

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS 2026

The Notice of Race is posted on the GYC Race Notice Board and on the Club's Website.

Competitors are advised to read this document.

The Organising Authority is the Guernsey Yacht Club LBG ('GYC').

1. RULES

- 1.1 The races will be governed by the rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) 2025-2028, the RYA Prescriptions, the Sailing Instructions as published in the GYC Yearbook and the rules of each class as modified by these instructions.

2. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS.

- 2.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the official Notice Board(s) located at the Guernsey Yacht Club. Any notice may also be notified to competitors via email and/or WhatsApp.

3. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 3.1 Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted before 09.00 on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 20.00 on the day before it will take effect.

4. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 4.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed on the flag staff of the Guernsey Yacht Club.

5. SCHEDULE OF RACES

The races, dates and start times of races are as stated in Racing Programme 2026 printed in the Year Book of the Guernsey Yacht Club LBG, with the exception of the following for which separate Notices of Race and Sailing Instructions will be issued:

- The Inter Island Race;
- The DFM Regatta;
- The CI Open Dinghy Masters Championship;
- The Weekday Race & Lunch Series;
- Races organised by The Royal Channel Islands Yacht Club ('RCIYC');

There may be other races organised by the GYC from time to time for which separate Notices of Race and Sailing Instructions are issued.

6. CLASS SIGNALS/FLAGS

- 6.1 Class Signals/Flags will be:

A	All Yachts and Dinghies	6	Class 6 Dinghies
D	All Dinghies	7	Class 7 Dinghies
1	Class 1 Yachts	8	Junior Class 1 Dinghies
2	Class 2 Yachts	9	Junior Class 2 Optimists
3	Class 3 Yachts	J	All Juniors
Y	All Yachts	L	Laser, Laser Radial
5	Class 5 Catamarans	O	Optimists

- 6.2 For the purpose of these sailing instructions, Yacht Classes will be defined as 1, 2 and 3; the Dinghy Classes will be defined as 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, J, L, O and D. Yacht Class 3 will only be introduced if sufficient numbers allow. Notice of any change in Yacht Classes will be posted in the usual way.

- 6.3 Yacht Class Multihulls - Multihulls shall race in Class 2, Y or A.

7. RACING AREA

- 7.1 The racing area will be in the Little Russell and Great Russell (except when mark P is used).
- 7.2 For Classes 1, 2 and 3, courses may be set going outside the Little Russell and Great Russell.

8. COURSES

- 8.1 For Castle Starts:

Courses shall either be posted on the Club Notice Board not less than 24 hours before the start of a race or displayed or announced at least 20 minutes before the start of the first Class.

- (a) In the case of all Yacht Classes by radio on VHF Channel 37A (M1), and
- (b) In the case of all Dinghy Classes on the Club Course Board (outside the Guernsey Yacht Club clubhouse)

- 8.2 For Committee Boat Starts:

Courses will be notified prior to the warning signal for the first start by:

- (a) In the case of all Yacht Classes by radio on VHF Channel 37A (M1), and
- (b) In the case of all Dinghy Classes being displayed on the Committee Boat. (NB. separate sailing instructions may be issued for some Dinghy races)

- 8.3 Change of next leg of the course (dinghy classes only): to change the next leg of the course the Race Committee will either move the original mark (or the finishing line) to a new position or lay a new mark (coloured blue) and remove the original mark as soon as possible. When in a subsequent change a new mark is replaced, it will be replaced by the original mark. This changes RRS 33.

9. MARKS

- 9.1 Marks are described in Appendices A, B, C and D.

10. THE START

10.1 Races will be started as specified in RRS 26 with the warning signal made 5 minutes before the starting signal.

10.2 Castle Starts:

- (a) The starting line shall be a line from the mast on the Castle to the outer limit mark which shall be either mark D, U or M. The direction of the line may be indicated by triangles situated on the Castle. Class signals are displayed on boards, not by means of flags.
- (b) The warning signal for each Class is the Class number or letter and the preparatory signal is one white disc.

This changes RRS 26

(c) Individual Recall

When at a boat's starting signal any part of her hull is on the course side of the starting line, the race committee shall promptly display one orange disc with one sound. The disc will be displayed until all such boats have sailed completely to the pre-start side of the starting line or its extension but no later than four minutes after the starting signal, whichever is the earliest.

For classes 1, 2, and 3 only, the race committee may broadcast the sail numbers or names of individually recalled boats on VHF Channel 37 as soon as is practical after the orange disc has been displayed. Any delay or failure to do so is not grounds for redress.

This changes RRS 29.1

(d) General Recall

A General Recall will be signalled by the display of two orange discs and two sounds. The discs will be displayed for a maximum of four minutes. If there are succeeding classes to be started then the start for the recalled class will be five minutes after the last scheduled start.

This changes RRS 29.2

10.3 Committee boat starts:

- (a) For Committee boat starts, RRS26 shall apply unless changed by Sailing Instructions issued for any race or event.
- (b) Classes will start at 5-minute intervals, the start of each Class being the warning signal of the next.
- (c) A boat that does not start within 4 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start (DNS) without a hearing. This changes rules A4 and A5.
- (d) For Committee boat recalls RRS 29 shall apply.

For classes 1, 2, and 3 only, the race committee may broadcast the sail numbers or names of individually recalled boats on VHF Channel 37 as soon as is practical after Flag X has been displayed. Any delay or failure to do so is not grounds for redress.

- (e) The starting line will be between a mast or staff displaying an orange flag on the Committee Boat at the starboard end of the line and the outer limit mark at the port end of the line.
- (f) The diagrams in Appendices B, C and D show the courses, including the approximate angles between legs, the order in which marks are to be passed, and the side on which each mark is to be left.
- (g) The course to be sailed for yacht classes will be announced on VHF Channel 37, or in the case of dinghy classes will be displayed on the Club Course Board, 45 minutes before the warning signal, or will be displayed on the Committee Boat no later than the warning signal.
- (h) A boat shall pass through the Finish line at the end of each lap.

11. THE FINISH

11.1 Castle finish:

The finishing line shall be an extension of two triangles situated on the south east corner of the castle aligned approximately to race marks D, U or M, which marks shall be the outer limit mark of the finish line. If either race mark D or U is missing boats shall use the remaining race mark as the outer limit mark of the finishing line, finishing in the same direction as indicated by the course instructions. If the triangles have been removed, boats shall time themselves in on the start flag pole bearing 280° magnetic, passing inside race mark D, or if race mark D is missing, inside a transit of the White Rock pier head light and the Castle Breakwater light.

11.2 The direction of Castle race finishes is based on the last Race Mark rounded on the Course (either set, altered or shortened) as follows:

Group	Last Mark	Finish if Mark D set	Finish if Mark U set	Finish if Mark M set
North	B, E, F, V	D North to South	D to Port	M East to West
			U North to South	
Centre	C, G, J, N, Q, R, S, W, X, Y	U to Starboard	D to Port	M East to West
		D South to North	U North to South	
South	A, H, K, L, M, P, T, Z	U to Starboard	U South to North	M East to West
		D South to North		

11.3 If the race committee is absent when a boat finishes, she should report her finishing time and her position in relation to nearby boats to the race committee at the first reasonable opportunity.

11.4 Committee Boat finish:

The finishing line will be between a between a mast or staff displaying a Blue Flag on the Committee Boat at the starboard end of the line and the outer limit mark at the port end of the line. If multiple classes are racing a separate finishing line may be laid to starboard of the Committee Boat in which case the finishing line will be between a between a mast or staff displaying a Blue Flag on the Committee Boat at the port end of the line and the outer limit mark at the starboard end of the line.

12. SHORTENED COURSES

12.1 Castle Starts:

The shortened course signal shall be the Class Number preceding a black "S" on an orange back ground, which will be followed by two sound signals. The shortened course may also be announced on VHF Channel 37.

To clarify – a) if Mark D or U is part of the course and the course is shortened at D or U, the shortened course announcement can be made when boats are already on the leg to the finish, or b) if the Race Officer changes the course to finish at Mark D or U, then boats must be advised before they begin the leg to the finish.

This changes rules 32 and 33.

Boats must sail from the final Mark (as amended) to the finish line in accordance with Rule 11.

For dinghy classes the course may be shortened to finish at any mark by a support boat displaying Flag S followed by two sound signals in which case the finish line is a line between the mark and the support boat.

This changes RRS 32.

13. COURSE ALTERATIONS

13.1 The Yacht and Dinghy Captains (or their alternates) will set the Course. Course changes shall be notified on Channel 37A (M1) for the Yacht Classes.

This changes RRS 33

13.2 For the Dinghy classes the positions of Race Marks C, S, X, Y and/or Z may be redefined. Details of these changes and the relevant Course will be given in a pre-race briefing and noted on the Club Course Board.

13.3 Under special circumstances the Dinghy Classes may race in or near Havelet Bay using starts, courses, time limits and finishes as will be detailed in a pre-race briefing.

14. TIME LIMIT

14.1 Unless otherwise prescribed, time limits apply to all Classes and are as follows. The time limit for any individual race may be amended by prior notification from the Sailing Committee or Race Officer before the start of the race:

(a) Morning races: all Classes 2.5 hours

(b) Afternoon races: all Classes 2.5 hours

(c) Evening races: 21.00hrs until and including August, thereafter 20.30hrs.

14.2 For all races, if a boat finishes within the time limit, then the time limit is extended by 30mins for all other boats in that class. Boats still racing after the additional 30mins shall retire immediately.

This changes RRS 35

15. HANDICAPS

15.1 All handicaps will be posted on the GYC Notice Board. IHS handicaps may be changed at any time during the season at the discretion of the ratings panel appointed by the Sailing Committee. The decisions of the ratings panel shall be binding except that an owner or owner's representative has the right to appeal such decisions in writing to the Sailing Committee whose decision shall be final.

15.2 Portsmouth Yardstick Handicaps as published by the RYA will be used for classes 6,7,8,9, D, J & L.

16. PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

16.1 Protest forms are available at the Guernsey Yacht Club and on the GYC Website under "Racing - Documents". Protests shall be delivered to the Guernsey Yacht Club within the appropriate time limit.

16.2 The protest time limit is one hour after the last boat has finished the last race of the day or the Race Committee signals no more racing today, whichever is later.

16.3 All parties to the protest will be notified of the time and place of the hearing and the protest information shall be made available to them. Communication with parties to the protest, including notification of hearings, may be delivered electronically.

16.4 Hearings will be held in the Guernsey Yacht Club, beginning at the notified time.

16.5 Notices of protests by the race committee, technical committee or protest committee will be posted to inform boats under rules 61.1(b)

16.6 The exoneration Penalty and the Advisory hearing and RYA Arbitration procedures of the RYA Rules Disputes procedure will be available.

16.7 Protest Hearings will be held as soon as practicable. If the Hearing does not take place on the day of the race, notice of the date and time of the Hearing will be posted on the GYC Notice Board within 5 days, and may also be delivered to the parties to the protest electronically.

17. SCORING

17.1 Discards will be as follows:

Races held	Discards	Races held	Discards	Races held	Discards
6 – 8	2	4 or 5	1	3 or less	0

This changes RRS A 2.1

17.2 In classes 6,7,8,9, D, J & L where a boat's Helm (and crew where applicable) are required to undertake a castle or support boat duty and are unable to sail, they shall be awarded average points, achieved in the relevant series, for that race. This will be subject to a maximum of one occasion per series and is dependent on that duty being scheduled before the start of the relevant series.

18. SAFETY REGULATIONS

18.1 Yachts

All boats racing within 15 miles of St Peter Port shall comply with World Sailing Offshore Special Regulation Category 4 (OSR Category 4) or, if they do not comply with OSR Category 4, they shall comply with the following Minimum Safety Requirements:

(1) Minimum Safety Requirements

All boats shall carry the following safety equipment:

- A working marine VHF radio capable of receiving and transmitting on CH16 and CH37(M)
- Relevant chart(s) of the sailing area (unless GPS chart plotter is carried)
- Waterproof first aid kit
- A bilge pump and/or bucket
- An engine
- A suitable anchor, together with chain and warp

- A compass or waterproof GPS or GPS chart plotter
- Two red hand flares
- One lifejacket or adequate personal flotation device and whistle for each crew member
- Effective means to quickly disconnect or sever the standing rigging from the hull; this can be bolt cutters or tools sufficient to quickly undo bottle screws.

(2) In addition, when racing more than 15 miles off St Peter Port, all boats shall carry:

- A liferaft capable of carrying all the crew in safety, unless the boat has been constructed with positive buoyancy
- Navigation lights
- Foghorn
- Radar reflector

(3) Whenever Code Flag 'Y' is flown from the GYC flagpole, the Castle start hut flag staff or from the Committee Boat, all crew of Yacht Class boats must wear life jackets, or an adequate personal flotation device, with whistle attached.

(4) Whenever Code Flag 'V' is flown from the GYC flagpole, the Castle start hut flag staff or from the Committee Boat, all boats and official and support boats shall, if possible, monitor CH37/M for search and rescue instructions.

Note 1 All equipment must be in date and/or serviced in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions including, but not limited to, all liferafts, lifejackets and flares.

Note 2 Safety Notice – the Race Committee may withdraw the entry of any boat, or class of boat, which does not comply with OSR Category 4, if in the opinion of the Race Committee, the weather conditions are unsuitable for that boat or class of boat. The decision of the Race Committee shall be final.

Note 3 Any boat may be inspected, without notice, by any member of the Race Committee and if found not to comply fully with these regulations may be refused permission to race, or not given results, until all defects have been remedied.

18.2 Dinghies

- (1) All Class Dinghies and Catamarans must comply with their Class buoyancy requirements and every Dinghy and Catamaran crew shall wear an adequate personal flotation device.
- (2) All non-class Dinghies and Catamarans must be certified by the Sailing Committee as being seaworthy and suitably equipped.
- (3) All Dinghies and Catamarans must carry a rope capable of being used for towing and at least one suitable paddle.
- (4) Practical buoyancy checks may be carried out at any time, without notice, by any member of the Sailing Committee.
- (5) All trapeze or hiking harnesses must have a device that can quickly release the competitor from the boat at any time while in use.

18.3 Except in single handed races, Dinghies and Catamarans which normally carry a crew of 2 or more may not be raced single-handed without the prior consent of the Race Officer.

18.4 A boat that retires from a race shall notify the Committee Boat as soon as possible.

19. CREW LIMITS

19.1 No crew number or weight limitation will apply when racing in any of the yacht classes.

20. LONE BOATS

20.1 In any class, two boats are required to start or no race.

21. OFFICIAL BOATS

21.1 The Committee Boat will fly a Guernsey Yacht Club burgee.

22. SUPPORT BOATS

22.1 Team leaders, coaches and other support persons shall stay outside areas when boats are racing from the time of the preparatory signal for the first class to start until all boats have finished or retired or the race committee signals a postponement, general recall or abandonment.

23. TRASH DISPOSAL

23.1 Trash may be placed aboard support or official boats.

24. RADIO COMMUNICATION

24.1 Except in an emergency, a boat that is racing shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats.

24.2 All boats entered in Yacht classes shall maintain a radio watch on VHF Channel 37A (M1) whilst racing.

25. USE OF AUXILIARY PROPULSION

25.1 After the preparatory signal a boat which is still bound for the starting area may use auxiliary power (including dinghies paddling or rocking) until the Starter's flag pole is seen South of the Castle Breakwater Light when approaching from the North or seen clear of the Southeast buff of the Castle when approaching from the South.

This changes RRS 42

26. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

26.1 Competitors participate in the event entirely at their own risk. See RRS 3, Decision to Race. The organising authority will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during or after the races. By entering the races each competitor confirms that they have read and understand a) the Risk Statement set out in para.8 of the GYC Notice of Race 2026, b) the Disclaimer set out in para.9 of the Notice of Race 2026, c) the insurance requirements set out in para.10 of the Notice of Race 2026 and d) the GDPR statement in para.11 of the Notice of Race 2026.

27. INSURANCE

27.1 Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £3,000,000 (three million pounds) throughout the racing year, such cover to include racing.

APPENDIX A/GYC RACE MARKS

A	Beacon (Post) on Anfre Rock
B	Yellow Race Buoy approx 400m SW of Brehon Tower
C	Portable Buoy approx 600m E of Moulinet Beacon
D	Distance Yellow Race Buoy approx 300m SSE of Castle Breakwater Light
E	Reffee South Cardinal Buoy
F	Beacon (Post) on Demie Flie Rock
G	Goubiniere Rock
H	Yellow Race Buoy marked “Dave” approx in the centre of Havelet Bay
J	Island of Jethou (keep outside Epec Beacon and Grande Fauconnaire Beacon)
K	Yellow Race Buoy approx 300m NNE of Gabrielle Rock
L	Lower Heads South Cardinal Buoy
M	Beacon (Post) on Moulinet Rock
N	Yellow Race Buoy approx 300m W of Blanche Aiguillons Rock
P	Mouilliere Rock in Petit Port Bay (keep E of Longue Pierre Beacon)
PI	Havelet Fairway Buoy - Port Inner
PO	Havelet Fairway Buoy - Port Outer
Q	Fourquies North Cardinal Buoy
R	Selle Rocque
S	Portable Buoy approx 600m E of Mark D (Distance)
T	Yellow Race Buoy approx 350m ESE of Terres Point
U	Yellow Race Buoy approx 60m S of the Distance Race Buoy
V	Yellow Race Buoy approx 300m SSW of Vivian Beacon
W	Beacon (Musé Post) near Musé Rock
X	Portable Buoy approx 1500m E of Castle Breakwater Light
Y	Portable Buoy approx 1500m E of Moulinet Beacon
Z	Portable Buoy approx 1100m E of Anfre Beacon

NOTE

A copy of the approximate Latitude and Longitude of all GYC Race Marks is available from the Club Office, on the GYC Website and in the GYC Race Procedures Manual.

Please note that the positions of all Race and Portable Buoys are “approximate” and may not be protested.

GENERAL

DINGHIES

Launching of dinghies is on the basis of first come first served, but it will be appreciated if boats due to start before other classes are able to launch before boats starting later.

The Beachmaster has full authority to control the dinghy park and to direct launching and members must comply fully with any directive given by the Beachmaster. It should be noted that all boats kept in the dinghy park do so at the owner's risk and that the GYC cannot be held responsible for any damage howsoever caused.

RACE COMMITTEE

The Race Committee shall be any three of the Rear Commodore Sail, their Deputy, the Yacht or Dinghy Captain, or any other member of the Sailing Committee. The Race Committee delegates responsibility for the actual conduct of the racing to the appointed Race Officer of the day.

RACE OFFICER AND ASSISTANTS

Skippers/helmsman and their crew must take their turn in doing duty as race officers and/or assistants.

Skippers/helmsman must provide the sailing committee of the names of their regular crew on request.

It is the duty of Skippers/helmsman to ensure that they and their crew attend for their duties or that they arrange suitable substitutes.

ROOM AT MARKS

An inside boat must be given adequate sea room to manoeuvre at race marks A, F, G, J, M, P, R and W.

COMMERCIAL SHIPPING AND VESSELS NOT RACING

Starts may be delayed for shipping movements.

With regard to commercial traffic and vessels not racing, boats must comply with the International Regulations for preventing collisions at sea and the Guernsey Harbour Authority Regulations.

Almost all of the Little Russell and Harbours is a VTS Zone. Within the Guernsey VTS all commercial traffic (including inter island ferries) has right of way.

Vessels in the Little Russel are required to give the cruise ships a wide berth, approaching no nearer than 200m. Vessels should only enter the zone for collision avoidance, to avoid immediate danger or with prior authorisation.

IDENTIFICATION ON SAILS

Competitors are reminded that they must comply with RRS 77 and Appendix G. In particular, letters and numbers shall be of a contrasting colour to the body of the sail. Boats breaking this rule will be required to comply and may be penalised.

UNMARKED DINGHIES WILL NOT BE ALLOCATED SPACE IN THE DINGHY PARK

By prior agreement with the Beach Master, and completion of the Dinghy Race Entry Form, it may be possible for dinghies to enter one off races or single series on an ad hoc basis. This together with the fee payable will be by agreement and there is no guarantee that there will be space in the Dinghy Park.

BOW STICKERS

All Yacht Classes must display sponsors bow stickers where these are provided. Dinghy Classes are also encouraged to display bow stickers.