

STRANGFORD LOUGH REGATTA PROGRAMME

Amended February 2014

It is the function of the Strangford Lough Regatta Conference, (SLRC) on which all the yacht and sailing clubs of the Lough are represented, to co-ordinate, compile and publish a calendar of regattas and other events on Strangford Lough. We must emphasise that the SLRC has no responsibility whatsoever for the running of the regattas and other events, and that each yacht and sailing club has the sole responsibility for the running of its own regattas and events.

NOTICE OF RACES AND GENERAL RULES AND SAILING INSTRUCTIONS FOR STRANGFORD LOUGH REGATTAS

1. RULES

This Notice of Race applies to each of the events listed on the site and marked "Regatta" or "Bar Buoy Race." The organising authority for each event is the club listed for the corresponding date. These races are traditionally described as the relevant club's regatta. The races will be governed by the Racing Rules Of Sailing (RRS); the International Sailing Federation (ISAF); the Prescriptions of the RYA; the rules of each class concerned; this Notice of Race/General Sailing Instructions and each club's Supplementary Sailing Instructions. In the event of conflict between a club's Supplementary Sailing Instructions and this document the former will prevail.

Each club's Sailing Instructions, which also list the classes and start times for each race, are available for downloading on the site. All competitors are reminded that their participation in these events is entirely voluntary, in accordance with RRS 4, Decision to Race, and that such participation signifies their recognition of this (RRS 3, Acceptance of the Rules).

Competitors intending to sail to a venue who may have concerns about possible race cancellation because of weather are urged to seek advice from the organising club, in sufficient time, by telephone (see Relevant club's Supplementary Sailing Instructions for number) or by VHF Radio telephony.

2. CHANGES TO REGATTA PROGRAMMES

The race committee of each regatta reserves the right to alter the programme and to postpone or abandon the regatta.

3. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Local arrangements, if any, for notifying competitors of changes to Sailing Instructions will be specified on the Supplementary Sailing Instructions for each regatta.

4. RACE ENTRIES AND ELEGIBILITY

- 4.1 To be eligible to race in Strangford Lough Regattas, owners who are members of Strangford Lough Clubs and whose yachts are not listed, or are not correctly listed on the boat list must register with the SLRC through their Club Sailing Secretary.

- 4.2 Owners of visiting yachts from outside Strangford Lough may, at the discretion of the organising club, be permitted to participate in individual club events by registering their boat details with the host club's Sailing Secretary
- 4.3 It is the owner's responsibility to ensure that relevant yacht details have been correctly registered with the Race Organisers.
- 4.4 Each yacht must adequately display the sail number which has been registered; **yachts with no sail number may not be given a finish.** Any changes must be notified to the Race Organisers before the start of the race.
- 4.5 If a race for a one-design class is included in a regatta programme, yachts of that class shall not race in any alternative handicap race except with the express permission of, or unless they have been so directed by, the race organisers.
- 4.6 A yacht may start in only one race in each regatta.

5. HANDICAPS

- 5.1 Handicap classes will be as follows. A yacht competing in any class listed below for which a numeral is specified shall fly that numeral pennant from her backstay while racing.

Cruiser IRC TCC 0.950 and over Numeral 1
 Cruiser IRC TCC 0.949 and under Numeral 2 (see Rule 5.1.3 below)

IRC Rules Part A, B and C shall apply.

IRC rule 15 shall not apply and RRS 52, Manual Power, is re-instated.

IRC rule 22.4 shall not apply. There will be no limitations on crew number or weight.

- 5.1.1 For the IRC handicap system, current rating certificates must be registered with the SLRC by submitting a photocopy of the certificate to their club's sailing secretary.
- 5.1.2 For the National Handicap for Cruisers (NHC), handicap numbers will be applied in accordance with the principals published in RYA publication NHC Rules and Guidance for Clubs. NHC Handicaps will be adjusted using the Rules and Guidance after each regatta on the Lough.

The list of registered boats published on the SLRC website will indicate which class a particular boat should race in. This class will not change due to handicap adjustments during any particular season.

Competitors should note the SLRC website will list their current handicaps, which shall be adjusted after each regatta.

Cruiser NHC1 Numeral 4
 Cruiser NHC2 Numeral 5
 Cruiser NHC1 Restricted Sail Numeral 7
 Cruiser NHC2 Restricted Sail Numeral 3

The use of spinnakers, cruising chutes, or any other type of off-wind sail, is prohibited in the restricted sail classes. Yachts registered in either of the

restricted sail classes shall not race in any other NHC class, and vice versa. Between regattas a yacht may opt to change from Restricted Sail to full NHC or vice versa by advising her home club sailing secretary who in turn must have this ratified by the Regatta Conference Boat List Convenor at least seven days prior to the first race the yacht wishes to compete in as part of the new class.

- 5.1.3 For the Portsmouth Yardstick Scheme (PYS), handicap numbers will be applied in accordance with the principals published in RYA publication PN List 2014:

Dinghy PYS 1130 and under
Dinghy PYS 1131 and over

- 5.1.4 Yachts in the IRC TCC 0.949 and under class, and in the NHC1 class, shall start together and shall sail the same course. The IRC class start shall be governed by the race control signals of the NHC1 class. In the event of there being fewer than three starters in the IRC Class the two classes may be combined into a single NHC1 class and the IRC yachts shall be deemed to be competing with the NHC1 yachts.

- 5.2 Between regattas a yacht may change from a NHC class to an IRC class (per 5.1.1 above), but having done so shall be limited to that IRC class for the remainder of the season.

- 5.3 Any one regatta may not necessarily cater for all classes.

6. STARTING SIGNALS

Unless specified otherwise in the Supplementary Sailing Instructions for a regatta the Starting signals specified in RRS26 are amended as follows: The warning signal for each class shall be displayed 10 minutes before its start. The preparatory signal shall be displayed 5 minutes before the start of the first class and shall not be removed until after the last class has started. See each club's Supplementary Sailing Instructions for a schedule of classes and start times.

7. LATE STARTING

A yacht which infringes RRS 42 before she starts by using power, manual propulsion or receiving a tow to first reach the vicinity of the starting line after her preparatory signal may absolve herself by completing a 720° turns penalty under sail on the pre-start side of the starting line or its extensions and after her starting signal. Such a yacht shall keep clear of all other yachts until she has completed her 720° turns penalty and has started.

8. RECALLS

Unless specified otherwise in the Supplementary Sailing Instructions for a regatta, RRS 29.1 Individual Recall is amended by substituting "keep the class flag lowered to the dip and give a second sound signal" in place of "promptly display Flag X with one sound"

9. PROTESTS

- 9.1 Protests shall be lodged with the Race Organisers as specified in the individual event's supplementary sailing instructions.
- 9.2 In RRS 61.3 Protest Time Limit, the time limit shall be changed to one hour after the last boat in the race finishes.

10. SAFETY AND RESCUE

- 10.1 All dinghy crews must wear personal flotation devices, irrespective of the use of flag Y (RRS40)
- 10.2 All dinghies should:
 - 10.2.1 Have adequate self-buoyancy;
 - 10.2.2 Have adequate means for bailing;
 - 10.2.3 Carry a tow rope;
 - 10.2.4 Carry appropriate means for manual or powered propulsion for use in an emergency;
- 10.3 All dinghy and sailboard sailors must register their entry with the officer appointed by the individual club before the start of the race. Those arriving by sea in company with their own club's safety launch need not do so individually, provided that their club launch conveys a list to the appointed officer specifying for each entry their club, class, name, colour, and names of helm and crew. All dinghies and sailboards must report their safe return to the appointed officer not later than 30 minutes after finishing or retiring.
- 10.4 Crews must accept help if so directed by a safety crew and non-acceptance of such help may result in disqualification.
- 10.5 A yacht retiring from racing shall report her retirement to the race officials or safety boats before leaving the race area. Failure to comply may result in disqualification.

11. TIME LIMIT

RRS 35 Time Limit is amended to read, "any yacht in any race not finishing by the time of day specified in the Supplementary Sailing Instructions for a regatta shall be scored as DNF".

12. ADDITIONAL CLASSES

Any class mustering four or more boats at a regatta, and for which there is no race already on the programme, may request the race organisers for a race or a start in another race. The race organisers shall decide whether or not to provide such a race or start and how to communicate to the class concerned their decision and the details of any arrangements that they may make for the class to race.

13. CANCELLATION OF PARTICULAR RACE

In the event of insufficient entrants for a particular race, or other circumstances, the race organisers may, at their discretion, inform the crews concerned that they are to enter an appropriate handicap or other class race