

MAYO SAILING CLUB

NOTICE OF RACE & SAILING INSTRUCTIONS 2016

Notice of Race

1. Programme

The 2016 Mayo Sailing Club (“MSC”) series of races is as detailed in the 2016 Season Programme (the “Programme”)

2. Rules

The Programme will be governed by the Racing Rules of Sailing 2013 - 2016, the ISA Prescriptions thereto, and the Class Association Rules of all Classes taking part except as any of these are changed by the sailing instructions.

3. Eligibility and Entry

All yachts competing must complete the attached Entry Form and submit same in advance of the first race to the Sailing Secretary together with the prescribed Entry Fee and 2016 handicap certificates (IRC and ECHO). Points may not be awarded in respect of any yacht in a series until the Entry Form has been submitted and Entry Fee paid.

4. Prize giving

Prizes for all the events covered by this Notice of Race will be presented at the dates outlined in the Programme.

5. Handicaps

Class 1 races will be run under the ECHO and IRC Handicap Systems and prizes will be provided for both systems. Class 2 and 3 races will be run on the ECHO Handicap System & the local MSC Handicap System. Prizes may be awarded for both classifications

6. Sailing Instructions

The attached Sailing Instructions shall apply to the Super Series, Spring Series, Summer Series & Autumn Series as detailed in the Programme. Separate sailing instructions may apply to regattas and other special events.

7. Fleets

All yachts entered for each Series will be divided into Fleets to be known as “Class 1,2 & 3” (collectively the Fleets). Each yacht will be allocated to a Fleet based on size and performance at the sole discretion of the Race Committee whose decision will be final.

8. Schedule

Starting times are given in the 2016 Season Programme. The Race Committee or Sailing Secretary reserve the right to amend the schedule of races at their discretion. Any amendment to the schedule will be advised to entrants on record, by email not later than 24 hours’ prior to the Warning Signal of the rescheduled race.

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS.

1. Rules

All races in the 2016 Season Programme (the “Programme”) will be sailed under the Racing Rules of Sailing 2013 - 2016 (“RRS”), the ISA Prescriptions thereto, and the Class Association Rules of all Classes taking part except as any of these are changed by these sailing instructions.

2. Responsibility

Yachts, crew and equipment are the responsibility of competitors, whether owners, tenants or borrowers, and competitors shall be liable for all damage. The decision to sail is solely that of helm and crew and no liability for loss, damage or injury whether to any competitor or crew, their yachts, any other yacht or equipment or any personal or third party property howsoever arising is accepted by the Organising Committee, Mayo Yacht Club Limited, or Mayo Sailing Club, its Flag Officers, Committee Members, servants or agents.

The safety of each yacht and crew and her entire management *including third party liability insurance cover for the entire series shall be the sole responsibility of the competitor. The committee recommend a minimum of €1.5mil third party public liability.*

By participating in a series all competitors accept and are bound by these Sailing Instructions in their entirety, the RRS, the ISA Prescriptions thereto, and the Constitution and Rules of MSC.

3. Sail Numbers

No Yacht may sail with a different number on its mainsail or spinnaker to that shown on its Entry Form unless notification in writing of the amended sail number has first been given to the Sailing Secretary or his Deputy and permission to change numbers obtained.

4. Notices to Competitors

Notices to competitors will be posted on the Official Notice Board located at the front of the Clubhouse near the lower level entrance. Any notice amending these Sailing Instructions must be displayed for at least 30 minutes prior to the Warning Signal of any race. No Notice may be posted on the Official Notice Board except by the Sailing Secretary or on his authority.

5. Changes in Sailing Instructions

These Sailing Instructions may be varied by the Sailing Secretary or the Race Officer at his discretion by posting a notice on the Official Notice Board not later than thirty minutes prior to the Warning Signal of any race. No separate written instructions will be given. The name of the Race Officer for the purpose of these Instructions for each race is given in the 2016 Season Programme.

6. Safety

All yachts participating must carry Marine Band VHF radio, compass, flares, anchor and warp, at least two bailers/buckets, all persons racing must wear appropriate personal floatation device (PFD). A PFD of 150N is recommended. All safety equipment must be operational.

Compliance with this Instruction is the sole responsibility of each competitor.

It is requirement that a minimum of one representative from each boat entered have completed an ISA approved safety course.

7. Times of Racing

Start times are given in the Programme. Warning signals will be given five minutes before the start time. Where only one start time is listed the Fleets will start together. If there are deemed to be insufficient yachts participating in a race the Fleets may be started at the same time at the discretion of the Race Officer.

8. Starting Signals

Signal	Flag and Sound	Minutes before starting signal
Warning	Class flag : 1 sound	5
Preparatory	P flag : 1 sound	4
One minute	P flag removed : 1 long sound	1
Starting	Class flag removed : 1 sound	0

9. Starting Line

The starting line will be an imaginary line between flagpole of the committee boat and the starting mark. The "Starting Mark" shall be a buoy. An inner limit mark may be moored approximately on the starting line. A yacht sailing between the inner limit mark and Committee Boat shall be disqualified.

10. Recalls

Individual recall will be signalled in accordance with Rule 29.1

Code flag "X" will be broken out with one sound signal.

Code flag "X" will continue to be displayed until all premature starters have recrossed the line satisfactorily, or four minutes after the starting signal, whichever is the earlier. No yachts shall be individually hailed.

General Recall will be signalled in accordance with Rule 29.2.

Code flag "First Substitute" will be broken out with two sound signals. This Flag will be displayed for approximately four minutes. The Warning Signal for the new start will be made one minute after lowering the code flag "First Substitute".

11. Courses

The course to be sailed will be notified by reference to the Course Card which will be made available to all entrants. The course will be denoted by

- a) a number code followed by a green or red flag displayed on the committee boat, OR
- b) a letter X in which case the Race Officer will notify the fleet via VHF of the course.

The Race Officer may shorten the race at any time. To signal a shortened course, the Race Officer may display code flag "S" and make two sound signals and, if possible, notify all yachts by radio. In the event of adverse conditions, or otherwise at his sole discretion, the Race Officer may decide to amend the Course, and in which shall notify the fleet(s) accordingly via VHF radio.

After a race has been started, if a mark on the chosen course is discovered to be missing or significantly out of position, the Race Officer is advised to have regard to S.I. No. 15 (c).

12. Finishing Line

The finishing line shall be an imaginary line between the Starting Mark, or a racing mark, and the committee boat; except when the course is shortened, when yachts will be advised via VHF radio of the location of the finishing line.

13. Time Limit

In each Race there will be a time limit of two hours fifteen minutes from the starting signal for its class for the first yacht to finish. Yachts finishing outside the time limit but finishing within 60 mins. of the first yacht to finish will be deemed to have finished; all other yachts finishing outside the time limit will be deemed not to have finished (DNF).

14. Crew Eligibility

All competing race crews must be fully paid up members of MSC. Guests may sail no more than three races. Failure of a competing yacht to comply with this instruction may result in disqualification of that yacht from each relevant race.

15. Postponement, Abandonment and Cancellation

In making decisions under this section the Race Officer is advised to have regard to (i) wind speed and sea state conditions during the hour prior to the first warning signal (ii) the forecast wind conditions from the most recent weather forecast available and (iii) the Club practice not to race if the wind speed is expected to exceed 30 knots during the race. If in any doubt the Race Officer is advised to consult with the Sailing Secretary or his appointed deputy.

The Race Officer may decide to:

- a. Postpone a Race, which will be signalled by displaying the code flag "Answering Pennant" on the flag pole outside the Clubhouse or on the Committee Boat, accompanied by two sound signals. The end of the postponement period shall be signalled by lowering the code flag "Answering Pennant" and making one sound signal. The Warning Signal will be made not less than five minutes after the end of the postponement period.
- b. Abandon a Race, which will be signalled by displaying code flag "N" and making three sound signals.

- c. Abandon a Race and decide to re sail it on the same day, which will be signalled by displaying Code Flag "N" over Code Flag "X" and making three sound signals.
- d. Cancel a Race, which will be signalled by displaying Code Flag "N" over "First Substitute" and making three sound signals.

A Race may be abandoned or cancelled after the start.

16. Protests

Only protests written on the correct ISA form will be acceptable. All protests must be lodged with the Race Officer within one hour thirty minutes after the time of the protesting Yachts finish. The Committee Boat must be advised of the protest by the protesting Yacht on finishing the race and the Yacht protested against must be notified as soon as possible. Every effort will be made to have protests heard on the day on which they arise. Competitors involved in protests and their witnesses **must not** leave the Club area until the protest has been heard or postponed.

17. Scoring System

The Low Point Scoring System of Appendix A RRS, will apply to all races, save that

- a) First place will be awarded 0.75 points
- b) For every four races of a series sailed each yacht in Class 1 may exclude one worst score.
- c) For every three races of a series sailed each yacht in Class 3 & 2 may exclude one worst score.

Yachts which compete in away events as representatives of MSC may apply in advance in writing to the Sailing Secretary for redress by way of "Average Points" for the home race(s) missed.

Only yachts who have come to the starting area at least once will be considered to have entered a Series.

18. Sail-overs

No sail-overs will be permitted and no points will be awarded for a race unless at least two yachts start.

19. Handicaps

Class 1 races will be run under the ECHO and IRC Handicap Systems and prizes will be provided for both systems.. All yachts competing must have current ECHO and/or IRC handicap Certificates. Class 2 & 3 races will be run on the ECHO Handicap System & the local MSC Handicap System. Prizes may be awarded for both classifications

For specific races designated by the Sailing Secretary as "One-Off" Races the Sailing Secretary may allocate a standard or any handicap to any yacht competing. The decision of the Sailing Secretary on the ECHO handicap of a Yacht shall be final.

20. Radio Signals

Radio instructions or information may be broadcast by the Race Officer on VHF **Channel 12**.

21. Rescue

In the event of a yacht getting into distress the closest yacht immediately astern, abeam or nearest to it, in that order, will assume the responsibility of Rescue Co-ordinator. As Rescue Co-ordinator, he/she will communicate with the yacht in distress to see if assistance is required. The Rescue Co-ordinator and any other yacht summoned to render assistance may apply to the racing Committee for redress.

If the yacht in distress does not require any assistance the Rescue Co-ordinator should relay this to the rest of the fleet by radio.