

EXE REGATTA 2023

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Dinghy / Catamaran Racing

Saturday 8th - Sunday 9th July 2023

Tides: Saturday 8th July HW Exmouth 11:22 BST 3.7m
Sunday 9th July HW Exmouth 12:07 BST 3.5m

Please read these Sailing Instructions in conjunction with the Notice of Race for this event.

1 Rules

The organising authority for the Dinghy and Catamaran racing is Starcross Yacht Club.

The racing will be governed by the rules as defined in **The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) - 2021-2024**. The national prescriptions of the RYA (from 1 January 2021) will also apply .

2 Notices to Competitors

Notices to competitors will be posted on the Official Notice Board at SYC. They may be repeated as an announcement on the [club website](#), and may exceptionally also be e-mailed to competitors.

3 Changes to Sailing Instructions

Changes to the Sailing Instructions will be posted on the Official Notice Board at least 1 hour before the scheduled time of the race in which it will take effect, and competitors will be notified through a briefing and/or an announcement on the public address system.

The attention of competitors will be drawn to the change by a sound signal from the Race Office accompanied by the flying of Flag L.

4 Signals Made Ashore

4.1 Signals

Signals made ashore will be displayed using light signals or flags on the flag pole adjacent to the Race Office as described in Appendix A.

Flag signals as defined in Appendix A will only be used under the following circumstances:

- if the race office light system is not operating,
- If there is no equivalent light signal defined in Appendix A,

This changes RRS 25.2 and 25.3.

4.2 Postponing a Race

A postponement can be signalled as described in Appendix A. The warning signal for the first start in a race will be made not less than 1 minute after the end of a postponement. This changes the RRS - AP definition [Race Signals].

4.3 Abandoning a Race

An abandoned race can be signalled as described in Appendix A. The race will not be abandoned by the Race Officers before the scheduled start time.

Also - see Sailing Instruction 12.2.

5 Schedule of Races

The schedule of races is defined in the Notice of Race.

6 Class Light Signals / Flags

Starcross YC primarily uses a lights system for signalling to competitors (start signals, postponement, OCS, shortening course etc.). The lights (or flags) used for signalling to competitors are defined In Appendix A

7 The Courses

Courses for all fleets will be set on the day of the event using a combination of the estuary navigation buoys and temporary inflatable marks - see Appendix C for a chart of the approximate buoy locations.

There will be three courses defined for each race

Course 1	Fast Handicap Fleet
Course 2	Slow Handicap Fleet and Junior Fleet (<i>with fewer laps</i>)
Course 3	Catamaran Fleet

The courses will be displayed on the SYC course board (see Appendix B) on the Race Office at least 5 minutes before the warning signal for the first fleet. The course information provided will detail the start line to be used, the order in which the marks are to be rounded, the side on which each mark is to be left and the number of rounds to be sailed.

Once the course is displayed and confirmed by the Race Officer any changes must be signalled as a change of course (Flag C). If a course change is required after the first start, all races shall be abandoned and the start sequence restarted after the course change has been made and signalled.

Compass bearings for the course will not be displayed.

8 Marks

The approximate locations of the rounding marks used in SYC courses are shown in Appendix C. The rounding marks will either be red or green navigation buoys or orange pillar inflatable marks.

The windward orange mark for the Slow Handicap course may be indicated by a pink band ; the mark will be placed such that the windward leg is shorter than the Fast course.

The Race Officers may choose to have separate inflatable marks in a similar location for the dinghy and catamaran fleets. If this is the case, the catamaran mark will have a horizontal black band.

9 The Start

Races may be started either using the Starcross YC lights system or signal flags (see Instruction 4 and Appendix A) . The default system for races started from the Race Office will be the lights system.

The identification of fleets and the start sequences are specified in the Notice of Race. The fleets will use the following start lights:

Fleet 1	Fast Handicap	Yellow Light
Fleet 2	Slow Handicap	Green Light
Fleet 3	Juniors	Red Light
Fleet 4	Catamaran	White Light

The Race Officers can choose to use one of two start lines:

Club Line The start line is formed from a transit between the club flag pole and an orange/white transit pole on the shore line adjacent to the club house. The outer limit for the start line is navigation buoy 29.

Special Line The start line is formed from a transit between the club flag pole and an orange/white transit pole on the shore line adjacent to the club house. The outer limit for the start line is a spherical red inflatable buoy.

The start sequence and signals for the start of each fleet are detailed below. This changes RRS26.

Minutes before starting signal	Visual Signal	Sound signal	Meaning
6	Fleet light (flashing) OR class flag	One	WARNING signal
3	Fleet light (continuous) OR flag P Flags I, Z, U or black flag may also be flown	One	PREPARATORY signal
0	Fleet light (off) OR flags lowered	One	STARTING signal

Fleets will start at 3 minute intervals - i.e the PREPARATORY signal for the first fleet will be made at the same time as the WARNING signal for the second fleet to start, etc. - see Appendix A.

The I, Z, U or black flags will, if used, be raised at the preparatory signal for the first fleet and kept hoisted until the last fleet starts, and will apply to all fleets.

There is no time limit for boats to start a race after the race starting signal for that boat.

Signals for Individual and General Recalls are as described in Appendix A - Table A-2.

If there is a General Recall for a fleet, the restart for that fleet will be at the end of the sequence. The Race Officers may choose to signal the PREPARATORY signal for the recalled fleet to restart at the same time as the start of the final fleet in the normal sequence (i.e. the recalled fleet will start 3 minutes after the last scheduled start. Alternatively they may choose to run the complete 6 minute start sequence for the recalled fleet(s) with the WARNING signal no less than 1 minute after the start of the final fleet.

10 Change of the Next Leg of the Course

To change the next leg of the course after the start, the Race Officers may move the original mark to a new position using the procedure described in RRS 33.

Minor mark moves (up to approximately 100m) after that start may be made without signalling the change. This changes RRS 33.

11 Penalties

The on the water penalties for rule infringements are as defined in the RRS - rule 44.1, with the exception that for MULTIHULL boats only the penalty for breaking one or more rules of RRS Part 2 in an incident while racing to be a single one turn penalty (i.e. one tack and one gybe). This changes rule 44.1.

12 The Finish

The finish line will be the line between the club flag pole and navigation buoy 29.

12.1 Shortening Course

Courses may be shortened in accordance with RRS 32 if using signal flags or by displaying the flashing orange beacon to indicate all fleets are shortened, or by displaying the flashing orange beacon with the relevant fleet class lights for the fleets to be shortened - this changes RRS 32.1. Also see Appendix A.

12.2 Average Lap Racing

The Exe Regatta will use Average Lap Scoring for all fleets. The Race Officers may therefore choose to finish the slower classes before the leading boat has finished if they

judge that the completion of another lap will prolong the race such that a boat is likely to finish significantly later than the leading boat. In this case (only) a signal to shorten course need not be shown.

12.3 Curtailed Race

In circumstances when the wind either drops to flat calm or increases to unsafe conditions in the latter stages of a race the Race Officers may decide to CURTAIL the race - see Instruction 4.3. This is signalled in the same way as an abandonment. In this situation a competitor's finishing time will be taken from the last completed lap for EACH boat within a fleet.

A race cannot be scored as curtailed if all boats still racing within a fleet have not completed at least one lap OR if some boats in the fleet have already finished.

13 Time Limits

The time limit for the leading boat is 120 minutes. Boats failing to finish within 30 minutes from the finishing time of the leading boat will be scored DNF (Did Not Finish) without a hearing - this changes RRS 35.

The target time for the leading boat to finish in each fleet will be 60 minutes. Failure to meet the target time will not be grounds for redress - this changes RRS 62.1(a).

If no boats finish within the time limit the race will be abandoned.

14 Protest and Redress Hearings

The Exe Regatta will support the following procedures for resolving rules disputes and requests for redress:

- Acceptance of an exoneration penalty
- Protest Hearing as defined in Part 5 of the RRS

14.1 Exoneration Penalty

A boat that may have broken a rule of RRS Part 2, or rule 31.1 or 42, may, after finishing the race concerned and before the start of a related protest hearing, notify the Race Officers that she accepts a scoring penalty of 20% of the number of starters. The minimum penalty is two places. An exoneration penalty shall not result in a score exceeding the

score given for DSQ.

This penalty does not reverse an OCS score, a disqualification under rule 30.3 (black flag) or a penalty under RRS Appendix P. It is not available for a breach of rule 2 (fair sailing), or of class rules or for gross misconduct under rule 69. Nor is it available to a boat that caused injury or serious damage, or gained a significant advantage by her breach: in these circumstances, her penalty is to retire.

When an exoneration penalty is accepted, neither the boat nor a protest committee may then revoke or remove the penalty. The boat shall not be penalised further in a protest hearing when the protest committee decides that it was appropriate to the facts found and the applicable rules.

14.2 Initiation of Protests and Requests for Redress

A boat wishing to initiate a Protest/Request for Redress must submit a protest to the Race Officers within a time limit of 30 minutes of the last boat in her fleet finishing the last race of the day. If there are extenuating circumstances this time limit may (at the Protest Committee's discretion) be extended.

If the Race Officer or a member of a Protest Committee is made aware that a competitor has caused serious damage or injury, without having retired or having been disqualified, it shall open a protest against that boat before prizes are awarded. This overrides the above time limits.

Appendix A - Light and Flag Signals

Races started from the club and special lines will usually use the light signalling system unless there has been a technical failure. The lights are arranged on the club flag pole above the Course Board as shown below..

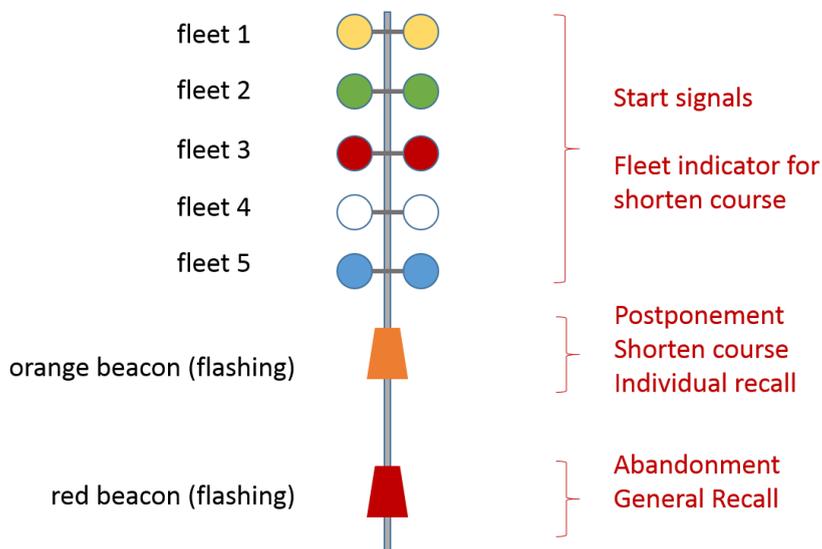


Figure A-1: SYC Lights System

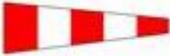
The five sets of double lights are the main starting signals for up to five fleets. For example at 6 minutes before the start of the first fleet the top (yellow) light will start flashing (warning signal). At 3 minutes before the start the flashing will stop and the light will be on continuously (preparatory signal). At fleet 1 start the yellow light will be extinguished. The 6, 3 and 0 minutes will also be marked with a single sound signal.

Fleets will start at 3 minute intervals, therefore when the fleet light is showing continuously , the preparatory signal for the next fleet will be flashing as illustrated below.

Time	Fleet 1	Fleet 2	Fleet 3	Fleet 4	Fleet 5
- 6 mins	Flashing yellow				
- 3 mins	Continuous yellow	Flashing green			
+ 0 mins	Start	Continuous green	Flashing red		
+ 3 mins		Start	Continuous red	Flashing white	
+ 6 mins			Start	Continuous white	Flashing blue
+ 9 mins				Start	Continuous blue
+ 12 mins					Start
Alternate Flag Warning Signal					

The lights system will also be used to signal actions defined in the RRS Race Signals. The lights system cannot be used for signalling a change to the Sailing Instructions or a Change of Course - flags must be used.

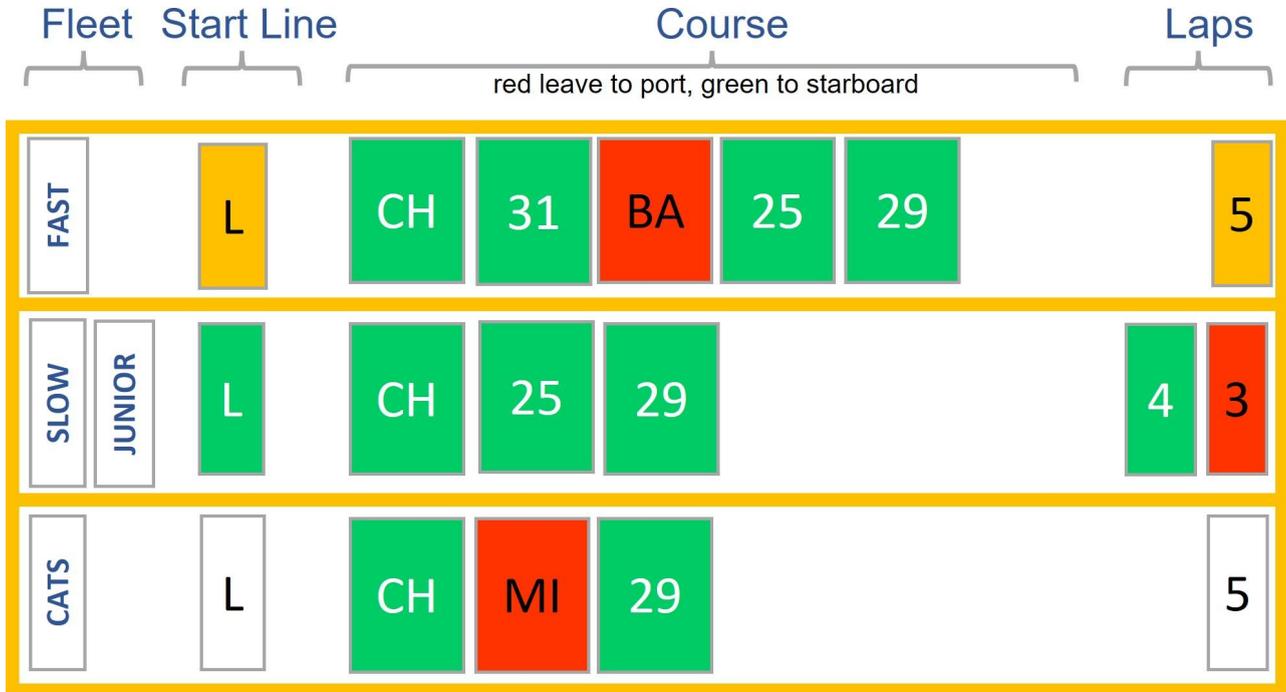
Table A-2: Light and Flag Signals

Signal	Lights Signals	Flag Signal ALTERNATIVE	Associated Sound Signal
Change to Sailing Instructions	None	 <i>[Flag lowered at least 1 minute before first warning signal]</i>	TWO sound signals
POSTPONE a Race	Flashing ORANGE beacon <i>[Beacon off at least one minute before the first warning signal]</i>	 <i>[Flag lowered at least 1 minute before the first warning signal]</i>	TWO sound signals with signal - ONE sound when postponement ends
START a Race	See Table A-1		
ABANDON or CURTAIL a Race	Flashing RED flashing beacon. <i>Abandonment applies to all fleets</i>	Flag N 	THREE sound signals
Course Change	None	Flag C <i>lowered after start sequence is completed</i> 	TWO sound signals
Shorten Course	AMBER beacon <i>Shorten course for individual fleets should be accompanied by the fleet colour lights.</i>	Flag S 	TWO sound signals
Individual Recall	AMBER beacon <i>Beacon off when all OCS boats have returned and restarted or after 1 minute</i>	Flag X 	ONE sound signal
General Recall	RED beacon <i>Beacon turned off after 1 minute</i>	Flag 1st Substitute 	TWO sound signals

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Appendix B - Course Board

The course board will be used to indicate the regatta courses - as shown below



START INDICATOR
S - special
L - club line

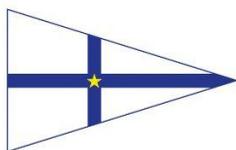
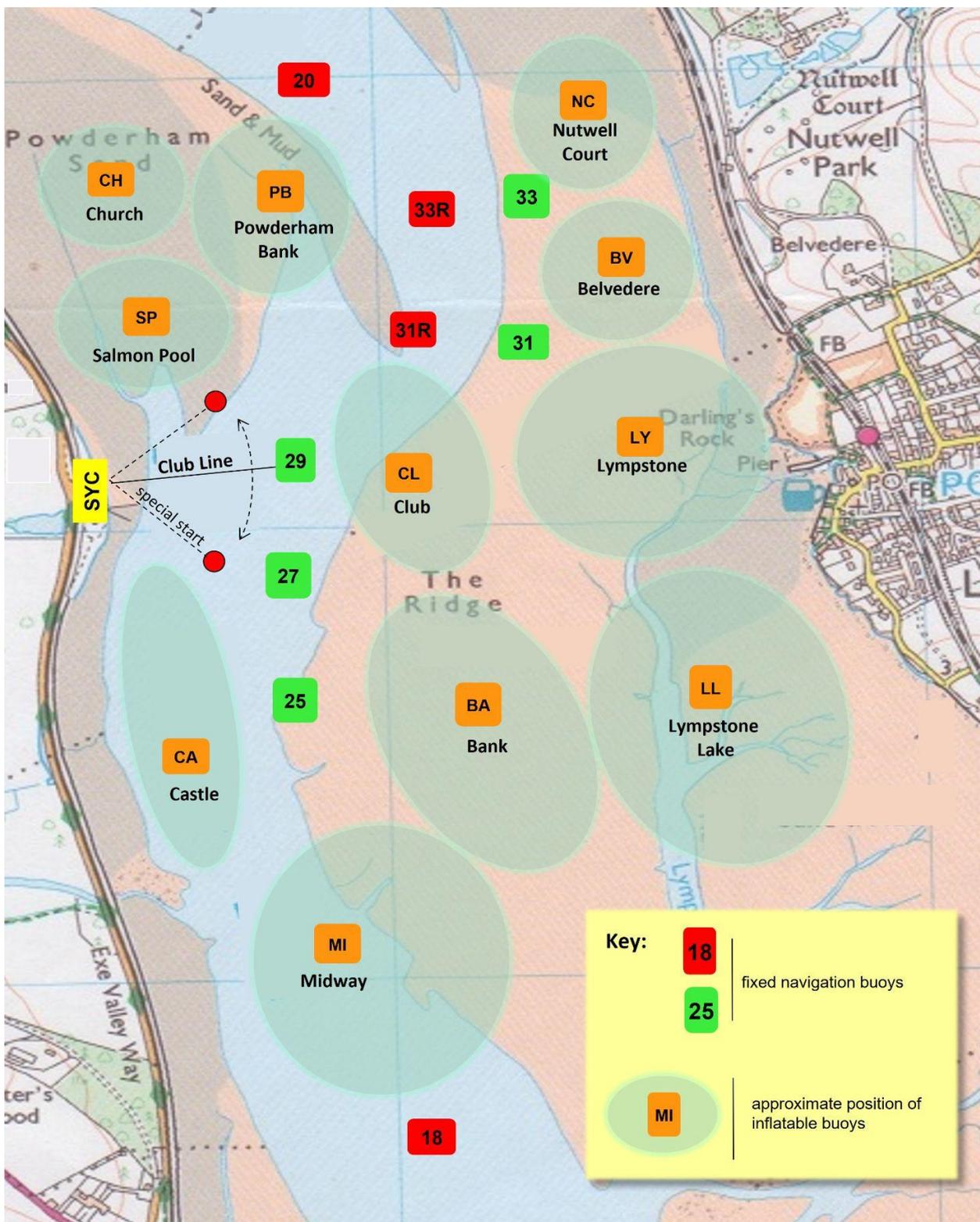
LAPS
laps for each fleet
shown by light colour

The main section in the middle details the race course (numbers are navigation buoys and letters are inflatable buoys) - see Appendix C, Buoys to be left on the starboard side have a green background and those to be left on the port side have a red background. The buoy sequence will be repeated for each lap.

In the example shown in the diagram above the FAST fleet (yellow light) are using the top course, using a club line start and sailing four laps; the SLOW and JUNIOR fleets are sailing the middle course - with the SLOW fleet (green start light) sailing 4 laps and the JUNIOR fleet (red start light) sailing 3 laps. The CATS fleet is using the bottom course and sailing five laps.

The Race Officers will also provide a course diagram using one of the course map boards in the Race Office. This will be displayed in the vicinity of the main course board. In case of dispute the course recorded on the course board shall take precedence.

Appendix C - Racing Area and Buoys



Starcross Yacht Club Racing Buoy Chart

Version: 22 November 2021