

Newhaven & Seaford Sailing Club
Sailing Instructions

1. RULES

1.1. The Racing Rules of Sailing, the prescriptions of the RYA and the rules of the relevant Class Associations will govern the races of Newhaven and Seaford Sailing Club, except as these Sailing Instructions change any of those. The title 'skipper' below refers to the owner, helmsman or other person in charge of the boat on the water.

2. ENTRIES

2.1. Skippers are to enter their boats by signing on using the relevant signing on sheet except for Keelboats, who need to radio the RO when they are in Seaford Bay.
Eligibility requirements for boats and competitors are as follows:

2.2. The safety of a boat and her entire management, including insurance*, shall be the sole responsibility of the skipper, or parent guardian of Cadet, who must also ensure that the boat and crew are adequate to face the conditions that may arise in the course of a race. Moreover, the skipper warrants the suitability of the boat for the race or races. (*Boats are to be insured against third party risks to the minimum value of £3,000,000.)

2.3. Neither these Sailing Instructions nor any inspection of the boat limits or reduces the absolute responsibility of the skipper for the crew, the boat and her management.

2.4. This rule applies to the parents or guardians of under-18 year old competitors who may not take part in racing unless the NSSC holds a signed copy of the parental declaration which must have been signed when registering their children as cadets, or youth members on the club application form.

2.5. The race organisers shall not be responsible for any loss, damage, death or personal injury howsoever caused to the skipper or crew, as a result of taking part in the race or races.

2.6. Competitors are to wear buoyancy aids when sailing.

All skippers must be members of the Newhaven and Seaford Sailing Club except when the race is part of an Open meeting when separate Sailing Instructions may be issued.

3.NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

3.1. General sailing notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board situated next to the wet entrance before the first race that they affect. Changes to the course or other details on the day of a race, will be posted at the wet entrance before the start of racing and Flag 'L' flown from the signal mast. In the event of a committee boat start, Flag 'C' will be flown and changes announced from the committee boat.

4.CHANGES IN SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

4.1. Permanent changes to Sailing Instructions will be posted on the club website.

5.SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

Signals made ashore will be displayed on the club flag mast, or by the electronic race control system.

6.SCHEDULE OF RACES

Races are scheduled as published in the annual Sailing Programme. If a race is rescheduled the new date will be posted on the sailing noticeboard and published in a bulletin in the club race group WhatsApp.

7.RACING AREA

The racing area will be in Seaford Bay except for the long-distance races to Brighton, Friars Bay Outfall buoy and Birling Gap etc. as published in the programme, or at Piddinghoe lake.

8.THE COURSE

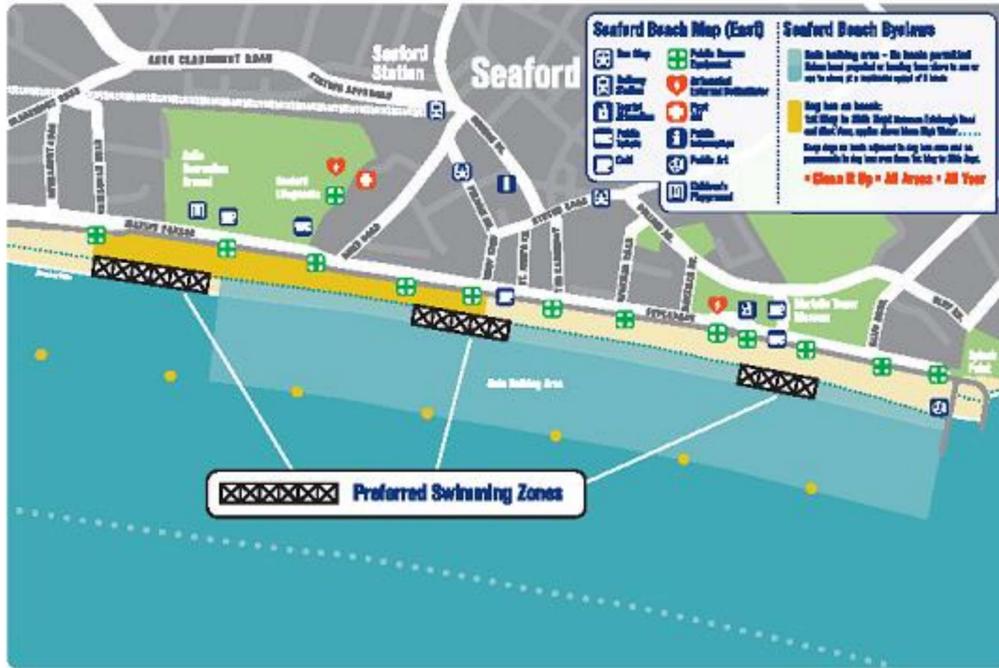
The course will be sailed as described on the wet entrance noticeboard, including the side on which marks should be passed. Other pertinent information may also be displayed on this notice board. The course will generally be displayed from the race box window using the letters to designate general mark positions as defined later herein

If no lap numbers are displayed, then the end of the race will be indicated by an 'S' flag being flown or a single light with two sound signals (see 11.2) before the leading boat finishes.

Where there are port and starboard marks in a course, a red or green indicator will not be flown and competitors are to consult the course board for the correct rounding of each mark.

The following Obstructions should be noted:

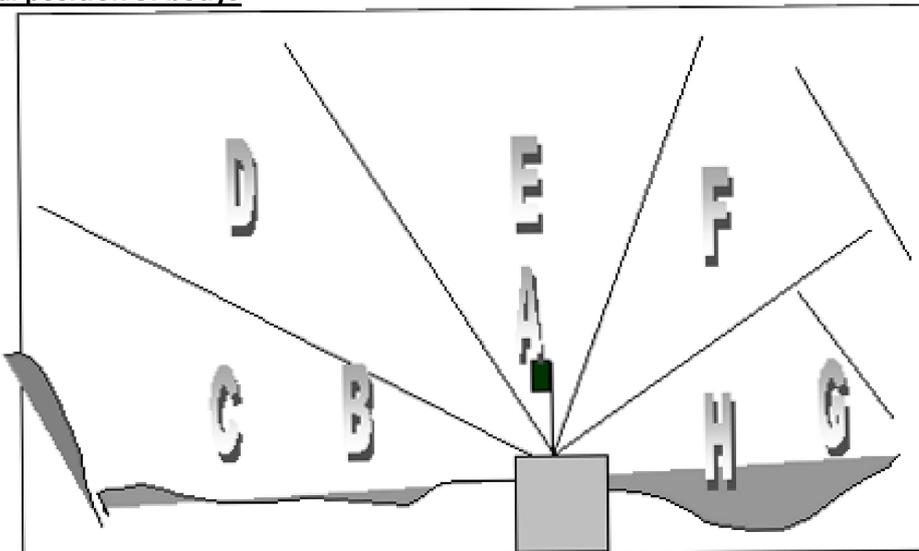
- 1.1 No Go areas
- 1.2 Note no boats allowed in safe swim area from Salts to east breakwater



1.3

- 1.4 There is a wave buoy, which is unmarked and unlit, and mainly subsurface (50°45.995'N 0°4.589'E) approximately inline with a transit from the West harbour arm running parallel to beach, and straight out from clubhouse.

- 1.5 Nominal position of bouys



9.MARKS

9.1. The marks to be used will be the inflatable club buoys. Other marks may be used, e.g. advertising buoys and mark boats where necessary.

10. THE START

10.1. Races will be started using Rule 26.

10.2. If there are more than three multi-hulls racing they will start first. The mono hull fleet will start 6 minutes after the multi-hulls.

10.3. If there are fewer than three multi-hulls they will start with the mono hulls.

10.4. If there are 3 or more keelboats they will have a separate start as last fleet.

Where there are less than 3 keelboats they maybe started 1 minute after the mono hulls with timing and calls managed over the VHF radio.

For Class racing to apply, at least 3 boats must be present at the start line and at least 5 boats must have raced during the Series. Fleet racing will potentially include any class that meets this five boat criteria, however for the development fleet at least one of the boats must have launched from the beach. At least 5 boats of a fleet must have competed in the series, and at least one third of the published race sailed for fleet prizes to be awarded. For Cup races, at least 5 boats must be present at the start. At least one of these must have launched from the beach.

The number of starts will be indicated on the noticeboard or by the number of lights in the race box railing.

The flags indicated may be used either on the committee boat or ashore when the electronic system is not in use.



Muliti-hulls K flag

(Rectangular flag blue and yellow halves)



Development Fleet (All other classes)

Warning signal Y (Rectangular flag with red & yellow diagonal stripes)

Or for Single fleet starts – Warning Signal Y

10.5. When a postponement has been made ashore, there will be not less than a FIVE minute interval between the end of the Postponement and the Warning signal. This may be reduced to One minute when sailing the second of a back to back race.

10.6. When starting a race from the shore a transit shall be used thus the start line shall be a line drawn from the Race box balcony triangle and the beach triangle mounted on transit pole and extended seaward. Mark 'A' shall be the outer distance mark. When using lanes the inner lane mark is not a mark of the course after the start.

10.7. Boats whose preparatory signal has not been made shall keep clear of the starting area.

10.8. Fleets subject to a general recall will restart after the last fleet has started in the normal sequence. If there is more than one general recall the fleets will restart in their original order after the remainder have started.

11. LIGHT CONTROL SYSTEM

11.1 When using the Light Control System, the start sequence will proceed as Follows (as viewed from the Sea):

5 minute – Warning Signal –	The right vertical arm signal switched on
4 minute – Preparatory Signal –	Bottom right signal light switched on
1 minute – Preparatory Signal –	Bottom right signal light switched off
Start –	All Lights off unless recall, see below

Multi-fleet starts will take place at SIX-minute intervals, with one minute between the start signal and subsequent warning signal.

Number of starts left to take place shown as vertical row of solid white lights in top of left window.

Equivalent signal flags may not be used when using the Light Control System.

11.2 Other light and sound signals:

Postponement – Red flashing light on eastern end of race box hand rail, with three sound signals.

Individual recall – Bottom left signal light flashing for about 30 seconds, with one sound signal.

General recall – Two timing lights flashing alternately for about 30 seconds, with two sound signals.

Shortened Course – A single timing light (bottom left) is switched on constant, with two sound signals.

Race Abandoned – All Three timing lights flashing, repeated sound signals.

Finish – A single sound signal.

11.3 When using flags Multi-fleet starts may take place at FIVE or SIX minute intervals at race officer discretion.

12. CHANGE OF COURSE AFTER THE START

12.1. Courses may be changed in accordance with Racing Rules of Sailing.

13. THE FINISH

When not using a Committee Boat, the finish line will be between race box balcony triangle and the designated finish buoy (not the transit pole).

14. SHORTENING COURSE & TIME LIMITS

14.1. Courses may be shortened at the discretion of the Race officer.

14.2. The time limit for races within Seaford Bay will be 25 minutes after the lead boat has finished. For races outside of Seaford Bay, the time limit shall be two hours after the lead boat has finished. Any boats finishing outside these times will be scored as DNF.

14.3. Where a boat of the same class as one that has already finished is more than 20 minutes behind, the race officer may use the W flag to indicate they are finished and be marked as last place.

14.4. If a shorten course has been made before the full fleet of any one class can complete the lap and the lead boat is already on the next lap, then the following shall be applied where the wind speed changes dramatically such that the lead boat does not win on average time.

- Wind Falls - Lead boats at time of shorten course shall have last lap cancelled to calculate average lap time.
- Wind rises - Trailing boats shall have last lap cancelled to calculate average lap time.

15. PROTESTS

Competitors should note that the Newhaven & Seaford Sailing Club implements the RYA Racing Charter and that they will be expected to sail in compliance with it. The charter can be found at the front of the RYA edition of the Racing Rules of Sailing 2025-2028 (the yellow pages after the definitions), or on the RYA website at www.rya.org.uk/racingrules.

15.1. Protests shall be written on forms available at the race box. The Race Officer is to be informed of a competitor's intention to protest within 30 mins of coming ashore after the race or races if back-to-back. The written protest is to be delivered to the Race Officer as soon as reasonably practicable after that.

Protest notices will be posted within 30 minutes of the protest time limit to inform competitors where and when there is a hearing in which they are parties to a hearing or named as witnesses.

16. SCORING

Series racing will be scored as provided in Appendix A using the Low Point System (Rule 88.3) amended as follows:

- Boats finishing a race are awarded points equal to their finishing position.
- Boats starting a race but do not finish are awarded points equal to the number of boats starting +1.
- Boats not starting are awarded points equal to the number of boats in the Series +1.
- Helms undertaking a duty will be awarded average points of all races entered in that series for the race missed – only two duties will count in each series. No more than one third of the races sailed by a competitor may count OOD race points in the final results for the series. OOD race points are not applicable to single races or cup races.
- It is the responsibility of the duty helms to ensure their names are included on the
- appropriate race results.

17. TROPHIES

For all Races and Series, points will be awarded to the winning boat, as long as a member of the regular crew (Helm or Crew) is on board. However, competitors who change boats within the same class during a series may select which boat they wish their points to be awarded to and must advise the RO or Recorder of their choice.

Discards for series races shall be as follows:

Races	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Discards	0	0	1	1	2	2	2	3	3