



Foynes Yacht Club

Cruiser Racing Sailing Instructions

1. ORGANISING AUTHORITY

- 1.1 The Organising Authority is Foynes Yacht Club (FYC).
- 1.2 The event will be governed by The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), prescriptions of The Irish Sailing Association (ISA), these Sailing Instructions and any amendments thereto.

2. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located in Foynes Yacht Club hallway.

3. RULES, HANDICAPS AND CLASSES

- 3.1 Boats will race in the following Classes

Class 1 IRC

Class 2 White sails only ECHO

The race committee reserve the right to cancel, combine, divide or alter the classes as it sees fit. All classes may start together.

- 3.2 Yachts intending to race under IRC must submit a copy of their 2017 certificate to the Sailing Secretary with their entry. Yachts intending to race under ECHO must submit a copy of their 2017 certificate to the Secretary with their entry.
- 3.3 FYC reserve the right to change ECHO handicaps prior to race brief. Any objections must be filed in writing to OOD before start of Race.
- 3.4 IRC Rule 22.4 is deleted. There is no limit on crew number or crew weight
- 3.5 Each boat shall display the IC Flag appropriate to her class on her backstay.

4. LOCAL RIVER REGULATIONS

Competitors are advised that all commercial shipping has absolute right of way within the Shannon Estuary. All Yachts must keep away from any ship which is underway. Avoid crossing ahead of a vessel underway. Yachts failing to comply with these regulations may be disqualified.

5. RACING AREA AND DISCARDS

The Racing Area shall be the upper and lower Shannon Estuary.

6. DESIGNATING THE COURSE

The course shall be designated by the Race Committee on the day of racing and may be announced at the briefing or may be called on VHF Channel 72. Failure to receive the radio broadcast shall not be grounds for redress. Courses may be laid courses or fixed using a mix of temporary marks and Navigation buoys.

7. THE START

- 7.1 The signals for starting each race will be made as per RRS 26 (5-4-1-GO). All classes may start together.

8. THE RACE

- 8.1 SHORTENING COURSE. Any alterations to the course (shortening, mark missing, abandoning the race, etc) will be advised on Ch 72.
- 8.2 TOUCHING A MARK (RRS 31.2 applies (360 turn)).
- 8.3 RULES OF PART 2 (RRS 44.1, 44.2 & 44.4 shall apply (720 turn)).
- 8.4 ABANDONMENT of the race will be advised on CH 72.
- 8.5 RETIRING. Yachts retiring shall advise the Committee boat as soon as possible.

9. THE FINISH

The finish may be between the main mast of the club or and outer pile no. 4, or a Club line finish depending on local conditions.

10. TIME LIMIT

- 10.1 The time limit shall be two and half hours.
- 10.2 Boats finishing 45 MINUTES or more after the first finishing boat of their class will be deemed not to have finished.

11. PROTESTS

- 11.1 Protesting boats shall inform the Committee Boat or the OOD before leaving the racing area, or at latest within 45 minutes of the last boat of that class finishing. Protests shall be made in accordance with the racing rules 60-71 inclusive. The protesting yacht must fly a protest flag. The notice/protest board will be in the club house in FYC.

12. SCORING SYSTEM

The Low Point Scoring System shall be used in accordance with RRS Appendix A except a boat finishing first shall score 0.75 points.

13. AMENDMENTS TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS.

The race committee reserve the right to make alterations or amendments to the sailing instructions or race program that is necessary. Notice of any alterations or amendments to the Sailing Instructions or race program may be given on VHF channel 72 or on the notice board in FYC.

14. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY, HONORARY MEMBERSHIP & SHIPPING NOTICE

- 14.1 **Honorary Membership:** All competitors shall be honorary members of Foynes Yacht Club during the event, and will be bound by the rules of the club. Competitors are reminded that personal effects, gear, trailers and other equipment are their own responsibility and neither the Race Committee, nor Foynes Yacht Club can be held liable for any claim, loss or damage.
- 15.2 **Responsibility:** Boats are the sole responsibility of competitors, whether they are owners, tenants or Borrowers, and they shall be liable for all damages. The decision to sail or race is solely that of the helmsman.
- 15.3 **Commercial Shipping:** Strict warning is given by Shannon Foynes Port Company that competitors must at all times keep well clear of Tugs and commercial shipping in the area. Competitors must comply with these warnings.
- 15.4 **Local Variations:**
See Admiralty Chart of Foynes Island & Harbour Area in the Clubhouse.

16. RISK STATEMENT

- 16.1 Rule 4 of the Racing Rules of Sailing states: **“The responsibility for a boat’s decision to participate in a race or to continue to race is hers alone”**
- Sailing by its nature is 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.

- 17 **INSURANCE:** Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of €3,000,000 per incident.