

LYMINGTON TOWN SAILING CLUB

Merlin Rocket Open Meeting **SW Series Saturday 12 September 2026** **Silver Tiller Sunday 13 September 2026**

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Organising Authority:

Lymington Town Sailing Club (LTSC) in association with Merlin Rocket Owners Association (MROA)

1 RULES

- 1.1 Racing will be governed by the rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing 2025 - 2028, RYA prescriptions and the relevant Class rules. In the case of conflict between the rules and these sailing instructions, these sailing instructions shall prevail.

2 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

- 2.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board online at <https://www.ltsc.co.uk/merlin-open>. Notices may also be posted on a board at the entrance to the clubhouse.

3 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 3.1 Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted at least 60 minutes before the advertised starting time of the race or races concerned.
- 3.2 Any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 1000 on the day.

4 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 4.1 Flag signals made ashore will be displayed on the LTSC flagpole.
- 4.2 When the postponement flag (AP) is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 45 minutes' in the race signal AP (changes rule Race Signals 'AP').

5 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 5.1 Each event comprises a 3 races series.
- 5.2 The scheduled time of the first warning signal for the races will be not before 1125 on Saturday 12 September and 1025 on Sunday 13 September.
- 5.3 The warning signal for the second and any succeeding race will be made as soon as possible after the finish of the previous race.
- 5.4 No warning signal will be made after 1530 on Sunday 13 September.

6 CLASS FLAG

- 6.1 International code Flag 'O' will be displayed at the warning signal.

7 RACING AREAS

- 7.1 The racing area will be to the west of the Lymington River entrance. Any change to this will be announced at the competitor briefing.

8 COURSES

- 8.1 The courses are shown in Appendix 1.
- 8.2 Prior to the warning signal the Committee Boat will display the course to be sailed and the number of rounds eg A2. The approximate bearing and distance to the windward mark may also be displayed.
- 8.3 When marks are to be rounded to PORT a **RED** flag will be displayed. When marks are to be rounded to STARBOARD a **GREEN** flag will be displayed.
- 8.4 If the course to be sailed is Course A or B, when sailing from Mark 3 to Mark 1, boats shall pass through the GATE /FINISH line.

9 MARKS

- 9.1 Marks 1, 1a, 2 & 3 will be ORANGE inflatable buoys.

10 THE START

- 10.1 Races will be started in accordance with RRS 26 with the warning signal made 5 minutes before the starting signal.
- 10.2 The starting line will be between the mast of a committee boat flying an ORANGE flag and a YELLOW pillar buoy. The committee boat will normally be at the starboard end of the line.
- 10.3 The ORANGE flag, by way of an Attention Signal, shall be displayed at least 5 minutes before the first warning signal of the day.
- 10.4 When an inner distance mark is laid close to the committee boat, not necessarily on the starting line, no boat while racing shall pass between the committee boat and this buoy.
- 10.5 A boat starting later than five minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes rules A4 and A5.

11 CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

- 11.1 To change the next leg of the course, the race committee may move the original mark (or finishing line) to a new position or lay a replacement mark. For minor changes in bearing or distance no signals shall be made by the race committee. This changes RRS 33.

12 GATE / FINISH

- 12.1 The Gate / Finishing line will be between the mast of the committee boat flying a BLUE flag and an inflatable buoy with a BLUE band.
- 12.2 If, for any reason, a race is abandoned after all boats have passed through the Gate for the first time, the Race Committee may award finishing places based on the positions recorded at the Gate.

13 TARGET TIME & TIME LIMITS

- 13.1 The target time for the first boat to finishes will be 45 minutes.
- 13.2 The time limit for each race shall be 60 minutes for the first finisher.

- 13.3 In addition to the procedure for shortening course in RRS 32, the race committee may also award a finishing position to a boat that is still racing by displaying to her from a committee vessel (which may be in motion) flag W with one sound signal. A boat so notified is no longer required to sail the course and finish (changing RRS 28.1), shall stop racing and shall return to the starting area, or return ashore if there is no more racing. A boat's finishing position under this sailing instruction will be the position she would have received had she sailed the course and finished within any time limit, without gaining or losing any place. However, when two or more boats that are overlapped are notified, they will be scored as if they were tied.
- 13.4 If 13.3 is not applied, boats failing to finish within 20 minutes of the first finisher shall be scored Did Not Finish without a hearing. This changes rules 35, A4.1 and A5.

14 PROTESTS, REQUESTS FOR REDRESS AND PENALTIES

- 14.1 Hearing request forms are available from the LTSC Sailing Office. Protests and requests for redress or reopening shall be delivered to with the Race Office within the appropriate time limit.
- 14.2 The protest time limit is 90 minutes after the last boat has finished in the last race of the day.
- 14.3 Notices of protests by the race committee will be posted to inform competitors under rule 61.1(b).
- 14.4 Notices of protests will be posted within 30 minutes of the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses.
- 14.5 Infringement of the rules will require completion of an on the water penalty as per the current Racing Rules of Sailing.

15 SCORING

- 15.1 The low point system of Appendix A will apply.
- 15.2 One race is required to be completed to constitute a series.
- 15.3 Races to count will be as follows:

Races sailed	1	2	3
Races to count	1	2	2

16 SAFETY

- 16.1 RRS 40.1 (Personal Flotation Devices) always applies whilst afloat.
- 16.2 Competitors should be aware of times when tide changes and be prepared for changing conditions as the wind, tide, weather and sea state can quickly change in the Solent.
- 16.3 A sign on/off system will be in operation – competitors shall sign out before going afloat and sign in no later than 15 minutes of coming ashore. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in a fine penalty of £10 donation to the Lymington RNLI.
- 16.4 Attention is drawn to RRS Fundamental Rule 1 'Helping Those in Danger'. Boats (racing or otherwise should stand by a capsized or disabled boat unless it is clear that no assistance is required. Redress may be requested. (RR62.1(c))

17 OBSTRUCTIONS

- 17.1 Boats in the Lymington River, while proceeding to a race or returning from racing, shall not cause Wightlink ferries to take avoiding action.

17.2 **Rock wave barriers** - There are two rock wave barriers in the Lymington River protecting the marshes. When leaving and returning into the river boats must pass on the channel side of the yellow marks at the inner ends of each barrier.

17.3 A safety boat in close attendance to a boat or a competitor in difficulty is deemed to be an obstruction surrounded by navigable water.

18 TRASH DISPOSAL

18.1 Competitors shall not intentionally put trash in the water.

19 DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

19.1 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'.

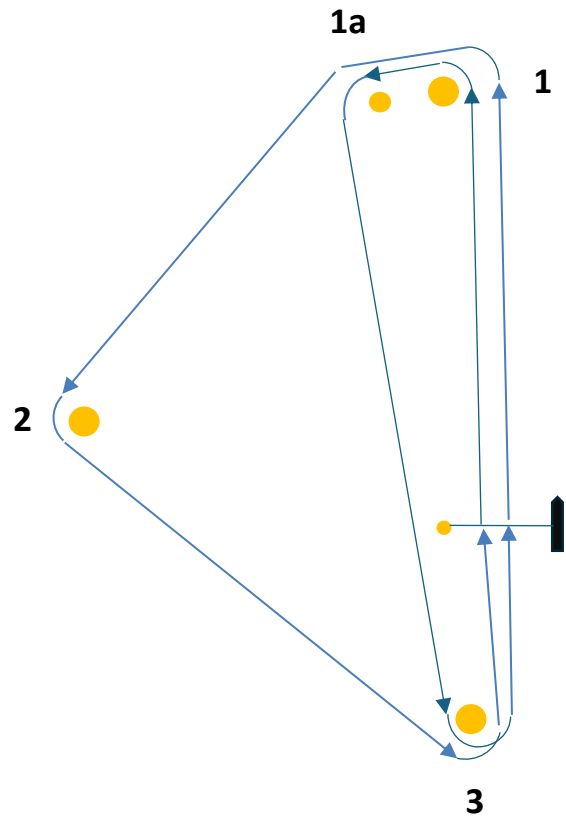
19.2 By taking part in the event, each competitor agrees and acknowledges that:

- they are aware of the inherent element of risk involved in the sport and accept responsibility for the exposure of themselves and their boat to such inherent risk whilst taking part in the event;
- they are responsible for the safety of themselves, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore;
- they accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions;
- their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate;
- the provision of a race management team, patrol boats and other officials and volunteers by the organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities;
- the provision of patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances;
- their boat is adequately insured, with cover of at least £3,000,000 or the equivalent per event against third party claims.

APPENDIX 1 - Courses

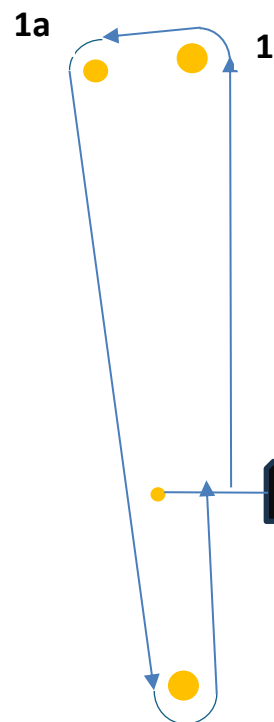
COURSE A (Sausage – Triangle)

Start, 1, 1a, 3, Gate, 1, 1a, 2, 3, Gate



COURSE B (Windward - Leeward)

Start, 1, 1a, 3, Gate



RED Flag = PORT Roundings

GREEN Flag = Starboard Roundings.

COURSE C (Windward – Leeward Gate)

Signal	Mark Rounding Order
C2	Start - 1 - 1a - 2s/2p - 1 - 1a - 2p - Finish
C3	Start - 1 - 1a - 2s/2p - 1a - 2s/2p - 1 - 1a - 2p - Finish

