



## The Water Wags and Dublin Bay Sailing Club

### SAILING INSTRUCTIONS 2026

#### 1 IMPORTANT NOTICE COVID-19

If any anti-COVID-19 or similar measures are at any time prescribed by the Government, these instructions will be subject to such measures. It is the responsibility of each skipper to ensure that their crew complies with all applicable law, guidelines and these instructions.

#### 2 DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY – COVID-19

**Neither The Water Wags nor Dublin Bay Sailing Club (DBSC) can guarantee that competitors will not be exposed to or infected by the COVID-19 (or similar) virus as a result of participating in Wag racing. Competitors are deemed to have assumed the risk if they participate. To the greatest extent permitted by law, neither The Water Wags nor Dublin Bay Sailing Club nor their respective representatives (including, without limitation, their respective committees, flag officers, race officers, safety officers, rescue personnel and organisers) will be liable for any ill health or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during or after any Water Wag event.**

#### 3 DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

**Competitors participate in races entirely at their own risk. See RRS 3 (*Decision to race*). It is the sole responsibility of each helmsman to decide whether their boat participates, or continues to participate, in any race or other event (see RRS 3 (*Decision to race*)). To the greatest extent permitted by law, neither The Water Wags nor Dublin Bay Sailing Club nor their respective representatives (including, without limitation, their respective committees, flag officers, race officers, safety officers, rescue personnel and organisers) will be liable for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during or after any Water Wag event.**

#### 4 ORGANISING AUTHORITY AND RULES

- 4.1 All races will be governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing for 2025-2028 (RRS)*, the Rules of The Water Wags (**RWW**) and these sailing instructions. In the case of conflict between RRS, RWW and these sailing instructions, then RWW and these sailing instructions will take precedence.
- 4.2 The sailing instructions of Dublin Bay Sailing Club will not apply save as provided in paragraph 18 (*Hearing requests*).

## 5 ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

- 5.1 Racing is open to all boats that are owned by members of The Water Wags provided that all applicable entry fees and subscriptions of The Water Wags and DBSC have been paid.
- 5.2 A boat must comply with the RWW, the minimum safety regulations set out in paragraph 21 (*Safety regulations, equipment and measurement checks*) and the insurance requirements set out in paragraph 22 (*Insurance*). It is the responsibility of each boat owner to ensure that their boat complies with these requirements, and by taking part in racing they warrant that their boat complies.

## 6 DIVISION ALLOCATION

The Committees will allocate boats, to one of three Divisions, namely: Division 1A, Division 1B and Division 2, based principally on the performance of each boat in the previous season. The Committee may reallocate a boat to a different Division during the season. (References to '**Division 1**' include both Divisions 1A and 1B).

## 7 COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS AND CHANGES TO THESE SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 7.1 Members will be notified of any amendment to these sailing instructions by email or by The Water Wags' 'WhatsApp' group and it will be effective from the date and time specified in such notice.
- 7.2 The race officer shall endeavour to notify any change in the racing area, postponement or cancellation of racing, reef or other relevant change to racing by contacting a representative of The Water Wags at each club. Failure to receive any such notification shall not constitute grounds for redress.

## 8 SCHEDULE OF RACES

- 8.1 Racing is scheduled each Wednesday between the 29 April and 23 September 2026 (inclusive). One race is scheduled each Wednesday, and one extra race may be sailed at the discretion of the race officer subject to time available and conditions being suitable.
- 8.2 The warning signal for the first race is 18.40 until 1 September and will be 18.25 for subsequent races except that, at the discretion of the Captain of the Water Wags, if any additional races are sailed after the scheduled season the warning signal may be set for an earlier time.
- 8.3 To alert boats that another race will be sailed, the committee vessel will display flag A (white and blue with a swallow tail) at the finish.
- 8.4 Races may be scheduled by the committee on other days and at other venues and they will be governed by these sailing instructions and or amendments.

## 9 FORMAT OF RACING AND REEFING PROCEDURES

- 9.1 A race will be one of the following:
- 9.1.1 **All Divisions Race:** All boats will start at the starting signal.
- 9.1.2 **Handicap Race** (indicated with an 'H' on the programme): The first of the handicap boats will start at the starting signal. The remainder will start at their allotted times published in the Programme of Races issued to boat owners before the race.
- 9.2 In the event of adverse weather conditions, the race officer will decide whether racing will take place and whether sails shall be reefed. The race officer's decision does not change a helmsman's own responsibility to decide whether to sail, or to reef. When the race officer decides that sails shall be reefed then the

mainsail shall be reefed to at least the reef line shown on The Water Wag's sail plan or an officially measured cut down mainsail shall be rigged.

## 10 CLASS FLAG

Either the Water Wag Class Burgee (red with a white horizontal bar across the centre) or numeral 4 will be displayed at the warning signal and removed at the start.

## 11 THE COURSES

11.1 The courses will be either windward-leeward or triangular.

11.2 No later than the warning signal, the race committee will display the number of rounds and the course to be sailed on a board. 'T' will indicate a triangular course and 'W' will indicate a windward-leeward course.

11.3 A triangular course will consist of three marks (windward, gybe, leeward) leaving all marks to port.

11.4 A windward-leeward course shall consist of a windward mark, an offset mark and a leeward gate formed by two marks. While every effort will be made to lay a leeward gate, in the event that this is not possible then a single leeward mark will be laid, and this mark will be rounded to port.

11.5 While every effort will be made to lay the offset mark, in the event that this is not possible then a single weather mark will be laid and this mark will be rounded to port, boats shall after, rounding the windward mark to port, sail directly to the leeward gate or mark.

11.6 A minimum of three legs must be sailed to constitute a race. The leg between the windward mark and the offset mark will count as a leg.

11.7 Alternative courses to be sailed may be advised by the race officer.

## 12 MARKS

Marks may be plastic dan buoys or inflatable marks.

## 13 THE START

13.1 Races will be started by using RRS 26 (*Starting Races*) with the warning signal made 5 minutes before the starting signal.

13.2 The starting line will be between a staff on the committee vessel at the starboard end and a distinctive mark at the port end.

13.3 A boat starting later than 5 minutes after her starting signal will be scored 'Did Not Start' without a hearing. This changes RRS A3 (*Starting times and finishing places*) and A5 (*Scores determined by the race committee*).

## 14 CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

14.1 To change the next leg of the course, the race committee will move the original mark (or the finishing line) to a new position.

14.2 Except at a gate, boats shall pass between the race committee vessel signalling the change of the next leg and the nearby mark, leaving the mark to port and the race committee vessel to starboard. This changes RRS 28 (*Sailing the course*).

14.3 The race committee may make minor adjustments to the course without indicating a change of course. This changes RRS 33 (*Changing the next leg of the course*).

## 15 THE FINISH

15.1 The finishing line will be between a staff displaying on a committee boat at the starboard end and the port end finishing mark.

15.2 Where the leeward gate is used to finish, the committee vessel will be positioned either beside one of the gate marks or will replace one of the gate marks and in either case the main mast of the committee vessel and the other mark will form the line.

## 16 PENALTY SYSTEM

In accordance with RRS 44.1 a one turn penalty shall replace a two-turn penalty.

## 17 TIME LIMITS

17.1 In the event that one race is sailed boats will be timed up to 90 minutes after the starting signal.

17.2 Should more than one race be sailed then boats will be timed up to 60 minutes after their starting signal for each race.

17.3 Boats failing to finish within 15 minutes after the first boat sails the course and finishes will be scored 'Did Not Finish' without a hearing. This changes RRS 35 (*Race time limits and scores*), A3 (*Starting times and finishing places*) and A5 (*Scores determined by the race committee*).

17.4 In addition to RRS 32 (*Shortening or abandoning after the start*), the race committee may also award a finishing score to a boat that is still racing by displaying to her from a committee vessel (which may be in motion) flag W with one sound signal. A boat so notified is no longer required to sail the course, shall stop racing and shall return to the starting area, or return ashore if there is no more racing. A finishing score under this sailing instruction will be the score she would have received had she sailed the course and finished within any time limit, without gaining or losing any place. However, when two or more boats that are overlapped are notified, they will be scored as if they were tied. The decision by the race committee to use this procedure or not to use it shall not be grounds for requesting redress.

## 18 HEARING REQUESTS

Protests and requests for redress shall be lodged with the DBSC website in accordance with clause A12 (*Hearing Requests*) of the AIB DBSC Summer Series 2026 Sailing Instructions A – General which is set out in Appendix 2.

## 19 SCORING AND PRIZES

See Appendix 1

## 20 SAFETY OFFICER

The committee may appoint a safety officer.

## 21 SAFETY REGULATIONS, EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

21.1 A boat reported by the Harbour Master for interference with commercial shipping in Dublin Bay will be disqualified without a hearing (amends RRS 63.1)

- 21.2 Personal buoyancy aids to CE Standards shall be worn by helmsman and crew and will be properly secured and maintained.
- 21.3 The following equipment and safety rules shall apply:
- 21.3.1 At least one bow and two side buoyancy bags with a total capacity of 450lbs. to be in place, correctly distributed, securely fixed to ribs or other suitable tie down point and inflated. It is recommended that an additional stern bag of at least 80lbs. should be securely fixed to ribs or other suitable tie down point under the stern thwart.
  - 21.3.2 Boats shall carry a manual water pump and/or a scoop bailer.
  - 21.3.3 Two eight-foot-long oars (2.4m) and rowlocks or spurs to be carried and properly secured.
  - 21.3.4 One bucket (minimum 5 litres) on a long lanyard to be carried at all times.
  - 21.3.5 One painter, at least 3.6m long attached at the bow.
  - 21.3.6 Rigging screws / lanyards to be securely wired / tied.
  - 21.3.7 Boats should have a method of preventing her rudder floating away, should a capsize occur (suitable methods to include rudder clip, lanyard or mainsheet horse).
  - 21.3.8 Boats should carry an appropriate piece of equipment which will prevent water entering a swamped boat through the top of the centreboard case. A spinnaker is considered acceptable.
- 21.4 A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the RWW and these sailing instructions. On the water, a boat can be instructed by the safety officer to proceed immediately to a designated area for inspection.

## 22 **INSURANCE**

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

**Note:** These sailing instructions are to be read in conjunction with:

[The Racing Rules of Sailing 2025-2028](#)

[The Rules of the Water Wags](#)

Hearing Request Forms are available at: [DBSC Hearing Request Form 2026](#)

## APPENDIX 1

### 1 TROPHIES AND SCORING

1.1 Points toward the **Jubilee Cup** (all Divisions), the **Snuff Box Trophy** (Division 1B), the **Cora Cup** (Division 2) and the **Saryalis Cup** (all divisions) will be awarded to a boat on the basis of the 'low point scoring system' of Appendix A to RRS for a series longer than a regatta, changed as follows:

1.1.1 Boats which came to the starting area, but did not start (DNS), retired (RTD), were disqualified (DSQ) or did not finish (DNF) shall score one point more than the number of boats which came to the starting area.

1.1.2 Boats which did not compete (DNC) shall score two points more than the number entrants.

1.1.3 Boats which have safety equipment that is not in adequate condition may score three points more than the number of boats that came to the starting area at the discretion of the safety officer.

1.1.4 Races indicated with a # symbol in the Programme of Races do not count for the trophies listed in the opening paragraph.

### 2 DISCARDS

2.1 Discards for racing will be as follows:

No. of Races Completed	No. of Discards
0-3 inclusive	0
4-5 inclusive	1
6-8 inclusive	2
9-11 inclusive	3
12-14 inclusive	4
15-17 inclusive	5
18-20 inclusive	6
21-23 inclusive	7
etc.	

2.2 Except where otherwise indicated, each division will compete for its own cup or trophy on the basis of the scoring system described above. Accordingly references to 'boats which came to the starting area' shall be where a cup or trophy is scored on a divisional basis, a reference to the number of such boats in the relevant division. Where a cup or trophy is competed for by more than one division (for example the **Jubilee Cup** and the **Saryalis Cup** which are open to all divisions) the relevant divisions will be scored together on the basis of the scoring system described above and references to 'boats which came to the starting area' shall be, in such cases, references to boats of all divisions which came to the starting area.

2.3 There will be a series of up to two races for the **Newsom Memorial Cup** (Division 1A), the **Hilpotsteiner Tankard** (Division 1B), and the **Phyllis Cup** (Division 2).

2.4 There will be a series of up to three races for the **Commemoration Shell Case** (Division 1A), the **Meldon Mirror** (Division 1B), and the **Commemoration Trophy** (Division 2).

- 2.5 The most successful boat in all regatta races will be awarded the **Middleton Howitzer** which will be kept in the Royal Irish Yacht Club and **Lawson's History of the America's Cup** which may be kept for 11 months.
- 2.6 The **Walpole Prizes** will consist of a single race of which only those boats which have competed in six or more Wednesday races and have not finished in first place in any of those races or won a Division 1A, Division 1B or Division 2 prize, are eligible for prizes. All boats who sail in this race will accumulate points for the **Jubilee Cup** (all divisions), the **Snuff Box** (Division 1B), and the **Cora Cup** (Division 2).
- 2.7 There will be series of up to two handicap races for the **Buckingham Cup** (divisions 1A and 1B). Handicaps will be notified before the races.
- 2.8 The **Saryalis Cup** will be awarded to the boat which finishes in 13th. place overall for the **Jubilee Cup**.
- 2.9 In the event of two or more races being held on the same Wednesday, the results of all races will contribute towards the **Jubilee Cup**, the **Snuff Box Trophy**, the **Cora Cup** and the **Saryalis Cup**.
- 2.10 The **Coquette Cup** will be awarded to the most successful boat in all Water Wag races including the second and subsequent races when two or more races take place and including events away from Dublin Bay. No discards will apply.
- 2.11 The **Jacqueline Trophy** will be awarded to the winner of a single-handed race to be scheduled by the Captain of The Water Wags.
- 2.12 The **Sprack Trophy** will be awarded to the winner of a race in which the boats are steered by their regular crews to be scheduled by the Captain of The Water Wags.
- 2.13 The **YOZ Trophy** will be awarded to the winner of a race in which the boats are steered by helmsmen below the age of 18 to be scheduled by the Captain of The Water Wags.
- 2.14 The **Donohoe Titanic Trophy** will be awarded to the boat which has seen the greatest improvement in performance in Jubilee Cup races over the previous season.
- 2.15 The **Pansy Trophy** will be awarded to the winner of a ballot race at the end of season Shannon Regatta in which the boats are steered by a designated helmsmen and crewed by the regular crew. (Allocations of helmsmen will be seeded and will be decided by the Captain of The Water Wags).
- 2.16 All race winners within an individual race series who do not win the series may be awarded with a class prize.
- 2.17 The Captain of The Water Wags will designate a day and time for the Dalkey Island Picnic.
- 2.18 Other prizes will be allocated as shown on the Programme of Races or as decided by the committee of The Water Wags.

## APPENDIX 2

### PARAGRAPH A13 OF THE AIB DBSC SUMMER SERIES 2026 SAILING INSTRUCTIONS A - GENERAL

#### A 12 Hearing Requests

*A hearing request is a request to the protest committee to hear a protest, a request for redress or a request to reopen a hearing. The person writing the request is the initiator, the other parties are the respondents.*

- 12.1 Hearing requests shall be delivered electronically using the [Hearing Request Form](#) (available on the DBSC web site under Racing Forms).
- 12.2 The time limit for delivering hearing requests is 48 hours after the start of the race for the requesting boat's class. The time recorded by the hearing request system will be deemed evidence of the time submitted. If a diagram is needed, this may be included as an attachment to the hearing request form, or added later (by editing the form), or brought to the hearing.
- 12.3 A request for redress by a boat disqualified without a hearing or for any other scoring action shall be made within seven days of the race results being published. This changes RRS 61.2.
- 12.4 Notices will be emailed to inform competitors of the time and place of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. If any party is absent from the hearing 15 minutes after the scheduled time, the protest committee may proceed with the hearing in their absence under RRS 63.1 (b).
- 12.5 If the Honorary Protest Secretary receives a hearing request that is outside the time limit, or if for any other reason he is of the opinion that the Protest Committee is likely to decide that the request is invalid, he shall inform the initiator. The initiator may ask to withdraw the request. The Honorary Protest Secretary may then act on behalf of the Protest Committee in accordance with RRS 63.2 and allow the request to be withdrawn.
- 12.6 All correspondence concerning a hearing will be addressed to the email address supplied to DBSC on the entry form. Failure to receive correspondence due to an incorrect email address supplied will not constitute grounds for redress. This changes RRS 61.4(b).