



# HARKEN<sup>UK</sup>

## The Harken RS Sprints

25th and 26th April 2026

RS  
CLASS  
ASSOCIATION

Organised by the RS Class Association and Rutland Sailing Club  
Edith Weston, Rutland, LE15 8HJ • 01780 720292 • [www.rutlandsailingclub.co.uk](http://www.rutlandsailingclub.co.uk)

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## SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

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### 1 RULES

- 1.1 The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing and the rules of the competing classes. If there is a conflict between the class rules and these Sailing Instructions, these Sailing Instructions will take precedence.
- 1.2 Particular attention is drawn to the Notice of Race regarding the Check, Clean & Dry Procedure For Visiting Ribs, Dinghies & Cruisers, and regarding personal floatation devices.

### 2 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

- 2.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located in the Wet Bar in the clubhouse.

### 3 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 3.1 Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted on the official notice board at least one hour before the time of the warning signal of the race or races concerned. However, any change to the schedule of races on the Sunday will be posted by 19:00 on the Saturday.

### 4 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 4.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed on the masts outside the race hut situated on the club balcony.
- 4.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 30 minutes' in the race signal AP.

### 5 SCHEDULE OF RACES

- 5.1 The schedule is described in the Notice of Race.
- 5.2 To alert boats that a starting sequence will begin soon, the orange starting line flag will be displayed with one sound at least one minute before a warning signal is made.

### 6 RACING FORMAT

- 6.1 A boat in a given class will only be in competition with other boats in that class; there will be winners in each class but no overall winner of the regatta.
- 6.2 There will be two rounds of racing, one on Saturday and one on Sunday. Each round comprises a series of short sprint-style races.
- 6.3 Classes will be divided into **smaller fleets** (where there are fewer than approximately 12 boats in a fleet) and **larger fleets**.

### 6.3.1 Racing format for smaller fleets:

- 6.3.1.1 Boats in a smaller fleet will sail together throughout the regatta. Each of the smaller fleets will have its own start for each race, with all boats in that fleet starting at the same time.
- 6.3.1.2 For the smaller fleets, rounds 1 and 2 will have the same format.

### 6.3.2 Racing format for larger fleets:

- 6.3.2.1 Boats in a larger fleet will be split into groups. There will be several starts for each race with different groups starting at different times.
- 6.3.2.2 **Round 1** will be a qualifying round in a round-robin format. Each of the larger fleets will be divided on a random basis into four groups: Blue, Red, Yellow, and Green. Every group will race with every other group in the fleet. Boats will be required to display a ribbon of the colour corresponding to their group, available at the registration desk, from the rear of their boom during round 1. There will be two starts in each race in this round for the larger fleets:

Larger Fleets: Racing Format for Round 1 (Round Robin)				Blue	Red	Yellow	Green
Races 1 and 4:	Start 1: Blue and Red groups	Start 2: Yellow and Green groups		1	1	2	2
Races 2 and 5:	Start 1: Blue and Yellow groups	Start 2: Red and Green groups		1	2	1	2
Races 3 and 6:	Start 1: Blue and Green groups	Start 2: Red and Yellow groups		1	2	2	1

- 6.3.2.3 **Round 2:** The larger fleets will be split into gold and silver groups for round 2. The allocations to these fleets will be based on positions in the round robin racing in round 1. In the case of a boat that is only entered for Sunday racing, the allocation will be at the discretion of the Race Officer.

## 7 CLASS FLAGS

- 7.1 There will be no class flags. A board on the committee boat will show the RS class to which the starting signals refer. The warning flags to be used will be as follows:
  - 7.1.1 **Warning flag for smaller fleets:** the warning flag will be flag 'G' for all races.
  - 7.1.2 **Warning flags for larger fleets:**
    - 7.1.2.1 **Round 1 (round robin):** Combinations of blue, red, yellow and green warning flags will be used corresponding to the groups to race in the next start (e.g., blue and red for start 1 of race 1).
    - 7.1.2.2 **Round 2 (Gold, Silver, etc.):** The warning flags will be 'G' for gold, and 'S' for silver. This changes rule 32.2 (i.e., the 'S' flag does not indicate a shortened course, see SI 9.2).

## 8 RACING AREA

- 8.1 The racing area will be shown on the official notice board at least one hour before the start of racing on that day.

## 9 THE COURSES

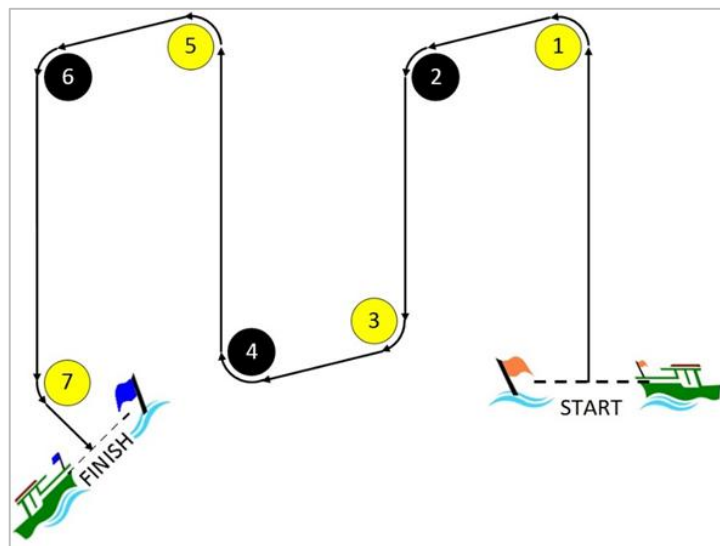
- 9.1 The figure below, which is not to scale, shows the course and the side on which each mark is to be left. The course will be: Start, 1 (port), 2 (port), 3 (starboard), 4 (starboard), 5 (port), 6 (port), 7 (port), Finish. The Finish Boat and Mark 7 may be placed further downwind, at the discretion of the race officer.
- 9.2 The course will not be shortened. Rule 32.2 will not apply.

## 10 MARKS

- 10.1 All odd-numbered marks will be yellow spherical buoys; all even-numbered buoys will be black spherical buoys.
- 10.2 The starting and finishing marks will be race committee boats at the starboard ends and dan-buoys at the port ends.





## 11 AREAS THAT ARE OBSTRUCTIONS

- 11.1 The 'RUTLAND BELLE' (a pleasure cruiser), the no-sailing zones at the western ends of the northern and southern arms, and moored boats in the East and West Creeks are designated as obstructions; competitors shall give reasonable clearance.
- 11.2 Competitors shall give a clearance of at least 40 metres to drifting fishing boats from which anglers are fishing.



















## 12 THE START

- 12.1 The starting line will be between staffs displaying orange flags on the starting marks.
- 12.2 The order of starting of fleets for the first race is provisionally: RS600s, RS400s, RS500s, RS300s, RS100s, RS Vareos. This instruction is subject to change: if some fleets are very small, their starts may be merged with other fleets. The order may change in subsequent races to minimise the delay between races for each fleet.
- 12.3 A board on the start race committee boat will display the class to start. There may be a break of approximately 1 minute between starts of different classes during which time the board will be changed.
- 12.4 Races will be started using a '3, 2, 1, GO' sequence; this changes rule 26.
- 12.4.1 **Starting sequence for smaller fleets:** the start sequence will be (for both rounds):

Time (minutes)	Signal	Indicates	Sound signal
-4 approx.	Board changed on committee boat	RS Class	-
-3	 "G" displayed	Warning	one
-2	 "P" displayed	Prep	one
-1	 "P" removed	1 minute	long
0	 "G" removed	Start	one

- 12.4.2 **Starting sequence for larger fleets:** the start sequences for rounds 1 and 2 will be:

Time mins.	Round 1	Round 2	Meaning	Sound
-4 approx.	Board changed on start boat	Board changed on start boat	RS Class	-
-3	 Blue and Red* displayed	 "G" displayed	Warning for 1 <sup>st</sup> start	One
-2	 "P" displayed	 "P" displayed	Preparatory	One
-1	 "P" removed	 "P" removed	1 minute to 1 <sup>st</sup> start	Long
0	 Blue and Red* removed  Yellow and Green * displayed	 "G" removed  "S" displayed	1 <sup>st</sup> Start Warning for 2 <sup>nd</sup> start	One
+1	 "P" displayed	 "P" displayed	Preparatory	One
+2	 "P" removed	 "P" removed	1 minute to 2 <sup>nd</sup> start	Long
+3	 Yellow and Green * removed	 "S" removed	2 <sup>nd</sup> Start	One

\* The coloured flags will change to indicate the groups to start, see SI 6.3.2.2.

- 12.5 The Race Officer may use a megaphone to count down the start of the race and give other help to competitors. This will not be cause for redress under RRS 41(c).
- 12.6 Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall keep clear of the starting area.
- 12.7 A boat starting later than 2 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes RRS A4 and A5.
- 12.8 **Recalls:**
- 12.8.1 **General Recall:** To signal a general recall, the race committee shall display the First Substitute flag with 2 sounds signals for up to 2 minutes. **Each boat shall return round the ends of the starting line and then restart immediately. The start sequence will not stop.** This changes RRS 29.2.
- 12.8.2 **Individual Recall:** The rules for individual recalls remain unchanged.

## 13 CHANGE OF A LEG OF THE COURSE

- 13.1 To change a leg of a course, the race committee will move the original mark (or the finishing line) to a new position without signalling. Rule 33 will not apply. Moving marks during racing will not be cause for redress.

## 14 THE FINISH

- 14.1 The finishing line will be between staffs displaying blue flags on the finishing marks.
- 14.2 A boat that has finished shall then pass completely through the finishing line, and no part of her shall thereafter again cross the finishing line from either direction until finishing the following race.

## **15 PENALTY SYSTEM**

- 15.1 RRS 44.1 is changed so that the Two-Turns Penalty is replaced by the One-Turn Penalty.
- 15.2 Touching a rounding mark (i.e., other than a starting or finishing line mark) with any part of the boat or crew shall not constitute an infringement of the Rules. Manhandling a mark that results in an advantage is not allowed and a boat so doing shall promptly retire. If a boat touches a start or finish mark, they shall complete a one-turn penalty as described in RRS 44.2. This changes RRS 31.

## **16 TIME LIMITS**

- 16.1 Boats failing to finish within 5 minutes after the first boat in their group sails the course and finishes may be scored Did Not Finish. This changes rules 35 and A4.

## **17 PROTEST AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS**

- 17.1 The protest time limit is 45 minutes after the last boat has completed the last race of the round.
- 17.2 Protest forms are available at the Club Office. Protests and requests for redress or reopening shall be delivered there within the appropriate time limit.
- 17.3 Notices will be posted no later than 15 minutes after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. The location of the hearings will be indicated on the notice.
- 17.4 A race committee boat shall have power to disqualify without hearing any boat sailing the incorrect course. This changes rule 63.1.
- 17.5 Breaches of Instruction 12.6 will not be grounds for a protest by a boat. This changes Rule 60.1. Penalties for such a breach may be less than disqualification if the protest committee so decides.
- 17.6 For infringements of the rules other than in Part 2 of the RRS, the protest committee may award a lesser penalty than disqualification.

## **18 SCORING**

- 18.1 Scoring is described in the Notice of Race.
- 18.2 For the purposes of RRS A4:
  - 18.2.1 For smaller fleets, the number of boats shall be the number in that fleet of that class.
  - 18.2.2 For larger fleets, the number of boats in the series shall be taken as the number within the largest group of that class during that round of the regatta.
- 18.3 The winner of each class in the regatta shall be the boat with the lowest score.

## **19 SAFETY REGULATIONS**

- 19.1 All competitors shall wear a personal flotation device at all times when afloat, except briefly when changing or adjusting clothing or personal equipment. Wet suits and dry suits are not considered personal flotation devices.
- 19.2 When the race committee considers that a boat or competitor is in difficulty it may instruct the boat or competitor to accept outside help, retire or sail ashore.
- 19.3 In accordance with RRS 50.1 and ISAF Case 89, no clothing or equipment may be worn on the body of helm or crew to carry liquid of any description, even if for the purpose of re-hydration; this includes camelbacks, water bottles and cans of drink.

## **20 REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT**

- 20.1 Only the helm or helm and crew named on the entry form will be eligible. The helm and crew may swap roles without restriction.
- 20.2 Crews may only be changed from the person named on the entry form with written permission in advance from the Race Committee or Class Representative. If it is known at the start of the event that there will have to be a change of crew during the event, then both crews should be registered on the entry form along with which day(s) they will be sailing.

## **21 EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS**

- 21.1 A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules and sailing instructions, including conformance with the CHECK, CLEAN & DRY procedure in the appendix of the Notice of Race.

## **22 TRASH DISPOSAL**

- 22.1 Rubbish may be placed aboard support and race committee boats.

## **23 RISK STATEMENT AND INSURANCE**

- 23.1 Attention is drawn to the Notice of Race regarding the Risk Statement and Insurance.

John Fothergill and David Rowlands, 31 March 2026