



## **General Sailing Instructions for Royal Cork Yacht Club Keelboat Racing 2023**

### **Racing Rules**

1. All races shall be governed by the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), Irish Sailing (IS) Prescriptions, the Notice of Race (NOR) and the Sailing Instructions (SIs) for any particular race or series, these Sailing Instructions (General SI's) and any amendments thereto.
2. Competitors in races for One Design classes shall also comply with their relevant Class Rules.
3. In the event of a conflict, these General SIs shall prevail.
4. Competitors in IRC (International Rating Certificate) and Club handicap classes shall, in addition, comply with the rules of these handicapping systems.
5. IRC Rule 22.4.2 (Crew number/weight at IRC Rules and definitions 2022 doc page16) shall not apply unless specified in the SI's or NOR for a specific event.
6. There will be no limitations on crew number or weight, except as required for boats rated as One Designs, which shall comply with IRC Rule 22.4.1.

### **Entry and Eligibility**

7. Except for Open events, only members who have submitted a completed and signed 'Keelboat Racing Entry and Declaration Form 2023', on-line, and who comply with all requirements on that declaration/form, may race and register results in RCYC leagues or events and be eligible to receive RCYC Trophies.
8. A valid IRC certificate is required to have a valid entry for IRC results.
9. A valid ECHO certificate is required to have a valid entry for ECHO results.
10. No IRC or ECHO Certificate is required for IHS results.

### **Notices to Competitors**

11. Notices to competitors will be posted on the Official Club Notice Board which is located on the window of the Club Race office, the Royal Cork Keelboat Owners WhatsApp group, and/or on the Club website (Keelboat Noticeboard).

### **Changes to Sailing Instructions**

12. Any change(s) to the SIs will be posted on the Official Notice Board not later than two hours before the scheduled start of the first race so affected.

### **Signals made Ashore**

13. Signals made ashore will be displayed on the Club flag staff.
14. When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 60 minutes' in the race signal AP.

### **Class Flags**

15. Boats shall always fly the appropriate Class Flag while racing. Any boat not flying the correct pennant(s) may not be scored.
16. Boats shall show their correct sail number. Permission to race using any other sail number must be sought from the Race Committee prior to going afloat. Any boat not showing its correct sail number may not be scored.
17. The Race Committee reserves the right to place any boat in any class it deems appropriate.

## **Local Harbour Regulations**

18. Competitors are reminded that all commercial shipping has absolute right of way within the harbour area.
19. Port of Cork notice to Mariners no14 of 2018 refers:
  - 19.1 All boats shall keep at least 150 meters away from Commercial Vessels that are manoeuvring (but shall in any event maintain a safe distance).
  - 19.2 All boats shall keep at least 50 metres away from the Refinery Jetty or Vessels moored alongside.
  - 19.3 If found to have been in breach of item 19.1 and or 19.2 above, a boat may be disqualified from the race or league or event in which they are competing in or at the time of the incident.
  - 19.4 Protests for infringement of 19.1 and or 19.2 above can be initiated by any club member who is witness to the infringement or by the Race Committee, if informed of an infringement by the Port authorities. Note the protest time limit will not apply to infringements of 19.1 and 19.2 above.

## **Race Officer Roster**

20. The Keelboat Committee will draw up a rota for Race Officer (RO) duty where required.

## **Time Limits**

21. For midweek races, Monday to Friday, May to August, the time limit is 2130hrs. This amends RRS 35.
22. For midweek races, Monday to Friday, September, the time limit is 2030hrs. This amends RRS 35.
23. For weekend races the default time limit is 4 hours and the time limit for all other boats will be 90 minutes after the first finisher. This amends RRS 35.
24. Individual races may prescribe different limits which will be in notice of race and override this time limit.

## **Marks/Courses**

25. Courses may be either:
  - 25.1 Round the Cans
  - 25.2 Windward / Leeward
26. At the discretion of the Race Officer (RO), Round the Cans courses may be selected from the current Royal Cork Keelboat Racing Course Card (note 2023 update). Each boat should have a copy.
27. For 'laid' courses, marks will be black, orange or yellow inflatable buoys.
28. For Round the Cans, the marks used may be a combination of navigation marks, Port of Cork laid race marks, RCYC racing marks and inflatable buoys.
29. Port of Cork Laid Race Marks are yellow cones permanently laid and may be in these approximate locations.

Dosco (Corkbeg)	51° 49.26' N	8° 15.81' W
Ringabella	51° 46.24' N	8° 17.52' W
Harp	51° 47.19' N	8° 14.21' W
Mark A	51° 46.03 N	8° 16.56' W
Mark B	51° 46.31' N	8° 14.18 W

## **Starting/Finishing**

30. Races will be started by using RRS 26 with the warning signal made 5 minutes before the starting signal.
31. Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall keep clear of the starting area during the starting sequence for other races.

32. The order of starts will be at the RO's discretion and may be announced on the designated VHF channel.
33. A number of Start/ Finish lines may be used. These include:
  - 33.1 Grassy Walk Line (ICF 'G'). The line is formed by a transit of TWO poles in front of the hut at the Grassy Walk (on Camden shore). The ODM is Buoy C1 (Cage) Green Conical OR A LAID Club Mark. The finish line will be between the rearmost pole and the ODM or between the CV and the ODM.
  - 33.2 Committee Vessel (CV). The Start and Finish line will be formed between a Red and White staff on the CV and an Inflatable Buoy or Navigation Buoy as indicated by the CV.
  - 33.3 If a finishing mark is missing but another one remains in place, the finishing line is a line through the remaining mark at a 90° angle to the last leg and of the shortest practicable length.
  - 33.4 If the Race Officer is absent when a boat finishes, she should report to the Race committee her finishing time and her position in relation to nearby boats at the first reasonable opportunity.

### **Protests and Requests for Redress**

34. In addition to RRS 61, persons intending to protest should inform the RO immediately upon finishing or retiring of their intention to protest.
35. Protest forms are available from the Club office or Club bar. Protests and requests for redress or reopening of same shall be delivered there within the appropriate time limit.
36. For each class, the protest time limit is 60 minutes after the last boat in that class has finished the last race of the day.
37. Notices of protests by the Race Committee or Protest Committee will be posted to inform boats under rule 61.1(b).

### **Arbitration**

38. As an alternative to a full Protest hearing, the RRS (Appendix T) allow for an Arbitration system to be used.
39. When all parties to an incident who are present agree, a Protest may be decided by the Protest Arbitrator (or their designated substitute).
40. Such arbitration shall replace the protest hearing required under RRS 63.
41. This system may only be used, if before the hearing, all the parties PRESENT agree to accept the arbitration decision as final.
42. The Arbitrator shall decide if the protest is valid.
43. All the parties shall have the opportunity of stating their case.
44. The Arbitrator shall have total discretion as to whether any witness should be called.
45. At any time during the hearing, they may terminate the arbitration process and refer the incident to a full protest committee hearing; otherwise, at the conclusion of the arbitration hearing they will reach a decision.
46. Any party they find to have infringed a rule will not be disqualified but shall incur a 25% place penalty with a minimum penalty of 3 places.
47. No penalty shall result in a score which would exceed that of a Disqualification.
48. Application of a penalty will not affect the place or score of other boats.
49. Any decision will be final, however a request for a reopening may be made under RRS 66.
50. Disqualification will result if any rule infringement is found at a full Protest Hearing when any party declines to accept arbitration at the time it is offered and insists on a full Protest Hearing.

### **Scoring**

51. The scoring system used for Keelboat racing leagues shall be the 'RRS Appendix A Low Point System' with the following penalties:

	Description	Penalty
DNC	Did Not Compete	Series Entry Plus One Place
DNS	Did Not Start	Series Entry Plus One Place
OCS	On Course Side	Race Entry Plus One Place
RET	Retired	Race Entry Plus One Place
DNF	Did Not Finish	Race Entry Plus One Place
RAF	Retired After Finishing	Race Entry Plus One Place
OOT	Out Of Time	Race Entry Plus One Place
DSQ	Disqualified	Series Entry Plus One Place

52. As per Appendix A, each boats series score shall, subject to rule 90.3(b), be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score (aka 'discard').
53. If four or more races are completed in a series, then one discard shall apply.

### **Safety Regulations**

54. A boat that retires from a race shall notify the RO as soon as possible.
55. All competitors must wear life jackets if the CV/PRO/RO displays Code Flag "Y".

### **Equipment and Measurement Checks**

56. A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules and sailing instructions.
57. On the water, a boat can be instructed by a race committee equipment inspector or measurer to proceed immediately to a designated area for inspection.
58. A boat may be disqualified from the series if found in breach of the Class rules or the Sailing Instructions.
59. Boat identification numbers (issued and recorded by Irish Sailing) shall be displayed on the Mainsail, Spinnaker, Gennakers, Code Zero or similar sails as prescribed by the IRC and RRS.
60. For White Sail (aka Non-Spinnaker) classes: only one headsail and one mainsail shall be flown at any one point in time.

### **Radio Communications**

61. Except in an emergency, a boat shall neither make radio transmissions while racing nor receive radio communications not available to all competing boats. This restriction also applies to mobile telephones.
62. Courses may be announced on the designated VHF channels prior to starting sequence of that class. Typically this will be channel 71 if not specified in the notice of race and, if different, will be posted on the RC blackboard before the start.

### **Prizes**

63. Except for Open events, only members who have submitted their completed 'Keelboats Racing Entry and Declaration Form 2023' documentation and comply with all requirements on that Declaration may race in RCYC leagues or events and be eligible to receive results and RCYC Trophies.

### **Disclaimer of Liability**

64. Competitors participate in an event entirely at their own risk. See rule 4, Decision to Race. The organizing authority will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the event.

### **Insurance**

65. It is the duty of each boat owner to have their boat adequately insured against any risk, including civil responsibility to third parties and to ensure that such insurance remains valid for the entirety of the events sailed in.