



**LITTLETON SAILING CLUB**  
**OPEN MEETING GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS**

Version: 4

Revised: March 2025

**1. INSTRUCTIONS**

These General Instructions apply to all members of the clubs and other organizations and their guests, who use the waters of Littleton Lake. Members of visiting sailing clubs will be temporary members for the duration of the Open Meeting, they shall enjoy benefits and have responsibilities as any other member in accordance with the rules and standing instructions and other provisions issued by the Club.

These General Instructions may be modified by Special Instructions posted on the Club Notice Board at any time. In exceptional circumstances they may be modified orally by the Officer of the Day. The General Instructions and any Special Instructions apply to all boats and sailboards and for the purpose of this document only, the term "boats" shall mean "boats, sailboards and paddleboards". Boats racing will also be subject to the Sailing Instructions applicable to the event.

**2. DISCRETION TO PROHIBIT SAILING**

The Officer of the Day may prohibit or cancel sailing and/or recall boats on the water. Code Flag "N" will be flown for general prohibition or Code Flag "AP" for temporary postponement. The Management Committee can, if deemed necessary, change the times and/or days when the lake may be used.

**3. RULES OF NAVIGATION ON LAKE**

The following rules of navigation shall apply to all persons who are using boats on the Lake:

- (a) If reasonably possible, a boat not racing shall not interfere with a boat that is racing;
- (b) Rights of way for all boats not racing shall be governed by the current World Sailing, "The Racing Rules of Sailing 2025-2028", (RRS) Part 2;
- (c) All boats, whether racing or not, shall give way to a motor boat (or any other boat providing assistance) which is:
  - i) recovering persons from the water;
  - ii) aiding a boat in difficulty;
  - iii) towing a boat; or
  - iv) placing marks under the direction of the Officer of the Day.

**4. SPECIAL WARNINGS AND RESTRICTIONS**

The following special warnings and restrictions are in force at the Lake.

**PROHIBITED AREA FOR SAILING BOATS:**

- (a) **HIGH TENSION ELECTRICITY CABLES CROSS LOW OVER THE SOUTHWEST BAY OF THE LAKE. BOATS MUST NOT PASS BEYOND THE GUARD CABLE INSTALLED ACROSS THE BAY;**



- (b) Boats must not enter the diving area adjacent to racing mark 3;
- (c) No sailing boats may moor at the jetty in front of the Race Control Box;
- (d) Any instructions concerning other prohibited areas for sailing that may be displayed on the Club Notice Boards must be strictly obeyed.

**PROHIBITED AREAS ASHORE:**

- (a) Neither boats, trailers, nor launching trolleys are to be left at any time so that they obstruct any slipways, pathways or access roads.
- (b) **MASTS MUST BE LOWERED BEFORE BOATS ARE TAKEN NEAR OR BENEATH THE HIGH TENSION ELECTRICITY CABLES PASSING OVER THE CAR PARKS. MASTS MUST NOT BE ERECTED IN THE CAR PARKS NEAR THE CABLES. THESE ARE VITAL SAFETY PRECAUTIONS.**

**5. PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES**

All persons sailing at the Lake, or manning any other boat on the water, or on the pontoons or slipways must wear an adequate personal flotation device. Wetsuits and drysuits are not deemed to be personal flotation devices. The Officer of the Day may prohibit any person from sailing that does not wear or properly wear a personal flotation device and may disqualify them from any race.

**PROTECTIVE CLOTHING: COLD WATER CAN KILL. DRY SUITS OR WET SUITS COVERING AT LEAST THE TRUNK SHALL BE WORN BY ALL CREW MEMBERS AT ALL TIMES WHILE AFLOAT BETWEEN THE MONTHS OF NOVEMBER TO MARCH INCLUSIVE.**

**6. BUOYANCY OF BOATS AND BUOYANCY TESTS**

All boats must have their designed buoyancy maintained in satisfactory working order and satisfy class association or national authority buoyancy regulations. The Officer of the Day has the authority to prohibit the use of a boat with defective buoyancy.

**7. THIRD PARTY INSURANCE - COMPULSORY**

All boats using the Lake must be insured against third party risks to a minimum of £3,000,000 per incident. All helms, before launching their boats, must first sign and submit to the Entry Secretary in the Club House foyer the following declaration:

I DECLARE that I hold a valid and current certificate of insurance which covers me against third-party risks to a minimum of £3,000,000, while racing and/or sailing and that I will continue to do so while engaged in racing and/or sailing at Littleton Sailing Club / Littleton Lake Sailing Club / Littleton South Sailing Club.

**(Signed).....Date.....20.....**



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**RULES**

- 1.1 Racing will be governed by the rules as defined in the current World Sailing “The Racing Rules of Sailing 2025-2028” (RRS), The Equipment Rules of Sailing, and The Royal Yachting Association (RYA) Racing Charter, and prescriptions.
- 1.2 The Littleton Sailing Club Open Meeting General Instructions and these Sailing Instructions will apply.
- 1.3 All Helmsmen must complete an entry form and submit it and the entry fee to the Entry Secretary in the Clubhouse bar. Boats are required to comply with Class rules and a boat may only be helmed in any race by the person in whose name the entry is made.

**2. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS**

Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located in the Clubhouse foyer.

Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted no less than 30 minutes, where possible, before the Warning Signal of the race(s) to which it will apply.

**3. BRIEFING**

A briefing will be given approximately 30 minutes before the start of the first race. Start times and briefing arrangements for subsequent races will be announced on the day.

**4. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE**

Signals made ashore will be displayed at the mast at the Race Control Box.

**5. SCHEDULE OF RACES AND MINIMUM ENTRY NUMBER**

- 5.1 Four races will be sailed, unless otherwise stated in the Open Meeting Notice of Race or varied at the discretion of the Race Committee. The first race will start at 11:00 hours unless the time is varied by the Open Meeting Notice of Race or at the briefing. Start times of further races will be indicated at the briefing.
- 5.2 At least three boats at the start and intending to race constitute a race.

**6. RACING AREAS**

- 6.1 The racing area is Littleton Lake.
- 6.2 Boats shall not pass beyond the guard cable installed across the south-west bay of the lake.
- 6.3 Boats shall not enter the diving area adjacent to racing mark 3.



- 6.4 Any instructions concerning other prohibited areas for sailing will be displayed on the Club Notice Boards and shall be strictly obeyed.

## **7. COURSES**

- 7.1 The diagram attached at Appendix 1 shows the location and identification of fixed marks on the Lake. In addition, up to three movable marks may be used with the designations A, B and C.
- 7.2 The course for each race and the number of laps to be sailed will be set no later than 10 minutes before the start and will be displayed at the start. In the event of a Committee-Boat start, Flag "W" will be displayed on the Committee Boat, and if possible on the Race Control Box.
- 7.3 Any course and Start Line changes may be made on the water before a start by lowering Flag "W" once the Committee-Boat is on station and raising it again, accompanied by one sound signal. In these instances, if there is any conflict between the course shown on the Committee-Boat and that shown ashore, then that shown on the Committee-Boat will be the one to be sailed.

## **8. MARKS**

- 8.1 The fixed marks shown in the diagram at Appendix 1 are all yellow cylindrical buoys with their identifying numbers painted on in black.
- 8.2 In addition up to 3 movable orange cylindrical marks may be used with designations A, B and C.
- 8.3 The black and white chequered course board indicates that the inner and outer distance marks (described either as the "gate" on map in Appendix 1, unless otherwise defined by the OD) forms part of the course and that boats must pass between the inner and outer marks on every lap.

## **9. AREAS THAT ARE OBSTRUCTIONS**

The areas described in S.I. 6.2, 6.3 and 6.4 (above) are designated as obstructions.

## **10. RACES**

- 10.1 Races will be started by using RRS rule 26 with the Warning Signal made 5 minutes before the Starting Signal. Flag signals will be described at the briefing.
- 10.2 The starting line will be either be the imaginary line formed by the transit between the two vertical poles on the Race Control Box, the front pole flying an orange flag, with boats passing between the inner and outer distance marks; or
- 10.3 When Flag "W" is displayed on the Committee-Boat and/or the Race Control Box to signify a lake start, an imaginary line between the flag pole of the Committee Boat flying an orange flag and an outer distance mark or mark of the course.



10.4 A class whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area during the starting sequence for other classes.

**11. CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE**

Not used.

**12. SHORTENING THE COURSE**

Flag S will be displayed with two sound signals as the leading boat rounds the mark that commences the final leg of the shortened course. This changes RRS rule 32.2.

**13. THE FINISH**

The finishing line will be between the inner and outer distance marks on a line formed by the transit between the two vertical poles on the Race Control Box, the front pole flying a blue flag, or between the pole on the Committee boat flying a blue flag and an outer distance marker or a mark of the course.

**14. TIME LIMITS**

The time limit for each race is 90 minutes. Boats failing to finish within 15 minutes after the first boat sails the course and finishes will be scored DNF without a hearing. This changes RRS rules 35, A5.2 and A10.

**15. PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS**

15.1 Protests and requests for redress shall be completed on an RYA protest form, available from the Race Control Box and the Officer of the Day must be advised within 30 minutes of the protesting boat finishing or retiring. This changes RRS rule 62.2.

15.2 The Exoneration Penalty and the Advisory Hearing and RYA Arbitration procedures of the RYA Rules Disputes Procedures will be available. See the official notice board for details, which form part of these sailing instructions.

**16. DECLARATIONS**

There is no requirement to sign on or off unless declaring penalties or retirement. Any declarations that are made should be made within 30 minutes of the finish of a race, when 2 races are held back to back with no shore break then such declarations to be made within 30 minutes after the finish of the second race. The declaration sheets will be in the downstairs foyer.

**17. SCORING**

This event will be scored under The Racing Rules of Sailing Appendix A Low Points System.

**18. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY**

Competitors participate in the races entirely at their own risk: see RRS Fundamental Rule 3: Decision to Race. The organizing 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 race.



Appendix 1 - Schematic map of the lake with marks and the gate indicated as well as no-go zones

