

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS

1952



2027

BLAIRGOWRIE YACHT SQUADRON

— 2026/27 —
**OFF THE BEACH
SAILING
INSTRUCTIONS**



ORGANISING AUTHORITY Blairgowrie Yacht Squadron, 2900 Nepean Road, Blairgowrie 3942, VIC

Blairgowrie Yacht Squadron invites entries for the BYS Season 2026-27 held from 1 October 2026 – 30 September 2027.

BYS uses the ***BYS Sailing Hub***, powered by Sailing Results, as our boat register, for race and series entry, signing on and signing off, results and for our race day volunteer roster. Instructions for setting up a BYS Sailing Hub account and its use can be found on the BYS website under Sailing.

ADDRESS	2900 Point Nepean Road, Blairgowrie VIC 3942
POSTAL ADDRESS	PO BOX 13 Blairgowrie, VIC 3942
TELEPHONE	03 5925 9600
EMAIL	sailing@bys.asn.au
WEBSITE	www.bys.asn.au
RADIO CALL SIGN	"BLAIRGOWRIE" VHF Ch 71 (keelboats & sportsboats courses) VHF Ch 77 / 71 as per volunteer briefing (off the beach courses) VHF Ch 82 (keelboat long races ONLY)
RACE COMMITTEE	Head of Sailing or delegate PRO (Principal Race Officer) CRO (Course Race Officer) Club Captain
POLICE / FIRE / AMBULANCE - Call 000 or VHF 16	

The notation '[NP]' in a rule means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1.

1. VALIDITY

- 1.1. These Sailing Instructions (SIs) are valid from 1 October 2026 until 30 September 2027 for club Off The Beach racing conducted by Blairgowrie Yacht Squadron.

2. RULES

- 2.1. Racing will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing 2025-2028 (RRS), the BYS Notice of Race (NoR) and these Sailing Instructions (SIs).
- 2.2. All boats shall comply with the Rules and By-Laws of BYS. Where there is an inconsistency between the Rules and By-Laws of BYS and these Sailing Instructions, the Rules and By-Laws of BYS shall prevail.
- 2.3. Australian Sailing Special Regulations, Part 2, for Off The Beach boats shall apply.

3. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 3.1. Any change to these Sailing Instructions shall be posted before 1000 on the day it shall take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races shall be posted by 2000 on the day before it shall take effect.

4. COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

- 4.1. Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board via the BYS Sailing Hub here: <https://sailingresults.net/sa/notice/default.aspx?ID=2033>
- 4.2. The Sailing Office is located on the second floor of the BYS clubhouse.
- 4.3. [DP] [NP] While racing, except in an emergency, a boat shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats.

5. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 5.1. Signals made ashore shall be displayed on the eastern arm of the official flagpole adjacent to the main rigging lawn.
- 5.2. When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 30 minutes' in the race signal AP.

6. SCHEDULE OF RACES

- 6.1. The schedule of races is published on the official notice board (ONB) and website www.bys.asn.au.
- 6.2. The scheduled time of the warning signal is for the first division.
- 6.3. The starting procedure indicated by '#' in the Code column of the race program is the intended starting procedure and may be changed by the Race Committee.

7. CLASS FLAGS AND SIGNALS

- 7.1. Classes not listed below should contact the Sailing Office to be allocated a division.

Division / Class	On the Wind (OTW) Start Class Flag	OTW intended start sequence	Club Start starting sequence	Club Start Light Flashes
Sabre	Sabre logo, red on white	5	3	3
ILCA, Pacer	ILCA logo	3	4	4
RS Aero	RS Aero logo	2	4	4
Contender, 420, mixed mono	Code Flag C	4	5	5
Musto Skiff, skiffs, Finn	Code Flag F	4	5	5
Minnow, Open Skiff, Opti	Minnow logo on blue	1	6	6
Minnow novice fleet	Minnow logo on green	1	6	6

- 7.2. Other flag signals.

Off the beach	
Code Flag Q	Refers to all Off the beach classes
Code Flag O	On the wind start
Numeral Pennants	Refers to the course number

8. RACING AREA

All races will be held on the waters of Port Phillip in the vicinity of Blairgowrie Yacht Squadron.

9. COURSES & MARKS

The courses, including the side on which each mark is to be left, and marks are described in Addendum A.

10. RESTRICTED AREA

- 10.1. [DP] [NP] On the Wind Start: After starting, boats shall not sail through the start or finish line except when starting and finishing.
- 10.2. [DP] [NP] Club Start: After starting, boats shall not cross the start/finish line north of the Port Navigation Pile adjacent to the east of the Blairgowrie Marina except when finishing.
- 10.3. [DP] [NP] While racing boats shall pass north of the Port Navigation Pile adjacent to the east of the Blairgowrie Marina.

11. THE START – ON THE WIND START

- 11.1. When Code Flag O is flown on the yardarm, the On the Wind Start procedure shall apply. Races shall be started using a 3 minute starting sequence. This changes RRS 26. When Code Flag O is not flown, the Club Start procedure in SI 12 shall apply.

Signal	Flag	Sound	Minutes before start signal
Warning	Class Flag	1 sound	3
Preparatory	Preparatory flag (Flag P, U or Black)	1 sound	2
One- minute	Preparatory flag removed	1 long sound	1
Starting	Starting Class flag removed	1 sound	0

- 11.2. The warning signal for each succeeding class shall be made with or after the starting signal of the preceding class.
- 11.3. The starting line shall be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the committee boat at the starboard end and the course side of the port-end starting mark.
- 11.4. To alert boats that a race starting sequence will begin soon, an orange flag will be flown from the Race Committee vessel with one sound signal not less than five minutes before a warning signal is made.
- 11.5. No later than the warning signal, the course number shall be designated on the Race Committee vessel by display of a numeral pennant.
- 11.6. [DP] [NP] Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area during the starting sequence for other races.
- 11.7. A boat starting later than 10 minutes after her starting signal may be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.1.

12. THE START – CLUB START

- 12.1. The starting line shall be between the Day-Glo Orange Post located on the Blairgowrie Yacht Squadron tower and the course side of BYS 0. When starting, boats shall pass between the red navigation pile adjacent to the east of the Blairgowrie Marina and BYS 0.
- 12.2. [DP] [NP] Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area during the starting sequence for other races.
- 12.3. A boat starting later than 10 minutes after her starting signal may be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.1.
- 12.4. Club start signals:

Signal	Visual Signal	Sound Signal	Minutes before the Starting Signal
Starting signals shall commence shortly	Red/green lights flashing alternately for 4 minutes	Nil	10 minutes
Warning	Red lights Division group white light flashing (see SI 7.1)	Nil	5 minutes
Preparatory	Green lights	Nil	4 minutes
Three minutes	3 white lights	Nil	3 minutes
Two minutes	2 white lights	Nil	2 minutes
One minute	1 white light	Nil	1 minute
Starting signal	All lights extinguished (Warning signal for next division may be displayed)	Nil	0
Individual recall	White light chase for 60 seconds*	One	
General recall	Red light chase for 60 seconds*	Two	
Postponement	Alternating white flashing lights	Two	
Abandonment	Flashing orange lights continuous	Nil	
<i>*A light chase is a sequence of one then two then three then four lights repeated.</i>			

- 12.5. Individual recall: One sound signal shall be given and a white light chase of four lights shall be displayed from the Blairgowrie Yacht Squadron tower for up to 60 seconds. The next group to start (if any) shall be delayed by 60 seconds. This changes RRS 29.1
- 12.6. General recall: Two sound signals shall be given and a red light chase of four lights shall be displayed from the Blairgowrie Yacht Squadron tower for up to 60 seconds. The next group to start (if any) shall be delayed by 1 minute. The restart for a recalled class or group shall be after all other classes or groups have had their normal starts. The starting signal of the last scheduled race shall be the warning signal for the recalled class or group. Should there be two or more classes or groups recalled, their starts shall be in the scheduled order at 5 minute intervals. This changes RRS 29.2
- 12.7. Postponement: Postponement of a Club Start shall be signalled by alternating white flashing lights from the Blairgowrie Yacht Squadron tower before the start. These lights

shall be extinguished at least five minutes before the commencement of the starting signals.

13. CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

- 13.1. Club Starts: Club Start courses shall not be altered.
- 13.2. On the Wind Start courses may be altered as follows: For all divisions except Minnow and Minnow Novice, to change the next leg of the course, the Race Committee will lay a replacement mark and remove the original mark as soon as practicable. When in a subsequent change a new mark is replaced, it will be replaced by an original mark. For Minnow and Minnow Novice divisions, the Race Committee will move the original mark.

14. SHORTEN COURSE

- 14.1. On the wind starts: courses may be shortened in accordance with RRS 32.2.
- 14.2. Club Start: courses may be shortened in accordance with RRS 32.2.
- 14.3. In lieu of RRS 32.2, Club Start: courses may be shortened by Code Flag S over Code Flag 0 (zero) being flown on or adjacent to a rounding mark with two sound signals. All boats having to round that mark shall, after rounding it, then round or pass BYS 1 to starboard and finish at the finishing line. This changes RRS 32.2.

15. THE FINISH

- 15.1. For Club Starts, the finishing line shall be between the Day-Glo Orange Post located on the Blairgowrie Yacht Squadron tower and the course side of BYS 0. When finishing, boats shall pass between the Port Navigation Pile adjacent to the east of the Blairgowrie Marina and BYS 0.
- 15.2. On the Wind Starts: The finishing line shall be between a staff displaying a blue flag on the committee boat and the course side of a black and white chequered finishing mark as per Addendum A.
- 15.3. [DP] [NP] A boat that has finished shall not re-cross the finishing line.
- 15.4. At the Race Officer's discretion, boats may be allocated a finishing position and be directed to return to the starting area without crossing the finishing line. This changes RRS 28.

16. TIME LIMITS

- 16.1. The Race Time Limit and the Finishing Window are shown in the table below:

Event	Race Time Limit	Finishing Window
Off the beach racing	90 min	30 minutes

- 16.2. The Finishing Window is the time for boats to finish after the first boat sails the course and finishes. Boats failing to finish within the Finishing Window, and not subsequently retiring, penalised or given redress, will be scored Time Limit Expired (TLE) without a hearing. A boat scored TLE shall be scored points for the finishing place one more than the points scored by the last boat that finished within the Finishing Window. This changes RRS 35, A5.1, A5.2 and A10.

17. PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

- 17.1. For each division, the protest time limit is 60 minutes after the last boat has finished the last race of the day or the Race Committee signals no more racing today, whichever is later.
- 17.2. Hearing request forms are available from the Sailing Office or via the official notice board.

- 17.3. Notices will be posted no later than 30 minutes after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Hearings will be held in the protest room described in the notice.

18. ARBITRATION

- 18.1. RRS Appendix T shall apply.

19. SAFETY REGULATION

- 19.1. If a gale warning for Port Phillip issued by the Bureau of Meteorology is current 4 hours before the scheduled start signal, the race session shall be cancelled.
- 19.2. All boats shall SIGN ON and include all crew member details before the warning signal each day. The sign on and sign off facility shall be via the BYS Sailing Hub. Boats failing to sign on shall be scored DNC for the first race of a session without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.1.
- 19.3. [DP] [NP] All boats shall SIGN OFF at the earliest possible time after the completion of racing, but not later than the end of the protest time limit. Boats failing to sign off within the protest time limit shall result in a penalty of the boat's score for the last race of the session being increased by 2 points, but not worse than the score for DSQ. All other boat's score shall remain the same. This changes RRS A5.1. A boat that fails to meet SI 19.3 more than three times in a series is subject to a protest by the Race Committee.
- 19.4. A boat that retires or does not intend to continue racing is required to sign off immediately on return to the shore.

20. SAIL NUMBER CHANGES

- 20.1. Requests for a change of sail number shall be made at least an hour before the scheduled start of the race for which the substitution or change applies. The request must be made on the appropriate form available from the Sailing Office and the request must be approved by the Race Committee before the substitution or change is made.
- 20.2. Failure to notify of a change of sail number in accordance with SI 20.1 may result in DNC without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.1.

21. EQUIPMENT INSPECTION

- 21.1. A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules, AS Special Regulations and Sailing Instructions. On the water, a boat may be instructed by a Race Committee equipment inspector to proceed immediately to a designated area for inspection.

22. CLUB COACHING AND SUPPORT BOATS

- 22.1. For the purpose of fleet and class development, when a club-assigned sailing coach is officially allocated to a fleet, RRS 41 (Outside Help) is changed to permit competitors to receive coaching, advice, and tactical feedback from that coach while racing.
- 22.2. The club-assigned coach shall make every reasonable effort to distribute coaching, feedback, and advice equitably among all participating boats in the allocated fleet.
- 22.3. Private or non-club-assigned coaches remain strictly prohibited from providing outside assistance under RRS 41.
- 22.4. Support person vessels other than club-assigned coaches, shall stay 100m outside areas where boats are racing from the time of the preparatory signal for the first division to start until all boats have finished or retired or the Race Committee signals a postponement, general recall or abandonment.

23. TRASH DISPOSAL

Trash may be placed aboard support or official boats.

24. RESULTS

Results shall be published online at www.bys.asn.au and on the BYS Sailing Hub.

25. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

- 25.1. RRS 3 states: 'The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue to race is hers alone.' By participating in this event each competitor agrees and acknowledges that sailing is a potentially dangerous activity with inherent risks. These risks include strong winds and rough seas, sudden changes in weather, failure of equipment, boat handling errors, poor seamanship by other boats, loss of balance on an unstable platform and fatigue resulting in increased risk of injury. **Inherent in the sport of sailing is the risk of permanent, catastrophic injury or death by drowning, trauma, hypothermia or other causes.**
- 25.2. All those taking part in these races are reminded of their obligations as set out in the AS Special Regulations clause 1.02 Responsibility of the Person in Charge.

ADDENDUM A – COURSES AND MARKS

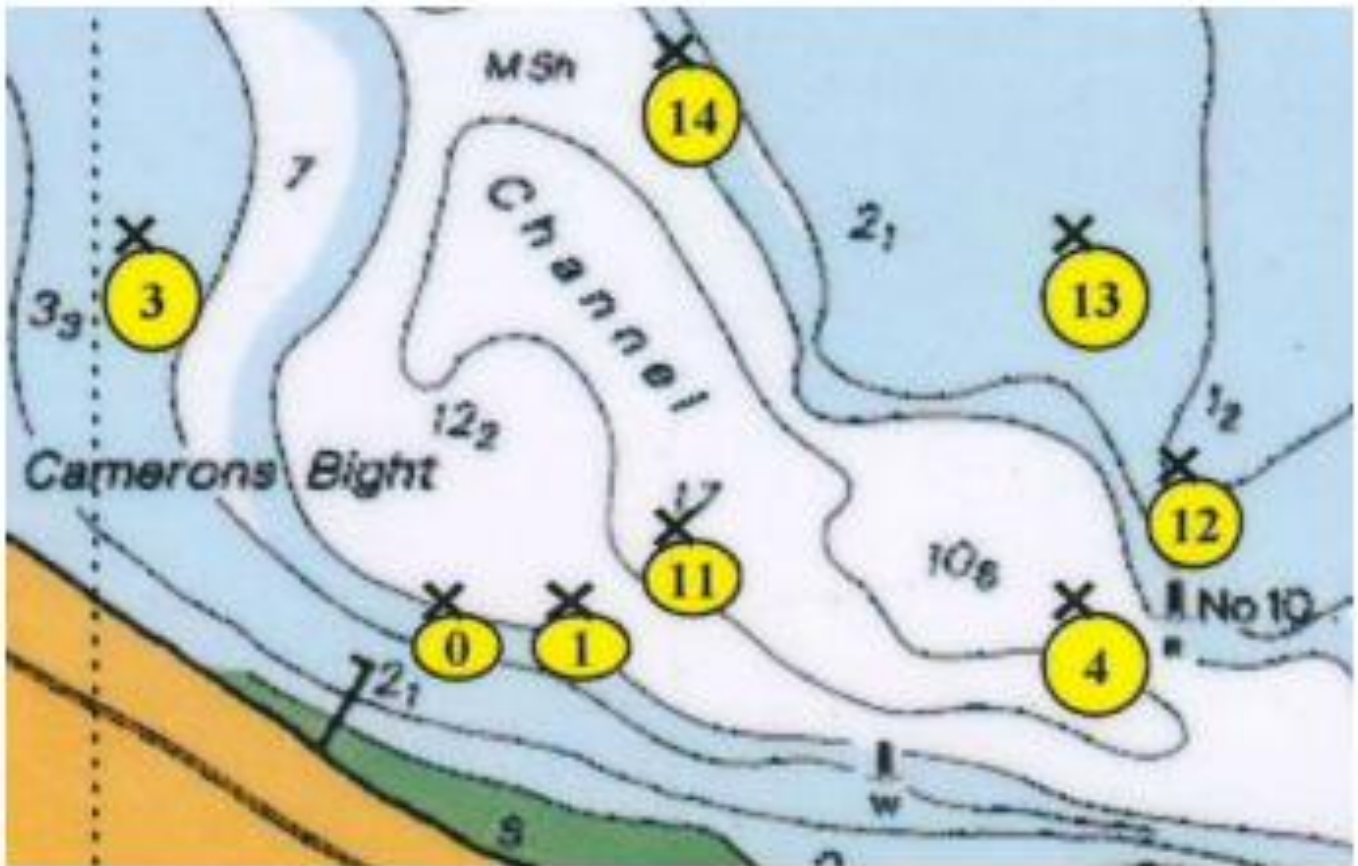
1. COURSES – CLUB STARTS

Clubhouse start, fixed club and navigational marks, clubhouse finish. Marks are to be rounded or passed to port unless indicated by (S), round or pass to starboard.

PORT COURSE – all marks shall be rounded to port unless indicated by (S)		
Course	Wind	Sabre, ILCA, RS Aero, Contender, Mixed other Musto Finn
3		Special course, refer to official notice board
4	SW	Start – 11 – 12 – 13 – 11 – 13 – 11 – 12 – 13 – 1(S) – Finish
5	S	Start – 11 – 13 – 14 – 11 – 14 – 11 – 13 – 14 – 1(S) – Finish
6	SE	Start – 12 – 13 – 14 – 12 – 14 – 12 – 13 – 14 – 1(S) – Finish
7	E	Start – 12 – 13 – 11 – 12 – 11 – 12 – 13 – 11 – 12 – 1(S) – Finish
8	NE	Start – 11 – 13 – 14 – 11 – 13 – 11 – 13 – 14 – 1(S) – Finish
9	N	Start – 4 – 13 – 11 – 4 – 13 – 4 – 13 – 1(S) – Finish
10	NW	Start – 11 – 12 – 14 – 12 – 14 – 11 – 12 – 14 – 1(S) – Finish
11	W	Start – 11 – 13 – 3 – 11 – 13 – 3 – 13 – 3 – 1(S) – Finish
12	WSW	Start – 11 – 14 – 3 – 14 – 3 – 14 – 3 – 1(S) – Finish
13	SW	Start – 11 – 12 – 13 – 11 – 13 – 11 – 12 – 13 – 11 – 13 – 1(S) – Finish
14	S	Start – 11 – 13 – 14 – 11 – 14 – 11 – 13 – 14 – 11 – 14 – 1(S) – Finish
15	SE	Start – 12 – 13 – 14 – 12 – 14 – 12 – 13 – 14 – 12 – 14 – 1(S) – Finish
16	E	Start – 12 – 13 – 11 – 12 – 11 – 12 – 13 – 11 – 12 – 11 – 12 – 1(S) – Finish
17	N	Start – 4 – 13 – 11 – 4 – 13 – 4 – 13 – 11 – 4 – 13 – 1(S) – Finish
Course	Wind	Minnow, O'pen Skiff, Optimist
3		Special course, refer to official notice board
4	SW	Start – 11 – 12 – 13 – 11 – 13 – 1(S) – Finish
5	S	Start – 11 – 13 – 14 – 11 – 14 – 1(S) – Finish
6	SE	Start – 12 – 13 – 14 – 12 – 1(S) – Finish
7	E	Start – 12 – 13 – 11 – 12 – 1(S) – Finish
8	NE	Start – 11 – 13 – 14 – 11 – 13 – 1(S) – Finish
9	N	Start – 4 – 13 – 11 – 4 – 1(S) – Finish
10	NW	Start – 11 – 12 – 14 – 12 – 1(S) – Finish
11	W	Start – 11 – 13 – 3 – 1(S) – Finish
12	WSW	Start – 11 – 14 – 3 – 1(S) – Finish

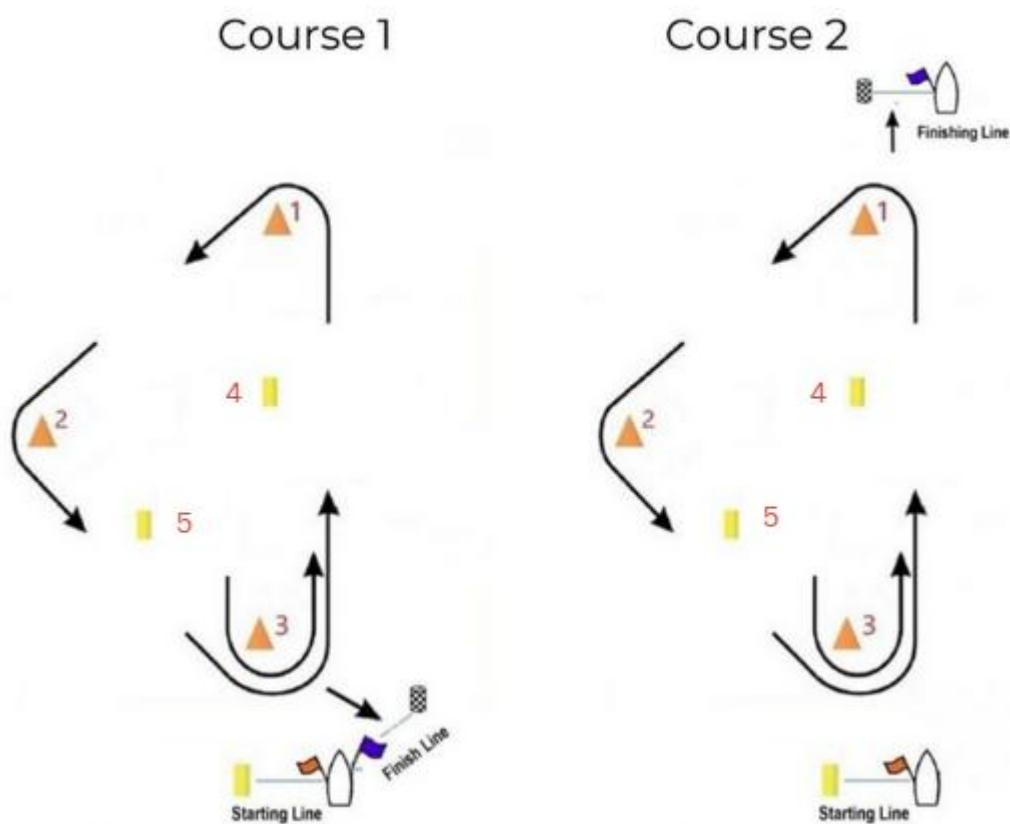
2. MARKS – CLUB STARTS

BYS club course marks are yellow conical marks in the following approximate locations:

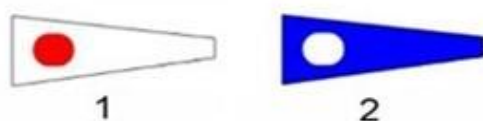


3. COURSES – ON THE WIND STARTS

DIVISION	COURSE 1 & 2
Sabre	Start – 1 – 2 – 3 – 1 – 3 – Finish
ILCA, Pacer	Start – 1 – 3 – 1 – 3 – Finish
RS Aero	Start – 1 – 2 – 3 – 1 – 3 – Finish
Contender, 420, mixed mono	Start – 1 – 2 – 3 – 1 – 3 – 1 – 2 – 3 – Finish
Musto Skiff, skiffs, Finn	Start – 1 – 3 – 1 – 3 – 1 – 3 – Finish
Minnow, O'pen Skiff, Opti	Start – 4 – 5 – 3 – 4 – 3 – Finish
Minnow novice fleet	Start – 4 – 5 – 3 – Finish



Numerical Pennants Course #



4. MARKS – ON THE WIND STARTS

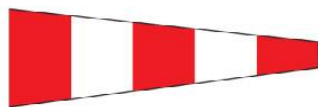
Mark	Description	Comment
START	Yellow cylindrical inflatable	Start line pin
FINISH	Black/White checked cylindrical inflatable	
Marks 1, 2, 3	Orange truncated conical inflatable	
Marks 4, 5	Yellow cylindrical inflatable	Junior course marks
Replacement mark	Pink conical inflatable	For change of course

RACE SIGNALS

The meanings of visual and sound signals are stated below. An arrow pointing up or down

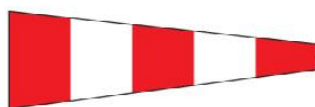
(↑ ↓) means that a visual signal is displayed or removed. A dot (•) means a sound; five short dashes (— — — — —) mean repetitive sounds; a long dash (—) means a long sound. When a visual signal is displayed over a class flag, fleet flag, event flag or race area flag, the signal applies only to that class, fleet, event or race area.

Postponement Signals



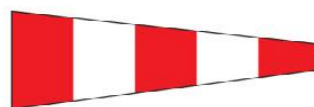
↑ • • • • ↓ •

AP Races not started are postponed. The warning signal will be made 1 minute after removal unless at that time the race is postponed again or abandoned.



↑ • •

AP over H Races not started are postponed. Further signals ashore.



↑ • •

AP over A Races not started are postponed. No more racing today.

AP over a Numeral Pennant 1–9

Postponement of 1-9 hours from the scheduled starting time.



Pennant 1 ↑ • • • • ↓ •



Pennant 2 ↑ • • • • ↓ •



Pennant 3 ↑ • • • • ↓ •



Pennant 4 ↑ • • • • ↓ •



Pennant 5 ↑ • • • • ↓ •



Pennant 6 ↑ • • • • ↓ •



Pennant 7 ↑ • • • • ↓ •

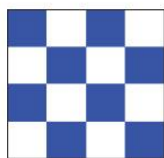


Pennant 8 ↑ • • • • ↓ •



Pennant 9 ↑ • • • • ↓ •

Abandonment Signals



↑ • • • • ↓ •

N All races in progress are abandoned. Return to the starting area. The warning signal will be made 1 minute after removal unless at that time the race is abandoned again or postponed.



↑ • • • •

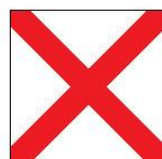
N over H All races in progress are abandoned. Further signals ashore.



↑ • • • •

N over A All races in progress are abandoned. No more racing today.

Safety



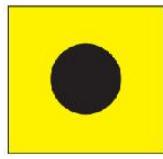
↑ —

V Monitor communication channel for safety instructions (see rule [37](#)).

Preparatory Signals



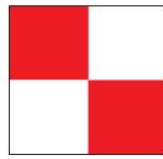
↑ ● ↓ —
P Preparatory signal.



↑ ● ↓ —
I Rule [30.1](#) is in effect.



↑ ● ↓ —
Z Rule [30.2](#) is in effect.



↑ ● ↓ —
U Rule [30.3](#) is in effect.



↑ ● ↓ —
Black flag. Rule [30.4](#) is in effect.

Recall Signals

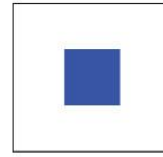


↑ ●
X Individual recall.



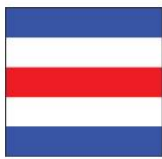
↑ ● ● ↓ ●
First Substitute General recall.
The warning signal will be made 1 minute after removal.

Shortened Course



↑ ● ●
S The course has been shortened. Rule [32.2](#) is in effect.

Changing the Next Leg



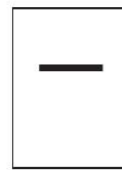
— — — —
C The position of the next [mark](#) has been changed:



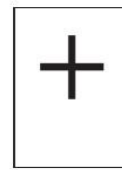
to starboard;



to port;

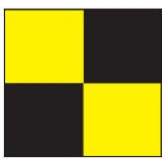


to decrease the length of the leg;



to increase the length of the leg.

Other Signals



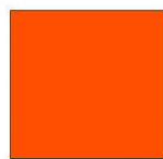
↑ ●
L Ashore: A notice to competitors has been posted.
Afloat: Come within hail or follow this vessel.



— — — —
M The object displaying this signal replaces a missing [mark](#).



↑ ●
Y Wear a personal flotation device (see rule [40](#)).



(no sound)
Orange flag. The staff displaying this flag is one end of the starting line.



(no sound)
Blue flag. The staff displaying this flag is one end of the finishing line.