

Blakeney Sailing Club -Sailing Instructions

Members who are less skilled or less experienced are expected to inform the Race Officer (RO) or Event Organiser (EO) before participating in a Blakeney Sailing Club organised event. The decision to sail remains with the member but the RO/EO 's decision is final as to whether the member can join in the event.

Racing

1. **Races** will be sailed under the current World Sailing Racing Rules of Sailing the RYA Prescriptions (except where stated) and the RYA Racing Charter.
2. **Decision to Race.** 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."

RISK STATEMENT. 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.

3. **Intention to Enter a Race.** ALL COMPETITORS MUST COMPLETE AND SIGN THE 'INTENTION TO RACE' FORM with printed legible name, boat class, sail number, next of kin contact telephone number (if not already on record), on arrival at the BSC Club Hut and sign off before leaving.

4. **Minimum entries.** For any race 3.

5. **Starting line.** Is the line between the 'S' buoy outer limit mark (red buoy) and the red post displayed on the Committee boat. Boats start between the outer limit mark and the inner limit mark and may not start between the inner limit mark (white buoy) and the committee boat. Boats must not pass between the inner limit mark and the committee boat at any time after their preparatory signal. Race types may have different starting arrangements (e.g. Bank Start). After the start of the race the inner limit mark may be ignored.

(Save that for North West Norfolk Sailing events no yacht shall sail within the triangle formed by the starting line outer limits and the first mark during the 3 minutes before her starting signal unless she subsequently passes outside, round to leeward, of one of the marks at the end of the start line)

6. **Course.** Board displayed on start boat or club hut indicating buoy sequence and direction of rounding. Large orange numeral on start boat indicates number of laps. Large white numerals at club hut indicate number of laps (when relevant).
7. **Marks of course.** Buoys are rigid yellow cones with black numerals. The buoy marked X is a movable yellow inflatable buoy. Beacons are mostly blue/yellow top marks/drums, mounted on a pole and about 3 metres above the mud. They are marks of the course, which indicate shallow water, and must be rounded on the harbour side.

8. Starting signals.

Time	Action	Sound Signal	Meaning
5 minutes	Class flag hoisted	One	Warning Signal
4 Minutes	Code Flag 'P' hoisted	One	Preparatory Signal
1 Minute	Code Flag "P" removed	One Long	
0 Minute	Class Flag removed	One	Starting Signal

(Save that for North West Norfolk Sailing events the starting sequence will be 6 minutes before the start the class flag will be raised plus sound signal, followed at 3 minutes before the start when flag P will be raised plus sound signal.)

Boats whose preparatory signal has not been made shall keep clear of the starting area and of all boats whose preparatory signal has been made.

- 9. Recalls.** Rule 29 World Sailing Racing Rules of Sailing will apply.
- 10. Finish line.** Between post on Committee boat and outer limit mark (normally red buoy 'S'). Alternatively a line between the Cooke or Simm's posts in the Blakeney cut. In some circumstances a race may be between a patrol boat displaying a blue flag and a mark of the course
- 11. Time limit.** To be classed as a finisher a competitors must complete the course within 1 hour after the first boat finishes.
- 12. Retirements.** Any crews retiring should report their intentions to the Race Officer or patrol boat crew and all retiring boats must 'sign out' upon returning to Blakeney. Failure to do so may result in disqualification.
- 13. Protests.** Should be reported to the Race Officer as soon as possible and no later than when the Race Officer leaves the Dinghy Park at the end of Racing. A fee of £10 is due.
- 14. Insurance.** All boats are required to hold adequate insurance and in particular to hold and to continue to hold insurance against third party claims in the sum of at least £2,000,000 arising from any one incident.
- 15. SAFETY.** ALL COMPETITORS MUST 'SIGN OFF' UPON RETURN TO BLAKENEY. Personal Flotation Devices (Rule 1.2) -each competitor is individually responsible for wearing a personal flotation device adequate for the conditions. Wet suits and dry suits are not deemed to be adequate buoyancy.
16. For Bank Start races, the racing rules will not apply until boats have left the bank.

Race Signals

- 1) All race signals will accord with the World Sailing Racing Rules of Sailing /RYA standard procedures.
- 2) Signals ashore will be at the Blakeney Sailing Cub hut at the southern end of the dinghy park.
- 3) The following principle Class Flags will be used:

Phantoms	International 14	Allcomers	National 12
North Norfolk 16	Seafly	Catamarans	Wayfarer
Ladies Race	Cockles	Enterprise Class	
Allcomers - junior	Allcomers – senior	Laser Class and singlehanded allcomers	

Racing Notes.

1. Less confident or less skilled or less able sailors (regardless of age) should make themselves known to the Race Officer, when completing the Intention to Race Form
2. Youth Members competitors are subject to the conditions of the Blakeney Sailing Club Youth Policy as published in the Club Yearbook.
3. Handicaps for class boats are based on the Portsmouth number as published in the Club Yearbook.
4. Starting times may differ from the time advertised in the Yearbook, depending on the state of the tide.
5. Wet or dry suits must be worn by competitors, patrol boat helms and crews from October 1st to May 31st.
6. Series events. Number of discards in a series shall be as follows:
3-5 races 1 discard; 6-10 races -2 discards.
6. A member, who is Club Race Officer or Assistant Race Officer or Patrol Boat Driver or Assistant Patrol Boat Driver, may claim "average points" for the races they run/support in a series. Such a member may count a maximum of two average points scores for each series. Average points are based on the results the member gains by sailing in a given series. Members will only be awarded such average points as a helm of a single nominated boat in any particular series.

The Blakeney Regatta Course.

The Blakeney Regatta Course may be used for races other than Regatta races. The start is a push from the preferred bank at the mouth of the cut in order of handicap as shown in the Yearbook, or on very high tides from a start in handicap order with the starting line at the mouth of Blakeney Cut. Course: 4 Port; 9 Starboard; 1 Starboard; 9 Port; 4 Starboard. Finish at Simm's Posts or Cooke Posts as indicated or as directed by Race Officer. All beacons to be passed on the main channel side. Under certain conditions buoy No.1 will be passed to port -this will be shown on the course board at the start.

Race Types

1. Flying start from Committee Boat 'Lapwing'. Finish at 'Lapwing'. Portsmouth Handicap.
2. Bank Start -Cooke Posts, Finish at Simms Posts (Cooke Posts at discretion of Race. Regatta Course unless altered by Race Officer. Morston Regatta selected course for the Day. Race Officer may move start North of Cooke Posts on smaller tides.
3. Flying Start – Cooke or Simms Posts as decided by Race Officer. Finish at Cooke or Simms Posts. Portsmouth Handicap. Course set by Race Officer.
4. Start at Lapwing and Finish either Cooke or Simms Posts.
5. Flying Start – Cooke or Simms Posts as decided by Race Officer. Finish at Lapwing. Portsmouth Handicap. Course set by Race

Race Series

Apart from the cup series in the season the following series will run throughout the season:

1. Seafly, Laser and Phantom Classes-best ten results from the spring, summer and autumn series with five or more starters. Excludes Regatta Fortnight and Bank Starts
2. Youth Member Series-best six results from races throughout the spring, summer and autumn races excluding Regatta Fortnight and Bank Starts.