

Sailing Instructions

1. ORGANISING AUTHORITY

1.1 The Organising Authority (OA) is the Royal Western Yacht Club of Ireland (RWYCI) and the West of Ireland Offshore Racing Association (WIORA).

2. RULES AND ELIGIBILITY

2.1 The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), the rules of IRC, the rules of the ISA ECHO Performance Handicap System, the constitution of the West of Ireland Offshore Racing Association (WIORA) and Class Association Rules where applicable.

2.2 The prescriptions of Irish Sailing will apply.

2.3 IRC crew limits shall not apply.

2.4 ISAF Category Group 3 sailors are only allowed to sail under the following conditions: A Class 2 or 3 IRC boat may carry ONE Group 3 sailor on ONE day only. The Group 3 sailor is not allowed to helm. A class 1 boat may carry one group 3 sailor for the duration of the event.

2.5 Commercial Shipping: Strict warning is given by Shannon Foynes Port Company that boats and support vessels must always keep well clear of Tugs and commercial shipping in the area.

3. ADDITIONAL IDENTIFICATION

Racing boats shall always display their class flag or coloured ribbon from their backstay while racing. Any boat failing to comply may be scored DNF without a hearing. This changes RRS 35 and A5.

4. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

4.1 Notices to Competitors will be posted on the event notice board located outside the Race Office of the Royal Western Yacht Club of Ireland.

4.2 The Race Committee may draw attention to Race Signals given on the Committee Boat, and communicate other information on VHF at any time. The Race Committee will transmit on Channel 72 or other such channel as may be displayed on the Committee Boat. Failure to transmit or to receive such communication will not be grounds for redress by a boat. This changes rule 62.1(a).

5. ADVERTISING

World Sailing Regulation 20 will apply.

6. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted before 0900 on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 2000 on the day before it will take effect.

7. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

7.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed on the flagstaff in front of Kilrush Marina.

7.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 60 minutes' in the race signal AP.

8. SCHEDULE

8.1 A Competitor's Briefing will take place at **1015 on Friday 24th June** at Kilrush Marina.

8.2 Schedule of Races: 8 Races are scheduled in Spinnaker Class and 6 Races are scheduled in White Sails Class as follows:

Date	Time of first Warning Signal	Number of Races Scheduled		Low Water	High Water
		Spinnaker Class	White Sails		
Friday 24th	1155hrs	Up to 3 races	Up to 2 races	0837hrs 1.2m	1524hrs 4.0m
Saturday 25th	1155hrs	Up to 3 races	Up to 2 races	0932hrs 1.2m	1613hrs 4.2m
Sunday 26th	1225hrs	Remaining races to complete the series		1021hrs 1.1m	1657hrs 4.3m

8.3 The warning signal for each succeeding race will be made as soon as practicable.

8.4 On Sunday 26th June, the first warning signal of a race will not be made after 1430.

8.5 The decision to sail more than the scheduled number of races per day lies at the discretion of the Race Officer. If International Code Flag 'E' is displayed at the finish of the last scheduled race of the day, this indicates there will be an extra race sailed that day.

9. CLASS FLAG

9.1 The class flags will be:

Class 1 Spinnaker Class	Numeral Pennant 1
Class 2 Spinnaker Class	Numeral Pennant 2
White Sails 1	Numeral Pennant 3 or a Large Red Ribbon
White Sails 2	Numeral Pennant 4 or a Large Blue Ribbon

9.2 Entrants will be divided into classes which will not be finalised until after the closing date for entries. The composition of the classes will be determined at the sole discretion of the Organising Authority paying due regard for the need for a reasonable number of boats in each class along with the requirement to have as close a spread of TCC's as possible in each class.

10. RACING AREA:

The racing area will be the Lower Shannon Estuary.

11. THE COURSES

11.1 The courses will be laid as per Appendix 1 or using fixed mark type courses. In addition there may be one or more coastal races where river navigation marks and RWYCI club marks may be used. The type of course to be used may be displayed on Event Noticeboard each day and broadcast on VHF Channel 72 prior to the first warning signal for each race.

11.2 No later than the preparatory signal, the Race Committee may display the type of course to be sailing including the number of rounds on a blackboard on the committee vessel.

11.3 No later than the warning signal, the Race Committee may display the approximate compass bearing to Mark 1.

12. MARKS:

12.1 The Racing Marks will be orange cylindrical inflatable buoys and river navigation marks.

12.2 The Starting and Finishing line will be an inflatable buoy.

12.3 A race committee vessel signalling a change of course is a mark as provided in SI 14.2.

13. THE START

13.1 Races will be started in accordance with rule 26.

13.2 The starting line will be between the Main mast, on the Race Committee vessel displaying an orange flag and the Outer Distance Mark at the port end of the line.

13.3 The race committee may broadcast Individual Recall OCS sail numbers no earlier than one minute after the starting signal, on the designated VHF channel, this changes Rule 62.1(a) (redress).

13.4 Class 1 will start first; the start signal for Class 1 will be the warning signal for Class 2; the start signal for class 2 will be the warning signal for the White Sails fleets. In the event of a general recall the recalled Class shall restart before any remaining classes. The Order of Class Starts may change following the completion of the first starting sequence for each day depending on the order of Class finish times. For example, if Class 2 or White Sail fleets finishes well before Class 1, the Class 2 or White Sail fleets may start before Class 1. This will be done to keep the fleets racing and to maximise the number of races for each class, particularly if the weather is working against (e.g. dying wind).

13.5 When the Race Committee determines that a boat has not complied with rule 29.1, 30.1, 30.3 or 30.4, the Race Committee may broadcast the boat's sail number on the designated VHF channel, no earlier than one minute after the starting signal.

13.6 Failure to broadcast, or errors in the broadcast, under SI 13.3, 13.4 or 13.5 will not be grounds for a request for redress by a boat. This changes rule 62.1(a).

13.7 A boat starting later than 10 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes rule 63.1, A4 and A5.

13.8 Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area during the starting sequence for other races.

13.9 If any part of a boat's hull, crew or equipment is on the course side of the starting line during the two minutes before her starting signal and she is identified, the race committee will attempt to indicate this fact by displaying the flag V. Failure to indicate will not be grounds for a request for redress. This changes rule 62.1(a).

14. CHANGE OF COURSE

14.1 The change will be signalled in accordance with rule 33. Minor adjustments of mark positions will not be signalled by the Race Committee.

14.2 Except at a gate, boats shall pass between the Race Committee vessel signalling the change of the next leg and the nearby mark, leaving the mark to port and the committee vessel to starboard.

15. THE FINISH

15.1 The finish line will be between a red and white pole, or Main mast, on the finishing vessel flying a Blue flag, and the Finish Mark. The Finish Mark may be a yellow spherical buoy.

15.2 An alternative finish may be used. This will be advised by VHF.

15.3 When the Blue Flag is displayed no boat shall pass through the finishing line, in either direction, except to finish. Any boat in breach of this SI shall be scored as DNF without a hearing. This changes rules 63.1, A4.1 and A5.

15.4 In addition to the procedure for shortening course in Rule 32, the race committee may also award a finishing score to a boat that is still racing by displaying to her from a committee vessel (which may in motion) flag W with one sound signal. A boat so notified is no longer required to sail the course (changing rule 28.1), so shall stop racing and shall return to the starting area or return to ashore if there is not more racing. A finishing score under this sailing instruction will be the score she would have received had she sailed the course and finished within any time limit, without gaining or losing any place. However, when two or more boats that are overlapped are notified, they will be scored as if they were tied. The decision by the race committee to use this procedure or not to use it shall not be grounds for requesting redress, changing Rule 60.1(b).

16. SHORTENING COURSE

16.1 The Race Committee may shorten the course under rule 32.

16.2 In addition to rule 32, when a Race Committee vessel displaying code flag F, making repeated sound signals, is positioned adjacent to a mark of the course, boats, having rounded that mark, shall proceed directly to the Finish line to finish. SI 13.2 will apply. This changes rules 32.2 and 33.

17. PENALTY SYSTEM

17.1 A boat that has taken a penalty or retired under rule 31 or 44.1 shall complete a acknowledgement form at the race office within the protest time limit.

18. TIME LIMIT

18.1 The time limit for the first boat to sail the course as required by rule 28 and finish is 2 hours.

18.2 Boats failing to finish within 30 minutes after the first boat sails the course and finishes will be scored Did Not Finish without a hearing. This changes rules 35, 63.1, A4 and A5.

18.3 Coastal Course: the time limit for the leading boat will be 5 hours. If any boat finishes within the time limit, then the limit will be extended by 60 minutes.

19. PROTESTS, REQUESTS FOR REDRESS, ARBITRATION

19.1 Protest forms are available at the race office. Protests and request for redress shall be delivered there within the protest time limit.

19.2 The protest time limit is 90 minutes after the last boat has finished the last race of the day.

19.3 Notices will be posted on the official notice board within 20 minutes of the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Hearings will be held in the protest room, the location of which will be posted on the official notice board.

19.4 Notices of protests by the Race Committee or Protest committee will be posted to inform boats under rule 61.1(b)

19.5 On the last scheduled day of racing a request for redress based on a protest committee decision shall be delivered no later than 30 minutes after decision was posted. This changes rule 62.2.

20. SCORING

20.1 Three races are required to be completed to constitute a series.

20.2 The Low Points scoring system of Appendix A shall apply.

- 20.3 When fewer than 5 races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores.
- 20.4 When five or more races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score. When eight or more races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.
- 21. SAFETY REGULATIONS**
- 21.1 All competitors shall wear adequate personal flotation devices at all times when afloat, except briefly while changing or adjusting clothing or personal equipment. Dry suits and wet suits are not adequate personal flotation devices. This changes rule 40.
- 21.2 A boat that retires from a race shall notify the Race Committee as soon as possible.
- 21.3 Boats shall always keep clear of commercial shipping.
- 25. HAUL OUT RESTRICTIONS**
- 25.1 Boats shall not be removed from the water between the preparatory signal of the first race and the end of the regatta. In an emergency, and only following a written request, the protest committee may waive this Sl.
- 25.2 In the event of foul weather, the organising committee may direct that all boats moored be moved to another berth.
- 26. DIVING EQUIPMENT AND PLASTIC POOLS**
- Underwater breathing apparatus and plastic pools or their equivalent shall not be used between the preparatory signal of the first race and the end of the regatta.
- 27. RADIO COMMUNICATION**
- A boat while racing shall neither make radio transmissions nor receive communications not available to all boats. This restriction also applies to mobile telephones, which shall be switched off while racing.
- 28. INSURANCE**
- Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of €3,000,000 per event or the equivalent.
- 29. PRIZES**
- 29.1 Prize giving will take place as soon as possible following the conclusion of racing.
- 29.2 Daily and Series Prizes will be awarded under the IRC and ECHO handicap systems.
- 30. HONORARY MEMBERSHIP**
- Honorary Membership: All competitors sailing in the West Coast Championships shall be honorary members of Royal Western Yacht Club of Ireland during the event, and will be bound by the rules of the club. Competitors are reminded that personal effects, gear, trailers and other equipment are their own responsibility and neither the West of Ireland Offshore Racing Association, the Race Committee, nor Royal Western Yacht Club of Ireland can be held liable for any claim, loss or damage.

31. RISK STATEMENT:

- Rule 4 of the Racing Rules of Sailing states: "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue to race is hers alone"
- Sailing by its nature is an unpredictable sport and therefore inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event, each competitor agrees and acknowledges that:
- (a) They are aware of the inherent element of risk involved in the sport and accept responsibility for the exposure of themselves, their crew and their boat to such inherent risk whilst taking part in the event;
- (b) They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore;
- (c) They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions;
- (d) Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate;
- (e) The provision of a race management team, patrol boats and other officials and volunteers by the event organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities.
- (f) The provision of patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions as can be practically provided in the circumstances.

APPENDIX 1**Laid Courses:**

The following diagrams are indicative only and an offset mark may be laid for W/L legs. Courses may include any combination or number of these diagrams. The start/finish line is not a gate unless so declared by the race officer.