



Bury Lake Racing

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Contents

Contents.....	1
Introduction	1
How and When.....	1
Racing Rules	2
Typical Course	3
Start Sequence	5
Communications about race	5
Penalty and Recall Procedure	6
Scoring	6
Portsmouth Numbers	7
Questions	7

Introduction

Our new Handicap Race Series will start on Sunday, November 14th and will run for six weeks (ending on December 19th). Every week, participants will compete in two races, to compete for the Autumn Cup. Racers will choose a class of boat to race in for the series and we will use the RYA Portsmouth Yardstick to enable us to fairly compare times of many different classes of boats. After the series ends, a winner will be crowned and there is a heavy incentive to take part in all the races in the series (See [scoring](#) for details).

This document explains and outlines the details of how our handicap race series will run. It lists common rules and signals that may be used in the race. We strongly recommend you familiarise (or remind) yourself of the rules and signals before the series begins.

How and When

The series runs over six weeks starting on the 14th of November and is a fun, competitive approach to sailing. We will be using the Portsmouth Yardstick handicap system allowing participants to race any class of boats they like with very few restrictions (See [Questions](#)). In the interest of being fair, you will be “locked-in” to one class of boat for the entire series providing it is approved by the duty race officer. Racers will race in 2 races per week, with a total of 12 races for the series.

Sailing Instructions: Autumn 2021 Race Series

To organise the series, we would ask that you book for the whole series in advance as this will allow us to organize logistics better. Bookings will close on the 14th of November.

Each Sunday the first race will start at 10:30 and the second race will start no later than 11:50. Check the "Notice of Race" board at 10:00 on the day of the race as the times and details may vary slightly at the discretion of the Duty Race Officer.

Racing Rules

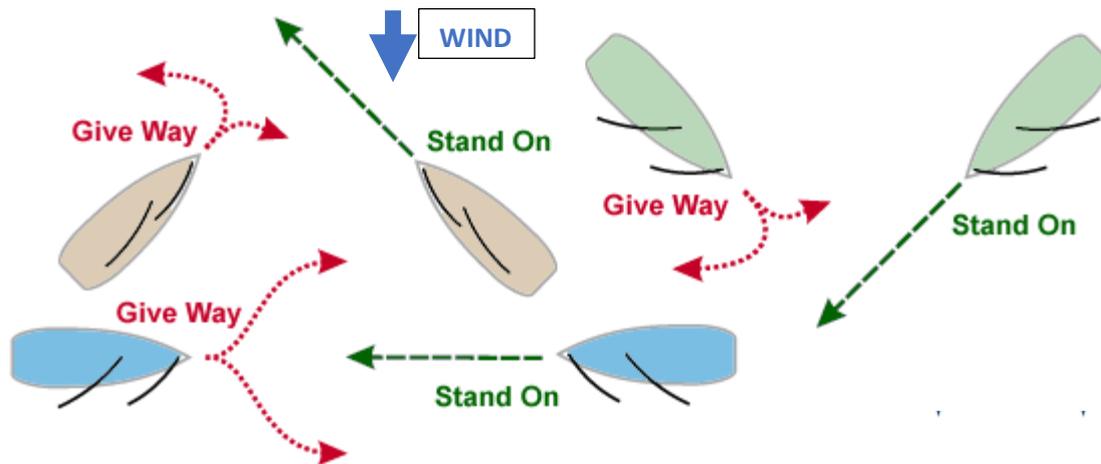
- The race series rules are governed by these Sailing Instructions and the Rules as defined in [The Racing Rules of Sailing 2021-2024 \(RRS\)](#).
- You must continue to comply with all the BLYM rules for members.

Basic Rules

- A boat and her owner shall compete in compliance with the recognized principles of sportsmanship and fair play. A boat may be penalized under this rule only if it is established that these principles have been violated. The penalty shall be a disqualification that is not excludable. (Rule 2)
- Appropriate PFDs must be always worn.

On Opposite Tacks (Starboard Rule)

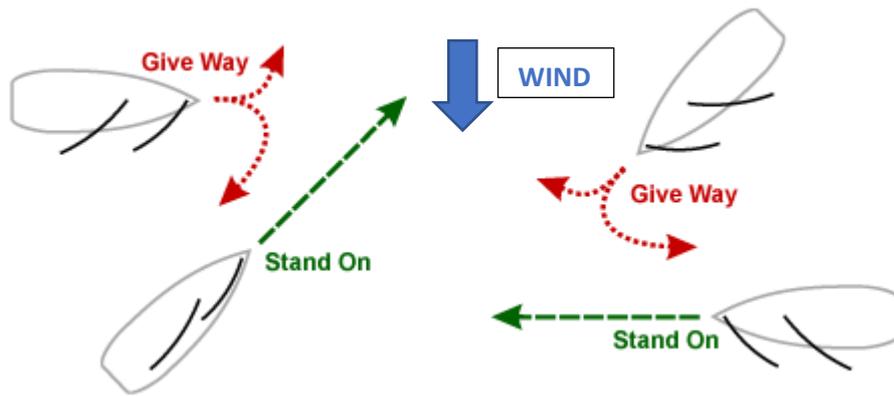
When boats are on opposite tacks, a port-tack boat shall keep clear of a starboard tack boat.



On The Same Tack and Overlapped (Windward Rule)

When boats are on the same tack and overlapped, a windward boat shall keep clear of a leeward boat.

Sailing Instructions: Autumn 2021 Race Series



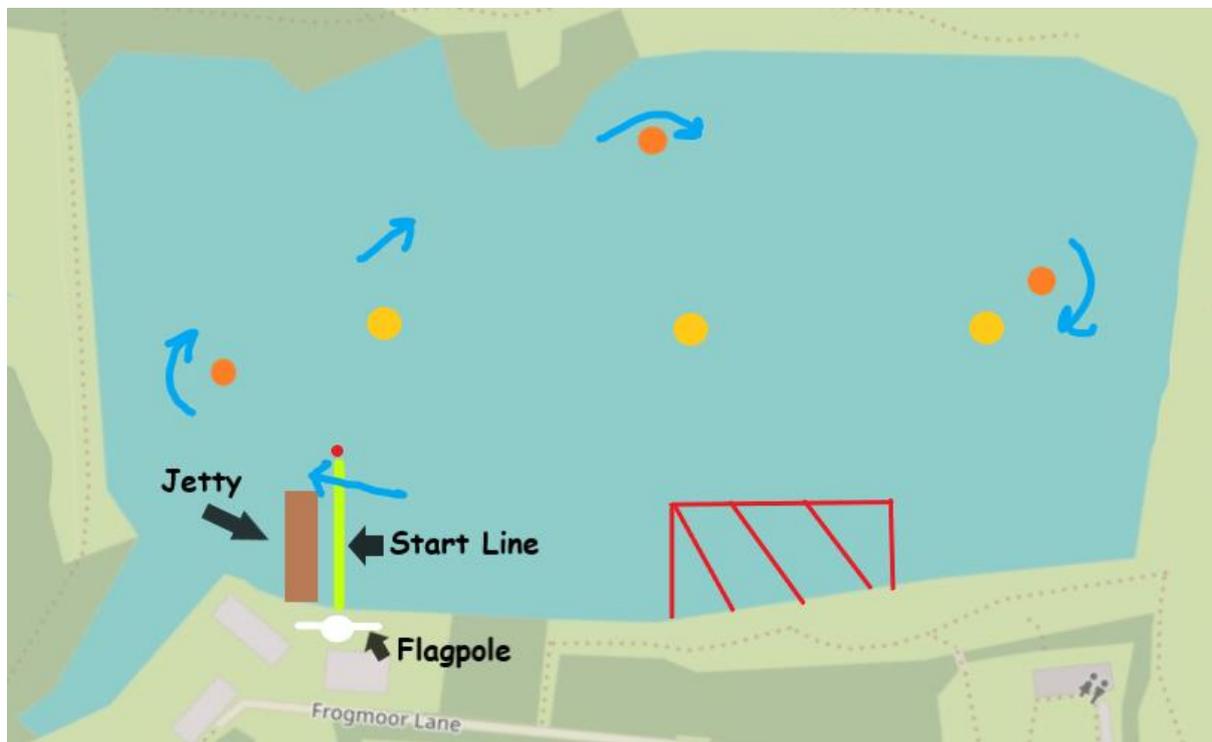
Recommended Reading

- From [Racing Rules of Sailing](#) read Part 1-2 (page 11-20)
- The RYA's Handy Guide to the Racing Rules (Ref No. YR1/21)

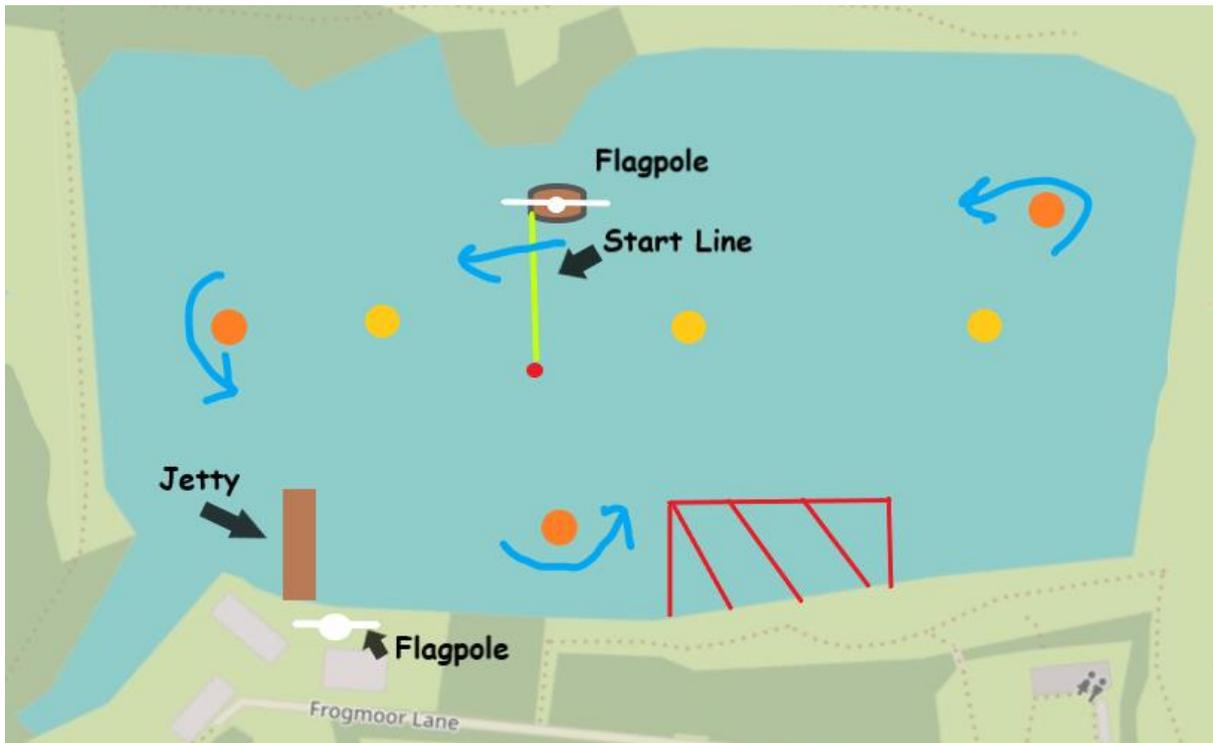
Typical Course

In order that you don't have to worry about learning a new course each week and can get on with the business of winning races, we will have a few standard courses we will use. The course of the week will be displayed on the Race Notice Board at least 30 mins before the start of the first race. For all the races we will only be using the big orange buoys to form the course and the small red buoys for the start line.

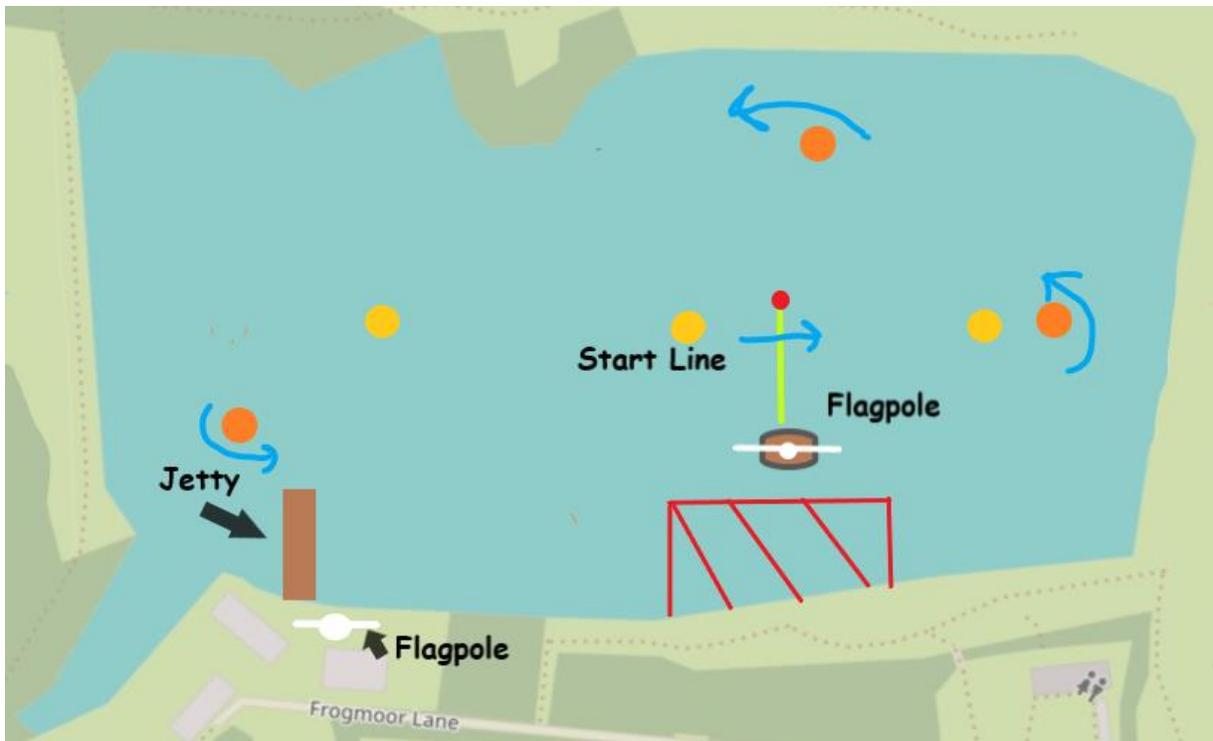
Club Course



Peninsula Course



Model Boat Course



Start Sequence

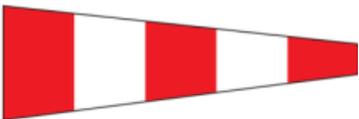
Below are the flags used for the race start sequence. Whistles will be blown when flags are moved but the times are based on the flags alone.

Time Before Go	What Happens	Type of Flag	Image
5 minutes to start	The flag is raised to the top of the big flagpole	BLYM or H - Flag	
4 minutes to start	The flag is raised to the top of the flagpole	P - Flag	
1 minute to start	Flag is lowered	P - Flag	
GO GO GO	Flag is lowered	BLYM or H - Flag	

Communications about race

We will have a race notice board in the briefing room (Red Board). This will have all the relevant information about the race and course and will be updated no later than 30 mins before the start of the first race (at 10:00).

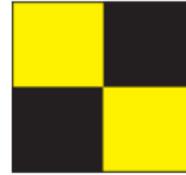
If for any reason we must alter any race details less than 30 mins before the start, below are common flag signals we will use to communicate with you:

Type of Flag	Meaning	Image
Postponement	The race has been postponed	

Sailing Instructions: Autumn 2021 Race Series

L – Flag

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



Penalty and Recall Procedure

Type of Flag
General Recall*

Meaning
Return to start line (see rule 29.2)

Image



X-Flag

Someone has crossed the start line early and must restart the race (see rule 29.1)



Z-Flag**

A racer has broken a rule and a penalty may be issued.



*The general recall flag is used when the race committee cannot identify which boats have made a false start and therefore needs to restart the race.

**A racer has broken a rule and will be instructed of their penalty either then or no later than 4 hours after the race has finished.

Scoring

In our handicap race series, we will use the RYA Portsmouth Yardstick ([see Portsmouth Numbers](#)). This will enable many different classes of boats to compete. At the end of each race, participants will be put into a scoring table with the winner getting one point and the second place getting two points and so on until the last racer. For example, if you came in fifth place you would get five points and if you came in ninth place you would get nine points.

In the spirit of rewarding those who participate the most, racers that don't race will get the number of points of last place plus one. For example, if ten participants raced the people who did not race would get eleven points. Below is a table explaining the additional bonuses you would get for attending more races.

Sailing Instructions: Autumn 2021 Race Series

No. of races attended	No. of races that your worst score will be discarded
Five or more	One
Nine or more	Two
All twelve races	Three

Once the series is complete, we will add up all your scores from the 12 races and the racer with the lowest score will be crowned champion.

Portsmouth Numbers

We understand quite a few of the boats at BLYM aren't commonly raced boats and a lot of their RYA Portsmouth numbers come from the limited data set or are from an experimental data set not endorsed by the RYA. So, in the spirit of fair competition, we are happy to investigate any numbers that you feel aren't quite right whether it is for your specific boat or a whole class.

Please email racing@blym.org.uk with evidence of why your PY number should be altered and we will explore changing it.

Class	RYA PY Number	Class	RYA PY Number
Laser Full	1100	RS Zest	1260
Laser Radial	1147	RS Quest	1110
Laser 4.7	1208	Topper	1365
Laser Vago	1071	Wayfarer	1102
Laser Pico	1330		
Laser Funboat	1430		
RS 200	1046		

Questions

Do you have any questions or need clarification on anything in these sailing instructions? If so email: racing@blym.org.uk and they will be more than happy to help.