

Gravesend Sailing Club (GSC)  
YWDB Open: 19th-20th August 2023

## **NOTICE OF RACE.**

1. Races organised by the Sailing Committee of the Gravesend Sailing Club will be sailed from the Club on the dates and times shown in the Sailing and Events Programme. (Any amendments will be notified by newsletter, race notice board or website).
2. Racing will be governed by the Racing Rules of Sailing 2021-2024 (RRS), the prescriptions of the RYA, the Sailing Instructions of the Gravesend Sailing Club and the Class Rules of each class racing.
3. The race organisers shall not be liable for any loss, damage, death or personal injury howsoever caused to the owner/competitor, their skipper or crew, as a result of their taking part in the race or races. The safety of a boat and her entire management including insurance shall be the sole responsibility of the owner/person in charge who must ensure that the boat and crew are adequate to face the conditions that may arise in the course of the race. The crews are nonetheless advised to satisfy themselves as to the experience of the skipper/helm and the adequacy of all safety equipment and insurance arrangements.

Neither this notice of race nor any inspections of the boat limit or reduce the absolute responsibility of the owner/person in charge for the crew, the boat and its management. Moreover every owner/competitor warrants the suitability of their Boat for the race or races.

## **4. CONDITIONS OF ENTRY.**

- a) Only dingies owned or sailed by a YWDB association or GSC member(s) are eligible to enter an event. An entry may not be transferred to another boat.
  - b) Races are entered by the helm not the boat or owner
  - c) For entry to class events, a current valid measurement or racing certificate is required for each boat. For handicap races, any owner without a current class certificate shall ask well before the event for a suitable handicap number to be allocated, and supply any information necessary.
  - d). All boats shall hold adequate insurance and in particular to hold insurance against third party claims in the sum of at least £2,000,000.**
5. a) Entries to races may be made on or before the day of the race up to 60 minutes before the start.
- b) All entrants shall register on the day of the race by signing-in on the Entry Form not less than 60 minutes before each event.

6. A copy of the Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions shall be displayed on the Race Notice Board and additional copies may be available from the Race Officer.

7. Handicaps in force shall be allocated by the GSC Sailing Committee and displayed on the race notice board. They shall be subject to amendment (which may be applied to the whole of a series) during the season.

## **8. RISK STATEMENT.**

Rule 4 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;

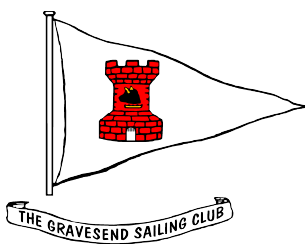
e) The provision of a race management team, patrol boats, umpires and other officials and volunteers by the organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities;

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 at the venue;

h) [For offshore races] They are responsible for ensuring that their boat is equipped and seaworthy so as to be able to face extremes of weather; that there is a crew sufficient in number, experience and fitness to withstand such weather; and that the safety equipment is properly maintained, stowed and in date and is familiar to the crew; and

i) Their boat is adequately insured, with cover of at least £2,000,000 against third party claims.



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## **SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

### **1 RULES**

Racing will take place under the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) 2021-2024, the prescriptions of the RYA, these Sailing Instructions and the class rules of the YW 14ft Dayboat Association. All helms must be current members of YW 14ft Dayboat Association OR current members of Gravesend Sailing Club competing in the Gravesend Sailing Club Regatta. All helms must oblige by the above rules.

### **2 SAFETY RULES FOR ALL BOATS**

#### **2.1 Enforcement**

Competitors may be disqualified for failing to observe these safety rules. The onus of proof of compliance shall be on the competing boat.

#### **2.2 Commercial Traffic**

**Competitors are reminded of their obligations to other vessels under the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea and in particular to large commercial vessels in the main channel under Rules 8 and 9. Any boat which finds herself on a collision or near collision course with such vessels shall alter course to pass astern of them. Where this is not possible a boat may use any available means of propulsion to avoid collision without penalty, but no gain within the race is to be made in doing so.**

#### **2.3 Jetties and Obstructions**

All boats shall pass to seawards of any jetty or similar structure projecting from the shore, and shall under no circumstances sail beneath such structures.

### **3 SAFETY RULES FOR DINGHIES**

#### **3.1 Personal Buoyancy**

Personal buoyancy aids will be worn at all times when racing. Neither a wetsuit nor drysuit constitutes adequate buoyancy.

#### **3.2 Boat Buoyancy**

All dinghy owners and competitors shall pay careful attention to boat buoyancy. Dinghies belonging to recognised classes shall comply with class rules in respect of buoyancy. The approval of the sailing committee shall be obtained before entering and racing non-class dinghies.

### 3.3 Equipment

All dinghies shall carry suitable paddles or oars, anchors and warps, and bailing equipment.

## **4 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS**

Notices to competitors will be posted on the race notice board located in the main clubhouse.

## **5 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

Any supplementary sailing instructions shall be displayed on the Race Notice Board before the Warning Signal. Sailing Instructions may be changed as in RRS 90.2(c). On the water, such changes may be communicated by the giving of oral instructions ONLY if exceptional circumstances apply, and ONLY from a vessel flying code flag 'L'.

## **6 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE**

Signals made ashore will be White lights on Race Box or Flags hoisted on the Mast located in front of the clubhouse.

## **7 SCHEDULE OF RACES**

The schedule of races, classes to start and start times shall be as shown in the Sailing & Events Program.

## **8 CLASS FLAGS**

ANY GENERAL HANDICAP CLASS DINGHIES Num 1

ANY GENERAL HANDICAP CLASS CRUISERS Num 2

Mirror Dinghy Class Num 6

Wayfarer and Wanderer Classes 'W'

YW 14ft Dayboat Class 'Y'

'A' Class Cruisers (PY 1139 or less) 'A'

'B' Class Cruisers (PY 1140 or more) 'B'

## **9 THE COURSE**

### 9.1 Course Sheet

The GSC course sheet shall form a part of these instructions and be displayed on the race notice board. It shall define various start and finish lines, course and limit marks, and standard club courses which may be used.

### 9.2 Indicating Courses

Lines and line limits, course marks, the direction and order of rounding, shortened courses and any other course details shall be indicated in the supplementary sailing instructions. Courses may also be indicated to boats on the water by boards displayed

from the race office, a committee boat or any other starting position as indicated.

## **10 MARKS**

Marks shall be mooring/navigation buoys or club laid marks. If a mooring buoy is used as a Mark any vessel attached to it is deemed part of that Mark.

## **11 THE START**

### **11.1 Starting Procedure for Dinghies Lights**

The races will be started with the following signals:

5 min before start **THREE White Lights +1 sound.**

4 min before start **TWO White Lights +1 sound**

1 min before start **ONE White Light +1 sound**

**START NO White Lights +1 sound**

**Individual Recall: Two White Lights +1 sound signal**

**General Recall: Three White Lights +2 sound signals**

### **11.2 Starting Procedure for Dinghies Flags**

The races will be started with the following signals:

5 min before start Warning up (Class Flag) 1 sound

4 min before start Preparatory (either Flag "P", "I", or Black) 1 sound

1 min before start Prep flag down (either "P", "I", or Black) 1 long sound

START Warning down (Class Flag) 1 sound

This replaces RRS Rule 26.1.

Times shall be taken from the visual signals. When races are sailed 'back to back' the postponement signal shall be used for at least 4 minutes before commencing the second or subsequent start procedures.

### **11.5 The Start Line**

The start line will be either a line between the mast of a committee boat and a laid outer distance mark (an inner distance mark may be laid on the course side of the line close by the committee boat) or Gravesend Sailing Club's Line which is the transit of two posts with orange top marks at the western end of the club house. The outer limit mark will be as specified in the appropriate course sheet unless otherwise specified by the Officer Of the Day (OOD) or Race Officer.

## **12 CHANGE OF COURSE**

A change of course after the start will be signalled before the leading boat has begun the leg affected, although the new mark may not be in position. Any mark rounded after rounding the new mark may be relocated to maintain the original course configuration.

## **13 THE FINISH**

The finishing line will be the GSC club line (as defined previously) or between the mast aboard a finishing boat flying a blue flag and a laid finishing mark.

## **14 TIME LIMITS**

Any time limits shall be shown in the supplementary sailing instructions. One boat finishing within the time limit shall extend it by one hour for other competitors, unless otherwise stated.

## **15 PROTESTS**

Protests shall be written on forms available at the race office and delivered there within one hour of the last race of the day. The time and place of the protest hearing will be posted on the race notice board.

## **16 SCORING SYSTEM**

The 'Low Point Scoring System', RRS Appendix A4 shall be used, with the number of races and discards to count as shown in the schedule of races.

## **17 FLAGS WHILE RACING**

The wearing of a rectangular racing flag shall be optional. An ensign shall not be worn while racing. It is recommended that on retirement an ensign is worn.

### **Tidal Information (BST)**

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2023                      HW 14:46

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2023                      HW 15:16

### **Important Telephone Numbers**

GSC Duty Officer 07506 367699

Emergency Calls 999

Police (Routine Calls) 101

London Coastguard (Routine Calls) 020 8312 7380

PLA Gravesend 01474 562200

Harbour Master Gravesend 01474 562212

### **VHF channels**

Area Channel Call Sign: Channel 68; **London VTS**  
(Sea Reach 4 to Crayfordness).