



Sailing Instructions

These Sailing Instructions are for Merricks Yacht Club races only.

EDITION 13 2011/12

1. RULES

1.1. The racing will be governed by the 'rules' as defined in:-

- "The current Racing Rules of Sailing" (**RRS**) and the prescriptions and special regulations set by Yachting Australia.

2. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

2.1. Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice boards located under the clubhouse or within the clubhouse.

3. CHANGES TO INSTRUCTIONS

3.1. Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 20:00 hours on the day before it will take effect.

4. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

4.1. Signals made ashore will be displayed at the flagpole.

5. SCHEDULE OF RACES

5.1. Racing is scheduled as defined in the current Merricks Yacht Club 'Sailing and Social Programme'.

6. THE COURSES

6.1. The diagrams in the Appendix 1 Attachment show the courses, including the approximate angles between legs, the order in which marks are to be passed, and the side on which each mark is to be left.

6.2. When there is a gate, boats shall sail between the gate marks from the direction of the previous mark and round either gate mark.

6.3. Whereas all attempts will be made to use the courses stipulated in Appendix 1 Attachment, on occasions, subject to the sailing committee's discretion the course may be altered. Any changes will be described at each information session/briefing before the commencement of race commencement.



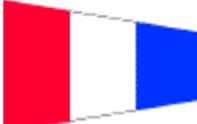

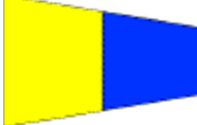

7. MARKS

7.1. Marks 1, 2 and 3 are yellow, inflatable and conical shaped. Additional marks X, Y will be staff buoys, displaying a yellow flag with black lettering.

7.2. Alternative marks may be adopted for "tackers" courses or for inshore courses as directed by the sailing committee. These marks shall be orange "tear drop" shaped rubber buoys.

8. DIVISIONAL FLAGS

8.1. Divisional flags will be:

Division 1	Numeral Pennant 1	
Division 2	Numeral Pennant 2	
Division 3	Numeral Pennant 3	
Division 4	Numeral Pennant 4	
Division 5	Numeral Pennant 5	
Division 6	Numeral Pennant 6	

9. THE START

- 9.1. Races will be started in accordance with the provisions of RRS 26 except the starting interval will be at 3-minute intervals.
- 9.2. Divisions may be combined for starting purposes.

Time	Description	Sound Signal
-4	AP flag down	Long
-3	Warning Signal	Short
-2	Prep. Signal first start	Short
-1	One Minute (Prep Signal down)	Short
0	FIRST START (Warning Signal second start)	Long
1	Prep. Signal second start	Short
2	One Minute (Prep Signal down)	Short
3	SECOND START (Warning Signal third start)	Long
4	Prep. Signal third start	Short
5	One Minute (Prep Signal down)	Short
6	THIRD START	Long

N.B. The first and succeeding starts are the warning signals for the next start.

- 9.3. The start line will be between a yellow buoy or orange flag at the port end and a staff flying an orange flag within the start boat on the starboard end. When a gate start has been set, the start will be between marks X or Y staff buoys at one end and an orange flag displayed from the start boat at the other.
- 9.4. Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area.
- 9.5. A boat starting later than 15 minutes after her starting signal may be scored Did Not Start (DNS).

- 9.6. The starting procedures may be changed at the discretion of the Sailing Committee and will be notified at the information/briefing session.
- 9.7. An anti-barging buoy may be put out by the start boat, which may display a course direction flag (either port or starboard). No yacht shall sail between the anchored boat and the anti-barging buoy. The starting line may be removed at the discretion of the sailing committee, but whenever practicable, will remain in place for at least 10 minutes after the final start.

10. ENTRIES AND DECLARATION

- 10.1. To be eligible for trophy scoring, a skipper must prior to the information session:
 - Be a current financial sailing member of the MYC
 - Have lodged a race entry, and
 - Have paid the race entry fee.
- 10.2. Noncompliance by skippers with the aforementioned will result in no result being recorded.
- 10.3. Entries for races must be made prior to 45 mins before the race start time, however, entries are to generally be lodged before the end of the information session, held one hour before the race start.
- 10.4. Within thirty minutes of the last boat finishing, all skippers must sign the declaration sheet indicating they have completed the course or retired, or else they may be declared DNF at the discretion of the Sailing Master.
- 10.5. Visiting yachts will be scored using Yachting Victoria Yardsticks.

11. INFORMATION SESSION

- 11.1. A verbal information session may be given at the Clubhouse prior to each race. In the event of any inconsistency between verbal instructions and these instructions, these instructions will prevail.

12. RECALLS

- 12.1. Refer to RRS 29.1. A single sound signal may be made. Offending boats may be notified.



Code Flag X

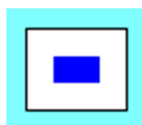
- 12.2. **General:** Code flag 'first substitute' will be displayed and may be accompanied by two sound signals. The abortive start signal becomes the new preparatory signal. All further starts are delayed by three minutes.



Code Flag First Substitute

13. SHORTENING COURSE

- 13.1. Code flag 'S' displayed on the stern of the rescue boat together with numeral pennants representing the divisions for which the shortened course applies. In addition to the use of flags, two amber lights on the Control Tower and two sound signals may be used to indicate a shortened course



Code Flag S

- 13.2. Each yacht will continue to sail its course until it has finished the lap the lead boat of its division is sailing. All boats will finish between the buoy off the yacht club and the Control Tower, in the direction of the course.
- 13.3. The decision to shorten course can be made by the Sailing Master or his nominee, a nominated member of the Sailing Committee, the Control Tower Officer and/or the Merricks Rescue Boat skipper at any time during the race.
- 13.4. The Sailing Master or Handicapper has the authority to do a count back on number of laps for individual boats or whole divisions when the course has been shortened to gain fairer results for the whole fleet.

14. CHANGE OF THE POSITION OF THE NEXT MARK

- 14.1. To change the position of the next mark, the race committee will move the original mark (or the finish line) to a new position. The change will be signaled before the leading boat has begun the leg, although the mark may not yet be in the new position. Any mark to be rounded after rounding the moved mark may be relocated without further signaling to maintain the course configuration.

15. THE FINISH

- 15.1. The finishing line will be an imaginary line between the buoy closest to the beach and the Control Tower.
- 15.2. The finishing of the lead boat in each division may be signaled by one sound signal.
- 15.3. After finishing, all boats must keep clear of the finishing line including whilst sails are up and on the beach and not hinder the other boats still racing.

16. CANCELLATION, POSTPONEMENT AND ABANDONMENT

- 16.1. **Abandonment:** The responsibility for a yacht's decision to sail, participate in a race or to continue racing is his/hers alone (Racing Rule 4). When races are abandoned as signalled by the display of the "N" over "A" or "N" over "H" flags on a Patrol Boat(s), and/or three flashing lights shown from the Tower, all boats shall return to shore and sign off.

The Sea Rescue Boat skipper and the Race Controller in the Control Tower has the authority to abandon a race at any time if the conditions are deemed to be unsafe.

- 16.2. **Cancellation:** Cancellation of a race shall be notified by the PA system and by notice posted in the Notice boards.
- 16.3. **Postponement:** Postponement of a race shall be notified by Code Flag AP, as described in the RRS. However, when Code Flag AP is displayed ashore, the warning signal will be made not less than 5 minutes after the flag is lowered.



Code Flag AP

17. THE PENALTY SYSTEM

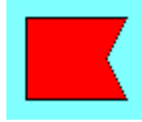
- 17.1. For multihulls, RRS 44.2 is changed so that the 720° turn is replaced by a 360° turn.
- 17.2. As provided under RRS 67, the sailing committee may, without a hearing, penalise a boat that has broken RRS 42.

18. TIME LIMITS

- 18.1. If the leading boat in any division does not complete the course within three hours, the Sailing Master or Handicapper has the authority to do a count back on number of laps for individual boats or whole divisions.
- 18.2. All boats finishing after a period of four hours or not finishing before sunset will receive a "DNF, Did Not Finish" rating.

19. PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

- 19.1. Protest forms are available at the control tower.
- 19.2. Intent to lodge a protest must be notified within thirty minutes of finishing. Protests must be lodged within sixty minutes and confirm to IYRU rules.
- 19.3. Code flag 'B' is the only recognized protest flag.



- 19.4. In the event of a protest, a person appointed by the Sailing Committee or by the Sailing Master shall mediate any Protests made under the Racing Rules. If such mediation is unsuccessful, a Protest Committee appointed under the Rules shall determine the protest according to Appendix M of those Rules. The Protest Committee shall consist of no fewer than three members.

20. POINT SCORE AND HANDICAPS

- 20.1. Race results will be posted on a club notice board. Race results may be announced over the PA. All results are provisional results until verification is complete and they are declared final.

- 20.2. Each boat finishing a race and not thereafter retiring or being disqualified will be scored as follows:

Finishing Place	Score
First	1
Second	2
Third	3
Fourth	4
Each place thereafter	Add 1 point

All other boats that compete in that race, including any that do not finish, finish and thereafter retire (DNF) or are disqualified (DSQ), will receive the score for the finishing place one more than the number of boats competing in that race. Boats that do not compete in that race (DNC) will receive a score of three more than the number of boats competing in that race.

- 20.3. The series score for each boat will be the aggregate sum of her race scores, with the single highest score discarded. The qualified boat with the lowest series score is the winner, and others are ranked accordingly.
- 20.4. The formula for determining Club and Divisional Championships will be as follows:
 - The Club and Divisional Championships are based principally on the Yachting Victoria yardsticks (with CBH conversions for T/Y's) which are revised annually and published on the Yachting Victoria website.
 - The Divisional and Overall results are calculated from the Summer Series, Autumn Series, the Australia Day Regatta and the Commodores Cup Regatta. All Off-the-beach Yachts (Mono and Multihull) with a recognized Yachting Victoria Y/S are eligible, as are all Trailable Yachts with a recognized current CBH.
 - The Club Champion is the skipper who scores the lowest points overall for combined championship races, with the two highest scoring races discarded.
 - The Divisional Champion is the skipper in each division with the lowest overall points for the combined championship races, with the two highest scoring races discarded.
 - The Summer Series consists of five heats. Five heats are included for Series points, with the highest point scoring heat to be discarded.
 - The Autumn Series consists of five heats. Five heats are included for Series points, with the highest point scoring heat to be discarded.
 - The Australia Day Regatta and the Commodores Cup Regatta each count as one event and divisional results are recorded for these series to be included in Divisional and Club Championship points.
 - The Club Champion and Divisional Champion :
 - Has the lowest score at the end of the season

- ❑ If tied – has started in the greatest number of championship races, including each heat of the two short series.
 - ❑ If still tied – has finished the greatest number of races
 - ❑ If still tied – who has the most first places
 - ❑ If still tied – who has beaten the other skipper the most times
- 20.5 The MYC Handicap Champion is calculated using the MYC Handicaps. The formula used is described on the Yachting Victoria website. MYC Handicapped results are calculated from the Summer Series, Autumn Series, the Australia Day Regatta and the Commodores Cup Regatta; calculated the same way as the Club Champion results.
- 20.6 Other race series including the Opening Series, the Cock O' Merricks and other individual races are not included in Club Championship points, MYC Handicapped points or Divisional Championship points. The Cock O' Merricks and Australia Day Regatta is calculated by the MYC Handicapped points.
- 20.7 A skipper who is unable to race due to rostered duty (ML11 or tower duty etc.) will be awarded the average of their 3 lowest scores in that particular series (Opening, Summer or Autumn series), or an average of their 2 lowest scores for a regatta (Australia Day, Cock O' Merricks, or Commodores Cup). A skipper who is unable to race at MYC due to state or national titles will be awarded the average of their scores for the whole series (excluding any discard).

21. SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

- 21.1. All sailing members shall observe the AYF safety regulations as amended by the Yachting Victoria and MYC. Changes to the safety regulations have been made and are outlined in Regulatory Impact Statement for the '*Marine (Personal Flotation Devices and Other Safety Equipment) Regulations 2005*' and may come into effect in December 2005.
- 21.2. A life jacket (PFD 1), buoyancy vest (PFD 2) or an appropriate buoyancy aid approved by the AYF, must be worn at all times by all persons on board sailing craft involved in racing.
- 21.3. Skippers and crews in distress shall obey the direction of the rescue boat.
- 21.4. A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee by signing off as Did Not Finish (DNF).

22. FLAG SIGNALS

- 22.1. Flag signals may be displayed from the clubhouse, yard and/or committee boats. The order of priority in signals is as follows:
- Flags
 - Sounds
 - Lights
- Sound signals are only an additional aid when flags are displayed.

23. ALTERATION TO SKIPPER

- 23.1. No alteration shall be made to skipper during an individual race (as set out in the entry form), short series events, or championship series without the permission of race control.

24. MEASUREMENT CHECKS

- 24.1. To obtain a result in events using Yachting Victoria yardsticks, boats must conform to class rules.

25. COMMITTEE VESSEL

- 25.1. If provided, a committee vessel will initially be stationed at the starboard end of the starting line for a Port hand Course or at the Port end for a Starboard hand Course.
- 25.2. Official boats may be marked with the Merricks Yacht Club name, or fly an official pennant of the club.

26. RACE HEADQUARTERS

26.1. Race headquarters is the MYC Control Tower.

27. LONE STARTER

27.1. A lone starter in any division may complete the course and will be allocated points in accordance with the scoring system.

28. TROPHIES AND PRESENTATION

28.1. Details of the Trophy Presentation will be advised by the General Committee of the MYC. Trophies may also be presented at the end of individual races.

29. INDEMNITY

29.1. The MYC and its members, officials, assistants and representatives are not responsible for the loss, damage or injury incurred afloat or ashore to any yacht, crew, person or equipment, nor the seaworthiness of any boat. The skipper and crew take part in a race at their own risk.

29.2. Competitors and all other boats affiliated with the MYC must hold valid third party insurance cover to a minimum of \$5,000,000. Proof of cover (copy of policy receipt) may be required along with entry.

30. RACE COMMITTEE

30.1. The race committee shall comprise those members of the Sailing Committee on duty and the Sailing Master or his nominated deputy. The race Committee shall have the final decision on suitability of the conditions for conduct of sailing, or their delegated authority.

31. FOUL GROUND

31.1. Skippers are warned of shore reefs to the immediate east and west of the Yacht Club. The extremities of safe water may be marked by port and starboard buoys. Skippers are also warned of surf toward the eastern end of the course and shoreline. E.g. Sunset Reef.

32. TIDES

32.1. High and low tides on the beach at Merricks occur approximately 30 minutes earlier than Stony Point Times.

33. LOG BOOK

33.1. All skippers must fill in the logbook before they go out sailing/boating in all cases except when they are sailing in an event for which they have filled in an entry form.

33.2. Always inform someone else when sailing and agree to contact them when ashore.

33.3. Whilst races are in progress, all boats on the water shall follow the instructions issued by the Rear Commodore or by a Patrol Boat Driver. Boats not taking part in a race shall keep clear of boats racing and shall avoid sailing across the finishing line.

33.4. The submission by a Club Member for use of a boat at MYC carries that Member's warrant that:

- The dinghy is and will remain in a seaworthy condition.
- The user, the dinghy and its use will comply with the Marine and Boating Acts and the regulations and rules prescribed from time to time.
- The Member will indemnify the Club, the Committee and Members against any and all claims arising from the use, storage or handling of the dinghy

34. CRUISING

- 34.1. For all club cruises, the Sailing Master and the Sea Rescue Coordinator will oversee and co-ordinate the fleet while cruising. The role will also include ensuring the safety and unity of the fleet and arranging designated meeting points and times during the cruise. Should the Sailing Master not be in attendance of the cruise, a nominated deputy will be appointed, preferably a member of the sailing committee.
- 34.2. All cruising boats entered either in the logbook or on an entry form as cruising with the MYC shall be subject to the direction and control of the Sailing Master and Sea Rescue Coordinator.
- 34.3. The Sailing Committee reserves the right to stipulate the minimum conditions with regards to age of participants and size of yachts.

Appendix 1

35. DIVISIONS

35.1. For starting purposes, boats may be divided into the following divisions, with the corresponding Naval Numerical Flags:

Off the Beach Catamarans

Division 1 – Multihulls with Yachting Vic. Yardsticks of less than 88
 Division 2 – Multihulls with Yachting Vic. Yardsticks 88 and above

Off the Beach Monohulls

Division 3 – Monohulls with Yachting Vic. Yardstick of less than 116
 Division 4 – Monohulls with Yachting Vic. Yardstick of 116 and higher
 Division 5 – Trailerable Yachts

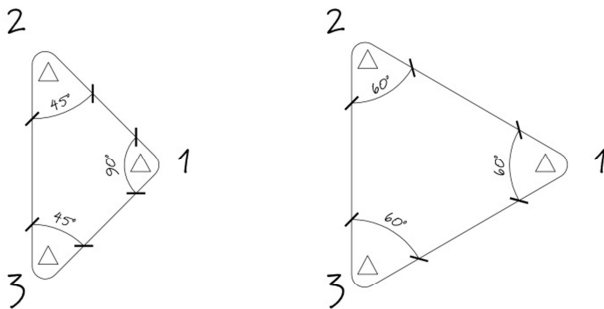
Juniors

Division 6 – Division for Junior sailors

36. COURSES

a) Triangle

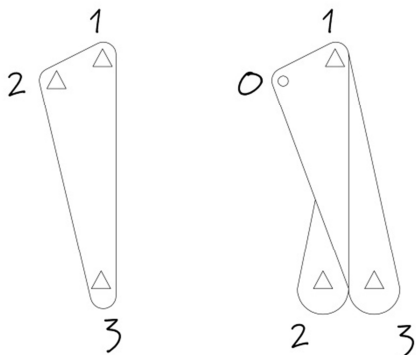
** ('1' represents the windward mark, '2' the wing mark and '3' the leeward, bottom mark).



b) Windward & Return with offset

c) mark or gate.

**('O' represents an offset mark, orange flag or orange buoy).



Note: **Triangular**: may be used as a substitute for either course at the discretion of the Race Committee. (3,1,2,3)