

Major Event Instructions 2015/16 issue 1

These Major Event Instructions (MEIs) are published to give information that is common to all events organised by the UK 29er Class Association in conjunction with a host club, including Grand Prix events, Winter Championships and Inland Championships. Supplementary Sailing Instructions (SSIs) published by a host club will detail matters concerning a specific event, and shall be produced and made available to competitors by the host club in accordance with these MEIs prior to an event. These MEIs may be used for other events by referring to them in the Notice of Race for that event.

1 RULES

- 1.1 Racing will be governed by the rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing, the International 29er Class Rules, the UK 29er Class Association Major Event Instructions (MEIs), and the local or Supplementary Sailing Instructions (SSIs). This changes RRS 63.7.

2 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

- 2.1 All notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board. The SSIs will specify its location.

3 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 3.1 Any change to the MEIs or SSIs will be posted on the official notice board not less than 30 minutes before Flag D is displayed, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 19:00 hours on the day before it will take effect.

4 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 4.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed at the place specified in the SSIs.
- 4.2 When flag AP is flown ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 30 minutes' (change to Race Signals).
- 4.3 If the fleet is divided into flights, one or more flight flags beneath flag AP indicates that those particular flights have been postponed.
- 4.4 Boats shall not go afloat until flag D is displayed. If boats are to be launched by flight, then the flight colours of those to be released will also be flown.

5 FORMAT OF RACING

- 5.1 The format of racing will be specified in the SSIs. This may include single fleet, groups or qualifying / final series.
- 5.2 Where the fleet is divided into groups or qualifying / final format, the following shall apply:
- Allocation: The Race Committee will allocate each boat to one of up to four flights, yellow, blue, red, green as posted on the official notice board.
 - Flight Identification: Each boat shall display the coloured flight identification card, provided by the organisers, in the pocket on the foot of her mainsail or a coloured ribbon tied to the mainsail head.
 - Flight Starts: Will be as shown in Appendix 2 of these instructions. The second flight in each race will normally start not less than six minutes after the previous start.

6 SCHEDULE OF RACES

- 6.1 The dates for racing will be published in the Notice of Series and / or Notice of Race.
- 6.2 The format for two day events is that there will be no more than nine races in total, with five races scheduled for the first day, and four races scheduled for the second day. However, additional races may be sailed on either day if weather or other reasons dictate. If this is the case then it will be identified by flag F flying on the committee boat.

- 6.3 The scheduled time for the first warning signal of the first race on each day of a two day event will be defined in the SSI's.
- 6.4 On the last day of a two day event no warning signal shall be made after 1530hrs.
- 6.5 To alert boats that a race will begin soon, an orange flag will be displayed (with one sound) for at least 2 minutes before a warning signal is displayed.
- 6.6 When more than one race will be held on the same day, the warning signal for the second and each succeeding race will be made as soon as practicable.

7 CLASS FLAGS

- 7.1 If the fleet is sailed as one fleet, then the class flag will be orange with the class insignia on it.
- 7.2 If the fleet is divided into flights, the class flags will be those whose colour corresponds to the flight. For example, yellow and red.
- 7.3 When the fleet is divided into Gold, Silver and/or Bronze and/or Emerald fleets the class flags will be:
 - a) Gold Fleet = YELLOW flag
 - b) Silver Fleet = BLUE flag
 - c) Bronze Fleet = RED flag
 - d) Emerald Fleet = GREEN flag

8 RACE AREA

- 8.1 The Race Area for racing will be defined in the SSI's.

9 COURSES

- 9.1 The diagram in Appendix 1 shows the courses, including the course signals, the order in which marks are to be passed, and the side on which each mark is to be left.
- 9.2 No later than the warning signal, the race committee signal boat will display a numeral Pennant or a board clearly displaying the number of laps to be sailed.
- 9.3 When rounding the leeward gate, boats shall sail between the gate marks from the direction of the previous mark and round either gate mark.
- 9.4 When one of two gate marks is missing then the remaining mark shall be passed to port.

10 MARKS

- 10.1 The marks will be described in the SSIs.

11 THE START

- 11.1 Races will be started in accordance with RRS 26.
- 11.2 The starting line will be between the mast displaying an orange flag on the committee boat at the starboard end and the mast displaying an orange flag on the port end boat or a buoy with an orange flag.
- 11.3 A boat starting later than 4 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes RRS A4 and A5.
- 11.4 Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall keep clear of the starting area and of all boats whose warning signal has been made.
- 11.5 When a race is started under RRS 30.3, the Black Flag Rule, is recalled, the sail numbers of disqualified boats will be displayed on the race committee boat with a long sound signal, for at least three minutes. When the race is restarted, a disqualified boat shall not sail within 100 metres of the starting line before the starting signal, nor after the starting signal within an imaginary line drawn 100 metres outside any area where a boat might sail whilst racing. The penalty for breaking this Major Event Sailing Instruction or Supplementary Sailing Instruction is that the disqualification is not excludable (DNE).
- 11.6 When a race is started under RRS 30.3, the Black Flag Rule, and boats are identified as OCS, they may be hailed at the windward mark or the next available opportunity thereafter, and must immediately retire from the race, and sail well clear of the race area. The Race Committee may

impose a 5 points or DNE (Do Not Exclude) penalty for any boat that fails to comply with this instruction.

- 11.7 If flag U has been displayed as the preparatory signal, no part of a boat's hull, crew, or equipment shall be in the triangle formed by the ends of the starting line and the first mark during the last minute before her starting signal. If a boat breaks this rule and is identified, she shall be disqualified without a hearing but not if the race is restarted or resailed or postponed or abandoned before the starting signal. This changes RRS 26 (Starting Races) and RRS 63.1 (Requirement for a Hearing). When flag U is used as the preparatory signal RRS 29.1 (Individual Recall) does not apply. The scoring abbreviation for a flag U penalty is UFD. This changes A11 (Scoring Abbreviations).

12 THE FINISH

- 12.1 The finishing line will be between a mast with a blue flag on the committee boat and the mast displaying a blue flag on the port end boat or a buoy with a blue flag.
- 12.2 After finishing and clearing the finishing line boats shall keep clear of the finishing area and of all boats not yet finished.
- 12.3 Boats re-crossing the finish line in the direction from the last mark will be scored for their final crossing.
- 12.4 Alternative Finishing Line
- a) When an official boat displays flag W with two sounds, boats will be finished by this official boat.
 - b) When a boat finishes in accordance with 12.4 a) she shall be given a finishing place after all boats which complete more legs of the course.

13 TIME LIMIT

- 13.1 The target time for the first boat to finish is 30 minutes. Boats failing to finish within 15 minutes after the first boat finishes will be scored Did Not Finish. This changes RRS 35.
- 13.2 If no boat has passed Mark 1 within 25 minutes of the start the race will be abandoned.
- 13.3 If no boat finishes within 50 minutes of the start, the race will be abandoned.
- 13.4 Abandonment under MEI 13.2 or 13.3 will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 62.1(a).

14 PENALTY SYSTEM

- 14.1 RRS 44.1 is changed so that only one turn, including one tack and one gybe, is required.
- 14.2 Appendix P will apply, as changed by instructions 14.1 and 14.3.
- 14.3 RRS P2.3 will not apply and RRS P2.2 is changed so that it will apply to any penalty after the first one.
- 14.4 Penalties for breaches of the rules, other than Parts 1, 2 or 3, are at the discretion of the protest committee. This changes RRS 64.1.

15 PROTESTS, EXONERATION PENALTIES, ADVISORY HEARINGS AND DECLARATIONS

- 15.1 Unless specified otherwise in the SSI's, the Exoneration Penalty and the Advisory Hearing and RYA Arbitration procedures of the RYA Disputes Procedures will be available. The Official Notice Board will give details of these procedures.
- 15.2 When the Organising Authority appoints a Protest Committee independent of the Race Committee, the Terms of Reference of the Protest Committee will be posted on the official notice board.
- 15.3 Protests will be written on forms available at the race office and delivered there within Protest Time which will end 30 minutes after the last boat comes ashore after the last race of the day.
- 15.4 When the chairman of the Protest Committee is an International Judge or National Judge and the Protest Committee decides that an infringement, other than an infringement of Part 2, has had no significant effect on the outcome of the race, it may impose a penalty of one or more points or make such other arrangement as it thinks fair. This may be to impose no penalty. This amends RRS 64.1.
- 15.5 A notice 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. This is the notification required by RRS

63.2. Advisory hearings, arbitration hearings and protest hearings may begin without a notice and within protest time when the parties are available.

- 15.6 On the last day of an event a request for re-opening a hearing shall be delivered:
- within the protest time limit if the party requesting re-opening was informed of the decision on the previous day.
 - no later than 30 minutes after the party requesting re-opening was informed of the decision on that day.

This changes RRS 66.

- 15.7 No boat may protest another boat for infringements of the following MEI Rules 4.4, 5.2b, 17, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24. This changes RRS 60.1(a).

16 SCORING SYSTEM

- 16.1 The Low Points scoring systems of RRS Appendix A will apply, except as amended in the following clauses.
- 16.2 When the entry is divided into flights.
- Each flight group in a race will be scored by Appendix A, low point system (as here amended). The scores from each flight group will be combined to produce the results of the race (so that there will be two firsts, two seconds, etc). These are not ties and will not be broken by RRS A7.
 - When one start is postponed, recalled or abandoned, the race will not be completed and scored until boats in each start sail the course and finish.
 - The first sentence of RRS A4.2 is deleted and replaced with: "All other boats, including a boat that did not start, a boat that finishes and thereafter retires or is disqualified, shall be scored points equal to one more than the number of boats entered in the largest flight racing together."
 - Ties on total points will be broken by RRS A8 only for the purposes of fleet qualifications, and for awarding trophies and prizes, in which case RRS A8.2 will apply to tied scores only when the tied boats have sailed against each other.
- 16.3 When an event is sailed as one fleet, one race shall be required to constitute an event series.
- 16.4 For events where the fleet is divided into flights, three races are required to constitute an event series.
- 16.5 For all events:
- When fewer than 4 races have been completed a boats series score shall be the total of her race scores.
 - When from 4 to 7 races have been completed a boats series score shall be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.
 - When from 8 to 9 races have been completed, a boats series score shall be the total of her race scores excluding her two worst scores;
- 16.6 For events, when a qualifying series is sailed and the fleet is then split into final series fleets, then:
- A boats qualifying series scores will be carried forward to the final series
 - For the purposes of 16.5 the number of races completed will be the sum of those completed in the qualifying and final series. Races from either series shall be eligible for exclusion.

17 SAFETY

- 17.1 All competitors must wear an adequate (closed cell foam) personal floatation device at all times when afloat. Wet suits and dry suits are not adequate personal buoyancy. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in disqualification from one or more races. Flag Y will not be displayed. This changes RRS 40 and race signals.
- 17.2 The Race Committee may stop a boat launching, or require it to return ashore, if it is considered the boat is not adequately equipped or prepared, or for any other reason. The decision is final and will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 60.1(b).
- 17.3 Competitors in difficulty shall obey any instruction given by an official boat crew. Failure to comply with safety crew instructions may result in disqualification or other penalty
- 17.4 An official boat in close attendance to a craft or competitor in difficulty is an obstruction.

18 REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT

- 18.1 Substitution of competitors will not be allowed without prior written approval of the race committee. This includes the swapping of helm & crew positions.
- a) Where substitution has been approved by the race committee the boat will be counted as a new entry and all races already sailed scored as DNC.
- 18.2 Substitution of damaged or lost equipment will not be allowed unless approved by the race committee. Requests for substitution shall be made in writing to the committee at the first reasonable opportunity and approval shall not be confirmed until such request is signed by the race committee and posted on the official notice board. Where a boat is found in breach of this rule the race committee will impose any penalty it sees fit which may include the boat being scored DNF for all previous races.

19 EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

- 19.1 A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules. On the water, a boat can be instructed by a race committee measurer to proceed immediately to a designated area for inspection.

20 TALLIES

- 20.1 When the Supplementary Sailing Instructions state that tallies will be used, the following applies:
- 20.2 The location of the tally board will be specified in the SSI's or at the official briefing or on the official notice board.
- a) All competitors shall "tally out" before launching, and "tally in" on returning to shore. The penalty for failing to "tally out" is five points, added to the boats score in the first race of that day, or in the nearest, without a hearing. This changes RRS 63.1.
- b) The time to "tally in" finishes fifteen minutes after the last boat is ashore. The penalty for failing to "tally in" is five points, added to the boats score in her last race of the day, without a hearing. This changes RRS 63.1. If a competitor fails to "tally in or out" three times at an event, on the third time the penalty will be DSQ from the race concerned without a hearing. This changes RRS 63.1.
- c) A competitor who does not tally out must request AND RECEIVE permission to compete from the race committee. The five point penalty identified in MEI Rule 20.2.a will still apply.
- 20.3 A boat that retires from a race shall notify the Race Committee or the Race Office as soon as possible.

21 ADVERTISING

- 21.1 When any event sponsor's promotional material is provided by the organising authority, competitors shall make every reasonable effort to display it on their boats and / or sails throughout the event, as directed at Registration.
- 21.2 Any individual caught stealing sponsor promotional items, e.g.: flags, banners, prizes, shall be deemed to have committed a gross breach of good manners and may be subject to a hearing under RRS 69.

22 OFFICIAL AND SUPPORT BOATS

- 22.1 All Official, Patrol and Support Boats (including Coaches) must be approved and registered with the host club and the 29er Class Chairman or Sailing Secretary or Safety Officer for each event.
- 22.2 Official, Patrol and Support boats may be marked with an appropriate coloured flag, National Flag or Country Code and shall comply with instructions from the event safety officer.
- 22.3 Team leaders, coaches and other support personnel including relatives of competitors who are not official, patrol or support boats shall not be in the racing area, nor shall they communicate with any competitors, from the time of the preparatory signal for the first race until the last boat returns to shore. The penalty for failing to comply with this requirement will be the disqualification of all boats associated with the support personnel who do so.
- a) For the purposes of this rule, the racing area shall be defined as not less than 750m from any boat that is racing, and this shall specifically include an area not less than 200m immediately to leeward of the finish line for any race.
- b) For events that are held in restricted waters where the requirements in 22.3 a) are unable to be met, the Race Officer may designate a specific area for team leaders, coaches or support boats

22.4 All Support Boats shall be expected to act as part of the safety fleet if requested to do so by the Race Committee.

23 WASTE / RUBBISH

23.1 Boats shall not put waste / rubbish into the water. Waste / rubbish may be placed aboard Patrol, Support and Race Committee boats.

24 RADIO COMMUNICATION

24.1 A boat shall neither make radio transmissions while racing nor receive radio communications not available to all boats. This restriction includes mobile telephones.

25 PRIZES

25.1 Prizes will be awarded as advised in the Notice of Race and/or in the Supplementary Sailing Instructions and/or on the UK 29er Class website as appropriate.

26 RISK STATEMENT

26.1 Rule 4 of the Racing Rules of Sailing states: "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone."

Sailing is by its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event, each competitor agrees and acknowledges that:

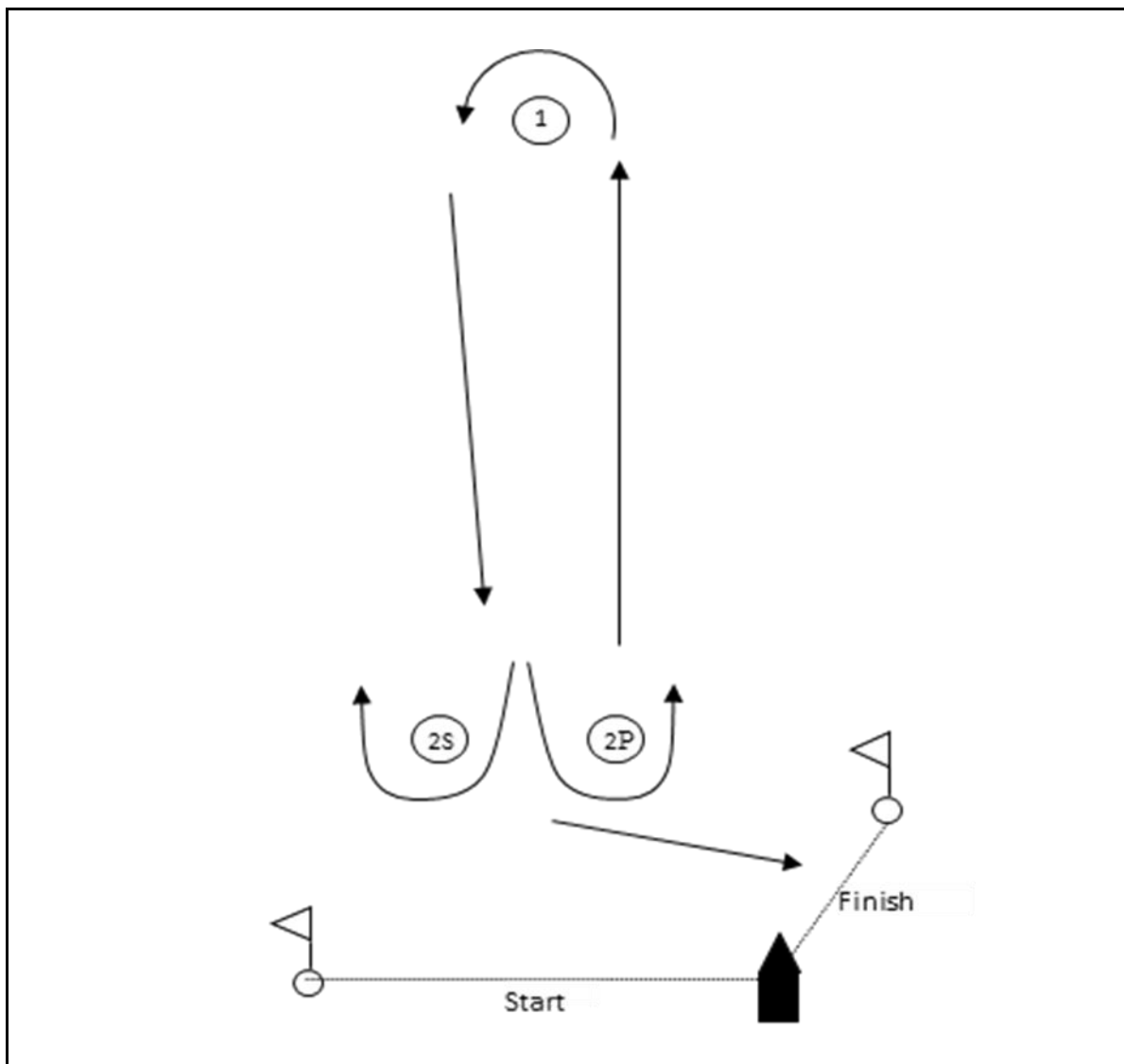
- a) They are aware of the inherent element of risk involved in the sport and accept responsibility for the exposure of themselves, their crew and their boat to such inherent risk whilst taking part in the event.
- b) They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore.
- c) They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions.
- d) Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate.
- e) The provision of a race management team, patrol boats, umpires and other officials and volunteers by the organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities.
- f) The provision of patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances.
- g) [For offshore races] They are responsible for ensuring that their boat is equipped and seaworthy so as to be able to face extremes of weather; that there is a crew sufficient in number, experience and fitness to withstand such weather; and that the safety equipment is properly maintained, stowed and in date and is familiar to the crew].

26.2 As part of the Event Registration Form, sailors aged Under 18 on the dates of an event will also need to have a parental consent completed by a parent or guardian, which will also confirm that they are entirely responsible throughout the event for themselves and their boats on land, and on the water.

27 INSURANCE

27.1 Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £ 3,000,000 per event or equivalent.

APPENDIX 1 - COURSE DIAGRAM



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|------------------------------|---|
| Signal: | Mark rounding order: |
| Lap board / Pennant 1 | Start, 1, 2P, Finish |
| Lap board / Pennant 2 | Start, 1, 2S/P, 1, 2P, Finish |
| Lap board / Pennant 3 | Start, 1, 2S/P, 1, 2S/P, 1, 2P, Finish |
| Lap board / Pennant 4 | Start, 1, 2S/P, 1, 2S/P, 1, 2S/P, 1, 2P, Finish |

APPENDIX 2 – SCHEDULE OF FLIGHT GROUPS

When the fleet is divided into FOUR flights the starts will be as follows:

| Race Number | First Start Groups | Second Start Groups |
|-------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Practice | Yellow and Blue | Red and Green |
| 1 and 7 | Yellow and Blue | Red and Green |
| 2 and 8 | Yellow and Red | Blue and Green |
| 3 and 9 | Yellow and Green | Blue and Red |
| 4 and 10 | Red and Green | Yellow and Blue |
| 5 and 11 | Blue and Green | Yellow and Red |
| 6 and 12 | Blue and Red | Yellow and Green |