be allowed if 3 races are sailed. Disqualification under rule RRS 42 cannot be discarded. If 2 or less races are sailed, all races will count. RRS 67 shall apply.

The Starting Line

The Starting line will be an imaginary line between the mast of the committee boat flying a plain Orange flag, and the outer distance mark flying a coloured flag.

No competitor to sail through between the inner distance mark and the Committee Boat.

Late Starters

A boat shall not start later than (Five) 5 minutes later than the class starting signal.

Personal Buoyancy

Every competitor shall wear personal buoyancy. Every competitor shall wear, above the waist, a jacket or vest, manufactured with adequate inherent buoyancy. Wet suits and dry suits do not constitute personal buoyancy. This replaces rule 40

Notice to competitors

Notices to competitors will be posted on the Official notice board located within the clubhouse.

Briefing

There will be a competitors briefing at 12.45 Hrs by the Race Officer on the Patio area in front of the shore based starting platform.

Changes to the sailing instructions

Any changes to the Sailing instructions will be posted on the Official notice board at least one hour before the race concerned.

Signing On and Off the Water

It is the competitor responsibility to sign on and off the water on all occasions. If a competitor fails to sign on the results will show DNS. If a competitor fails to sign off within 30 minutes of returning to shore the race results will show DNF.

Schedule of Races

Races are scheduled as follows

Race Number Time for Warning Signal

Race 1 13.30

Race 2 BTB

Race 3 BTB

Three races are scheduled. The intention is to race 3 races back to back. It is intended that each race should be of approximately 45 minutes duration.

Class Flags

The warning signal for the topper class will be

Topper 'Int code Flag T'

The Courses

The Courses to be sailed will be displaced on a notice board at the club. Notification of the course to be sailed will be given at the briefing.

Shortened Courses

If Flag 'S' is flown under the class flag at the start, the shortened course shall be sailed. If the course needs to be shortened whilst the race is in progress then it may be shortened at any mark.. A safety boat flying the 'S' Flag and the plain Blue flag will sit adjacent any mark of the course, at right angles to the direction of approach from the last mark rounded, and will sound two sound signals as the leading boats approach it. Boats finishing will pass between the safety boat and the mark.

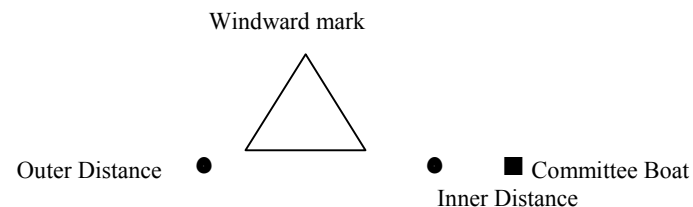
Racing marks

Racing marks will be inflatable buoys. The shape and colour of the marks will be advised at the briefing.

General Recall

In the event of a general recall RRs 29.3 shall apply.

If more than 2 general recalls are required then the BLACK flag will apply, no competitor will be permitted within the triangle whilst under starters orders. Any competitor entering the triangle will be disqualified.



Details of Both Individual and General Recalls will be given at the briefing.

The Finish

The finishing line will be between the mast displaying an Orange flag on the committee boat and the finishing mark, which will be an Coloured buoy. Alternatively the finishing line for a shortened course may be between the safety boat displaying Flag 'S-T' and an Blue flag and any mark on the course.

Time Limits.

The time limit will be 65 minutes for the leading boat. 20 minutes after this time boats will be given a grand prix finish. This changes RRS 35.

Entry and Declarations

Every Competitor must complete an entry form for the event, prior to the start of their first race. This will indicate their intention to sail in all races of the event.

Competitors must also sign a declaration, after each race or after the last of a sequence of back to back races, to indicate that the course has been sailed correctly and the sailing instructions obeyed. This declaration is also necessary for safety reasons. The time limit for declarations is 30 minutes after finishing that race. Competitors who have elected not to race or who did not start or who have retired from a race must sign off 'DNC' (Did not Compete), 'DNS (Did not Start), or 'DNF' (Did not Finish), or 'RTD' (Retired) as appropriate for the relevant races.

Rescue Boats

All rescue boats will be under the direct responsibility of the Race Officer. No other support boats will be allowed in racing area.

Extreme Conditions

In the above conditions life will be paramount, equipment will be saved where possible.