

GREENWICH FLYING SQUADRON

Sailing Instructions – Keelboats

Download version



*This set of instructions is to be kept on the boat at all times.
Please refer to the full version of the GFS Sailing Instructions available
on the website (www.gfs.org.au) for detail.*

1. Eligibility to Race.

- a. All races are open to yachts on the register of a recognised club in terms of Part 6 of the RRS.
- b. All yachts competing in GFS races must have current marine insurance which includes racing cover appropriate to the event. Written Proof of Insurance (POI) must be supplied.
- c. All yachts competing in GFS races are required to have lodged a current season audited **Special Regulations Equipment Compliance Form to a minimum YA Special Regulations: Part 1 – Category 7.**
- d. A yacht competing in the Saturday, Down Harbour, Twilight and Winter Series must have a minimum of two persons on board (e.g. the skipper and one crew member).
- e. The Club reserves the right to reject any entry.
- f. Casual entries **may** be accepted by the race committee.
- g. Any yacht not complying with the relevant conditions above is ineligible to race and will not be awarded points and will be considered to be a non starter.

2. Indemnity.

All those taking part in any Club events do so at their own risk and responsibility. Participants are also advised that although the Club is covered by third party liability insurance, this cover **DOES NOT** extend to participants. Participants must make their own private insurance arrangements. (Attention is drawn to ISAF Fundamental Rule 4, (Decision to Race) which States: “The responsibility for a boat’s decision to *participate* in a race or to *continue racing* is hers alone”.

This RISK WARNING is issued by the Club and the NSW Maritime Authority, pursuant to the Civil Liability Act 2002 to all persons wishing to participate in the sailing activities conducted by the Club. Participants are warned that, regardless of the precautions, which might be taken by reasonable and experienced persons, sailing can be a dangerous pursuit and participants are exposed to risk of property damage, physical harm and possible death.

The Club and NSW Roads and Maritime Services also warn participants that regardless of their best intentions, they may be unable to render assistance to participants who are in distress.

The Club will monitor **VHF Channel 72** during GFS races. However, please plan what you and your crew would do in and emergency and identify suitable evacuation sites for any injured person. **See Page 19.**

3. Rules.

All references made to the racing rules shall be interpreted as a reference to ‘the current **ISAF Racing Rules of Sailing RRS** and the prescriptions and the special regulations of the AYF’.

Attention is drawn to ISAF Fundamental Rule 1 (Safety), Rule 2 (Fair Sailing) and Rule 3 (Acceptance of the Rules) and the World Anti Doping Code and ISAF Regulation 21. It is expected that all competitors in GFS events adhere to the principles set out in these rules.

All Club races will be sailed under the ISAF rules as stated above, except where modified by these sailing instructions.

Definitions: shall be described in the **Racing Rules of Sailing.**

4. Changes to Sailing Instructions.

Changes to the Sailing Instructions will be posted on the Club internet site (www.gfs.org.au) and/or email to club members who have paid racing fees.

5. Schedule of Races.

Races will be held according to the current GFS Season Program.

6. Divisions and Classes.

Yacht divisions and classes are defined by coloured flags which are used as their starting signal. These are listed in order of starting.

<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Down Harbour</u>	<u>Twilight</u>
Blue - Division 1	Blue - Division 1	Gold
Green/White - Division 2	White - Division 2	Orange (Red)
	Red Division 3	White
		Green
		Black
		Blue

7. Marks.

Marks are set at locations shown on the GFS course map – see page 10.

GFS marks are Inflatable cylindrical or conical buoys clearly marked GFS.

Some marks, if buoys, in Down Harbour courses are yellow cylindrical can (YA) buoys.

All marks are to be rounded to starboard except when denoted by (P) in which case they will be rounded to port.

When Islands are listed as marks in GFS Courses **RRS, Rule 19 applies.**

8. Start Line.

i. The Start Line may be set from either the Clubhouse or the Club launch. **Code flag 'Q'** will be flown at the Clubhouse to signify that the start will be from the Club launch.

ii. The Start Line will be set between a Club mark and the flag mast of either the Club launch or the Clubhouse.

iii. If the club mark is missing, when starting from the Clubhouse, the start line will be set between the flag mast at the Clubhouse and the nearest flag mast on the Sea Scouts shed on the Woolwich shore.

iv. When starting, boats must pass between the Clubhouse or launch and the Club mark. If a clearance mark is laid at the Clubhouse end of the start line, boats must pass between the clearance buoy and the Club mark. If laid, the clearance mark does not indicate the position of the start line.

v. Yachts in subsequent starts must remain well away from the vicinity of the start line until the previous Division clears the start line after their starting signal. See SI 11 (b), (c) and (g).

vi. To allow movement of vessels (competitors, ferries and non-competitors) during Twilight starts a starting box/ exclusion zone will be in place which will be defined by marks. The box will be bounded by the start buoy and clearance mark laid off the clubhouse and approximately 20 metres South from Northwood wharf and a similar distance north of moorings on the Woolwich shore. See SI 11.

9. Courses and Course Signals.

All GFS Courses are defined by numbers and will only be issued to members who have paid racing fees prior to the commencement of the sailing season.

The letter 'A' following the course number shall indicate the alternative course. When displayed, boats are to proceed directly to the finish after rounding the mark so designated [A] on the course sheet.

Course Signals.

Twilight Courses – Clubhouse start

The course number for **Orange Division** will be displayed on a red board, the course for **Green Division, Gold Division, White Division and Blue Division** on a white board and the course for **Black Division** will be on a black board.

Saturday Courses – Launch Start (Code Flag 'Q' flown on the clubhouse flag mast)

Division 1 will always sail the blue (B) course. For Division 2, a Green Flag at the start will indicate the **GREEN (G)** course is to be sailed and a White Flag the **WHITE (W)** course is to be sailed.

Saturday Courses – Clubhouse start, Courses 31 to 66.

The course number for Division 1 will be on a blue board. The Division 2 course will be on a white board

Down Harbour Courses – Clubhouse start

The course number for Division 1 (Blue) will be displayed on a blue board, for Division 2 (White) a white board and Division 3 (Red), a red board.

10. Starting Procedure.

All starts rely on flag movements. Sound signals may or may not occur.

i. Saturday Point Score Series – Scratch Start.

PT (1315hrs)		Club Pennant raised Sound signal
PT + 5 min	Division One warning signal	Blue Pennant raised Sound signal
PT + 6 min	Division One preparatory signal	Code Flag 'I' raised Sound signal
PT + 9 min	Division One 1 minute signal	Code Flag 'I' lowered Long Sound signal
PT + 10 min	Division One Start signal	Blue Pennant lowered Sound signal
	Division Two warning signal	Green or White Pennant raised
PT + 11 min	Division Two preparatory signal	Code Flag 'I' raised Sound signal
PT + 14 min	Division Two 1 minute signal	Code Flag 'I' lowered Long Sound signal
PT + 15min	Division Two Start signal	Green or White Pennant lowered Sound signal

For Division 2, a Green Flag will indicate the Green (G) course and a White flag the White (W) course.

ii. Down Harbour Point Score Series – Scratch Start.

	PT Down Harbour (1315hrs)	Club Pennant raised Sound signal	
PT + 5 min	Division One class warning signal	Blue Pennant raised Sound signal	
PT + 6 min	Division One preparatory signal	Code Flag 'I' raised Sound signal	
PT + 9 min	Division One 1 minute signal	Code Flag 'I' lowered Long Sound signal	
PT + 10min	Division One Start signal	Blue Pennant lowered Sound signal	\$
	Division Two warning signal	White Pennant raised	
PT + 11 min	Division Two preparatory signal	Code Flag 'I' raised Sound signal	
PT + 14 min	Division Two 1 minute signal	Code Flag 'I' lowered Long Sound signal	
PT + 15 min	Division Two Start signal	White Pennant lowered Sound signal	\$\$
	Division Three warning signal	Red Pennant raised	
PT + 16 min	Division Three preparatory signal	Code Flag 'I' raised Sound signal	
PT + 19 min	Division Three 1 minute signal	Code Flag 'I' lowered Long Sound signal	
PT + 20 min	Division Three Start signal	Red Pennant lowered Sound signal	\$\$\$

The starting sequence will finish at –

\$\$\$ for a three division start (Blue, White and Red)
 \$\$ for a two division start (Blue and White)
 \$ for a one division start (Blue Pennant).

ii.

iii. Saturday Series – Handicap start (If required competitors will notified)

iv. Twilight Point Score – Scratch Start.

PT (1735hrs)		Club Pennant raised Sound Signal
PT + 5 min	Gold Division Warning Signal	Yellow Pennant raised Sound Signal
PT + 6 min	Gold Division preparatory signal	Code Flag 'I' raised
PT + 9 min	Gold Division 1 minute signal	Code Flag 'I' lowered
PT + 10 min (5.45 pm)	Gold Division Start signal	Yellow Pennant lowered Sound Signal
	Orange Division Warning Signal	Red Pennant raised
PT + 11 min	Orange Division preparatory signal	Code Flag 'I' raised
PT + 14 min	Orange Division 1 minute signal	Code Flag 'I' lowered
PT + 15min (5.50 pm)	Orange Division Start signal	Red Pennant lowered Sound Signal
	White Division Warning signal	White Pennant raised
PT + 16 min	White Division Preparatory Signal	Code Flag 'I' raised
PT + 19 min	White Division 1 minute signal	Code Flag 'I' lowered
PT + 20 min (5.55 pm)	White Division Start signal	White pennant lowered Sound Signal
	Green Division Warning Signal	Green Pennant raised
PT + 21 min	Green Division Preparatory Signal	Code Flag 'I' raised
PT + 24 min	Green Division 1 minute signal	Code Flag 'I' lowered
PT + 25 min (6.00 pm)	Green Division Start Signal	Green Pennant lowered Sound signal
	Black Division Warning Signal	Black Pennant raised
PT + 26 min	Black Division Preparatory Signal	Code Flag 'I' raised
PT + 29 min	Black Division 1 minute signal	Code Flag 'I' lowered
PT + 30 min (6.05 pm)	Black Division Start Signal	Black Pennant lowered Sound Signal
	Blue Division Warning Signal	Blue Pennant raised
PT + 31 min	Blue Division Preparatory Signal	Code Flag 'I' raised
PT + 24 min	Blue Division 1 minute signal	Code Flag 'I' lowered
PT + 35 min (6.10 pm)	Blue Division Start Signal	Blue Pennant lowered Sound Signal

Note: To minimize noise in the vicinity of the club, Sound signals will only occur at the start of the flag sequence and thereafter at the warning signal / start signal for each division.

v. West Harbour Winter Series - Starting procedure is according to RRS 26 details TBA.

11. Starting Rules.

- a RRS. Rule 30.1 applies at the start.
- b Yachts are required to keep clear of the starting line before their warning signal. **In Twilight starts yachts are to keep clear of the starting box/exclusion zone until 5 minutes prior to their assigned starting time – see SI 8 vi.**
- c Yachts sailing in the starting area prior to their One Minute Signal must keep clear of all yachts sailing after their One Minute Signal. Yachts not complying may be protested by other competitors or disqualified by the starter.
- d
 - i. If a Club Buoy and/or Clearance Mark have been laid, no yacht shall cross the starting line from the direction of the first mark after its preparatory signal.
 - ii. No 'dip starts' are permitted - Code Flag 'I'.
 - iii. Yachts may pass either end of the club mark, launch or clearance buoy (if laid) to re-start.
- e The starter will remain on station for 15 minutes after the last start. No yacht will be recorded as a starter after that time.
- f The procedure for Handicap Starts outlined in SI 10 iii modifies rule 12(c).
- g If no club buoy or launch is used at the start a yacht must return completely to the pre-start side of the transit between the club flag mast and the nearest flag mast on the Sea Scouts building on the Woolwich shore before re starting. This modifies SI 11(d, ii).

12. Delayed Start.

In the event of a delayed start, the Answering Pennant (**AP**) will be raised accompanied by two sound signals. When the start is imminent the Answering Pennant will be lowered accompanied by one sound signal. One minute thereafter the normal starting procedure will commence. This may also include a new course number.

13. Recalls.

- a **Individual RRS Rule 29.1 will apply.**
Code Flag 'X' will be displayed accompanied by one sound signal. The offending yacht may be advised by hail; however the onus is on the offending yacht to return and restart.
 - b **General RRS Rule 29.2 will apply as modified.**
First Substitute will be raised accompanied by two sound signals. Four minutes later the First Substitute will be lowered accompanied by one sound signal. One minute later the Class Flag and Preparatory Signal (for the Twilight Point score races) and the Class Flag (for the Saturday) will be raised accompanied by one sound signal. Thereafter the starting procedures return to normal.
- If a second general recall occurs the recalled division will then start 10 minutes after the last division start. The Preparatory Signal (Twilight races) or the Class Flag (Saturday & Winter races) will be raised five minutes after the last division starts.

14. Shortened Course.

If a course is shortened after the start, Code Flag 'S' displayed at a rounding mark indicates that the course has been shortened. All yachts after rounding the mark shall proceed directly to the finishing line. If a Division Flag is also displayed with Code Flag 'S', the course is shortened for boats in that division only.

15. Cancellation of Race.

If conditions are such that the starter decides to cancel the race, Code Flag 'N' and the Answering Pennant '**AP**' will be displayed accompanied by three sound signals.

16. Abandonment of Race.

- a If necessary a race will be abandoned by flying Code Flag 'N' above Code Flag 'A' from the launch or clubhouse mast accompanied by three long sound signals.
- b When an 'Ocean Storm', 'Tsunami', 'Land Gale' or 'Severe Storm' warning is current for the Sydney area racing will be abandoned.
- c Where wind speeds in excess of 30 knots are consistently recorded at Sydney Airport, or at their discretion, the starter will abandon racing for the day.
- d. Notice of abandonment will be posted on the GFS Website and communicated via SMS or email where practicable.

17. Races Cancelled or Abandoned.

Races cancelled or abandoned will not be re-sailed. Yachts competing in a race abandoned after the start will be awarded 4 points.

18. Time Limits.

Saturday Point Score	4 hours elapsed time
Down Harbour Series	5 hours elapsed time
Twilight Series	8.15 pm
Winter Series	4 hours elapsed time

19. Alternative Penalties.

Rule 44.1 and 44.2 apply except as modified. The Two Turns Penalty will apply to all yachts breaking a rule of Part 2 of the Racing Rules of Sailing **and a One Turn Penalty will apply to all yachts breaking Rule 31 of the Racing Rules of Sailing.**

20. Finish Line.

When finishing, boats must pass between the Club mark and the **Blue** Flag on the Clubhouse mast or on the **Blue** Flag on the club launch. The Clearance mark does not apply at the finish.

Note: RRS. Rule 31 applies at the finish.

21. Scoring.

Yachts of members who have paid racing fees, provided Proof of Insurance and have lodged a Special Regulations Equipment Form with the Club will be awarded points in Club events.

Club Point Score

Points shall be scored and any ties resolved in accordance with a **RRS Appendix A -Scoring. The Low Point Scoring System** will apply, except that:

Overall Point Scores

The Overall Point Score for Saturday and Twilight Series is the combined results of the Spring and Autumn Series, after dropping the worst results in accordance with the Races to Count.

22. Protests.

A **Red Flag** or **Code Flag B** will be recognised as a protest flag.

The starter must be notified of the protest on completion of the race in which the protest occurred.

23. Handicap System.

Handicaps are determined at the beginning of each season using previous results and individual assessment. During the season handicaps can be adjusted by the Sailing Secretary or their delegate to correct inequitable situations.

24. Rostered Duty Officer.

- (i) **For Saturday racing (If required)**, a yacht's crew (minimum 2 people and preferably three and including the owner) will be rostered to lay marks and perform **start and finish** duty.
- (ii) **For Twilight racing**, one crew will be rostered each week to assist with the exception of the last race of the Summer series and the last race of the Autumn series in which case two crews will be rostered.

25. Special Regulations.

- a Commercial Shipping. Competing yachts must not interfere with the commercial shipping of the port. **Yachts are specifically warned to keep clear of ferries. See page 18.**
- b Yachts which have finished must keep clear of the Finish Line area and yachts still racing.
- A yacht must not obstruct the starter's view of the finish line or distract the starter whilst yachts which are finishing are being recorded.
- c A yacht approaching the starting line under power or tow must stop the motor or cast off the tow-line at least two (2) minutes before their Starting Signal, or make a 360 degree turn under sail before starting to race.
- d The Club Racing Pennant must be clearly displayed whilst racing. Visitors may use their own club flag.
- In addition, all yachts competing in the Down Harbour Series must carry a Fluorescent Yellow Pennant, of size 600mm x 70mm, from the backstay or, if no backstay, a position from which the pennant is obvious.
- e (i) In Saturday racing, MPS spinnakers are allowable, i.e. a spinnaker may be set without a pole.
- (ii) In GFS Twilight Series races, only a mainsail and headsails as defined in RRS 50.4 shall be permitted. Headsails shall not be set flying and must be tacked to the foot of a permanent forestay and fully hanked or attached to the permanent forestay by a luff groove device. No sail shall be set forward of the point of attachment of a permanent forestay.**
- f Identification.
- (i) Sails; Mainsails, spinnakers and overlapping headsails must bear the **same** number.
- (ii) Hulls: All yachts are required to have displayed in a contrasting colour and in letters and numbers at least 50mm in size, on both sides of the hull or on their transom, the name of the yacht, sail number and Club of registration (e.g. GFS).
- g The Sailing Secretary, or their delegate (if racing), may communicate with the starter during a race to advise on course changes if necessary.
- h All yachts with moveable keels must have their centreboard or swing-keel locked down at all times when racing.
- i If a yacht retires from a race **you must** inform the **duty crew** either by hail, phone call to the club 9436 1901 or by VHS Channel 72.
- j Retractable spinnaker poles and other outriggers are allowed when these are part of the design of the yacht. This changes RRS Rule 50.3(a).
- k. Safety equipment spot checks may be held during the season. If indicated by the presence of the club launch at the finish of the race, immediately a yacht finishes it is to display the nominated piece of safety equipment to the duty crew in the club launch moored beyond the finish line. Failure to display the item will result in the forfeit of all points from this race and previous races in the series. The club launch will not display a **blue** flag and is not part of the finish line.
- l. Bow mounted anchors that extend beyond the gunwale or extended gunwale are not permitted in GFS races. Anchors should be stowed in lockers or below decks where they can be deployed immediately.
- m. It is a NSW Maritime requirement that navigation lights must be displayed between sunset and sunrise and during times of restricted visibility.
- n. Prohibited Areas
- (i) All areas enclosed by private moorings are prohibited areas for all Club courses. Yachts racing in GFS events are not permitted to sail between moorings and between moorings and the adjoining shore. Blue Police buoys are considered to be private moorings.
- Each area is considered to be an obstruction, not surrounded by navigable water, and not a mark of the course. RRS Rule 19 applies.
- Yachts breaking Sailing Instruction 25n (i) may retrace their course until outside the restricted area then do a Two Turns Penalty. If they fail to do this and are protested by another yacht they will be classed as DNF.

(ii) Spectacle and Snapper Islands

- a. Sailing between the naval barges and their moorings/piles and between the barges or their moorings/piles and the shore at Spectacle Island is prohibited. RRS Rule 19 applies.
- b. The area between the Western tip of Spectacle Island and the first of the naval moorings/piles to the North East is also a prohibited area. RRS Rule 19 applies.
- c. It is not permissible to sail through the area between Spectacle and Snapper Islands. This area is also considered to be an obstruction, not surrounded by navigable water and not a mark of the course. RRS Rule 19 applies.
- d. **See (vi) a.**

(iii) Shark Island

The area between Shark Island and the Shark Island YA buoy is a prohibited area for all Club races. RRS Rule 19 applies.

(iv) Snails Bay

The dolphins at Snails Bay are not considered to be private moorings. It is permissible to sail between the dolphins, between the dolphins and the private moorings in Snails Bay and the dolphins and the shore.

- (v) **Cardinal Marks** – A boat shall not sail within the area bounded by Cardinal Marks. These areas are prohibited and deemed to be continuing obstructions. Cardinal marks indicate the direction of safety.

(vi) Lateral Marks (Channel Markers) and other markers.

All navigation marks rank as obstructions and shall be passed on their designated side. The water between a navigation mark and the adjacent shore or hazard shall be considered a Continuing Obstruction. RRS Rule 19 applies.

- a. The area between the Beacon Buoy and Spectacle Island is a prohibited area for all Club races.
- b. The area between the **Goat Island and the Red Channel Marker** is a prohibited area for all Club races.
- c. **Garden Island.** Yachts shall not sail within the yellow markers in the vicinity of Garden Island. This area is prohibited and deemed to be a continuing obstruction. The area between **Garden Island and the Red Channel Marker** is a prohibited area for all Club races.

- (vii) **Bradleys Head Safe Water Mark** - Condition 100 of the GFS Aquatic Licence. All vessels navigating in the vicinity of the safe water mark, 350m from Bradleys Head, should pass to the **North** of the buoy when proceeding westward and should pass to the **South** of the buoy when proceeding eastward.

- o. The use of a trapeze is not permitted on any keelboat when racing in any GFS series.
- p. To get clear after grounding or colliding with a vessel or object, a boat may use an engine (or any other method) provided the boat does not gain any advantage in the race. This modifies RRS Rule 42.
- q. All yachts must carry a completed GFS Safety Card.
- r. Any on-water incident between boats competing in GFS events should be reported to the Club Safety Officer gfsafetyofficer@gmail.com as soon as possible after the incident occurs even if it is considered minor.

In addition, The Maritime Safety Act 1998 requirements are to be followed in case of any incident resulting in significant damage to vessels or injury to persons during club events and is a requirement of the GFS Aquatic Licence from NSW Maritime. The relevant Sections of the Act are listed below.

