Corinthian Otters

Optimist Open Meeting

Royal Corinthian Yacht Club

Sunday 13th September

2026

Burnham on Crouch Essex

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS (SIs)

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

The notation '[DP]' in a rule in the SI means that the penalty for a breach of that rule may, at the discretion of the protest committee, be less than disqualification.

1 RULES

1.1 The event is governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing*.

1.2 RRS 62.1(a).is changed as follows: If any part of a boat's hull is on the course side of the starting line at her starting signal and she is identified, the race committee will attempt to hail her sail number. Failure to hail her number, failure of her to hear such a hail, or the order in which boats are hailed will not be grounds for a redress for request. This changes RRS 62.1

RRS A5.1 and A5.2 is changed as follows A boat that does not start within four minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.1 and A5.2.

1.3 RRS 35 is changed so that after the first boat has finished, boats may be finished based on their observed position on the course by signaling with flag W

2 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

2.1 Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted before 0900 on the day it will take effect.

3 COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

3.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located in the Otter Room.

3.2 The race office is located at the RCYC clubhouse, telephone *01621782105.*

3.3 [DP] While racing, except in an emergency, a boat shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats.

3.4 Regatta fleet safety / coach boats may communicate with the sailors to assist in completing the course.

4 CODE OF CONDUCT

4.1 [DP] Competitors and support persons shall comply with reasonable requests from race officials.

4.2 [DP] Competitors and support persons shall place advertising provided by the organising authority with care and seamanship, by instructions for its use and without interfering with its functionality.

5 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

5.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed at the RCYC Race box.

5.2 When the flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 30 minutes in Race Signals AP.

6 SCHEDULE OF RACES

Sunday 13th September		Regatta up to 8 races	Main up to 4 races	10:55 First Warning Signal

Main fleet is for all sailors with some racing experience, 4 races of 30-40 minutes. Coached regatta is for sailors new to racing so a simple 3,2,1 windward leeward or similar course will be used with races 15-20 mins each.

6.1 In the event of a race being recalled, restarted, re-sailed or abandoned the next race sailed will be that race with subsequent races being sailed thereafter in their scheduled order.

6.2 The scheduled time of the warning signal is 10.55

6.3 To alert boats that a race or sequence of races will begin soon, the orange starting line flag will be displayed with one sound at least five minutes before a warning signal is made.

6.4 No warning signal will be made after 16:00

7 CLASS FLAGS

The Class flag is Flag O

8 RACING AREA

8.1 The racing area is the Rivers Crouch and Roach

9 COURSES

9.1 Courses will be advised at the daily briefing.

9.2 No later than the warning signal, the race committee signal vessel will display the course.

10 MARKS

10.1 Mark(s) are Orange Buoys

11 OBSTRUCTIONS

12 The following object(s), area(s) are designated as an obstruction(s)

13 THE START

13.1 Main fleet races will be started using RRS 26, with the warning signal made 5 minutes before the starting signal.

13.2 Regatta fleet will use 3,2,1 sequence and the PRO may communicate with the fleet to facilitate clean starts.

13.3 The starting line is between staffs displaying orange flags on the committee boat and the start line pin end buoy.

13.4 Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area during the starting sequence for other races.

13.5 If any part of a boat's hull is on the course side of the starting line at her starting signal and she is identified, the race committee will attempt to hail her sail number. Failure to hail her number, failure of her to hear such a hail, or the order in which boats are hailed will not be grounds for a redress for request. This changes RRS 62.1(a).

13.6 A boat that does not start within four minutes after her starting signal will be

scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.1 and A5.2.

14 CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

14.1 To change the next leg of the course, the race committee will move the original mark or the finishing line to a new position.

15 THE FINISH

15.1 The finishing line is between staffs displaying blue flags on the committee boat and the finish line pin end buoy.

16 PENALTY SYSTEM

16.1 For the class (all Classes) RRS 44.1 is changed so that the Two Turns Penalty is replaced by the One Turn Penalty.

17 TIME LIMITS

17.1 The Mark 1 Time Limit, Race Time Limit (see RRS 35), and the Finishing Window are shown in the table below.

Mark 1 Time Limit	Race Time Limit	Finishing Window
30	60	15

17.2 If no boat has passed the first mark within the Mark 1 Time Limit, the race will be abandoned.

17.3 If no boat has sailed the course and finished within the Race Time Limit, the race will be abandoned.

17.4 The Finishing Window is the time for boats to finish after the first boat sails the course and finishes. Boats failing to finish within the Finishing Window and not subsequently retiring, penalised or given redress will be scored Time Limit Expired (TLE) without a hearing. A boat scored TLE shall be scored points for the finishing place one more than the points scored by the last boat that finished within the Finishing Window. This changes RRS 35, A5.1, A5.2 and A10.

17.5 RRS 35, A4 and A5 will be changed in that when flag 'W' is displayed with two sound signals, boats still racing may be scored by the race committee boat.

18 HEARING REQUESTS

18.1 The protest time limit is 60 minutes after the last boat finishes the last race of the day or the race committee signals no more racing today, whichever is later. The time will be posted on the official notice board.

18.2 Hearing request forms are available from the race office at RCYC

18.3 Notices will be posted no later than 30 minutes after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Hearings will be held in the protest room, located at the back of the rib storage area, beginning at the posted time.

19 SCORING

19.1 The scoring system is as follows: Low point system.

19.2 Two races are required to be completed to constitute a series.

19.3 A boat's series score is the total of her race scores.

19.4 When Four or more have been completed, a boat's series score is the total of her race scores, excluding her one worst score.

19.5 Rule A5.3 applies.

20 SAFETY REGULATIONS

20.1 [DP] A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee at the first reasonable opportunity.

21 REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT

21.1 [DP] Substitution of competitors is not allowed without prior approval of the Race Committee

21.2 [DP] Substitution of damaged or lost equipment is not allowed unless authorised by the Race Committee. Requests for substitution shall be made to the committee at the first reasonable opportunity, which may be after the race.

22 EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

22.1 A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules, notice of race and sailing instructions.

23 SUPPLIED BOATS n/a

24 OFFICIAL VESSELS

24.1 Official vessels will be identified as follows: Otter Ribs.

25 [DP] SUPPORT TEAMS

25.1 Support teams, including all support persons and support person vessels, shall comply with the support team regulations.

25.2 Team leaders, coaches and other support persons shall stay outside areas where boats are racing from the time of the preparatory signal for the first start until all boats have finished or retired or the race committee signals a postponement, general recall or abandonment.

25.3 Support person vessels shall be identified with "Otter Support."

26 TRASH DISPOSAL

26.1 Trash may be placed aboard official vessels or support person vessels.

27 BERTHING n/a

28 HAUL-OUT RESTRICTIONS n/a

29 DIVING EQUIPMENT AND PLASTIC POOLS n/a

30 PRIZES

30.1 Prizes will be awarded as detailed in the Notice of Race

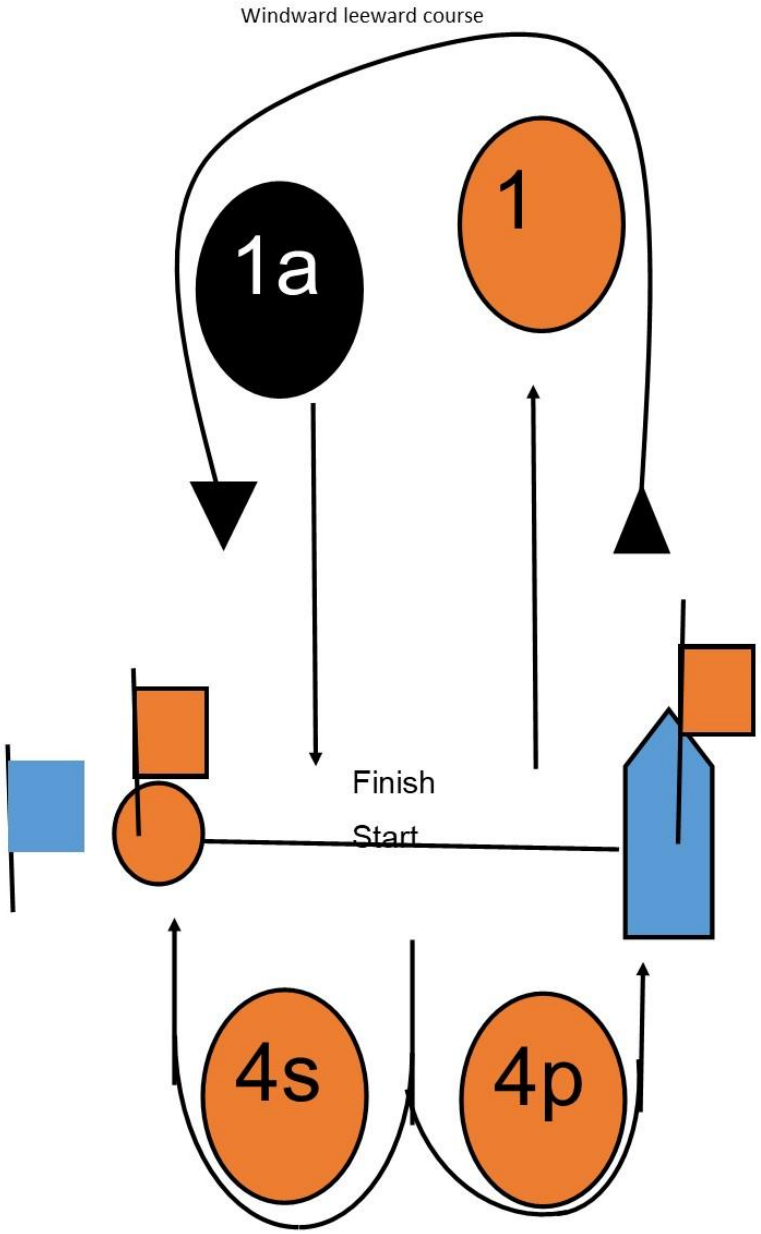
31.0 RISK STATEMENT

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 inherently 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 event organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities.
(f) The provision of patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances.
(g) It is their responsibility to familiarise themselves with any risks specific to this venue or this event drawn to their attention in any rules and information produced for the venue or event, and to attend any safety briefing held for the event.

32.0 INSURANCE

32.1 Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of 3 million sterling per incident or the equivalent.



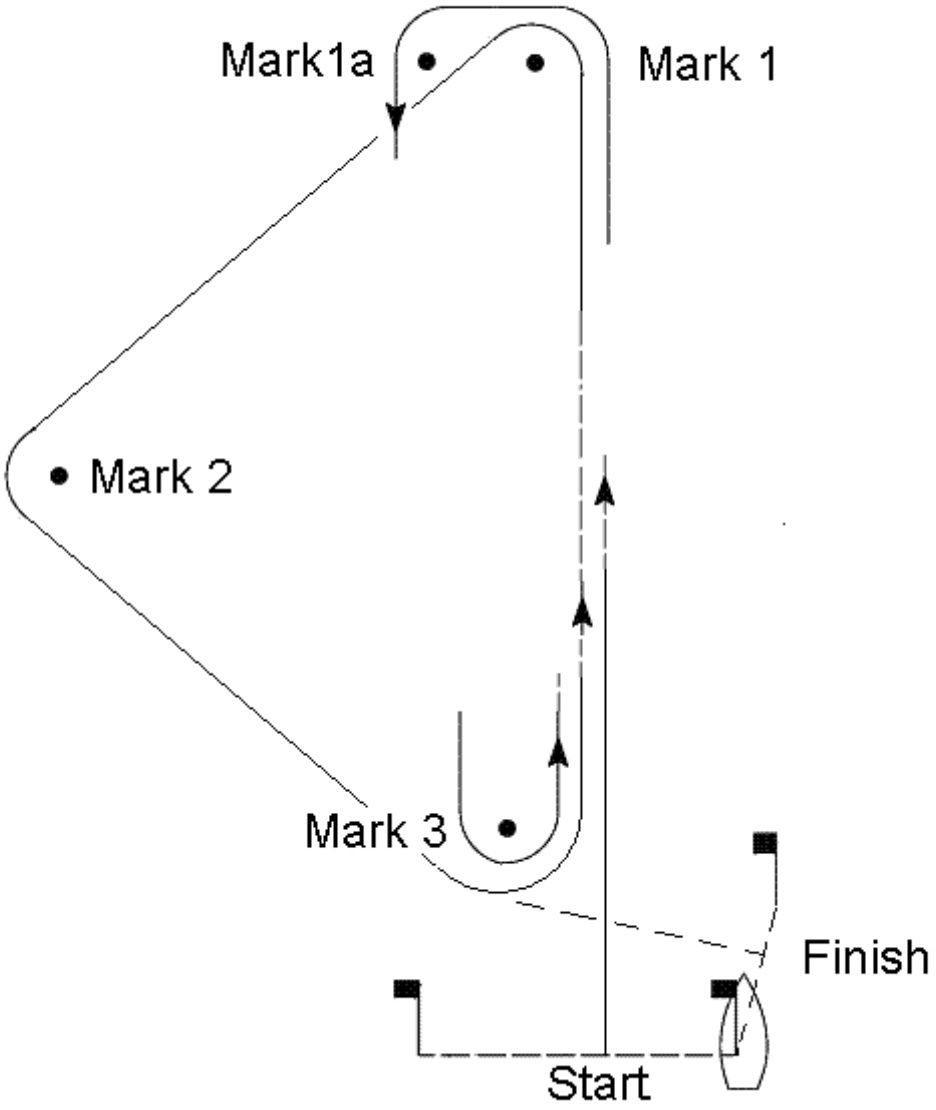
The diagram shows the direction of rounding mark 1 and 1a when the red board is shown by the Committee boat (Port rounding)

If a green board is displayed by the Committee boat the direction of mark 1 will be to starboard. Mark 1a to Starboard. Marks 4s & 4p will form a gate at the leeward end of the course you must pass between Mark 4s & 4p and round either of the marks. Boats must pass through the start finish line on each windward leg.

All Boats must pass through the Start/ Finish gate on each windward leg

The race will finish on a windward leg when the leading boat passes through the start finish gate for the first time after the race has been in progress for the time displayed on a board at the stern of the Committee Boat. If however the conditions are extreme the race may be shortened sooner. **Marks 1, 4s and 4p are orange buoys. Mark 2 a black buoy. Pin orange buoy with orange flag**

Triangle sausage



Mark rounding order

1 Start, 1, 2, 3, Finish

2 Start, 1, 2, 3, 1, 1a, 3, Finish

3 Start, 1, 2, 3, 1, 1a, 3, 1, 2, 3, Finish

4 Start, 1, 2, 3,1, 1a, 3, 1, 2, 3, 1, 1A, 3, Finish