



THE ROYAL MOTOR YACHT CLUB

SHRIMPER SAILING INSTRUCTIONS 2026

Racing will consist of **2 Thursday Evening Series**, plus an **Autumn Sunday Morning Series** and the David Sturman Trophy (Single handed Shrimper 19s only) Race.

Thursday Evenings:

Spring Series: 23rd April to 25th June inclusive;

Summer Series: 2nd July to 27th August inclusive;

Sunday Morning Series: 6th September to 11th October inclusive;

David Sturman Trophy Race (Single handed Shrimper 19s only): 3rd September; (*Note early start 18:00*)

(Note: The Round the Islands race will be held on 9th July with reserve date of 6th August)

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

1 RULES

- 1.1 Racing will be governed by the rules currently defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing and the current Shrimper Owners Association national class rules.
- 1.2 The current RYA Prescriptions to the Racing Rules will apply.
- 1.3 **RRS 29(1)** will be changed in that a circular fluorescent shape will be used in place of International Code Flag 'X' for individual recalls.
- 1.4 **RRS Rule 32.1** is changed by the addition of sub-paragraph (e): *for any reason deemed necessary by the Race Committee.*
- 1.5 **RRS Rule 33** is changed by Sailing Inst. 8.3
- 1.6 **RRS Rule 35** is changed by Sailing Inst. 13.1
- 1.7 **RRS Race Signals** are changed by Sailing Inst. 12.1
- 1.8 Entrants shall pay particular attention to boats identified as newcomers (**flying red ribbons**) and if at all possible shall avoid getting into rules related contests with them.
- 1.9 In accordance with the current Shrimper Owners Association class rules, the following local instructions will apply:
 - i) Hulls must be antifouled below the waterline;
 - ii) Outboards must be mounted in the outboard well whilst racing, ready for immediate use;
 - iii) Sails must be officially measured before racing with a one-year concession for helms that have not raced before;
 - iv) For the purposes of the definition of "Start" and "Finish" and rules 21.1, 29.1, 30 and 44.2 of the RRS (but not any other rules) the term "hull" includes a boat's bowsprit in its normal position

2 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

- 2.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the official noticeboard outside the RMYC office

3 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 3.1 Any change to the Sailing Instructions will be posted from 1400 on the day it will take effect.
- 3.2 Following any change, Code Flag L will be displayed for at least 1 hour before the start.



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4 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

4.1 Signals made ashore will be made using signal halyards on the Race Deck of the RMYC.

5 SCHEDULE OF RACES

Thursday Classes	Warning Signal	Start Time	Location
Cornish Shrimpers	18.10hrs	18.15hrs	RM Start Line
Class 2&3 Cruisers	18.20hrs	18.25hrs	Brownsea Line
Flying Fifteens	18.25hrs	18.30hrs	RM Start Line
Sonatas	18.30hrs	18.35hrs	Brownsea Line
Class 1 Cruisers	18.35hrs	18.40hrs	Brownsea Line
Sunday Classes			
Flying Fifteens	10:25hrs	10:30hrs	RM Start Line
Cornish Shrimpers	10:30hrs	10:35hrs	RM Start Line

6 CLASS FLAGS

Cornish Shrimpers Code Flag 'Q'
In addition **Novices** may fly red ribbons from their shrouds.

7 RACING AREAS

7.1 Racing will take place in Poole Harbour, the approaches to Poole Harbour and in Poole Bay.

8 COURSES

8.1 Courses will be listed in the Appendix to these sailing instructions (*Shrimper Racing Courses 2026*) and will show the order in which marks are to be passed, the side on which each mark is to be passed and an approximate course length. **Ad Hoc courses may be given.**
8.2 The course to be sailed will be broadcast on VHF Ch. 37 (Ch.M), or if blocked VHF Ch. 72, at approximately 10 minutes and 5 minutes prior to the Warning Signal.
8.3 Legs of the course will not be changed after the Preparatory Signal. This changes Rule 33.

9 MARKS

9.1 Marks are listed in the Appendix to these instructions. All marks are rounding marks unless stated to the contrary in the Appendix.

10 AREAS THAT ARE OBSTRUCTIONS

10.1 There are no specified areas of obstruction.
10.2 When courses in the Appendix specify **North Channel**, yachts shall pass all port hand marks from **NC 4** to **NC 12** inclusive on the channel side.

11 THE START

11.1 Races will be started by using Rule 26, with the Warning Signal made 5 minutes before the Starting Signal.
11.2 The Starting Marks will be a white flag staff flying an orange flag, situated on the RMYC race deck, and an Outer Distance Mark (ODM).



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11.3 The **Starting Line** is between the white flag staff with orange flag, situated on the RMYC race deck and the inflatable buoy (ODM) on the north west side of the North Channel. If the ODM is not in position, then the port hand red channel mark NC2 will be used instead.
Note: The Inner Distance Mark (inflatable buoy) on the south east side of North Channel does **NOT** apply to this class.

11.4 If any part of a boat's hull, crew or equipment is on the course side of the starting line before her starting signal and she is identified, the race committee will attempt to broadcast her sail number on VHF Ch.37. Failure to make a broadcast or to time it accurately will not be grounds for a request for redress. This changes Rule 62.1(a)

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

12 THE FINISH

12.1 The **Finish Line** for all classes is between the white flag staff with the **orange flag**, situated on the RMYC race deck, and an inflatable buoy (ODM) on the north-west side of the North Channel. If the ODM is not in position, then the port hand red channel mark NC2 will be used instead.

12.2 Competitors are requested to note their finishing times and, wherever possible, the identities of the boats finishing immediately ahead and astern. The Race Committee does NOT REQUIRE competitors to advise them of this information routinely, but may request it to clarify finishing positions.

13 TIME LIMITS

13.1 The Time Limit for all **Thursday Evening** races is **2100 hrs**, except that if any yacht finishes within the time limit, such limit shall be extended until **2130 hrs** for all yachts in the class.

13.2 The Time limit for all **Sunday Morning** races is **2½ hours** after the start of the race with no extensions.

13.2 When no yacht finishes within the time limit, the race shall be abandoned and not re-sailed.

13.3 After the first 2 boats have finished, any boat behind the body of the fleet may be awarded a finishing position whilst still on the course ('**Stragglers' rule**). This shall only be at the discretion of the Race Officer.

13.4 In addition, if owing to lack of wind, strong tidal conditions, or the onset of darkness, the Race Officer decides to close down the Race signal position, he will instruct by VHF that the remaining competitors shall self-record their finishing positions in accordance with S.I. 12.2 which should then be forwarded by text or email to the RMYC office,

14 PENALTY SYSTEM

14.1 In accordance with Rule 44.1 the Two-Turns Penalty is replaced by the **One-Turn Penalty**.

15 PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

15.1 Protests shall be in writing. Protest forms should be used whenever possible and are available at the RMYC office.

15.2 Protests and requests for redress shall be delivered to the RMYC office by 12 noon on the day following the race in question.

15.3 Parties to a protest will be informed of the date, time and location of the protest hearing.

15.4 Breaches of Sailing Instruction 17.5 will not be grounds for a protest.



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16 SCORING

16.1 The Racing Rules of Sailing 'Low Points System' shall be used. Scoring will be as prescribed in Appendix A9. The number of races to count shall be:

10 races	3 discards
6 to 9 races	2 discards
4 or 5 races	1 discard
3 or less races	All to count

16.2 The race results will be posted on the RMYC Notice Board and /or on the RMYC website and/or to class WhatsApp Group as soon as possible after the finish. Race results for newcomers will be included in the overall results but will also be tallied separately.

16.3 Results for Shrimper 19s and 21s shall be recorded separately

17 SAFETY REGULATIONS

17.1 Please note that the Shrimper class rules, state that all Shrimper outboard boats MUST have an engine of at least 3.5hp shipped in the engine well, ready for use.

17.2 Adequate personal buoyancy for crew members shall be worn or carried on board at all times. Wet suits or dry suits do not constitute adequate buoyancy.

17.3 On grounds of safety, in order to avoid risk of collision with any commercial shipping that is under way, a boat may use her engine or other means of propulsion until risk of danger has passed, without the need to retire. Such use must be reported to the Race Committee as soon as practicable.

17.4 Competitors are reminded that under Poole Harbour Bylaws, the Sandbanks Chain Ferry has right of way over all non-piloted vessels.

17.5 A yacht that retires from a race shall notify the Race Committee as soon as possible.

18 EQUIPMENT CHECKS

18.1 A boat or its equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the Shrimper class rules and these Sailing Instructions.

19 RADIO COMMUNICATION

19.1 Communication shall be on VHF Ch. 37 (Ch.'M') or if blocked, VHF Ch. 72 shall be used.

20 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, their boat to such inherent risk while taking part in the event;
- b) They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their 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;



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- 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) 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, in date and is familiar to the crew, and;
- h) Their boat is adequately insured, with cover of at least £2,000,000 against third party claims.

21 INSURANCE

Each participating boat shall be insured against Third Party liability to a minimum cover of £2,000,000 throughout the series.

22 PHC YACHT RACING CRITERIA

The attention of all yacht skippers is drawn to the Poole Harbour Commissioners Yacht Racing Criteria, the latest version of which can be found at: <https://www.phc.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/SAIL-RACING-PROCEDURES-2025.pdf>

Yacht skippers must appraise themselves of the content of these guidelines and in particular the section entitled '*Guidance for Racing Yacht Skippers*'.