

Dale Yacht Club Dinghy Racing Instructions



1. Dinghy races are open to all classes and will be governed by the current Racing Rules of Sailing and RYA Prescriptions. Dale Yacht Club operates under the RYA Racing Charter. The current Portsmouth Yardstick handicap system will be used to correct finishing times. Average lap times will be used to calculate the results.
2. **Notices** to competitors will be posted at the starting hut.
3. **Signals** made ashore will be displayed at the starting hut and may be flags or boards.
4. **Schedule of Races** is displayed in the programme and on the Club website.
5. **Class flags** will be - general handicap – flag D. If the fleet is split into divisions or classes, the flags denoting the division/class will be stated at the starting hut.
6. The **racing area** will be in Dale Bay.
7. All boats must keep clear of commercial shipping.
8. Competitors must **sign on** at the starting hut 30 minutes before each race (or sequence of races).
9. The **marks** of the courses will include the racing buoys and may also include navigation and warning buoys.
10. The **course** will be displayed on the course notice board before the start of each race.
11. Competitors must notify the Officer of the Day if they retire.
12. The **starting and finishing lines** or marks will be specified on the course notice board. The outer distance mark (ODM buoy) defines the starting line. Whenever a committee boat is used to mark one end of the starting or finishing line, the committee boat mast displaying an orange flag defines this position.
13. The **start sequence** will be as in rule 26 (5', 4', 1', start).
14. **Shortened course** will be indicated by 2 sound signals and flag S.
15. **Boats completing** their course will be notified by a sound signal.
16. **Time limit** – a boat not finishing within 140% of the time of the first boat to finish may be considered to have retired. Corrected times will be used to determine the time limit.
17. **Protests** (forms in the starting hut) to be lodged with the Officer of the Day within 30 minutes of the last boat finishing. Dale Yacht Club encourages the use of Exoneration Penalty, Advisory Hearings and RYA Arbitration prior to, or instead of, full protest hearings.
18. The **Low Point Scoring** system will be used. Three boats are required to constitute a race. Three boats are required to constitute a series.
19. **Discards** will vary depending on the number of races each month. (8 races and over – 3 discards, 6 or 7 races – 2 discards, 3-5 races 1 discard).
20. **Trophies**, unless declared otherwise, are the property of Dale Yacht Club and awarded on a monthly or annual basis.
21. **Rule Changes** – for an individual race, changes will be displayed on the course notice board; for a series of races changes will also be displayed on the Yacht Club notice board.
22. Sailing is by its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore inherently **involves an element of risk**. By taking part in the event, each competitor agrees and acknowledges that they are aware of the risks involved and accept responsibility for the exposure of themselves, their crew and their boat to such inherent risk. They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions.
23. Each participating boat shall be **insured** with valid third-party insurance having a minimum cover of £3,000,000 per incident or the equivalent.
24. It is hoped that sailors will participate in the development of these rules by bringing their views to the attention of the Club Officers.