



**LASER GRAND PRIX
THAMES VALLEY SERIES 2017**

Saturday 12th May 2018

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

QUEEN MARY SAILING CLUB

OPEN EVENT SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

1. RULES

- 1.1 The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing 2017-2020*
- 1.2 The bye-laws of Queen Mary Sailing Club will apply and may be found at www.queenmary.org.uk.. NOTE: Dogs (with the exception of guide dogs) are not permitted on the club's land.
- 1.3 All visiting competitors and their guests shall be temporary members of Queen Mary Sailing Club for the duration of the event and shall abide by all Club rules and Bye-Laws.
- 1.4 Racing Rules will be changed as follows: Trash may be placed aboard support or official boats. The penalty for breaking Rule 55, Trash Disposal, is at the discretion of the protest committee (DPI) and may be less than disqualification.
- 1.5 The Exoneration Penalty and the Advisory Hearing and RYA Arbitration of the RYA Rules Disputes Procedures will be available as detailed in the RYA Racing Rules Guidance Booklet, December 2015. The Exoneration Penalty shall be 30% of the number of boats starting the race or 3 places, whichever is greater.

2. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located on the upper deck.

3. CHANGES IN SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any change to the Sailing Instructions will be posted 30 minutes before the scheduled warning signal of any race affected on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 18:00hrs on the day before it will take effect.

4. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 4.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed on the clubhouse flagpole.
- 4.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 30 minutes' in the race signal AP. This changes the meaning of flag AP in Race Signals.

5. SCHEDULE OF RACES

The schedule of races and the order and times of warning signals are set out in the Notice of Race.

6. CLASS FLAGS

Class flags will be:

CLASS	FLAG
Laser	Red Starburst on White Flag
Laser Radial	Red Starburst on Green Flag
Laser 4.7	Red Starburst on Yellow Flag

7. RACING AREA

The racing area will be indicated on the Daily Information Board located in the stairwell on the lower deck.

8. THE COURSE

The course configuration, the order of rounding marks and the approximate angle between the legs will be shown on the official notice board. Any diagrams will indicate the number of legs required to complete a round. The number of rounds to

be sailed will be indicated on the stern of the race committee boat no later than the preparatory signal for each start.

9. MARKS

Course marks and positions will be described on the official notice board.

10. AREAS THAT ARE OBSTRUCTIONS

The following areas are obstructions and boats shall not sail in those areas at any time:

- (a) at the recovery plant on the western wall of the reservoir, the area bounded by the dredger's anchor buoys;
- (b) at the southern end of the bund, the area bounded by the dredger's anchor buoys and the shallows bounded by yellow topped black buoys.

11. THE START

- 11.1 Races will be started by using rule 26 with the warning signal made 5 minutes before the starting signal.
- 11.2 The starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the race committee boat at the starboard end and the port end starting mark.
- 11.3 A boat starting later than 4 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes rule A4.1.
- 11.4 A recalled start or starts will be restarted (in their original order if more than one) with a new warning signal at the end of the starting sequence. This changes rule 29.2.

12. NOT USED

13. THE FINISH

- 13.1 The finish line will be between a staff displaying a blue flag on the race committee boat and the finishing mark.
- 13.2. If the race committee signals a shortened course (displays flag 'S' with two sounds), boats shall pass the leeward mark to port and continue to the finishing line. This changes rule 32.2.

14. NOT USED

15. TIME LIMIT

The time limit shall be 60 minutes from the starting signal for the first boat. Boats failing to finish within 20 minutes after the first boat sails the course and finishes will be scored Did Not Finish without a hearing. This changes rules 35 and A4.1.

16. PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

- 16.1 The race office shall be informed of the intention to protest or request redress immediately the owner/person in charge comes ashore and not later than the earlier of 30 minutes after the last boat finishes or 30 minutes after the end of the finishing period.
- 16.2 Protests and requests for redress shall be submitted to the race office on RYA protest forms (obtainable from the race office) not later than 30 minutes after the notification of the intent to protest.
- 16.3 Protests will be heard in approximately the order of receipt as soon as possible.
- 16.4 A party to the hearing may ask for a re-opening no later than 30 minutes after being informed of the decision. This changes rule 66.

17. SCORING

- 17.1 One race is required to be completed to constitute a series.
- 17.2 When fewer than 4 races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores.

17.3 When 4 or more races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.

18. SAFETY REGULATIONS

A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee as soon as possible.

19-26. NOT USED

27. RADIO COMMUNICATION

Except in an emergency a boat that is racing shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice and data communications not available to all boats.

28. PRIZES

Prizes will be awarded to the integer of the square root of the number of entries in each class.

29. RISK STATEMENT

Rule 4 the Racing Rules of Sailing states: "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone".

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:

- (a) They are aware of the inherent element of risk involved in the sport and accept responsibility for the exposure of themselves, their crew and their boat to such inherent risk whilst taking part in the event;
- (b) They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore;
- (c) They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions;
- (d) Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate;
- (e) The provision of a race management team, patrol boats and other officials and volunteers by the event organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities;
- (f) The provision of patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances;
- (g) It is their responsibility to familiarise themselves with any risks specific to this venue or this event drawn to their attention in any rules or information produced for the venue or event and attend any safety briefing held for the event.

30. INSURANCE

Each boat is required to hold adequate insurance and in particular to hold insurance against third party claims in the sum of at least £2 million.

31. LOCAL RULES

31.1 Adequate personal flotation devices shall be worn by all crew members at all times when afloat, on the pontoons or on the sloping banks and flag Y will not be shown. This changes rule 40. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in disqualification without a hearing. This changes rule 63.1.

31.2 Keeping Clear: Boats shall keep clear of barges and motor vessels that are restricted in their ability to manoeuvre. When a boat finds herself unable to keep clear of such a vessel she may use propulsion, such as paddling or rocking, provided she does not gain a significant advantage in the race (rule 42.3(h)).