



2021 Sailing Programme and Instructions

Last season the covid pandemic meant that the Club's sailing activities were drastically reduced, with no racing, and limited social sailing – with a little coaching. Though there is still significant uncertainty around what we will be able to do this season, we have prepared this programme in anticipation of restrictions being lifted progressively through the late spring/early summer. Alterations will be made as appropriate, so keep checking the Club website and Facebook pages, and make sure we have your email address so that we can send updates. And if you haven't already – join the Club WhatsApp group.

As usual, Club sailing is mostly on Sundays and Wednesday evenings, but there are some big changes to the activities proposed, which are described below. Unless otherwise stated, activities on Sundays start at 1pm (that's the time of the first race start when there is racing, or the time participants should aim to be already afloat for social sailing/coaching, so you need to be at the Club around one hour before that to rig and hear the briefing for the day's activities). On Wednesday evenings the race start is 7pm. On Wednesday evenings, once restrictions have been lifted, you can stay and have fish and chips in the clubhouse after sailing (order on the form provided before sailing).

Social Sailing and Coaching.

For the first few weeks there will be social sailing on Sundays, with a little coaching for those that want it. The rescue boat will be on the water from around 12.45pm, and will stay afloat until around 4.30pm. Participants should rig their own boats (though experienced members will give socially distanced help if required). Once other (racing) activities have started, there will still be social sailing days every 3 or 4 weeks.

Wednesday Evening Races

For Wednesday evening sailing we will initially try to run informal racing for those that want it – there will be a rescue boat on the water, a course will be set. The starting procedure will be outlined at a briefing before going afloat, we may just get close together and collectively say "go", or we may try something similar to a "gate start" – one selected boat will sail on port tack, and all other participants will sail past the transom of the selected boat, on starboard tack, to start the race. For these initial races results will be recorded for interest where possible, but they will not count towards the Club Championship. Once covid restrictions have been lifted, and mixed household racing in 2-man boats is allowed, then the Wednesday evening races will be run as before, with normal race starts and finishes. Regardless of when restrictions are lifted, this will not be before 16th June. At that point, races will count towards the Club Championship.



Sunday Club Championship Racing

There are 5 Sundays scheduled for Club Championship Racing, with the first on 13th June – but this will only take place if covid restrictions allow 2-man sailing. There will be 3 races each day. Please do not think that this is just for the better sailors in the Club – it is for everyone. In addition to the normal results which use handicaps for the different types of boats, there will also be a set of results calculated using “personal handicaps” – just like golf – so everyone should have an equal chance of winning, if they sail their best. As each sailor improves, their personal handicap will be adjusted – and it should be everyone’s aim to lower their handicap over the course of the season. The “Handicap Championship” trophy will be awarded based on the results using personal handicaps. It should be noted that individuals may sail different boats on different days, and they will all count towards the parsons score in the championships.

Double Handed Racing

We have set aside 4 Sundays for this completely new series. Racing will be in the Club’s 2000 dinghies, and any members’ 2000s that we can use – and maybe an Enterprise too. Helm/crew pairings will be allocated on the day, with one experienced sailor partnering someone less experienced. Depending on conditions, the experienced sailor may helm 1 race, then the less experienced sailor the next. Then pairs will be mixed up and the same thing repeated for 2 more (quite short) races. Over the season we will try to mix the helm/crew pairings, so that everyone gets the chance to sail with as many different people. One aim of this is so that the less experienced sailors get the opportunity to pick up tips from different sailors. For this to work we need members of all abilities to turn up and give it a go.

Sprint Racing

There are 3 Sundays designated as Sprint Series. These are open to everyone/any type of boat. The races will use a short course, and will be short duration, with as many races each day as we can fit in. Results will be recorded where possible, and handicap results calculated, but as the races will be run with a reduced duty team (just 2 instead of 3), there may be times when rescue duties will take precedence over race recording.

Team Racing

There are 2 weekends designated for “Team Racing”. This will be along the same lines that we tried 18 months ago – using the Club 2000 dinghies (and any others that we can), divide the participants up in to as many teams as we have boats, and then sail as many short races as we can fit in, with crews/helms changing over after each race.



Clubhouse

While covid restrictions on use of the clubhouse remain in place, participants should arrive changed and ready to sail. Participants can enter the clubhouse to use the toilets, but must sanitise hands on entering and leaving. Hopefully the restrictions will be eased soon, and we will be able to make more use of the clubhouse – changes will be advised by email, WhatsApp, and posted on Facebook and website.

Ordinary, Duty and adult family members may purchase a clubhouse key (from Donald Aitken) and may use the clubhouse out with scheduled club activities (but please ensure it is left in a suitable state of order and cleanliness for future users). Junior members may only access the clubhouse out with scheduled club activities provided an adult member is present. Junior members may not purchase clubhouse keys.

Race Duty Team

All members are expected to undertake race duties, as scheduled in the sailing programme. For the more formal races we have scheduled a team of 3, and the normal split of the roles is described below. The programme shows duty 1, 2 and 3 - it is up to the team on any day to agree which of them will do which role. There is always at least one experienced person in each team, so every duty is an opportunity for the less experienced to learn. Speak to any committee member if you want advice or training on doing duties. Before doing the “Race Officer” duty for the first time, it is recommended that you buddy an experienced race officer—come down to the Club before the day of your scheduled duty, and join that day’s race officer in the race box. If you are unable to do your scheduled duty, it is your responsibility to find a substitute—usually by agreeing to swap days with someone else. Duties include: (full guidance/checklists are available in the race box).

Race Officer

- responsible for all club activities on the day, including the decision that weather conditions are suitable for racing.
- Check beforehand that safety helm and crew are available, or have arranged substitutes
- Print race sheets, set course, run the race, calculate results
- Check all race fees and boat hire fees have been paid, and tally money on cash recording sheet in laptop (includes surplus money from tuck)
- Ensure Clubhouse and boatshed are left securely locked
- On Wednesday evenings—place phone order for fish and chips



Safety Helm/Crew

- Ensure safety boat fuelled and equipped, launch and recover— flush engine with fresh water on recovery
 - Lay start finish marks, monitor all boats and assist if required
- Mentors have been allocated to provide advice to less experienced race teams— please ask for help if you are unsure.

In addition, the duty team are responsible for cleaning the clubhouse—they may organise at their convenience, as long as it is done prior to the next scheduled activity.

Abbreviated Sailing Instructions for Club Races

(full SI's are available in the Clubhouse)

1. Races will be governed by The Racing Rules of Sailing, the prescriptions of the RYA, relevant Class Association rules and the following local rules.
2. Helm must register a boats entry on the sheet provided before the preparatory signal of the race, by ticking the “entry paid” box next to your name/boat, or adding your name, boat class and sail number at end of list if your name/boat is not listed. Unless you have paid the season’s race entry in advance, adults must put entry fees of £2.50 per race into the “race entry” plastic box. Juniors pay no race entry fee, but must still register.
3. The course to be sailed, including mark rounding information (port or starboard) and start times will be described on the whiteboard in the Clubhouse. Scheduled start times for the first race of the day are:
Sat/Sun (except open regatta) - 1st Gun 13.00hrs
Wednesday nights - 1st gun 19.00hrs
4. Race durations for Club Championship races should be around 45 to 60mins. The time limit is “About to finish” signal + 30 mins
5. For racing/sailing to take place there must be sufficient personnel to get the rescue boat back into the shed. For a race to commence there must be at least 2 boats signed on and intending to take part.
6. When races are controlled from the start box in the clubhouse, the start line (unless altered by the OOD) will be an extension of the line formed by the OOD’s box and mark S. Mark X (which may not necessarily be on the line) will mark the outer end of the start line. The finish-line (unless altered by the OOD) will be the line formed by the OOD’s box and mark X.
When races are controlled from the safety boat on the water, the start line and the finish line will be between marks S and X. Boats must cross the finish line at the end of each lap.
7. Start signals will be made using lights in the start box (for shore controlled race) or flags on safety boat (for boat controlled race. The first signal will be 5 minutes before the start, followed by signals 4 minutes before the start, 1 minute before the start, then at the start.
8. Races will be sailed using the “average lap time” method, which means that slower boats need not sail as many laps as faster boats. Boats finish the race when they next cross the finishing line after the “about to finish” signal has been



made. The about to finish signal will be made by lights on the race box, or flag on the safety boat. In normal circumstances, once the "about to finish" signal has been made it will apply to all boats, however the race officer may use the safety boat to advise an individual boat either that they are about to finish even though the signal has not been made, or that they must do one more lap even though the signal has been made.

9. The Club Championship will be calculated from the results from all Sunday and Wednesday Club Championship races, with 40% of races sailed to count (rounded up to next whole number)
10. Personal Handicap Championship eligibility will be as posted on the sailing notice board. It will be based on the same races as the Club Championships and the same scoring system. Personal handicaps will be adjusted Portsmouth numbers , recalculated after every race, based on an average of the last 5 races sailed.
11. Individuals may sail different boats on different days and all will count towards the Club Championship (and Handicap Championship if applicable). For 2-man boats a different crew may be used, or for regular pairings the helm/crew may swap over, and either may helm with a different crew.
12. Scoring system for Double Handed series and Sprint series will be advised.