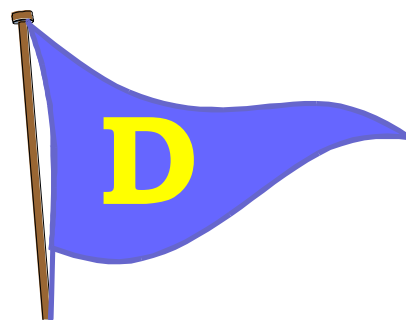
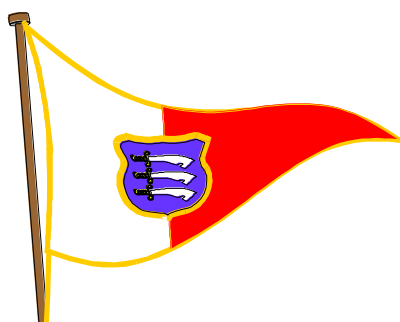


WEST MERSEA YACHT CLUB

&

DABCHICKS SAILING CLUB



SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

2026

SPONSORED BY





The notation '[NP]' in a rule means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1

Not valid for Round West Mersea Island Race/Mersea Week

1. RULES

- 1.1. The events are governed by the rules as defined in Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS).
- 1.2. RRS 90.3 (e) shall apply. The time limit will be 48 hours
- 1.3. Appendix T (Arbitration) shall apply
- 1.4. [DP] Automatic mechanical and wind vane devices for steering are prohibited.

2. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1. Any changes to sailing instructions will be posted before 0900 on the day it will take effect except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 2000 on the day before it will take effect
- 2.2. Oral changes to sailing instructions may be made from the Committee Boat using VHF Channel 77 call sign 'Molliette' or 'Centenary'. When oral changes have been issued, the Committee Boat will display Code Flag L over Flag O.

3. COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

- 3.1. Notices to competitors will be posted on the Official Noticeboard located On the [West Mersea YC sailing website](#).
- 3.2. This calendar of events will be administered using the clubs sailing website. Owners should ensure that they have a login to the portal. Please contact the race office for a log in.
- 3.3. The race office is on line and may be contacted via an email sent to WMYCsailing@gmail.com
- 3.4. Except in an emergency, a boat that is racing shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats. Information regarding the race may be broadcast on VHF Channel 77 callsign 'Molliette' or 'Centenary', competitors are strongly advised to monitor that channel before and during the race.
- 3.5. On the water the race committee intends to monitor and communicate with competitors on VHF radio channel 77. If the race committee displays flag B (Bravo) with one sound signal alternate VHF channel 72 will be used
- 3.6. The following communications may be made by the race committee through the fleet Whats App group if you need a link please contact WMYCsailing@gmail.com
 - 3.6.1. Course Information
 - 3.6.2. General competitor information

4. CODE OF CONDUCT

- 4.1. [DP] Competitors and support persons shall comply with reasonable requests from race officials.
- 4.2. [DP] Competitors and support persons shall place any advertising provided with care, seamanship in accordance with any instructions for its use and without interfering with its functionality.

5. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 5.1. Signals made ashore will be flown from the mast in front of WMYC.

6. SCHEDULE OF RACES

- 6.1. Races are scheduled in accordance with the 2026 located [HERE](#)
- 6.2. Unless amendment notices or an appendix to these Sailing Instructions is applicable, the scheduled start times for all races will be as published in the 2026 sailing programme.
- 6.3. To alert boats that a race or sequence of races will begin soon, the orange starting line flag will be displayed with one sound signal at least five minutes before a warning signal is made.
- 6.4. [NP] When the OOD has abandoned or postponed a race and it cannot be sailed on its original day the Sailing Committee may through a discussion decide what action to take. They will take into account



the individual circumstances and the knock-on effect on any of the race series.

7. CLASS FLAGS

7.1. The following Class Flags will be used: -

Class	Class Flag
YTC	Numeral Pennant 6
YTC no spi	Numeral Pennant 4

7.2. Class flags shall be flown from the backstay by all competitors in accordance with the fleet in which they entered.

8. Racing Areas

8.1. The Race area is the Blackwater and Colne estuaries

8.2. The locations of the Racing marks may be found using the WMYC and DSC course chart which is produced annually.

9. COURSES

9.1. Unless amendments or alternative sailing instructions are given, courses will be taken from the 2026 WMYC and DSC combined Course Chart. The number of the course to be sailed will be that displayed on the rail of the Committee Boat at the Fleet warning signal. The course number may be removed after the Start Signal and replaced with the course for any following fleet. If the number of the course displayed on the Committee Boat is followed by X2, this denotes that 2 laps of that course should be sailed, X3 denotes that 3 laps of that course should be sailed, etc.

9.2. If course number 77 is displayed then the OOD will broadcast the course to be sailed on VHF Channel 77, call sign 'Molliette' or 'Centenary'. The broadcast will be issued at least 15 minutes before the start of each race effected and may be displayed on a blackboard on the committee boat.

10. MARKS

10.1. The racing marks are yellow can shaped buoys that may additionally have a black flag. They are identified by their sponsor name and or their number.

10.2. The following marks may be used as rounding marks.

10.2.1. Navigation buoys as charted

10.2.2. Marks listed below.



WMYC mark number	Mark Name	Sponsor	Flag colour	Position
1	DAVONPORT KITCHEN & HOME	Richard Davonport	Black Flag	51-45.81N 00-56.22E
2	J WINTER AND CO MARINE LTD	J Winter & co Marine Ltd	Black Flag	51-45.21N 00-56.63E
3	ENOVERT COMMUNITY TRUST	Dabchicks Sailing Club	Black Flag	51-45.09N 00-52.86E
5	TROLLOPE LTD	Jack Trollope	Black Flag	51-44.91N 00-53.90E
6	FIDUCIA WEALTH	Fiducia Wealth Management	Black Flag	51-45.73N 00-58.97E
10	COLNE YACHT CLUB	Colne Yacht Club	Black Flag	51-44.82N 00-59.41E
12	MRS J HILL	Jill Hill	Black Flag	51-44.46N 00-52.98E
14	COMPASS RIGGING	Compass Rigging	Black Flag	51-45.45N 00-53.91E
17	MILLER MOTOR GROUP	Miller Motor Group Ltd	Black Flag	51-45.21N 00-55.11E
18	WALDEGRAVES	Waldegraves Holiday Park	Black Flag	51-45.60N 00-57.60E
MG	JOHN MUNNS YACHT SURVEYOR	John Munns	Black Flag	51-45.60N 00-55.47E
OLM (S)	DABCHICKS SAILING CLUB	Dabchicks Sailing Club	Black Flag	51-45.60N 00-54.56E
OLM (E)	BLOKE	Friends of Adam Crisp	Red Flag	51-45.70N 00-54.76E
OLM (W)	STREETS	Streets Chartered Accountants	Green Flag	51-45.65N 00-54.38E
Committee Boat Mooring	MERSEA ISLAND ROWING CLUB	MIRC	No Flag	51-45.77N 00-54.66E

10.3. If a mark is damaged or missing it may be replaced temporarily in its original position by a mark of a



different appearance.

- 10.4. A Dan buoy will be orange with an orange flag.
- 10.5. Laid marks shall be inflatables of any shape or colour.

11. Areas that are obstructions

- 11.1. [DP] [NP] There is an exclusion zone at approximately 51° 45.00N 000° 56.00E. The zone is clearly delineated by yellow marker buoys. No competitor may enter this zone at any time; any competitor identified in breach of this instruction will be disqualified without a hearing.

12. THE START

- 12.1. Races will be started using rule 26 with the warning signal made 5 minutes before the starting signal
- 12.2. The starting line will be either;
 - 12.2.1. One of the clubs starting lines- defined as a line between the staff of the Committee Boat flying an orange flag, moored to the Committee Boat mooring buoy (approximately 200m to the south west of the Nass Beacon) and the course side of the starting mark displayed on a board on the Committee Boat.
 - 12.2.1.1. If the board displays 'S' then Outer Limit Mark 'S' will be used as the starting mark- (yellow buoy with a Black flag).
 - 12.2.1.2. If the board displays 'E' then Outer Limit Mark 'E' will be used as the starting mark - (yellow buoy with a Red flag).
 - 12.2.1.3. If the board displays 'W' then Outer Limit Mark 'W' will be used as the starting mark (yellow buoy with a Green flag)

Or:

- 12.2.2. A Committee Boat Line – defined as a line between the staff on a moored Committee Boat flying an orange flag and the course side of a starting mark adjacent which may be either a chosen mark or dan buoy.

Or:

- 12.2.3. A transit between the course side of a pole with a black flag on the Middle Ouse, and the Flagstaff on the WMYC lawn flying an Orange flag. When this line is to be used will be defined in the appropriate appendix to the Sailing Instructions.
- 12.3. Which start line to be used shall be decided by the OOD and displayed on the committee boat board, this information will also be transmitted on VHF channel 77 using the call sign 'Molliette' or 'Centenary', a minimum of 15 minutes before the start of the race.

13. CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

- 13.1 To change a leg of a course the race committee will lay a new mark and signal in accordance with RRS 33 except the old mark may not be removed.
- 13.2 Minor mark moves (up to Approximately 200m) may be made without signalling a change. This changes RRS 33.

14. THE FINISH

- 14.1. The finishing line will be between the staff of the Committee Boat moored to the Committee Boat mooring buoy displaying a blue flag and the course side of the Outer Limit Mark 'S' (Black Flag) to the South of the Committee Boat mooring buoy.
OR
- 14.2. The finishing line will be between the Committee boat staff flying a blue flag and the course side of a danbuoy flying an orange flag
OR
- 14.3. A transit between the course side of pole with a black flag on the Middle Ouse, and the Flagstaff on the WMYC lawn displaying a blue flag
- 14.4. If the race committee is absent when a boat finishes, she shall record her finish time and her position in relation to nearby boats when the Nass Beacon is due north of the bow of your boat, with the



Southern outer limit as the finishing mark. This record to be reported to the race committee at the first reasonable opportunity

16. TIME LIMITS

16.1.

Event	Time Limit for First boat to finish.	Finish window after the First boat finishes
Multi Race day	1.5 hours	45 mins
Single Race days	3.5 hours	90 mins

17. HEARING REQUESTS

- 17.1. In addition to RRS 60.2 (hail protest) a boat intending to protest should notify the committee boat immediately upon finishing the race or retiring and await acknowledgement. The display of a red flag is not required. This changes RRS 60.2
- 17.2. Protests/Redress shall be lodged online via the online Jury system located at [Protests and requests for redress](#) or reopening shall be delivered there within the appropriate time limit using the online form available Protest form
- 17.3. The protest time limit is 17.00 hrs. on the day of the race or 60 minutes after the last boat finishes the last race of the day, or after flag AP over A is displayed ashore whichever is sooner.
- 17.4. A Hearing/Arbitration Schedule will be posted on the Official Notice Board as soon as possible after a protest has been lodged, but not later than 90 minutes after the end of Protest Time to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Hearings will be heard in the order specified on the Hearing Schedule. Parties and witnesses are required to be available at the time stated on the Hearing Schedule. It is the responsibility of each party to ensure their witnesses are available.
- 17.5. Notices of protests by the race committee or protest committee will be posted to inform boats under RRS 60.2 hearings.

18. SCORING

- 18.1. The finishing window is the time for boats to finish after the first boat sails the course and finishes. Boats failing to finish within the finishing window and not subsequently retiring, penalised or given redress will be scored Time Limit Expired (TLE) without a hearing. A boat scored TLE shall be scored points for the finishing place plus two more than the points scored by the last boat that finished in the finishing window. This changes RRS 35, A5.1, A5.2, and A10
- 18.2. OODs who normally race will receive their average points for the races in which they have competed during that series, or third position whichever is lowest, for any race missed in that series while serving as OOD, calculated at the end of the series. See DSC Friday Series Appendix for separate rule relating to that series.
- 18.3. See the Appendices for specific events which will define their scoring system.
- 18.4. The total score for each boat in the series will be the sum of her scores as follows:
- 18.5. When fewer than three races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores.
 - 18.5.1. When from four to fewer than six races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.
 - 18.5.2. When from six to seven races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her two worst scores.
 - 18.5.3. When eight races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her three worst scores.
- 18.6. Results will be published for all yachts that have a YTC handicap



- 18.6.1. The Organising authority will use the YTC handicap for a boat as published [here](#)
- 18.6.2. **WMYC Club Championship – is awarded to the WMYC boat with the lowest combined scores for the series’s defined below:**
All Events. That is 8 races and one worst score will be discarded.
DSC Club Championship is awarded to the DSC boat with the lowest combined scores for the series’s defined below.
The scores for Friday night, best 5 results to count, and the Commodores Regatta.
- 18.6.3. Boats not competing in a series will receive last place for the series they did not compete in. This changes RRS 35, A5.1, A5.2, A5.3 and A10
- 18.5 Extracting results for other series - For WMYC and DSC series within combined races, each boat will have its points calculated for the relevant event as if only boats for that particular event had been racing.

19. SAFETY REGULATIONS

- 19.1. [DP] A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee at the first reasonable opportunity.

20. EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

- 20.1. A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules, Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions

21. OFFICIAL VESSELS

- 21.1. Official vessels are the signal boats identified as “Molliette” for WMYC events and “Centenary” for DSC events

22. PRIZES

- 22.1. In general, prizes will be awarded in relation to the number of entries for each Race, Series, Division or Fleet as appropriate. Trophies awarded will be a shown in the club calendar

Up to 4 entries	1st Place only will be awarded.
5 to 8 entries	1st and 2 nd places will be awarded.
Over 8 entries	1st, 2nd and 3rd places will be awarded.

- 22.2. Prizes may be awarded after racing on the day
- 22.3. Where there is more than one race on a day the trophy will be awarded based upon a boat’s combined score on that day.

23. RISK STATEMENT

- 23.1. Rule 3 of the RRS states “The responsibility for a boats decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone”
- 23.2. Sailing by its nature is an unpredictable sport and therefore inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in the events, each competitor agrees and acknowledges that;
They are aware of the inherent element of risk involved in the in the sport and accept responsibility for the exposure of themselves, their crew and their boat to such inherent risk while taking part in the event.
They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore.
They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions.
Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate.
The provision of a race management team, patrol boats and other officials and volunteers by the event organizer does not relieve them of their own responsibilities.



The provision of patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances.

It is their responsibility to familiarize themselves with any risks specific to this venue, or this event drawn to their attention in any rules and information produced for the venue or event and to attend any safety briefing held for the event.

24. INSURANCE

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

END of Sailing Instructions