



Somers Yacht Club Sailing Season 2023-2024

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS (SIs)

1 RULES

- 1.1** The event is governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing*.
- 1.2** Australian Sailing Special Regulations Part 2 for Off the Beach Boats, available at <https://www.sailingresources.org.au/safety/specialregs/> applies.

2 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1** Any change in the sailing instructions will be posted on the notice board at least one hour before the advertised time of the warning signal of the race it will affect, except that any change in the sailing program (including the sailing of postponed events) will be posted by 1800 hours on the day before it will take effect.
- 2.2** Any ongoing changes to these Sailing Instructions will be posted on the Somers Yacht Club web site.

3 COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

- 3.1** Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located down stairs in the foyer of the club house.
- 3.2** The race office is located at the Western end of the Seaward balcony of the club house.

4 CODE OF CONDUCT

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

5 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 5.1** Signals made ashore will be displayed from the control tower.
- 5.2** When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 15 minutes' in Race Signals AP.

6 SCHEDULE OF RACES

- 6.1** The schedule of races is published in the sailing program. It shows the date and the time of the warning signal for the first race of the day. This is displayed on the notice board and on the club website.

- 6.2** The number of races per day is shown on the sailing program.
- 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 four (4) minutes before a warning signal is made. When back-to-back races are scheduled on a day and the second race sequence is imminent, the absence of the orange starting line flag will signal that the second race sequence will not proceed. The second of a back-to-back race sequence will, in any event, not be commenced after 4:30PM.
- 6.4** If a Bureau of Meteorology ‘Gale Force Wind Warning’ for Westernport is current within three hours prior to any scheduled on-water event/s shall be automatically abandoned or postponed for the day.

7 CLASS FLAGS

- 7.1** All races will be conducted in Divisions except where otherwise stated. Class flags are replaced by divisional flags. The specification of the Divisions and flags are:

Division	Flag	Specification
1	Numeral Pennant 1	Multihulls with yardsticks ≤ 83
2	Numeral Pennant 2	Multihulls with yardsticks > 83
3	Numeral Pennant 3	Monohulls with yardsticks ≤ 116.5
4	Numeral Pennant 4	Monohulls with yardsticks > 116.5 & ≤ 124.5
5	Numeral Pennant 5	Monohulls with yardsticks > 124.5 & ≤ 143
6	Numeral Pennant 6	Monohulls with yardsticks > 143

8 RACING AREA

- 8.1** The racing area will be to the South of the Somers Yacht Club control tower.

9 COURSES

- 9.1** The diagrams in Attachment A show the courses, including the approximate angles between legs, the order in which marks are to be passed, and the side on which each mark is to be left. In the interests of safety in certain weather conditions, the start line may be positioned closer to buoy 1, between buoy 4 and buoy 1.
- 9.2** No later than the warning signal, the race committee signal vessel may display the approximate compass bearing of the first leg.
- 9.3** Courses may be shortened, in which case flag S will be displayed from a committee boat in the vicinity of a mark. The flag for each Division for which the course is shortened will be displayed as the leading boat of that Division reaches the mark, accompanied by two sound signals. The leading boat will pass that mark and then finish as in SI 13. Boats of that Division will complete the course as shortened for the leading boat. Gate mark applies if the shortening occurs at the leeward mark. The shortened course may be signalled again when following boats reach that mark. This changes RRS 32.2.

9.4 Legs of the course will not be changed after the preparatory signal. This changes RRS 33.

10 MARKS

10.1 Marks 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 will be orange inflatable buoys with yellow tops and be numbered according to the course to be sailed.

10.2 The starting mark will be a buoy displaying an orange flag.

10.3 Marks O will be stick buoys with a lime fluorescent flag.

10.4 Mark G will be a stick buoy displaying a blue flag within approximately 20m of mark 4.

10.5 Mark F will be a yellow cone buoy within approximately 25m of the finishing mark.

10.6 The finishing mark will be a cylindrical orange buoy.

11 OBSTRUCTIONS

11.1 There are no obstructions in the sailing area.

However, it should be noted that there is a shallow rocky area extending some 200 metres out from the shoreline east of a line from the Eastern end of the clubhouse.

12 THE START

12.1 The warning signal is made 3 minutes before the starting signal and the preparatory signal two minutes before the starting signal. Divisional flags replace class flags. This changes RRS 26.

Minutes before starting signal	Visual signal	Sound signal	Means
3	Divisional flag up	One	Warning signal
2	Preparatory flag up	One	Preparatory signal
1	Preparatory flag down	One long	One minute
0	Divisional flag down	One	Starting signal

12.2 The start line will be between a staff displaying the orange flag on the race committee boat at the starboard end, and the starting mark at the port end. The committee boat may stream an orange buoy which will be considered an extension of the race committee boat, and if laid shall be passed on the same side as the committee boat when starting.

12.3 [DP]Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area during the starting sequence for other races.

12.4 The starting area is defined as within 10 boat lengths of both sides of, and the ends of, the start line.

12.5 A boat that does not start within 6 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.1 and A5.2.

12.6 Starts will be in the order shown in Attachment A but the race officer may use their discretion for subsequent back-to-back races. In the interest of timely racing, some divisions may be combined into one start.

12.7 Races will not be started in an average wind speed of less than 3 knots and if the average wind speed is less than 3 knots over a 15 minutes period, the race may be abandoned. This changes RRS 26.

12.8 (a) Races started on a yardstick pursuit basis or a handicap pursuit basis will use one set of signals for the start of the race under RRS 26 with numeral pennant 1 in place of Division flags. The warning signal will be given three minutes before the starting signal, and the preparatory signal two minutes before the starting signal. The start time for each boat or group of boats will be displayed on a board on the committee boat. This board will be lowered at that time, and it may be accompanied by one sound signal. The warning signal for each boat shall be deemed to have been made three minutes before each start after the starting signal.

(b) Races started from the beach will use a start line between two flags on the beach, and one member of the crew of each boat will start from this line using the procedure in SI 12.8(a). The boat may be held in the water by a crew member or by an assistant. The first leg of the course may not be to windward.

13 THE FINISH

13.1 The finishing line will be between the finishing mark and the centre line of the Somers Yacht Club control tower.

13.2 To finish, a boat shall first pass between the Gate mark G and the Leeward Mark then between mark F and the control tower and then pass between the finishing mark and the Somers Yacht Club control tower.

13.3 [DP]A boat shall not pass through the finish line unless she is finishing.

14 PENALTY SYSTEM

14.1 For all multihulls RRS 44.1 is changed so that the Two-Turns Penalty is replaced by the One-Turn Penalty.

15 TIME LIMITS AND TARGET TIMES

15.1 Time limits and target times are as follows:

When a single race is scheduled for the racing session, the target time will be 90 minutes and the time limit will be 3 hours.

When multiple races are scheduled for the racing session, each Division's target time will be approximately 45 minutes and the time limit will be 15 minutes after the first boat finishes in that Division.

15.2 A boat failing to finish within 60 minutes after the first boat in her division when one race is scheduled or a boat failing to finish within 15 minutes of the first boat in

her division when multiple races are scheduled may be scored Did Not Finish (DNF) without a hearing. This changes RRS 35, RRS A4 and RRS A5.

- 15.3** If the Race Officer (RO) reasonably considers that a boat cannot finish within the time limit prescribed in SI 15.1, the RO may direct her to come ashore (if no further racing for the session) or go to the starting area (if further races to start for her division). The boat will be scored DNF (Did Not Finish).
- 15.4** The RO may direct a boat in a division that is more than two legs of the course behind the leading boat in that division to come ashore or to the starting area, notwithstanding she may be capable of finishing within the time limit. The boat will be scored FOC (Finished on Course) and an estimated finishing time will be given to that boat.
- 15.5** Failure to meet the Target Time will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 62.1(a).
- 16 HEARING REQUESTS**
- 16.1** The protest time limit is 60 minutes after the last boat in that division finishes the last race of the day or the race committee signals no more racing today, whichever is later.
- 16.2** Hearing Request forms are available at the race office. Protests and requests for redress or reopening shall be delivered there within the appropriate time limit.
- 16.3** Requests for redress must be delivered within the protest time limit. This changes RRS 62.2.
- 16.4** 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 beginning at the time posted.
- 16.4** Breaches of SI 12.3, SI 13.3, SI 18, SI 22, SI 23 and NoR 3.1 will not be grounds for a protest by a boat. This changes RRS 60.1(a). Penalties for these breaches may be less than disqualification if the protest committee so decides.
- 16.5** Arbitration as defined in Appendix T will be used.

17 SCORING

17.1 A boat's series score will be as follows

- (a) When fewer than 5 races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores.
- (b) When 5 or 6 races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.
- (c) When 7 to 10 races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her two worst scores.
- (d) When 11 to 14 races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her three worst scores
- (e) When 15 or more races have been completed, a boat's score will be the total of her race scores excluding her four worst scores

This changes RRS A2.

17.2 The races required to be completed to constitute a series are as follows:-

- (a) Pre-Christmas Series - two races must be sailed.
- (b) Summer Cup Series - two races must be sailed.
- (c) Williams Pt Series & Commodore's Cup - two races must be sailed.
- (d) Autumn Series & Stan Byrne Cup - two races must be sailed.
- (e) Championship Series - 4 races must be sailed.

17.3 RRS A5.3 shall be used for all series races except regattas. A regatta for the purpose of this instruction is defined as a series of 1 or more races in which entries are open to boats that are not sailing members of Somers Yacht Club.

17.4 In all series races those sailors volunteering or rostered for duty by the Sailing Committee may score points for that race equal to the average, to the nearest tenth of a point (0.05 to be rounded upward), of their points in all other races sailed by them in the series. Average points will be awarded to those performing their duty, and have signed on for the race session. This instruction alters RRS A5.3.

"Volunteering or Rostered for duty" in this instruction means listed on the published roster or substituted on to the roster by the roster coordinator. Should a substitution occur for any other reason, average points will not be granted unless approved by the Sailing Committee in response to a written request. The Sailing Committee's decision will be based on the committee's judgment of the fairness of the outcome. In reaching that judgment, the committee will consider:

- Average points may not be awarded if it causes the boat to gain significant advantage in the series.
- Average points would not be awarded if the boat could not have sailed in the race. The duty must not be as a result of a damaged boat or unavailability of regular crew.
- Both skipper and regular crew must do duty.

17.5 A skipper who is competing in a major regatta on the same day as a championship race may request average points to be awarded for that championship race. The

Sailing Committee may, in its absolute discretion, award average points having considered the following guidelines.

- Average points under this instruction will only be available for the championship series.
- Average points will only be available for races on one championship day per season.
- The request for average points shall be in writing to the Sailing Committee by 26th January following the season's opening day.
- It is the applicant's responsibility to submit the request.
- Examples of qualifying regattas include, but are not necessarily limited to, State, National or International championships. Other regattas may include Victorian, Interstate or National youth championships, ISAF World Cup events, Victorian sailing and catamaran regattas.
- The applicant must be sailing the same class of boat in the qualifying regatta as entered in the championship series.
- The nominated race cannot be switched at a later date, even if all races on the nominated championship day are abandoned for any reason.
- Any skipper/crew combination awarded average points before the start of the championship series will not be rostered for duty that would normally result in average points being awarded under SI 17.4. i.e. only races on one championship race day can be awarded average points per season.
- Average points awarded under this instruction will be calculated in the same manner as average points awarded for duty in SI 17.4.

18

SAFETY REGULATIONS

18.1

Online entry, Completion of an entry card or a visitor entry form will constitute a safety "Sign On" for the race.

[DP] All boats shall sign the "Sign Off" sheet upon returning to shore, but no later than the end of protest time for that day.

[DP] A boat which does not start or retires from a race shall "Sign Off" with the appropriate declaration and notify the race committee as soon as possible.

When a race is abandoned by a patrol boat displaying 'AP over A', 'AP over H', 'N over A' or 'N over H' and or 3 flashing lights are shown from the tower, all boats shall return to shore and "Sign Off".

RRS 41 (Outside Help) is extended as follows. A boat shall not receive help from any outside source, except:

- 41(e) assistance to right a capsized boat, and to help skipper and crew back into the boat. A boat that gains significant advantage in the race from help under this instruction may be protested and penalized; any penalty may be less than disqualification. A boat that is not assisted will not be entitled to redress under this instruction.

This instructions changes RRS 41.

19

DUTY ROSTER

- 19.1** The Race Officer may, acting on their absolute discretion, abandon or postpone racing until there is at least one appropriately qualified jump crew and at least one appropriately qualified driver on the water.
- 19.2** Somers Yacht Club may roster sailing members to be a Jump Crew or Sea Rescue Crew from time to time. Members so nominated will be notified via email.
- 19.3** In the event that a Jump Crew or Sea Rescue is not available as rostered, they must arrange to swap with another suitably qualified nominee to perform their duty. The onus is on rostered sailors to ensure that their duty is covered.
- 19.4** Rostered sailors must report to the Sea Rescue shed for duty no later than 2 hours before the scheduled first race start for the day. In the event that either the rostered sailor or their appropriately qualified nominee does not report for duty, the Race Officer will request that the Division usually entered by the rostered sailor, to be determined at the Race Officer's absolute discretion, provide a suitable replacement(s). Failure to comply with this request will result in no start and no points awarded for the respective Division on that day.
- 19.5** In the event that either the rostered sailor or their appropriately qualified nominee does not report for duty, the sailor may be awarded a DNE score(s) without a hearing for the races scheduled for that day.
- 19.6** Rostered sailors may apply for average points to be awarded for races completed whilst performing their duty pursuant to SI 17.4

20 EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

- 20.1** A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with its class rules, notice of race and sailing instructions.
- 20.2** [DP] When instructed by a race official on the water, a boat shall proceed to a designated area for inspection.

21 OFFICIAL VESSELS

- 21.1** Official vessels will be identified by flying a Somers Yacht Club burgee.

22 [DP] SUPPORT TEAMS

- 22.1** 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.

23 TRASH DISPOSAL

- 23.1** Trash may be placed aboard official or support person vessels.

24 PRIZES

Prizes will be given as follows.

24.1

Prizes will be awarded at the end of the season, except prizes for regattas and races marked with a 'T' or an 'S' will be awarded on the day of the races.

CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

Line honours (yardstick) and handicap series in Divisions. Line honours winners recorded on an honour board. The winners on yardstick are not eligible to win a handicap award.

SEASONS TROPHIES

Winners on Line Honours (yardstick) and Handicap of each division across all races that count in the Pre-Christmas, Championship, and Autumn Series. Winners on Line Honours (yardstick) are not eligible for the Handicap award.

PRE-CHRISTMAS SERIES

Line Honours and Handicap (Ian Brock Trophy) awarded in divisions. The winners on Line Honours (yardstick) are not eligible for the Handicap award.

SUMMER CUP SERIES

Line Honours (yardstick) and Handicap Series in divisions. Line Honours (yardstick) winners recorded on an honour board. The Handicap winner takes the Summer Cup and is not eligible to win on Yardstick.

AUTUMN SERIES

Autumn Series is Handicap winner and Line Honours (yardstick) (Stan Byrne Cup) in divisions. The winners on Handicap are not eligible for the Line honours (yardstick).

YARDSTICK PURSUIT

The race is run as a fleet race for Monohulls and a fleet race for Multi-hulls. The trophy is awarded to the winning monohull and the winning multi-hull.

This race is a fleet race where boats are handicapped according to Australian Sailing Yardsticks. There is one monohull winner and one multihull winner.

WILLIAMS PT TROPHY, COMMODORES CUP, VETERANS TROPHY, LADIES CHAMPIONSHIP

Awarded on the basis of a fleet race for Monos and a fleet race for Multihulls. Winners of Williams Pt (Line Honours - yardstick) are not eligible for the Commodores Cup (Handicap).

- Williams Pt Trophy. Line honours (yardstick), Mono and Catamaran,
- Commodores Cup. Handicap, Mono and Catamaran
- Veterans Trophy (Skippers 60 yrs and over on the date of the first scheduled race) Mono and Catamaran.
- Lady Trophy. Leading female skipper in Williams Point (yardstick) series. Boat may have a male crew.

LADIES PERPETUAL TROPHY

Awarded to the leading lady skipper in a fleet race for Monos and a fleet race for Catamarans (boats may have a male crew).

W T LONG TROPHY

This is awarded to the youngest skipper to complete the championship series by sailing in the number of races to count in the series.

JUNIOR CHAMPION AWARD

The best performing junior skipper (and their junior crew where applicable) on yardstick in each Division in the Championship Series. A junior is under 16 on the date of the first race in the Championship series. A junior crew will also receive the award if the crew and their skipper are both under 16 years old on the date of the first race in the Championship Series. Skipper (and crew where applicable) must complete 75% of the races that count in the series (after excluding drops).

SUPER VETERAN WINNERS

Awarded to the best placed 70+ year old monohull skipper and the best placed 70+ year old multi-hull skipper in the Championship Series (Yardstick) with all races to count (except drops). Age is taken on the day of the first Championship race.

CLASS CHAMPIONS

Sabre, Pacer, Paper Tiger, and Hobie 14's and others where applicable. A trophy for the leading boat in each class in the championship series (yardstick). A minimum of 5 boats of the class are required to start in the number of races that count.

PAPER TIGER VETERAN CHAMPION

The Paper Tiger Veteran Champion trophy is awarded to the best performing Paper Tiger skipper who is 60 years or over on the day of the first race in the Championship series. A minimum of 5 Paper Tigers are required to start in the number of Championship race that count.

SEASONS CATAMARAN

Awarded to the leading catamaran in the championship series (yardstick).

Over 70's PARTICIPATION

Awarded to the sailors over aged 70+ on the date of the opening race of the season awarded by catamaran and mono. Assessed on the number of races sailed over the season.

EASTER REGATTA

The Easter Regatta is a number of races sailed over the Easter weekend. Trophies are awarded for each race shortly after the race completion. The number of places that are awarded trophies is determined by the number of entries in each race.

Entry is open to any sailor who is a financial member of a yacht club affiliated with Australian Sailing.

BOXING DAY REGATTA

The Boxing Day regatta comprises one or more races sailed on Boxing Day. There are trophies awarded for each race shortly after the race completion. The number of places that are awarded trophies is determined by the number of entries to each race.

Entry is open to any sailor who is a financial member of a yacht club affiliated with Australian Sailing.

25

RISK STATEMENT

25.1

RRS 3 states: 'The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue to race is hers alone.' By participating in this event each competitor agrees and acknowledges that sailing is a potentially dangerous activity with inherent risks. These risks include strong winds and rough seas, sudden changes in weather, failure of equipment, boat handling errors, poor seamanship by other boats, loss of balance on an unstable platform and fatigue resulting in increased risk of injury. **Inherent in the sport of sailing is the risk of permanent, catastrophic injury or death by drowning, trauma, hypothermia or other causes.**

25.2

Somers Yacht Club is not responsible for the seaworthiness of a boat whose entry is accepted or the sufficiency or adequacy of its equipment.

26

INSURANCE

26.1

Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of \$5,000,000 (prefer \$10,000,000) per incident or the equivalent.

ATTACHMENT A

COURSE 1

All races except Williams Point series, Commodore's Cup, Ladies/Novice Skippers race, Yardstick Pursuit and Off The Beach race

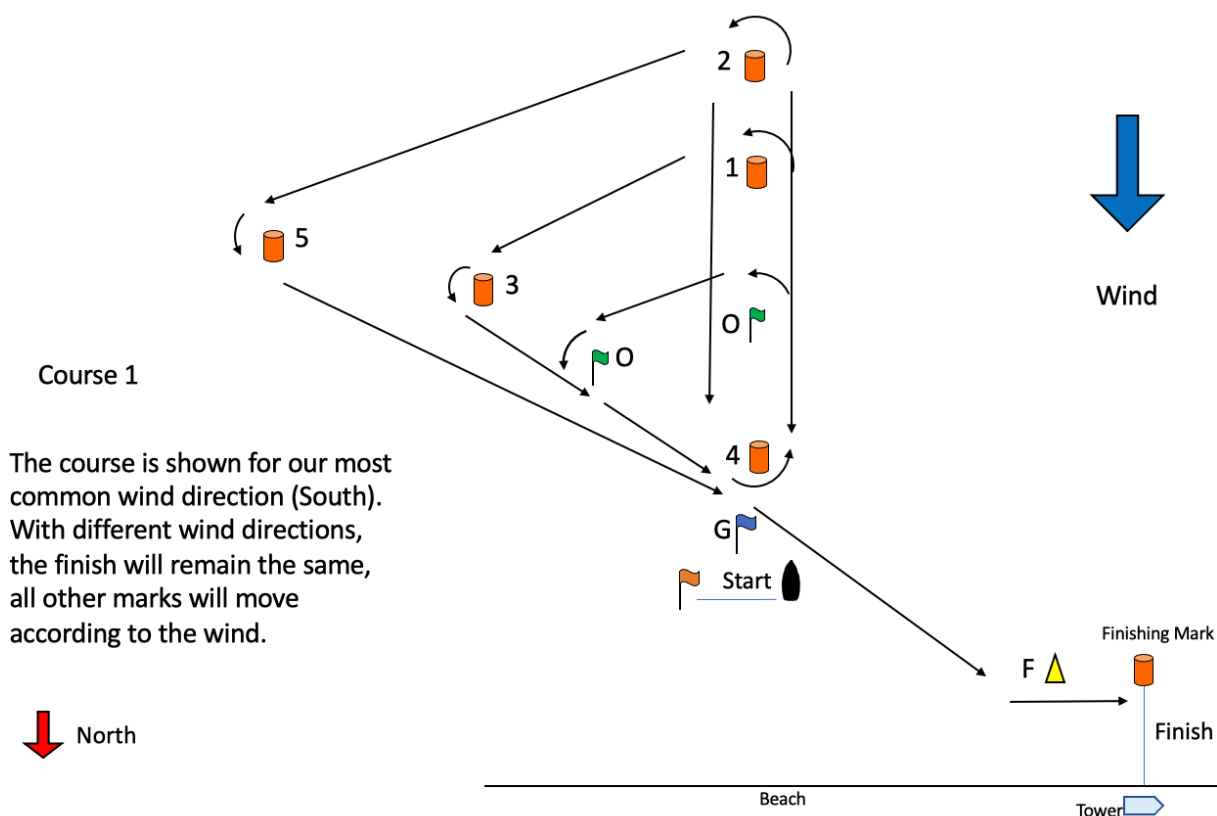
Division 1	Start—2-5-4—2-4—2-5-4—2-4-G—F—Finish
Division 2	Start—2-5-4 —2-4— 2-4Removed —2-5-4—G—F—Finish
Division 3	Start—1-4—1-3-4—1-4 —1-3-4— G—F—Finish
Division 4	Start—1-3-4—1-4—1-3-4-G—F—Finish
Division 5	Start—1-4—1-3-4-G—F—Finish
Division 6	Start---O-O-4—O-4 --- O-O-4-G --- F---Finish

Marks 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, O & F will be passed to port, and G to starboard
i.e. mark 4 to G is a gate.

Start Order Divisions 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1.

Distances The length of legs 4-1 and 4-2 will be varied according to conditions with the aim of achieving an appropriate race time length.

Angles 4-1-3 & 3-4-1 Approx 50°; 1-3-4 Approx 80°;
4-2-5 approx = 55°; 2-5-4 approx = 65°; 5-4-2 approx = 60°



COURSE 2

Williams Point Series, Commodore's Cup, Ladies/Novice Skippers race, Yardstick Pursuit and Off the Beach Race

Division 1 Start—2-5-4—2-5-4—2-5-4—2-5-4-G—F—Finish

Division 2 Start—2-5-4—2-5-4—2-5-4-G—F—Finish

Division 3 Start—1-3-4—1-3-4—1-3-4-G—F—Finish

Division 4 Start—1-3-4—1-3-4-G—F—Finish

Division 5 Start—1-3-4—1-3-4-G—F—Finish

Division 6 Start- 1-3-4-G - F - Finish

When rounding mark 4 to finish, pass mark G to starboard.

Marks 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, & F will be passed to port, and mark G to starboard.
i.e. mark 4 to G is a gate.

Start Order Divisions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Distances The length of legs 4-1 and 4-2 will be varied according to conditions with the aim of achieving an appropriate race time length.

Angles Angles at 2-5-4, 4-2-5 & 5-4-2 = 60° (approx).

Angles at 4-1-3 & 3-4-1 = 50° approx. ; Angle 1-3-4 = 80° approx

