

PEYC Sailing Instructions - 2023

Issued by the PEYC Sailing Secretary in March 2023 to replace all previous issues.

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Section 1: General

1.1 Rules

Racing at PEYC will be governed by the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS 2021-24), the prescriptions of the RYA and the rules of the appropriate classes, except as any are changed by these sailing instructions. Exoneration Penalty, RYA Arbitration and Advisory Hearing of the RYA Rules Disputes Procedures are available.

1.2 Risk Statement

Rule 3 of the Racing Rules of Sailing states: 'The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or continue racing is hers alone'. Sailing is by its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore involves an element of risk. Competitors are referred to the Risk Statement in the **PEYC Notice of Race - Apr 2023** & Entry form.

1.3 Entries

- (a) A Race Entry Form duly signed (with any applicable visitor race fees), must be submitted to the PEYC Membership Secretary, PEYC Sailing Committee or the Race Officer. By entering, the owner or representative undertakes to abide by the Racing Rules of Sailing & these Sailing Instructions and acknowledges that they have third party insurance liability coverage of at least £2,000,000.
- (b) For club races, other than open events, boats must be entered & crewed by PEYC Racing Members, Junior Members or Members of an Affiliated Club granted racing rights by the Committee, with the following exceptions: Cruising members are permitted to race four times per season before upgrading their membership, and non-members are permitted to crew a maximum of four races in total before joining the Club.
- (c) For each race, dinghies must be entered on the race entry sign-in sheet(s) in the clubhouse foyer, and yachts must be registered and crew members identified on-line via the PEYC website. If unable to do so, boat representatives should contact the race officer to declare their intention to race.

1.4 Construction & Equipment Standards

- (a) Dinghy sailors must wear personal buoyancy while racing. This amends RRS40
- (b) Yacht sailors must wear a correctly fitted lifejacket or buoyancy aid, complying with the relevant EN standard, if International Code (IC) flag Y is displayed before the class warning signal, as per RRS40. At other times the RYA recommends that **'you wear a lifejacket or buoyancy aid unless you are sure you don't need to'**.
- (c) Yachts must comply with the current Forth Yacht Clubs Association (FYCA) Construction & Equipment Regulations (available at the club or on the FYCA web site at: www.fyca.org.uk) and may be subject to inspection as directed by the PEYC Sailing Committee.
FYCA Category 4 applies to the Three Inches, Bosun's Locker & Queen Margaret Trophy races. FYCA Category 4R applies to all other PEYC yacht races.
- (d) Yachts must be equipped with an engine capable of manoeuvring them out of the shipping channels. Individual exemption from this may be granted on application to the Sailing Committee.
- (e) Yachts must be equipped with a marine band radio, with channels 16, 37, 71 and 77, which must be switched on with dual-watch on channels 16 and 77 while racing.
- (f) Replica parts for Single Manufacturer One Design (SMOD) boats such as spars, foils, sails, etc, may be used for club racing provided these are not designed or marketed to offer a performance advantage.

1.5 Restricted Sail Option for Yachts

- (a) Yachts may request to use a Restricted set of Sails (RS - defined as no spinnaker or cruising chute, and no additional headsails than used to windward to be set at any time). This provision is intended for yachts not equipped with a spinnaker, and for crews considered by the Race Committee to be 'less experienced', 'less capable' or 'short handed', the latter defined as 60% or less of the yacht's full crew except that two crew are permitted on 3-crew rated designs. The RS provision will not be granted if, due to the course or weather conditions, no yachts are able to fly spinnakers.

- (b) To request the RS provision, a yacht must contact the Race Committee on VHF channel 77, justifying the request, on the race day at least 15 minutes before its class warning signal is displayed. To be valid, the Race Committee must have confirmed their agreement before its class warning signal. It is at the absolute discretion of the Race Committee whether to accept an RS request or not on any particular day.

- (c) A yacht permitted to use the RS provision shall display a white pennant or flag on the backstay or other prominent position, from its class warning signal until it finishes.
- (d) A yacht permitted to use the RS provision shall receive a +4% handicap adjustment. All results, both in full and RS configuration, shall be considered in calculating overall series positions.

1.6 Notices to Competitors & Changes to Sailing Instructions

- (a) Notices to competitors will be posted, in the first instance, by group email to all PEYC racing members and followed up with a copy on the official notice board in the foyer of the PEYC Clubhouse.
- (b) Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted a minimum of one hour before the scheduled start to which it applies, with IC flag L displayed at the PEYC Clubhouse flagpole and at the start. Any major change to the schedule of races will be posted a minimum of five days before it takes effect. Flag L is only displayed when a change is first posted; thereafter it is the responsibility of competitors to check for changes.
- (c) When there is insufficient time for procedure 1.6(b), AP postponement flag with IC flag L indicates that it is the responsibility of competitors to come within hailing distance of the Race Officer or listen on Channel 77 to receive changes to the Sailing Instructions verbally. The Race Officer will terminate the postponement once satisfied that all competitors have had sufficient opportunity to be informed.

1.7 Racing Area

- (a) The Racing Area is on the River Forth Estuary adjacent to Port Edgar. Trophy Race courses extend between Grangemouth and the Herwit Buoy. Boats must keep a minimum distance of 30m from the Hound Point & Braefoot Tanker Terminals and 100m from tankers berthed there. Boats must stay clear of the Crombie Protected Area on Admiralty Chart No 737.
- (b) Ships have right of way in the shipping channels, as per the Forth Ports byelaws, and boats racing must not obstruct them. Particular attention must be paid to the restricted channel through the Forth Bridges where ships change course by 40 degrees. Boats reported for obstruction by Forth Ports shall be subject to protest without time limit. This amends SI 1.18.
- (c) As a last resort to avoid obstructing ships, a boat may use her engine or other means of propulsion, without retiring but must report such use to the Race Officer immediately after finishing. A Redress Committee may impose a penalty if advantage is deemed to have been gained. This amends RRS 42 Propulsion.

1.8 Marks

See **PEYC Race Marks - Apr 2023** on the PEYC website. All marks are defined as 'Rounding Marks'.

1.9 Schedule of Races

The schedule of races, classes to race, start times and time limits & extensions, are given in the **PEYC 2023 Calendar** on the website. Starts are either 'Pier start' from the Race Box or 'CB start' using a Committee Boat.

1.10 Classes, Class Flags and Main Pier Light Signals

(a) Yacht Classes

Div-1 yacht class..... FYCA Baseline Handicaps <975 BH Red flag or red light
Div-2 yacht class..... 707 One-design 927 BH Green flag or green light
Div-3 yacht class..... FYCA Baseline Handicaps >= 975 BH Yellow flag or yellow light
Combined yacht class (All yachts)..... IC flag R or red + green + yellow lights
The elapsed times for Div-1 & Div-3 will normally be combined to calculate an overall race result

(b) Dinghy Classes

Dinghy class Blue flag or blue light

1.11 Courses

- (a) Class flag boards & courses will normally be displayed at least 5 minutes before the first class warning signal.

Dinghy: See **PEYC 2023 Dinghy courses** on the PEYC website.
Yacht: See **PEYC 2023 Yacht courses & PEYC 2023 Night Courses** on the PEYC website.
Trophy: See **PEYC 2023 Yacht trophy courses** on the PEYC website.
Special: See courses posted on the PEYC notice board.

- (b) In exceptional circumstances for yacht races, the Race Officer is permitted to define a non-standard course and broadcast its details on Channel 77 at least 10 minutes before the first class warning signal.

1.12 Time Limits & Extensions

RRS35 shall not apply. The time limit for each race is shown in the PEYC 2023 Sailing Calendar. Finish times will be valid for all boats finishing within the time limit. When the first boat finishes within the time limit, finish times will be valid for those boats which finish within the time limit plus the extension period.

1.13 Average Lap Time Races (Dinghies or yachts)

- (a) Boats shall sail one or more laps of the course. The race end will be signalled by IC flag S with the class flag. Each boat will finish as it crosses the line at the end of its current lap. If no class flags are displayed, then IC flag S applies to all classes. Each boat's average lap time shall be calculated by dividing the elapsed time at the finish by the number of laps, then applying its handicap to obtain a corrected average lap time.
- (b) Should a boat have a higher corrected time than one of her competitors with the same or a lesser handicap number, and that boat has completed a greater number of rounds, then the result of that boat may be calculated on the same number of rounds completed by her competitors with the same or a lesser handicap, with the additional round or rounds being discarded. The decision to do this will be that of the Race Officer, which will be final.

1.15 Shorten Course and Wind-back

- (a) Shorten Course IC flag S with IC flag W above a group of class flags, accompanied by four sound signals, will indicate that the course has been shortened for these classes and times recorded for the previous lap completed by each boat on average lap courses, or previous round completed by all boats on multi-round races, shall apply. Boats that have completed at least one lap or round shall stop racing, while those still on their first lap or round may continue to complete it until the race time limit plus extension. The Race Officer will normally broadcast the instruction on Channel 77 or use the Safety Boats to inform competitors. Failure to do so will not be regarded as grounds for redress. If there are no class flags under IC flag W, the shorten course & wind-back applies to all classes.
- (b) If at least a third of the fleet are likely to fail to complete a second round within the time limit, due to wind & tide conditions, the Race Officer shall have the option of winding back times to the first round even if the lead boat has completed a second round.

1.16 Propulsion after Preparatory Signal

A boat arriving late for the start may remain under engine, paddles or other means of propulsion after her Preparatory Signal providing that, after ceasing such propulsion & before crossing the Start Line in the direction of the first mark, she completes a two-turn penalty on the pre-start side of the starting line or its extensions, keeping clear of all other boats during this manoeuvre. This amends RRS 42 Propulsion.

1.17 Results System & Rolling Handicaps (RH)

- (a) Race results will be calculated by the Portsmouth Yardstick (PY) system using either RYA YR2/22 PY dinghy handicaps, FYCA Baseline Handicaps (BH) for yachts and/or Rolling Handicaps (RH - see below), as scheduled in the Race Calendar. If no RYA YR2/23 or BH data is available, a PEYC Trial Number will be assigned.
- (b) The achieved performance of each boat shall be calculated using the RYA YR2 Standard Corrected Time (SCT) for the race, provided that at least two boats contributed to the SCT. The boat's new RH value shall be shifted 15% from its current RH towards its achieved performance. 'Slow' performances shall be capped at +5% relative to a boat's nominal handicap for update purposes but no RH change shall be applied until two or more consecutive slow performances occur. 'Fast' performances shall be capped at -5% relative to a boat's nominal handicap for update purposes. RH values for individual boats will not be reset unless they change ownership.

1.18 Protests & Redress Requests

- (a) Protests shall be in writing and should be lodged with the Race Officer or a Sailing Committee member within 60 minutes of the last boat finishing in the class concerned in the last race of the day. Boats are requested to inform the Race Officer of their intention to protest as they finish.
- (b) Parties involved in a protest may agree to use the RYA Arbitration Procedure. After submitting a written protest, one representative from each boat will meet with an RYA qualified arbitrator. No witnesses are allowed. Protests not resolved by the arbitrator will be forwarded to a Protest Committee. A boat that accepts the arbitrator's opinion that she broke a rule of Part 2 shall receive a Scoring Penalty of 20% as calculated in RRS 44.3(c), but not less than three places, provided this does not exceed DNF points. The acceptance of an arbitrator's opinion cannot be grounds for redress or be appealed.
- (c) A request to re-open a protest hearing must be submitted to the Protest Committee Chair or the PEYC Sailing Secretary within 48 hrs of receiving the decision verbally, or in writing if so requested, whichever is later.

Section 2: Main Pier Race Box Starts & Finishes

2.1 Signals

Race signals will be displayed at the PEYC Race Box, with dinghy course references on the frame at the end of the Main Pier of Port Edgar Marina. Yacht courses will be announced on VHF Channel 77.

When the Main Pier light signal system is in use, the following changes apply:

- Preparatory signal shall be a white light. This alters RRS 26
- Individual recall shall be a flashing orange light. This alters RRS 29.1
- General recall shall be a flashing orange light with class light. This alters RRS 29.2
- Shorten course shall be a flashing orange light with class light(s). This alters RRS 32.2
- Note: All other signals will be by flags as per RRS Part 3.

2.2 Dinghy Start & Finish

The dinghy start line is a Transit from the Race Box flagstaff through the transit pole, with red & green LED lighting. The outer distance limit is mark F. The dinghy finish line is between the Race Box flagstaff and mark F.

2.3 Yacht Start & Finish

The yacht start line is between the Race Box flagstaff and mark W. The yacht finish line is between the Race Box flagstaff and mark F.

Section 3: Committee Boat Starts & Finishes

3.1 Signals

The committee boat will display an orange flag. Race signals and dinghy course references will be displayed on the committee boat. Yacht courses will be announced on VHF Channel 77.

3.2 Dinghy Committee Boat Start & Finish Line

The start & finish line shall be between an orange buoy and the main mast of the committee boat. Committee boat starts for dinghy races will normally be in S Queensferry Bay.

3.3 Dinghy Courses in South Queensferry Bay

The Windward (W), Gybe (G) and Leeward (L) mark letters for windward-leeward or triangular courses will be displayed on the committee boat, which will be positioned on one leg of the course. Direction of rounding will be indicated by either a RED board for port rounding or a GREEN board for starboard rounding. After starting, boats must pass through the start/finish line at the end of each round, but at no other time. The finish will be as per SI 1.13(a) and the 'Shorten course and wind-back' provision of SI 1.14 may be applied.

3.4 Yacht Committee Boat Start Line

The start line will be at a PEYC race mark, normally at mark E, A or H, with the location broadcast on Channel 77. The start line shall be between the race mark and a red buoy, with the committee boat positioned on the extension of the start line. The committee boat may manoeuvre to sight the line at each start and yachts must not pass closer than 10 metres when approaching the line to start.

3.5 Yacht Committee Boat Finish Line

The finish line will be between the main mast of the committee boat and a near-by race mark.

3.6 Yacht Windward-Leeward and Olympic Courses

The Windward (W), Gybe (G) and Leeward (L) marks and rounding direction for windward-leeward courses, or triangle + windward-leeward courses will be announced on VHF Channel 77. The order of rounding for triangle + windward-leeward courses shall be WGL, WL, WGL, WL, etc. If the committee boat remains on station at the start/finish line, yachts must pass through the start/finish line at the end of each round. The finish will be signalled by Flag S with the Class Flag and all yachts must complete the same number of rounds unless average lap time rules are specified by the Race Officer. If no class flags are displayed, then flag S applies to all classes.

Section 4: Three Inches, Bosun's Locker & Queen Margaret Trophies

- 4.1 Yacht Classes, Class Flags and Main Pier Light Signals
Div-1 FYCA Baseline Handicaps <975 BH..... Red flag or red light
Div-3 FYCA Baseline Handicaps >=975 BH..... Yellow flag or yellow light
If there are insufficient entries to justify two classes, the elapsed times shall be combined into a single result.
- 4.2 A Race Officer will start the race but thereafter yachts must take their own times whenever they pass due south of mark F and send them to the PEYC Sailing Secretary within one week.
- 4.3 If no yacht finishes the full course within the time limit, the race result will be based on times of yachts passing mark F at the end of the first round. This amends SI 1.12.
- 4.4 Protests must be sent to the PEYC Sailing Secretary within one week of the race. This amends SI 1.18.

Section 5: Yacht & Dinghy Sternchase Races

- 5.1 Each boat's start time, based on its Rolling Handicap & rounded to the nearest minute, will be posted on the website and at the clubhouse noticeboard. The class flag will be left at the dip (half-mast), with a sound signal at each minute and a reference double sound signal every five minutes. This amends RRS 26. A boat may start at or after its posted start time. Recall signals for premature starters will be displayed for only one minute.
- 5.2 Near the scheduled finish time, The Race Officer may instruct the leading boats to tack towards the rhumb-line to the next mark to adjudicate the finish positions. The Race Officer's decision is final.

Section 6: Yacht Sunday Races (Apr-Sept except Section 4: Trophy Races)

- 6.1 Sunday yacht races from Apr to Sept shall be managed by a designated 'on-the-water OOD', who will broadcast the selected course on VHF Chan 77 at least 5-mins before the first warning signal. The OOD will either initiate the automated light & horn signals at the Race Box or broadcast time signals on VHF Chan 77.
- 6.2 Yachts must take their own times whenever they pass due south of mark F, submit them to the 'on-the-water OOD' immediately after the race or send them to the PEYC Sailing Secretary.
- 6.3 If no yacht finishes the full course within the time limit, the race result will be based on times wound back to a previous round completed by most yachts within the time limits.
- 6.4 Yachts in these races may request Restricted Sail status whatever their crew number. This alters para 1.5(a).

Section 7: Yacht Twilight & Night Series

- 7.1 In the Twilight & Night Series, yacht sailors must wear a correctly fitted lifejacket or personal buoyancy aid, complying with the relevant EN standard, including a personal light. This amends RRS40. A Dan buoy or Horseshoe buoy with an attached automatic light must be available near the cockpit for man-overboard situations. Auto-inflation lifejackets and harnesses are strongly recommended.
- 7.2 After sunset, yachts must show full navigation lights (Port, Starboard & Stern, or Tri-colour) as prescribed by IRPCAS, and must retire if they fail. Yachts with inadequate lights, in the opinion of the Race Officers, will be disqualified without a hearing. This amends RRS 63.1.
- 7.3 Competitors luffing after sunset are reminded of their obligations, under RRS 16.1 Changing Course, that 'the space a boat needs while manoeuvring promptly in a seamanlike way' is always much more at night and that they should adjust their close quarter manoeuvring accordingly.
- 7.4 Yachts must identify themselves on VHF Chan 77 as they approach mark F at the end of each round.
- 7.5 Yachts must not obscure the finish line by re-crossing it after finishing.
- 7.6 Yachts retiring must inform the Race Officer either by hailing or by radio on Channel 77.
- 7.7 The PEYC race box emergency mobile phone number is: 07514 737094.
- 7.8 For safety in marginal weather conditions, the Race Officer may designate a Twilight or Night Series race as 'Restricted Sail Only' and no spinnakers or gennakers may be set. Such instruction will be broadcast on VHF Chan 77 before the first class warning signal is displayed.

Section 8: Scoring, Club Championships & Prize Policy

- 8.1 The RRS Appendix A Low Point scoring system, including rule A5.3, will apply. A boat's series score will be her total of race scores, with worst score(s) discarded as per table below. Races with no finishers shall be removed from a series.
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|------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|-----|
| Valid Races in Series: | 4-5 | 6-7 | 8-9 | 10-11 | 12+ |
| Discards: | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
- 8.2 Race Officer/Rescue Boat Duties: Boats doing these duties shall be awarded points for that race equal to their average points for all other races, excluding discards, they sail in that series; if there are no finishers in their normal class in that race, no points shall be awarded. Boats raced by Race Officer/Rescue personnel may not compete in that race. Points for a second Race Officer or Rescue duty in a series shall only be credited to the boat with the approval of an independent member of the Sailing Committee, normally the specific fleet co-ordinator. It is presumed that points will be awarded unless it is felt that a competitor volunteered with the intention of gaining an advantage in the series. However, no boat will be allowed to count more races with average points than races it sailed in a series. Furthermore, no dinghy shall be awarded average points in more than half of the valid races in the series minus discards.
- 8.3 The yacht championship, for either a single class or multiple divisions, shall be determined on the basis of a 'Super Series' of Series. Overall results from all Race Series, with at least two races completed, from Easter to Winter are treated as a 'Super Series' with the discard rule SI 8.1. The results for owners changing boats mid-season, but staying in the same fleet, shall be combined.
- 8.4 The Dinghy championship shall be determined from a competitor's best 20 results, excluding Race Officer/Rescue points, out of the races between the Sat-A and Winter Series inclusive, where two or more boats compete, excluding sternchases. It will not be necessary to complete any series to be competing in the championship. Two or more competitors leading with the same number of points will share the Championship. Owners changing boats mid-season, but staying in the same fleet, may apply to the Sailing Committee to combine their results.
- 8.5 Place acknowledgements for series and trophy races will be awarded in accordance with the current PEYC Prize Policy with annual prizes based on the accumulation of place acknowledgements for each boat from the Easter to Winter series.
- 8.6 Where a competitor sails a dinghy, that has a choice of rig sizes and associated handicaps, they may mix rig sizes and combine results for any series provided that they enter all races in the series using the handicap of the largest rig they intend to use for that series. It is the competitor's responsibility to ensure that the Race Officer is aware of which results database entry is to be used when calculating results for each race.

Jim Scott - PEYC Sailing Secretary