LYMINGTON TOWN SAILING CLUB
Est. 1946
Your Club. Your Friends. Your Solent.

# Solent Circuit 2026

## Sailing Instructions

Event dates:

11th, 18th, & 25th October; 1st & 15th November

There will be no racing on Sunday 8th November, Remembrance Sunday.

Sunday 15th November is reserved as a spare day if required to complete the series.

### Tide Times – Portsmouth – times adjusted for BST where applicable

| DATE | HW | LW | HW |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sunday 11th October | 1142 | 1736 | 2353 |
| Sunday 18th October | 0424 | 0934 | 1624 |
| Sunday 25th October | 0948 | 1533 | 2153 |
| Sunday 1st November | 0257 | 0822 | 1513 |
| Sunday 15th November | 0158 | 0715 | 1350 |

Lymington Town Sailing Club extends a warm welcome to all competitors and invites them to become temporary members for the duration of the series.

LUXURY PROPERTY PROJECTS

We are delighted that our 2026 Solent Circuit is being generously supported by local company,

Luxury Property Projects

For Further information, please contact the Sailing Operations Co-ordinator

Lymington Town Sailing Club, Bath House, Bath Road, Lymington, SO41 3SE

Tel No: 01590 674514 Email: sailing@ltsc.co.uk Website: www.ltsc.co.uk/solent-circuit

# Sailing Instructions

The notation '[NP]' in a rule means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1(a).

## 1. Rules

1.1. The event will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing 2025 – 2028 (RRS).

1.2. Boats intending to race, racing or that have been racing, may be found to break the IRPCAS if they impede the passage of a vessel (such as a Wightlink ferry) that can safely navigate only within a narrow channel or fairway. A boat that breaks RRS 42 in order to comply with IRPCAS, or for other safety reason, shall report the incident to the race committee before the end of the protest time limit for that race. If no racing advantage was gained, there will be no penalty. In cases of doubt, the Race Committee shall protest the boat in order that the Protest Committee may hear the case and decide any appropriate penalty. [NP]

1.3. Add to RRS 28.1. 'If the Race Committee observes a boat failing to sail the correct course, then she may be disqualified without a hearing.' This also changes RRS A5.

1.4. Add RRS 32.1(e) 'for any reason considered appropriate by the Race Committee.'

1.5. RRS 52, Manual Power shall not apply.

1.6. All competing yachts shall comply with World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations - Appendix B.
(See NoR Attachment A for details). [NP]

1.7. In addition to SI 1.6, Folkboats and Sportsboats shall comply with their class rules, including local variations where applicable. Where Class Rules conflict with WSOSR, Class Rules shall apply. [NP]

1.8. When flag Yankee is displayed with one sound before or with the warning signal, all competitors shall wear personal flotation devices in accordance with RRS 40.1.

1.9. Yachts racing in IRC or YTC classes may remove their bunk cushions for the duration of the series without affecting their rating / handicap.

## 2. Communications with Competitors

2.1. Notices to competitors will be posted on the Official Notice Board. The Official Notice Board will be on line at LTSC Solent Circuit Official Notice Board

2.2. A list of entries and their TCFs may be published on the Official Notice Board prior to the first race of the series.

2.3. The race committee will communicate on **VHF Channel 77**, Call Sign 'LTSC Committee'. If the race committee display a pink flag, alternate VHF Channel 72 will be used.

2.4. The WhatsApp group may be used to advise competitors of Notices, Amendments and other information posted on the Official Notice Board.

2.5. The following communications may be made by the Race Committee on VHF and / or WhatsApp

- Time checks
- The race area and race schedule each day.
- Any schedule changes.
- Any change of starting order for multiple class starts.
- The approximate location of the Race Committee boat.
- The use of alternate preparatory signals.
- The courses to be sailed and any changes.
- The approximate bearings and distances to moveable/first marks.
- Sailing Instruction changes (confirmation of changes posted).
- Postponements and abandonments.
- Individual and general recalls.
- The intended time of the first start of a starting sequence.
- The times of the first, second and last finishers.

**3. Changes to Sailing Instructions**

3.1. Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted no later than 0800 on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 2000 on the day before it will take effect.

**4. Signals made Ashore**

4.1. Signals made ashore will be displayed from the flagstaff at LTSC.

4.2. When AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 60 minutes' in the race signal AP. This changes RRS Race Signals.

**5. Schedule of Races**

5.1. Races are scheduled each racing day as follows:

| Week No. | Date | All Classes – No. of Races |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Sunday 11th October | 2 |
| 2 | Sunday 18th October | 2 |
| 3 | Sunday 25th October | 1 |
| 4 | Sunday 1st November | 1 |
| 5 | Sunday 15th November (spare day if required) | 0 |

The intention of this schedule is to optimise the number of races sailed during the series, according to the weather conditions. If any races from Week 1 or Week 2 are abandoned, they may be sailed on Week 3, 4 or 5. The number of races to be sailed each week may be advised by WhatsApp in the preceding 48 hours. The number of races sailed each week is solely at the discretion of the Race Officer and may change on the day of racing.

5.2. The time of each warning signal each day will be:

| Class | Warning Signal |
|---|---|
| IRC 1 | 0925 |
| Sportsboats | 0930 |
| IRC 2 | 0935 |
| YTC | 0940 |
| Folkboats | 0945 |

5.3. When more than one race is scheduled in a day, the second and subsequent races will be started as soon as practical following the last boat finishing in the class concerned.

**6. Classes, Class and Event Flags, Rating or Handicap Limits (if applicable)**

6.1. Class flags will be:

| Class | Flag |
|---|---|
| All Solent Circuit | NN0 |
| Class One IRC 1 | NP 1 |
| Class Two IRC 2 | NP 2 |
| Class Three YTC | NP 3 |
| Folkboat | IC F |
| Sportsboat | IC H |

6.2. When a visual signal is displayed under an event flag, the signal applies to all boats in that event. This changes RRS Race Signals.

6.3. Changes to the classes, handicap or rating limits will be displayed on the Official Notice Board as an Amendment to the Notice of Race.

6.4. Should there be six or more entries for a particular type of boat within one of the above handicap classes, the Race Committee may include a separate Class for that type. Such decisions will be posted as a Notice to Competitors.

6.5. Should there be fewer than six entries for one of the above Classes, the Race Committee may exclude that Class and allocate entries to suitable alternative classes.

6.6. Other than Folkboats and Sportsboats each boat is required to display the appropriate class flag on its backstay or in some other conspicuous place.

6.7. The Race Committee may in exceptional circumstances and at its sole discretion move boats between classes.

6.8. Boats racing under YTC must obtain a TCF (Rating) by Applying Online

6.9. For boats racing under YTC, any changes to the boat, rigging, sails or equipment that could materially affect the performance of the boat during the series shall be notified in writing to the Race Committee before the start of the next race entered.

6.10. Boats racing in the Sportsboat Class will abide by their Class Rules and their Class Standard Rating will apply. Any boat which does not comply with their Class Rules shall obtain an IRC TCF and provide it to the Race Committee.

## 7. Racing Areas

7.1. Attachment A shows the location of racing areas.

## 8. Courses

8.1. The courses are described in Attachment A.

## 9. Marks

9.1. The marks will be as described in Attachment A.

## 10. Areas that are Obstructions

10.1. Areas to be designated as obstructions will be shown in Attachment A.

## 11. The Start

11.1. Races will be started using Rule 26 with the warning signal made 5 minutes before the starting signal.

11.2. The starting line will be described in Attachment A.

11.3. A boat starting later than 5 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes rule A4 and A5.

11.4. Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall, so far as possible, avoid the starting area during the starting sequence for other boats. Boats breaking this SI may be penalised by the Race Committee with a 20% scoring penalty without a hearing. This changes RRS A5. [NP]

## 12. Change of Course

12.1. The system for changing the course is described in Attachment A.

## 13. The Finish and Shortening the Course

13.1. The finishing line will be described in Attachment A.

13.2. Alternatives for shortening the course will be described in Attachment A.

**14. Penalty System**

14.1. Rule 44.1 is changed so that the Two-Turns Penalty is replaced by the One-Turn Penalty.

14.2. Exoneration Penalty:
A boat that may have broken a rule of Part 2, or rule 31 or 42, may, after finishing the race concerned and before the start of a related protest hearing, notify the Race Committee that she accepts a 20% scoring penalty as stated in rule 44.3(c), (except that the minimum penalty is two places if that does not result in a score worse than DNF). This penalty does not reverse an OCS score, a disqualification under rule 30.3 or a penalty under Appendix P. It is not available for a breach of rule 2 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.

14.3. When an Exoneration Penalty is accepted, neither the boat nor a Protest Committee may then revoke or remove the penalty.

14.4. The boat shall not be penalized further in a protest hearing when the Protest Committee decides that it was appropriate to the facts found and the applicable rules.

14.5. For Nordic Folkboats there shall be no penalty for a breach of NFIA Rule 13.10 (Crew Limitations) and Nordic Folkboats are permitted to use spinnakers as per UK Class Racing Regulation Part B(2)

**15. Time Limits and Target Times**

15.1. The time limit where one race is scheduled to be sailed shall be 3 hours elapsed from the actual start time.

15.2. The time limit where two races are scheduled to be sailed shall be 1.5 hours elapsed from the actual start time.

15.3. Boats finishing outside the time limits will be scored DNF.

15.4. The target time for races where one race is to be sailed in a day is 2 hours.

15.5. The target time for races where two races are to be sailed in a day is 1 hour.

15.6. Failure to adhere to target times shall not be grounds for redress.

15.7. The Race Officer may, at their sole discretion, shorten the course to achieve the target times.

**16. Protests and Requests for Redress**

16.1. Hearing Request forms are available at the LTSC race office. Protests and requests for redress or reopening shall be delivered there within the appropriate time limit.

16.2. For each class, the protest time limit is 90 minutes after the last boat, irrespective of class, has finished the last race of the day. For protests alleging a breach of the IRPCAS based on a report from a source external to the Club, the protest time limit is 7 days after the alleged breach.

16.3. Notices will be posted as soon as possible after the final protest time limit of the day to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses.

16.4. Notices of protests by the Race Committee or Protest Committee will be posted to inform boats under rule 61.1(b).

16.5. Penalties for breaches of rules, except RRS Part 1 and 2 are at the discretion of the Protest Committee.

16.6. A boat that has taken a penalty under 44.1 shall inform the Race Committee by VHF or by reporting at the race office within the Protest Time Limit.

16.7. Unless notified otherwise, full protest hearings will be heard from 1500 on the Sunday following the day on which the race concerned took place, except for the last race of the series, when any protests will be heard on the same day.

16.8. Competitors are requested to advise the Race Committee by VHF, by WhatsApp, in person at the Committee Vessel or LTSC if intending to lodge a protest or seek redress. Failure to notify the Race Committee does not disqualify the competitor from lodging a protest or seeking redress.

**17. Scoring**

17.1. The number of races required to complete a series and the number of discards are specified in the Notice of Race.

17.2. RRS A5.3 shall apply.

17.3. Boats shall only be entered on the series results after they have started a race.

**18. Reporting a Retirement**

18.1. A boat that retires from a race shall notify the Race Committee as soon as possible by either hailing, VHF, by WhatsApp or in person at the Committee Vessel or LTSC.

**19. Replacement of Crew or Equipment**

19.1. No authorisation is required for the substitution of crew or equipment, except as required by class/handicap or rating rules.

**20. Advertising**

20.1. Boats may be required to display advertising supplied by the Organising Authority.

**21. Official Boats**

21.1. Official boats will fly an LTSC Burgee

**22. Prizes**

22.1. Bottle prizes will be awarded to the first two boats in each class following the completion of racing each day. The prize giving will take place at LTSC. Prizes will only be awarded to competitors who attend the prize giving.

22.2. The Series Prizegiving will take place at 12 noon on Sunday 15th November at LTSC. If any races are sailed, due to previous abandonments, the Series Prizegiving will take place immediately after the Bottle Prizes have been awarded.

**23. Risk Statement**

23.1. Rule 3 of the Racing Rules of Sailing states: "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone." Sailing is by its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event, each competitor agrees and acknowledges that:

(a) They are aware of the inherent element of risk involved in the sport and accept responsibility for the exposure of themselves, their crew and their boat to such inherent risk whilst taking part in the event;
(b) They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore;
(c) They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions;
(d) Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate;
(e) The provision of a race management team, patrol boats and other officials and volunteers by the race organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities;
(f) Their boat is adequately insured, with cover of at least £5 million against third party claims.

**24. Disclaimer of Liability**

24.1. Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk, see RRS 3, Decision to Race. The Organising 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 regatta.

**25. Insurance**

25.1. Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £5 million per event or the equivalent.

## SAILING INSTRUCTIONS - ATTACHMENT A - RACE AREA, MARKS & COURSES

### A1. The Race Area

A1.1 The race area will be: The Western Solent

### A2. Starting Marks and Starting Line

A2.1 The starting line marks will be:

| Inner Mark | Inner Limit Mark (if laid) | Outer Mark |
|---|---|---|
| Staff with Orange flag on Committee Boat | Small orange inflatable buoy | Small orange inflatable buoy |

A2.2 The starting line will be between the course side of the inner and outer starting marks.

A2.3 The committee boat may be at either the port or starboard end of the line.

A2.4 The inner limit mark is a starting mark and shall have the same required side as the committee boat.

A2.5 The inner limit mark will not necessarily be laid exactly on the start line.

A2.7 Before a boat's first start of each day she should pass the committee boat so that her sail number is clearly visible to the Race Committee.

### A3. Marks of the Course

A3.1 A chart of the West Solent Racing Area with mark designations is published on the LTSC website at

https://www.ltsc.co.uk/_files/ugd/eac4ad_9269465f79c3403f867ccd1d32c53ed1.pdf

### A4. Gates

A4.1 The Gate, when set, will be the same as the finishing line.

### A5. Finishing Marks & Finishing Line

A5.1 The finishing line / Gate marks will be:

| Inner Mark | Inner Limit Mark (if laid) | Outer Mark |
|---|---|---|
| Staff with blue flag on the Finish Committee Boat | Small orange inflatable buoy | Small orange inflatable buoy with blue jacket |

A5.2 The finishing line will be between the course side of the Inner and Outer finishing marks, or the Inner Limit Mark and Outer Mark if the Inner Limit Mark is laid. The finish committee boat may be at either end of the line.

### A6. Courses

A6.1 The course for all classes will be broadcast on VHF by the Committee Boat prior to the first warning signal of the day. Courses will be announced as the list of marks in the order in which they are to be rounded or passed, the side it is required that they are rounded, or passed, and the number of laps. The course for each Class will be repeated on VHF immediately after the warning signal for that Class. The Committee may not respond to requests for the courses to be repeated.

A6.2 All marks will be rounding marks, unless specifically announced as passing marks by the phrase 'Pass to Port' or 'Pass to Starboard'

A6.3 Courses may be published on the WhatsApp Group prior to the first warning signal of the day.

A6.4 When one or more moveable marks are used, the approximate magnetic bearings from the starting line inner mark will be broadcast on VHF with the Courses. If more than one moveable mark is used, the magnetic bearings will be announced in the order in which the marks are to be rounded or passed.

**A7. Obstructions**

A7.1 The following are obstructions and after starting and whilst racing, shall only be passed on the channel or seaward side:

A7.1.1 River Gate East (^)
A7.1.2 River Gate West (@)
A7.1.3 The barrier off Durns Point
A7.1.4 Pennington outfall beacon, except for Folkboats when racing as a class.
A7.1.5 A plain white spherical buoy approximately one metre in diameter, situated south east of the inner trot of harbour moorings to the west of Yarmouth Harbour entrance.

**A8. Changing the Course**

A8.1 When a course change is limited to changing the length of a leg, no signal may be given. This changes RRS 33.

A8.2. The course may be changed, without signals, to maintain the configuration consistent with changes of wind direction and strength. This changes RRS 33.

A8.3. To change the next leg of the course, the race committee may either move the existing mark or lay a new mark (or move the finishing line). When in a subsequent change a new mark is replaced, it will be replaced by an original mark.

**A9. Shortening the Course**

A9.1 In addition to RRS 32. When a race committee vessel near a designated mark of the course is displaying flag S over K with repetitive sound signals, that mark and the committee vessel shall become a gate. This may change the required side of the mark. Boats shall pass through the gate and sail directly to the Finish.

A9.2 If a race is shortened by the display of S over N after at least one round of a multi-round course has been completed by all boats of the class, the order in which the boats passed through the gate at the end of the last completed round shall be used as the finishing order. This changes RRS 32.

A9.3 When less than 75% of the boats starting in a class finish within the time limit, the Race Committee may score boats that did not finish. Scores will be based on the last mark at which the Race Committee recorded rounding's except that any boat that finished the course shall be placed in their corrected finishing order higher than any boat that did not. This changes RRS 35, A4.2 and A9.

A9.4 The Race Committee may notify competitors by VHF radio when courses are shortened by SI A9.1 to A9.3 above.