



## MINIMA YACHT CLUB

### GENERAL SAILING INSTRUCTIONS 2019

#### INTRODUCTION

1. These Sailing Instructions are designed for internal club racing only. The objective is to promote friendly, fair and competitive racing within the rules, between club members of all abilities: from beginners to experienced racers.
2. Separate Sailing Instructions will be issued for open meetings.

#### CLUB RULES

3. A boat shall not be entered for a race or series until the owner has paid all relevant club fees and completed an Annual Registration form which confirms the name of the boat, sail number to be used during the season and third party insurance. The Annual Registration form is included as Appendix A to these Instructions.

#### RULES

4. Club racing will be governed by the rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing 2017-2020 and the prescriptions of the RYA with the following changes:
  - a. Beginners may receive outside help during a race. This may include on-water coaching, or receiving a tow to get back into the race if a strong stream is taking them backwards. This changes **Rule 41 Outside Help**
  - b. Competitors are encouraged to launch and clear the landing stage in a timely and prompt manner before the start of the race. However, they will not be protested by the Race Officer for not being afloat at the preparatory signal, unless it is thought they are seeking to gain an unfair advantage by doing so. This changes **Rule 45 Hauling Out, Making Fast, Anchoring**

#### SAFETY

5. The safety of a boat and its entire management including insurance shall be the sole responsibility of the owner/person in charge, who must ensure that the boat and crew are adequate to face the conditions that may arise in the course of a race. Neither these Sailing Instructions nor any inspection of the boat limits or reduces the absolute responsibility of the owner/person in charge for the crew, the boat and its management, including compliance with Environment Agency by-laws relating to navigation on the River Thames.
6. Owners are required to pass an annual buoyancy test if required by their Class Association Rules. Advice on Class Association Rules including carrying out buoyancy tests is available from Class Captains. Owners who race when their Buoyancy test has expired will



be asked to retire after the race and receive a warning which will be recorded on the Buoyancy Test Record on the Notice Board. If they enter a subsequent race without passing a buoyancy test they will be protested by the Race Officer. Annual buoyancy tests are not required by the Topper or Laser Class Associations.

7. On occasion, the stream on the non-tidal Thames can be strong. In order to minimise the risks of sailing in a strong stream, all boats should carry the following equipment at all times afloat:
  - one bucket or bailer
  - one paddle
  - four metres of tow rope (NOT part of the rigging or sail controls).
8. Members are reminded of the following Fundamental Rules in the Racing Rules of Sailing:
  - Rule 1.2 “...each competitor is individually responsible for wearing a personal flotation device adequate for the conditions”.
  - Rule 4 “The responsibility for a boat’s decision to participate in a race or to continue to race is hers alone”.
9. Buoyancy aids are compulsory for all children under 16 and all non-swimmers. If flag Y is displayed, buoyancy aids become compulsory for all competitors and a competitor who does not wear a buoyancy aid will be subject to protest by the Race Officer.

## **PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS**

10. The Race Officer is responsible for management of racing on the day.
11. The Race Officer is empowered to:
  - Make a decision on whether racing should go ahead in light of weather and stream conditions, and.
  - Protest individual competitors who are observed to have broken the Rules of Sailing or sailed the wrong course, but who have not been seen to take a penalty.
12. The Race Officer will first try and resolve any protest by using the RYA guidelines on mediation and arbitration. If it is not possible to resolve the issue informally, the Race Officer will convene a Protest Committee.
13. Protest forms are available from the Race Box. Protests and requests for redress shall be delivered to the Race Officer or a member of the Sailing Committee within 60 minutes after the last boat has finished the race.
14. Competitors will be informed verbally of the time and place of any hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses.
15. Protest hearings for one-off trophy events will be held on the same day. Protest hearings for a series race may be held over and convened on another convenient day. Series results will be adjusted retrospectively if needed.



## NOTICES TO COMPETITORS



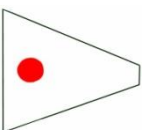
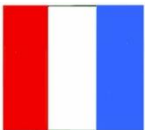




16. Notices to competitors will be posted on the Sailing Notice Board or on a blackboard located on the ground floor of the clubhouse.

## CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

17. The Race Officer will advise sailors of any changes to the sailing instructions.

## SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

18. Signals made ashore will be displayed from the race box by way of flags and cards.
19. Class cards used will be as follows:

All Classes (start together)		Handicap	
Solo		Topper	
Enterprise		Laser	
Merlin Rocket		Thames Rater	

## SCHEDULE OF RACES

20. Racing is scheduled in the Minima Yacht Club White Booklet and by Notices of Race for individual races and series.

## THE COURSES

21. The courses are displayed from the race box and will show:
- The order in which the marks are to be passed, using letter boards.



- The side on which each mark is to be left, indicated by the background colour of the letter boards, Red for Port or Green for Starboard.
- The length of the course, using number boards.
- In the event of the word SPECIAL being displayed, the course will be displayed on the official notice board or a chalk board.

## **MARKS**

22. Marks **A, B, C, D, E** and **S** will be orange or red with white letters. The position of Marks will be as laid out in Appendix B.

## **START AND FINISH LINES**

23. The start and finish line will be a line between the two transit posts above the race box to a white mark on the Middlesex bank. If it is decided to set a start or a finish line upstream of Town End Quay to take advantage of better sailing conditions, this may be:
- a line from a club launch to the opposite river bank
  - OR a line from the Surrey Bank to the Middlesex Bank
  - Mark 'S' may be laid as an outer distance mark.
24. One entrant shall constitute sufficient entrants for a class start.
25. If only one boat starts in a Pursuit Race then she only has to complete one lap to score as having finished in that race.

## **THE FINISH**

26. The Race Officer may shorten the course from the race box, the club launch or the river bank by displaying flag 'S' plus the relevant Class flag/s and by making two sound signals.
27. Competitors are requested to clear the area around the Start/Finish Line as soon as possible once they have been finished to allow clear water for finishing boats and a clear view for Race Officers. When back to back races are running they should refrain from sailing across the line until all competitors have finished or the next race Start Sequence has begun.
28. Competitors are required to sign the declaration book kept on the ground floor of the Club House when they come ashore after racing. If they have retired, they should record this in the declaration book and also inform the Race Officer verbally.

## **TIME LIMITS**

29. Time limits and Target Times for series and individual races will be as set out in the White Booklet, Notice of Race or as decided by the Race Officer in light of the prevailing conditions on the day.
30. Finishing Window for The Spring, Summer and Autumn Class Series will normally be 30 minutes.



## **STRAGGLERS' RULE**

- 31.** The Stragglers Rule may be applied by the Race Officer when necessary, to internal races (including pursuit races) to allow boats that would otherwise not finish in a reasonable time or would be outside of the Finishing Window (DNF), to get a result as described in 32. Below:
  - 32.** If the Race Officer notices that there is a boat or boats, which are a long way behind the fleet and unlikely to finish the course, he or she may finish these before they have completed the course or may ask the Bosun to inform the boats on the water that they have finished. The Scorer will calculate the result(s) from their completed laps.

## **SCORING**

- 33.** The scoring system for series and individual trophy events will be as set out in the Notice of Race or as briefed by the Race Officer.
- 34.** Minima handicap numbers or personal handicap numbers approved by Sailing Committee will be used for internal club racing:
  - Handicap scoring – when boats complete a course of the same length.
  - Pursuit race – with different start times allocated to boats to reflect their ability based on previous performance.
- 35.** Competitors will score 'average points' for individual series races for which they have been on duty as Race Officer, Bosun, Training or representing MYC in races at other clubs at the discretion of the Sailing Committee.
- 36.** A helm who changes his or her boat during a long series may amalgamate points providing boats are of the same class, and sail numbers are entered in the signing off sheet and their Annual Registration form is amended in the Race Box. Only one change per series is allowed unless agreed by the Sailing Committee.
- 37.** Prizes shall be awarded to the winning helms and crews, using the square root system for the total number of entries.



## Appendix A

# ANNUAL REGISTRATION 2019

BOAT CLASS:
SAIL NUMBER:
BOAT NAME:

## DECLARATION

1. I confirm that I have insurance in place to cover liability to third parties including persons and property, not less than £2,000,000.
2. I have paid my Minima Yacht Club membership fee, including the dinghy park fee.
3. I accept responsibility for ensuring that my boat and crew are adequate for the conditions that may arise in the course of a race.
4. I undertake to conform to the Racing Rules of Sailing 2017 – 2020 and the Sailing Instructions 2018 issued by Minima Yacht Club.
5. I confirm that my boat has passed an annual buoyancy test (where applicable).

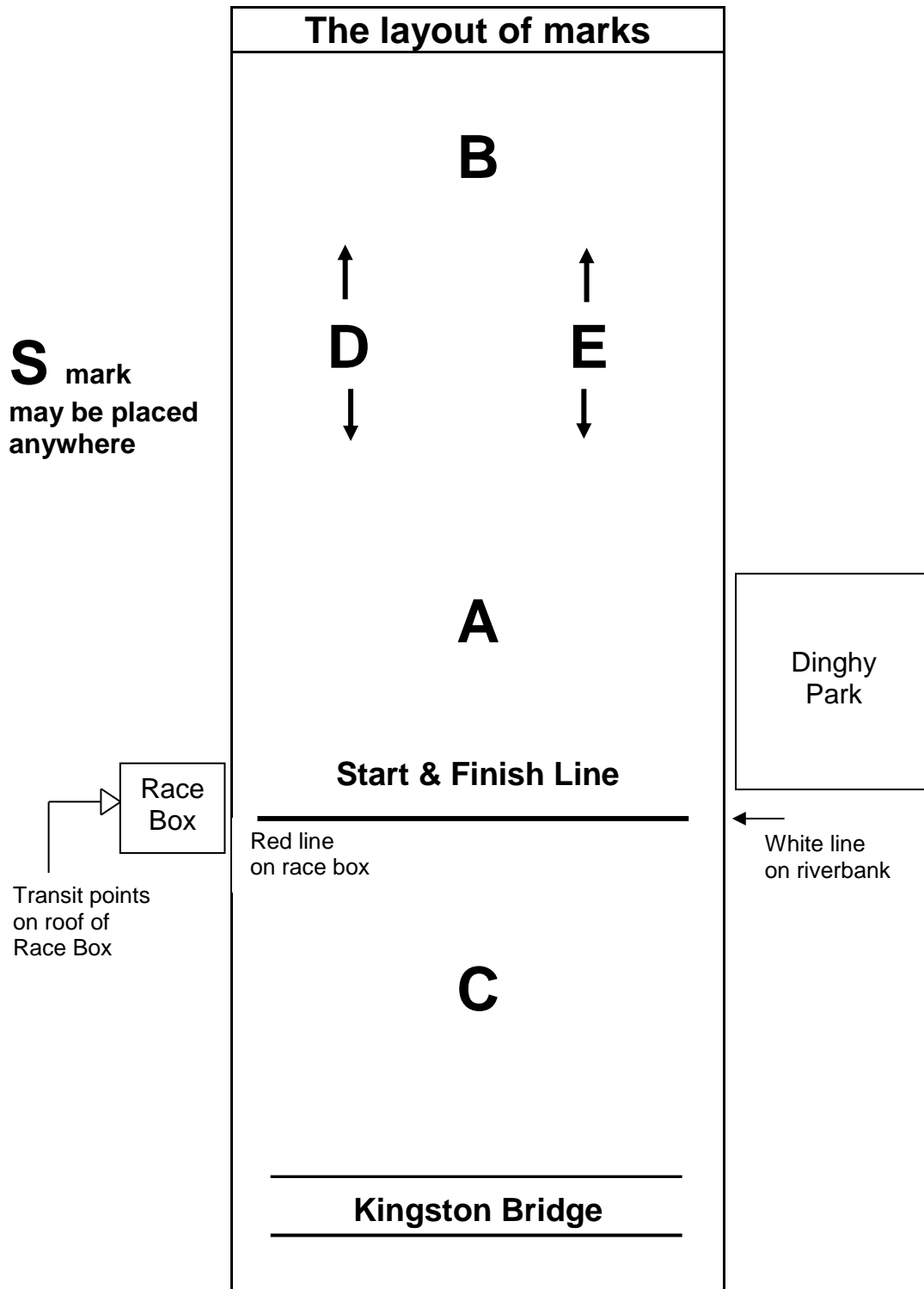
NAME (Please Print)	
Signature	
Date	

### Notes:

1. Boat Owners are responsible for placing this form signed in the Race Officers File in the Race Box.
2. Boats not covered by an Annual Registration placed in the Race Box file shall be deemed not to be racing and shall keep clear of boats racing.



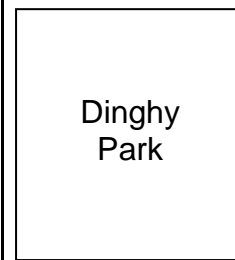
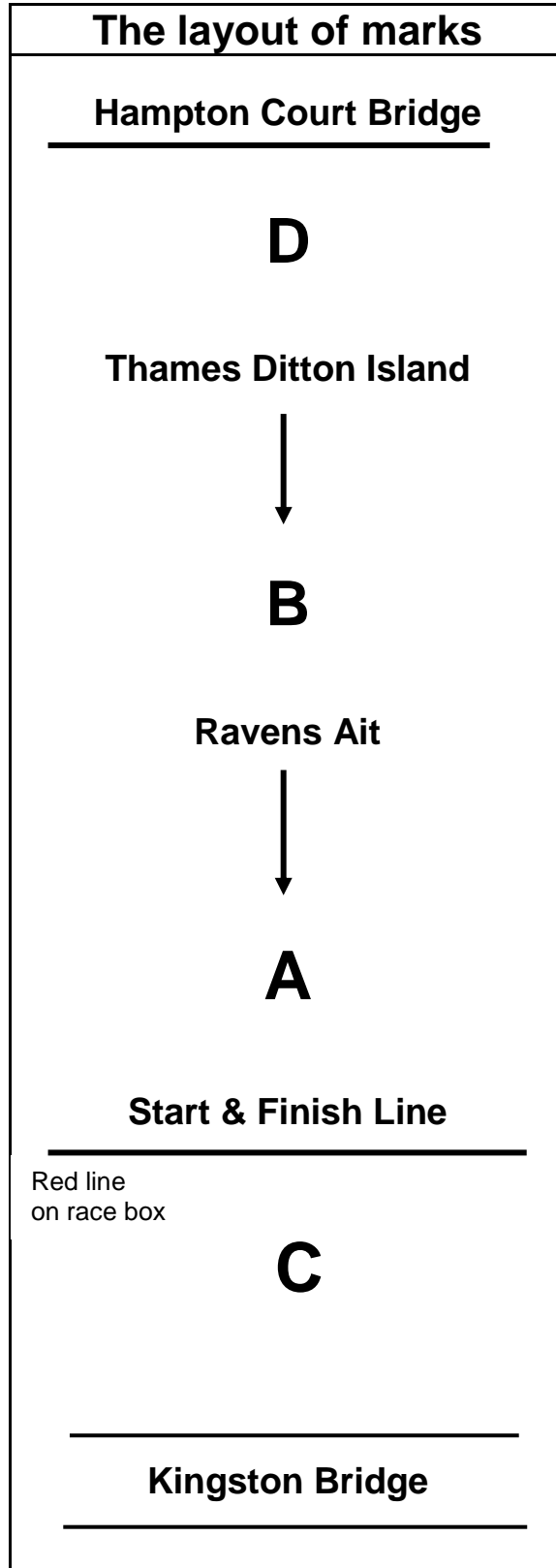
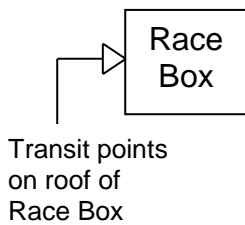
## Appendix B





## Long Distance Races

**S** mark  
may be placed  
anywhere



Red line  
on race box

←  
White line  
on riverbank