

BRITISH HOBIE NATIONALS 2025

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Friday 15th to Sunday 17th August 2025

Poole Harbour, UK

Organising Authority – The Poole Yacht Club

1. RULES

- 1.1 The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing 2025-2028 and IHCA Class Rules.
- 1.2 Poole Harbour Sail Racing Procedures (formerly Yacht Racing Criteria), available at [SAIL-RACING-PROCEDURES-2025.pdf](#) applies.
- 1.3 The International Regulations for Prevention of Collisions at sea (in appropriate circumstances, e.g. Meeting commercial traffic, and yachts not involved in racing) will apply.
- 1.4 Adequate personal buoyancy must be worn by all competitors when afloat, except briefly while changing or adjusting clothing or personal equipment. Neither a wet suit nor a dry suit constitutes adequate personal buoyancy. Flag Y will not be displayed. This changes RRS 40.
- 1.5 IHCA Class Rule Penalty Policy shall apply relating to class rules violations.
- 1.6 RRS 44.1 is changed so that the Two-Turns Penalty is replaced by the One-Turns Penalty.
- 1.7 In RRS 44.2 insert after the first sentence: "However, if Mark O is set as an Offset mark, a boat may take a penalty for an incident in the zone around Mark A or on the leg between Mark A and Mark O, as soon as possible after leaving the zone around Mark O."
- 1.8 In the event of ambiguity between Sailing Instructions and Notice of Race, Sailing Instructions will prevail.

2. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

- 2.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the online official notice board located at [Hobie 16 national championship - Poole Yacht Club](#)

3. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 3.1 Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted on the online official notice board at least 1 hour before the advertised start time of the first race to which the change applies, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 2000hrs on the day before it will take effect.

4. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 4.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed from the official flagpole situated on southside of the main club house.
- 4.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 30 minutes' in race signal AP. This changes Flag AP in Race Signals.

5. SCHEDULE OF RACES

- 5.1 A maximum of 9 races will count for the series.
- 5.2 A maximum of 4 races may be sailed back-to-back each day.
- 5.3 The scheduled time of the warning signal for the first race for each day is:

| Date | Warning signal for first race | Last Warning Signal |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Friday 15 th August 2025 | Not before 11:55 | |
| Saturday 16 th August 2025 | Not before 10:55 | |
| Sunday 17 th August 2025 | Not before 10:55 | Not After 14:55 |

- 5.4 To alert boats that a sequence of races will begin soon, the orange starting line flag will be displayed with one sound at least five minutes before the first warning signal of the day is made.

5.5 When back-to-back races are to be held, the Race Committee Signals Vessel will display the L flag at the finish line. The warning signal for the next race will be made after a minimum 1 minute gap from the lowering of the L flag.

5.6 There will be No Warning signal made after 1455 on the last day of racing, except after a General Recall.

6. CLASS FLAG

6.1 Class flag for Hobie 16 shall be a Hobie Class Flag.

7. RACING AREAS

7.1 Attachment B shows the location of the racing area to the west of Brownsea Island and south of the Poole Yacht Club in what is known as the Top Triangle of Poole Harbour

8. THE COURSES

8.1 The International Hobie Cat Class Courses will be used as shown in Attachment A.

8.2 No later than the warning signal, the race committee signal vessel will display the Course to be sailed.

8.3 All marks, except gates are to be left to port.

8.4 When there is a gate, boats shall sail between the gate marks from the direction of the previous mark and round either gate mark. If only one gate mark is in position, that mark shall be rounded to port.

8.5 The offset mark, if used, is defined as a passing mark. It applies both at the beginning of downwind legs towards the leeward mark/gate and at the start of reaches to mark B.

8.6 Each race target time is 45 minutes for the first boat.

8.7 The course may be shortened and if so the following shall apply:

A boat flying Flag F at a mark and making repeated sound signals, means 'after rounding this mark (including any offset mark), boats should proceed directly to the finish line'. If flown at a leeward gate means 'after passing through the gate, proceed direct to the finish line.' This changes RRS 32.1 and 32.2.

9. THE MARKS

9.1 Course marks will be large inflatable buoys, the description of which will be given in the competitor briefing.

9.2 The Offset mark if used will be a smaller orange buoy.

9.3 The start line marks will be the staff on the committee vessel displaying an orange flag at the starboard end and an orange danbuoy displaying an orange flag at the port end.

9.4 The finish line marks will be the staff on the committee vessel displaying a blue flag and an orange danbuoy displaying an orange flag.

10. Not Used

11. THE START

11.1 Races will be started by using Rule 26 of the RRS with the warning signal given 5 minutes before the starting signal.

11.2 The starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the committee boat at the starboard end and the course side of the port-end starting mark.

11.3 A boat that does not start within 5 minutes of her starting signal will be scored DNS without a hearing. This changes RRS Appendix A5.

11.4 Minimum wind conditions: No race will be started in under 5 knots of wind at all marks of the course as determined by the Race Committee.

12. CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

12.1 The race committee may change the position of the next mark in accordance with RRS.33 except the requirement to signal a change of course in accordance with RRS 33 does not apply if the race committee changes the angle of the next leg of the course by no more than plus or minus 10 degrees and/or extends or shortens its length by no more than 100 metres. This changes RRS 33.

13. THE FINISH

13.1 The Finishing Line will be between the staff on the committee boat displaying a blue flag and an orange danbuoy mark displaying an orange flag at the outer end (depending on the course configuration used the committee boat may be the port or starboard end finishing mark).

13.2 When approximately half of the boats in a race have rounded the last mark, the Race Committee may at its absolute discretion award finishing points (FPA) to boats not yet finished that remain on the course. A boat that is still racing may be notified of this by a committee vessel (which may be in motion) displaying flag W with one sound signal. A boat so notified is no longer required to sail the course (changing RRS 28.1), shall stop racing and shall return to the starting area, or return ashore if there is no more racing. Failure to take advantage of this provision may result in any following back to back race being started before that competitor has returned to the starting area. This shall not be the basis for a redress request under rule 62(a). This changes RRS 28.1 and 35.

14. PENALTY SYSTEM

14.1 Rules 44.1 is changed so that only One Turn Penalty, including one tack and one gybe, is required.

14.2 The IHCA Class Rule Penalty Policy will be utilised.

15. TIME LIMITS

- 15.1 The time limit for the first boat in each race shall be 60 minutes.
- 15.2 Mark A (weather mark) time limit: 30 minutes.
- 15.3 Boats failing to finish within 20 minutes after the first boat finishes, will be scored Did Not Finish without a hearing. This changes RRS 35 and Appendix A4 and A5

16. PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

- 16.1 Protest forms are available at the sailing office. Protests shall be delivered there within the protest time limit.
- 16.2 All boats intending to lodge a protest form upon return to shore shall notify the race committee boat on water of their intention within 10 minutes of finishing the race in which the incident occurred. If a boat is damaged and does not finish a race, they shall notify the race committee by relaying a message from any safety boat, or via a shore volunteer within 30 minutes of returning to shore.
- 16.3 Where 16.2 is satisfied the protest time limit is 60 minutes after the last boat has finished the last race of the day or the race committee signals no more racing today, whichever is later.
- 16.4 The same protest time limit applies to all protests by the race committee and to requests for redress. This changes RRS 61.3 & 62.2.

17. SCORING

- 17.1 The Low Points scoring system of RRS Appendix A will apply.
- 17.2 Three races are required to be completed to constitute a series.
- 17.3 Ties will be broken in accordance with RRS Appendix A8.
- 17.4 When fewer than 4 races have been completed, a boat's score will be the total of her race scores. When 4 or more races have been completed, a boat's score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.

18. SAFETY REGULATIONS

- 18.1 A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee as soon as possible.
- 18.2 Poole Harbour is a Commercial Port and commercial shipping movements can be expected. Instructions from an official Poole YC safety boat or harbour authority vessel in relation to a commercial vessel movement must be complied with.
- 18.3 A tally system will be in operation. The tally board will be in the vicinity of the Poole Yacht Club beach access gate,

19. REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT

- 19.1 Substitution of competitors will not be allowed without the prior written approval of the race committee as per IHCA class rule requirements.
- 19.2 Substitution of damaged or lost equipment will not be allowed unless authorized by the race committee. Requests for substitution shall be made to the committee at the first reasonable opportunity.

20. EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

- 20.1 A boat, equipment or crew may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules and sailing instructions. On the water, a boat shall comply with an instruction by a Race Committee measurer to proceed immediately to a designated area for inspection.
- 20.2 Whenever possible, competitors should be warned of potential equipment violations on the beach before racing when observed by other competitors, the protest committee, or regatta officials.
- 20.3 With the approval from World Sailing as allowed by RRS 87 CHANGES TO CLASS RULES, the IHCA has changed the following class rules:

Delete General Rule 18.1 and replace with: *A competitor may carry or wear a maximum of 10 KG of clothing and equipment. Additionally, the trapeze harness shall weigh no more than 3.0 KG as allowed by RRS 50.1 (b)*
Tiger & Wildcat add new: *C.4.3 (a) Trapeze harness. The weight shall not exceed 3.0 kg, as allowed by RRS 50.1 (b).*

21. PRIZES

- 21.1 Prizes are awarded at the discretion of the Class Association.

22. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

- 22.1 Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. See RRS 3, Decision to Race. The organising authority will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the regatta.

23. INSURANCE

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

24. RADIO COMMUNICATION

24.1 Except in an emergency, a boat shall neither make radio transmissions while racing nor receive radio communications not available to all boats. This restriction also applies to mobile telephones.

25. TRASH DISPOSAL

25.1 Competitors are reminded of the Basic Principles of Environmental Responsibility in the RRS

25.2 Trash may be placed aboard support or official boats.

IHCA SAFETY NOTES TO THE SAILORS:

GENERAL

If wind, wave, or water conditions make you doubtful of your ability to handle the conditions, retire from the race.

TRAPEZE HARNESESSES

Sailors are strongly recommended to use trapeze harnesses with a quick release hookless system or a quick release hook, which meets the ISO 10862 standard.

HELMETS

If sailors wish to wear head protection it is strongly recommend they use helmets of European standard EN1385.

ELECTRICAL POWER LINES – AVOID!!!

Before raising the mast, and always while sailing, check for and avoid low overhead electrical power lines. If you see a power line, AVOID IT! A MAST COMING IN CONTACT OR EVEN NEAR AN ELECTRICAL POWER LINE CAN CAUSE SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH TO PEOPLE ON OR TOUCHING THE BOAT!

Attachment A – COURSE DIAGRAMS (Page 1)

IHCA Standard Courses

| No. | Course | | | | | | | | Finish | Options | | |
|-----|--------|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|----------|---------|-----|------|
| 1 | (S) | A | C | A | | | | (F) | Downwind | 1 G | 1 O | 1 GO |
| 2 | (S) | A | C | A | C | A | | (F) | Downwind | 2 G | 2 O | 2 GO |
| 3 | (S) | A | C | A | B | C | | (F) | Upwind | | 3 O | |
| 4 | (S) | A | C | A | B | C | A | (F) | Downwind | | 4 O | |
| 5 | (S) | A | C | | | | | (F) | Upwind | 5 G | 5 O | 5 GO |
| 6 | (S) | A | C | A | C | | | (F) | Upwind | 6 G | 6 O | 6 GO |
| 7 | (S) | A | C | A | B | C | A | (F) | Upwind | | 7 O | |

S = start, A = weather mark, B = reaching mark, C = leeward mark, G = leeward gate, F = finish, O = weather gate mark if used or offset mark if used (refer to SI 9 for mark identification).

"B" MARK LOCATION: The Race Committee will endeavour to locate "B" Mark, the reaching mark, at either the windward or leeward end of the course approximately 90 to 105 degrees abeam of the windward or leeward mark.

Course Configuration A

(to be used with course 1 and 2 only)

Mark O Mark A

Mark G Mark C

START/FINISH

Mark O & Mark G are options that may be used by the Race Committee

(OR) Course Configuration B

(may be used with all courses except 1 and 2)

FINISH

Mark B

Mark O Mark A

Mark G Mark C

START

Mark O & Mark G are options that may be used by the Race Committee

(OR) Course Configuration C

(may be used with all courses)

Mark B

Mark O Mark A

START/FINISH

G Mark C

Mark O & Mark G are options that may be used by the Race Committee

(OR) Course Configuration D

(may be used with all courses)

Mark B

Mark O Mark A

START FINISH

Mark G Mark C

Mark O & Mark G are options that may be used by the Race Committee

Attachment B – COURSE AREA

