



Standing Sailing Instructions 2021

Individual Race Details

All races are published on the Thurrock Yacht Club Website.

Briefing and start times are published in advance.

A minimum of 3 registered entrants are required for any race.

General

Unless specified in this sailing instruction, all races will be run and scored in accordance with the Racing Rules of Sailing 2021-24.

The sailing secretary and/or race officer reserve the right to change these instructions, and such changes will be advised at the event briefing.

Event Preparation

All skippers are to ensure their boats meet all the conditions of the Risk Assessment, including but not limited to:

- The boat is seaworthy and adequately equipped for a race of this duration.
- There is access to a working vhf radio for the duration of the race
- The boat carries third party insurance with adequate provision for racing.

Course

The course may be published in advance, but is always confirmed in the briefing. The race officer may shorten the course to suit conditions at any time prior to, or during the event.

Event Briefing

There will be an onshore briefing at the time published. All skippers must sign the race register to be eligible to start the race.

At the race officer's discretion there may be an on water briefing for boats who have previously submitted an official entry form, in which case the requirement to formally sign the register is waived.

Radio Checks

The race VHF channel is 37/M1/P1

All boats are required to conduct a radio check on the race VHF channel prior to crossing the start line. This will also act as confirmation that the boat is participating. Failure to complete a radio check will result in disqualification from the race.



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Start Procedure

The following start sequence shall apply (please note “engines off” at 1 minute signal to give boats best chance of making the line in anticipated tidal conditions).

- 5 minute – 1 light and warning via Event VHF Channel
- 4 minute – 2 lights and warning via Event VHF Channel
- 1 minute - 3 lights and warning via Event VHF Channel – ENGINES OFF!
- Start – lights off and notification via Event VHF Channel

At the race officer’s discretion VHF warnings may also be given at 15 minutes, 10 minutes, 3 minutes and 2 minutes.

No signal flags are flown.

Handicaps

Boats will race to their **standard white sail Byron Handicap** as declared on their entry form, or recorded on the club register.

Boats may fly their spinnakers if the crews are competent to do so, and conditions allow. In the event of first hoisting a spinnaker (prior to the sail setting), then the boats handicap will be reduced by 2%.

The race officer may at their discretion grant a provisional handicap for the race but any result within the current season will be adjusted retrospectively upon production of an official Byron rating for the specific boat.

Series Scoring

All series shall be scored according to Appendix A of the Racing Rules of Sailing. The lowest score across the series wins.

All races run on a Thursday evening during the season shall be part of the Thursday series, unless different A and B fleet courses are sailed.

All races run on a Saturday (including trophy races) shall be part of the Saturday series, unless different A and B courses are sailed.

Other series may be declared at the discretion of the sailing secretary.

For open races, only Thurrock Yacht Club boats are eligible to be scored in the series.

The following discard rules apply:

Up to 2 races	No discards apply
3 to 8 races	1 discard applies
9 or more races	2 discards apply



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River Traffic

International Colregs and Port of London byelaws apply at all times. Where there is any conflict the Port of London byelaws take precedence.

All participants are reminded of their responsibilities to stay clear of commercial shipping in the Thames. The following guidance is published on the Thurrock Yacht Club website:

- Do not cross in front of large vessels
- Keep a lookout astern as well as ahead.
- If approaching a large vessel, make a prompt turn to starboard and get to the right side of the fairway. If you have a loud horn, sound one short blast, but in any case be clear and concise in your manoeuvres.
- If sailing in races or company, make other boats aware of large vessels on channel 37 (M).
- Consider making short tacks and go about midway across the fairway.
- Always carry a functioning VHF Radio and maintain a listening watch on London VTS, unless participating in an organised club event where another channel is prescribed.

Emergency Use of Engine

Boats are permitted to use their engines to avoid collision with shipping or other hazards. In the event of starting the engine, the boat must adopt a position whereby no advantage is gained towards the finish line before switching off their engine and rejoining the race. All such incidents are to be reported to Race Control on the Event VHF Channel.