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**East Cowes Sailing Club

 ECSC Sunday Brunch Series

17th September to 22nd October 2017

Sailing Instructions**

**1. Current ISAF Rules and RYA prescriptions**, together with class rules shall apply except as amended by these instructions.

**2. Start and Finish Lines**

Starting signals and courses will be made from East Cowes Esplanade, at a position approximately 200 metres southwest of old Castle Point. The Start line will be an extension of a transit formed by bringing a Red & White pole (on the sea wall) and a Dayglo Orange back marker on the Starting box (beach hut) into line. Both the forward and back transit marks may be lit by a high-intensity white light.

The outer distance mark (ODM) for both start and finish will be the yellow racing mark “Charles Stanley Direct(8J)” approximately 500 metres NW of the transit marks. **Note: The outer limit may not necessarily be on the start line.**

**The finish line to be from the Red and White Post on the Esplanade Wall to the ODM (Charles Stanley Direct).**

 **3. Classes and Start Times**

The Autumn Series will be run on consecutive Sundays. There will be one start, all boats racing in the same class. The class shall be identified by a symbol, rather than a class flag. These symbols shall take the form of a coloured shape on a black back ground.

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| **Race 1** | **Class Symbol** | **Warning Signal** | **Preparatory Signal** | **One Minute** | **Start Signal** |
| “**All-In” Massed Starts** |  | 10.55 | 10.56 | 10.59 | 11.00 |

***Notes:***1. There may be a time check broadcast on VHF Radio (M1 37A) at 10.45.

2. Sail configuration: boats shall declare by VHF radio to the Race Committee prior to the first race of the series in which they compete, whether or not they will be using a spinnaker. Having declared their choice, this will apply for the complete series and handicaps will be applied to the boat accordingly.

A spinnaker is defined as in RRS 50.4 Headsails, where the difference between a headsail and a spinnaker is that the mid girth of a headsail, measured from the mid-points of its luff and leech, does not exceed 50% of the length of its foot, and no other intermediate girth exceed a percentage similarly proportional to its distance from the head of the sail. A sail tacked down behind the foremost mast is not a headsail. Cruising chutes, Gennakers, Assymetrics are spinnakers under this definition.

**4. Courses**

(i) Courses will be selected from the ECSC Course Card available on the website. Each course is indicated by a single letter. Courses may be combined for the purposes of a race e.g. Course BD means Course B with vessels continuing the race with Course D. Courses may be sailed twice (2 laps). Course ZZ indicates that the course will be passed by radio, nominating individual race marks.

**5. Areas that are Obstructions**

When racing Yachts shall pass North of the breakwater. The breakwater shall rank as an obstruction as defined in RRS.

  **6. Starting and Course Signals**

**BE AWARE THAT COURSE INFORMATION WILL BE CIRCULATED BY VHF RADIO ONLY.**

The course letter(s) will be broadcast on VHF channel M1 (37A), names of marks and which side to pass the mark may be broadcast on VHF channel M1 (37A)

The sound signal is generated by an air-horn, A light is also illuminated when the signal is sounded.

(i) A coloured board displayed on the apex of the starting box (beach hut) will indicate the direction for starting. Red (white border) starting to the East, Green (white border) starting to the West.

(ii) The warning signal for the start sequence will be indicated by a sound signal (with light).

(iii) The preparatory signal for the start will be indicated by a sound signal (with light).

(iv) The ‘One Minute’ signal’ will be a sound signal.

(v) The class signal will be indicated by a sound signal.

 (vi) All marks are to be ‘passed’ on the required side.

(vii) Course cards and buoy charts (not to be used for navigation) should be downloaded from the clubs web site [www.eastcowessc.co.uk](http://www.eastcowessc.co.uk).

**7. Recalls**

Should a competing yacht be on course side (OCS) at the start, a second sound signal will be made. The ‘round the ends rule 30.1’ shall not apply. Sail number(s) of recalled yacht(s) may be broadcast on VHF Channel M1 (37A) by the line approximately one minute after the start.

**8**. **Shortened Course**

Courses may be shortened as per ‘RRS 32 by displaying the orange letter [S] on a black background at the shore end of the Line. If [S] only is displayed, all classes are to be shortened. If [S] followed by a class symbol(s) is displayed, only the class(s) indicated are to be shortened.

If conditions dictate courses may be shortened at any point by the Club launch/RIB displaying both a blue flag and flag [S] (blue square on white background). In both circumstances sound signals will be made. When courses are shortened the race will finish at the next rounding mark for the leading boat of that class or classes. Competitors should record the time their boat passes abeam that mark, and also the identity of the boats crossing the line immediately ahead and astern. When possible the club launch will be on station to also record finishing times. Timings should be passed to the Race Officers as soon as possible after finishing the race.

**9. Time Limits**

The Time Limit for any race shall be 1315, however should a boat finish before the time limit then the other boats shall be allowed an extra 15 minutes beyond the time limit to finish. Boats failing to finish by the Time Limit shall be scored “Did Not Finish” without a hearing. Should all competitors in any individual class not complete the course, the Race Officer may use the times recorded on completion of the previous lap for results purposes.

**10. Cancellation**

Flag ‘N’ (blue and white check) will be flown from the Club flagstaff located at the Sailing Club premises and also on the race control box on East Cowes Esplanade as soon as possible prior to commencement of racing. A broadcast will be made on VHF Radio Channel M1 (37A) and cancellation notification may also be sent by SMS to those competitors whose mobile phone numbers are held by Race Control.

**11. Entry Forms, Handicap Forms, Fees and Liability Disclaimer**

If entered for ECSC Thursday Series no need to complete entry form. If not competed or visitor please contact Rear Commodore sailing. Entry forms and handicap forms are available from website www.eastcowessc.co.uk

Completed forms should be passed either direct to the Rear Commodore (sailing) or handed to the launch or start line officials. Any competitor starting without the forms having been completed and returned will be deemed not to be taking part.

**Visitors are requested to identify themselves to the Race Officers/Line or the Club launch prior to the start.** Entry fees will be payable before taking part in ECSC races. Race fees are £5.00 for the series if not already entered for previous Series.

**12. Safety Equipment.**

The following items of safety equipment must, as a minimum, be carried by all competing boats:

a. A VHF radio capable of communicating on VHF channel M1 (37A)

b. An anchor suitable for the size of vessel and a minimum of 20 metres of warp.

c. A personal floatation aid for each person on board.

d. A life buoy or other man overboard recovery device.

e. Navigation lights appropriate to the size of vessel.

 **13. Interaction with Commercial Shipping.**

The International Regulations for Preventing Collision at Sea (Collregs) apply when any non-racing vessel is encountered. In particular sailing vessels and all vessels under 20 metres in length must not impede vessels that can navigate safely only in a narrow channel or fairway. All yachts are required to comply with Southampton Notice to Mariners 03/2014 (Precautionary Area, Thorn Channel). Engines may be used for this purpose without penalty providing no racing advantage has been gained. Circumstances of engine use must be reported to the Race Committee without delay and in any event within 1 hour of finishing the race.

**14. Alternative Penalty**

Rule 44 will apply (the 720 degree turn penalty). Rule 31 will apply (touching a mark).

**15. Protests**

Intention to protest must be made to the Principal Race Officer either by communication through VHF channel 37A (M1) or by phoning 07751 799615 not later than 1 hour after the finish of the protesting yacht. The Principal Race Officer, at his discretion, has the power to extend this time limit. Protest must then be made in writing and handed in to the Principal Race Officer with a £5 deposit, within 4 hours of the incident.

 **Note**:

It is the duty of the protesting yacht to inform the yacht being protested that protest is being made against her.

**16. Results and Points Scoring**

a. The results will be posted on the Club notice board and on the Club web site. In addition copies can be e-mailed to competitors (if e-mail results are required send an e-mail to sailing@eastcowessc.co.uk with ‘ECSC RESULTS’ in the header field).

 b. The “Low Points Scoring Systems” of Appendix ‘A’ of the Racing Rules will apply as amended by Rule A5.
 c. A Trophy will be awarded to the boat that achieves the lowest total accumulated score from 5 of the 6 races. If there is no boat that completes 5 races then the best 4 race scores to count.

**17. Prizes**

Cups and Trophies will be awarded at the Club’s Annual Prize Giving.

**18. Burgees**

In order to identify competing yachts a Club burgee should be flown from the backstay of all yachts taking place in any ECSC racing event or, prominently displayed if no backstay is fitted.

**MISCELLANEOUS**
1. Handicap figures will be based on the Portsmouth Harbour System (PY) and will be reviewed/ amended by the Sailing Committee. Notification of any amendments will be posted on the E.C.S.C. notice board and Club web site www.eastcowessc.co.uk prior to the races to which they apply. If a yacht changes class during the season then her handicap shall revert to her standard PY number until her performance has been monitored in her new fleet.

2. Behaviour deemed to be overly aggressive or of a dangerous nature may lead to penalties, disqualification or permanent exclusion.

3. The Club will do its best to have the Club’s launch or RIB in attendance during racing. Should competitors in carrying out rescue assistance jeopardise their own position in a race, the Sailing Committee will, at their discretion, adjust positions accordingly.

4. The Race/Line Officers and/or Club launch/RIB **must** be informed **(for safety reasons)** as soon as possible if you retire from any race. It is considered irresponsible practice to abandon racing without informing Race Officers.

**6. Disclaimer, Responsibility & Insurance:**

 The Safety of a Yacht, its crew and its entire management, including insurance, shall be the sole and inescapable responsibility of the owner/skipper. The organisers shall not be liable for any loss, damage, death or personal injury, howsoever caused, to the vessel, owner, his skipper, crew or third parties as a result of taking part in any East Cowes Sailing Club (ECSC) event. Every owner warrants the suitability of his yacht for any ECSC racing

Yachts **must** carry insurance protection for third party and passenger liability of not less than £2,000,000.