

LYMPSTONE SAILING CLUB

Sailing Instructions for Cruisers and Dayboats Races/Activities within the Estuary – 2019 Season

1. Rules

Races will be under the current I.S.A.F. racing rules, the prescriptions of the R.Y.A., and these sailing Instructions.

2. Safety and Personal Buoyancy & Insurance

The safety of a boat and her entire management, including insurance, will be the sole responsibility of the owner/skipper sailing the boat in club events. The establishment of these Sailing Instructions in no way limits or reduces that complete responsibility.

The owner/skipper will decide whether the boat is fit to sail in the conditions in which she will find herself. By going to sea the boat confirms that she is fit for these conditions & her crew is competent to sail & take part in them.

Effective personal buoyancy will be worn when afloat. Safety harnesses will be available on board, and must be used when there is a risk of a 'Man Overboard' situation.

Members who participate in Cruiser/Dayboat events are reminded that they must have confirmed, by way of a ticked box on their membership application/renewal form, that they have third party cover for at least £2 million.

VHF Channel 77 to be used for boat-to-boat communication during Club events, unless stated otherwise on the Club notice board or the by Fleet Captain for that event

Alternatively, if agreed beforehand, the DSC system using the club directory may be used. (For Group DSC communications to all LSC boats use MMSI No. 023 503 439)

3. Courses (see Course Document)

Unless otherwise stipulated, courses will utilise existing navigation buoys and additional LSC YELLOW buoys identified as LSC'N' and LSC'S'. See sketch attached.

The courses will specify on which side the buoys must be rounded.

The course to be sailed will be decided at the Club House at least 30 minutes before the start, and confirmed on **Ch. 77**, if requested.

Courses for **Non-racing** activities will be decided at least twenty-four hours prior to the activity and be available from the fleet captain on request or confirmed on **Ch. 77** at the start of the event.

4. Starting Procedures.

The starting procedure for **races** will be as follows: -

Normal Handicap Races.

At Start Time minus 5 minutes – one long sound signal.

This will be made from one of the yachts taking part in the race unless otherwise notified.

THERE WILL BE NO OTHER SIGNALS.

The starting procedure for **Non-Racing activities** will be as follows:-

Unless otherwise directed a SOFT start will broadcast by **one long sound signal** or an announcement on **Ch. 77** to indicate the commencement of the activity.

5. Start & Finish Line

Unless otherwise stated the muster / start line for races and activities will be between the yellow and white buoys clear west of the moorings.

6. **Timing of Races**

Race competitors will be responsible for recording their elapsed time (from the **start time** to crossing the finish line in minutes & seconds), and to inform the fleet captain as soon as possible afterwards.

Additionally, if possible an estimate at the end of the race, of the time difference between the competitor's boat and the boats immediately in front and behind should be conveyed to the fleet captain.

In all races an indication that a boat has retired must also be conveyed to the fleet captain.

7. **Handicapping**

Each boat will be allocated a Club handicap number. The handicap numbers will be used to correct the elapsed times for each race.

These numbers may be reviewed part way through the season.

8. **Shortened Course**

If the skipper of the leading boat, or the Fleet captain if competing, considers that the race cannot be completed in a reasonable time, or conditions are becoming adverse, then the race may be shortened by **two sound signals** when the leading vessel approaches any mark of the course. The shortened course will be confirmed by radio, call sign '**DOLPHIN FLEET**' on VHF **Channel 77**.

All vessels will then round that mark and **take the shortest course** back to the finish line.

9 **Penalties**

A boat which hits a mark of the course may exonerate herself by making one full **360 degree turn**.

A boat which acknowledges infringing a Rule of the I.S.A.F. Racing Rules may exonerate herself by making a full **720 degree turn**.

10. **The Points System**

Shall be as follows:-

1 st place	1 point
2 nd place	2 points
3 rd place	3 points and so on.

Boats retiring will receive points equal to the **number of finishers plus 1**.

Non-starters will receive points equal to the **number of starters plus 1**.

Disqualified boats will receive points equal to the **number of starters plus 2**.

Boats dead-heating will receive points equal to one half of the aggregate of the two consecutive positions.

The boat with the least number of points will win a series. In the event of a tie the highest placed finisher in the first race will be the winner.

If a boat helm is OOD or on Safety Boat duties for the dinghy fleet and cannot compete in a cruiser race he/she will be awarded 3 points.