

**Hawley Lake Comet Open
5th May 2024**

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

1 RULES

The Open will be governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing*. Competitors should note that Hawley Lake Sailing Club and the Comet Class Association implement the RYA Racing Charter and that they will be required to undertake to sail in compliance with the Charter, which can be found at the front of the RYA rulebook (Racing Rules of Sailing 2021-24).

2 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located in the Clubhouse.

3 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted before 15 minutes before the first race will take effect, including any changes to the schedule of races.

4 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

Signals made ashore will be displayed either on the committee boat or in front of the Clubhouse.

5 SCHEDULE OF RACES

Number of races:

There will be 3 races

If more than two races are held the lowest scoring race will be discarded.

6 CLASS FLAGS

Class flags will be indicated at the briefing before the first race.

7 RACING AREAS

The racing area and any exclusion will be described at the briefing.

8 THE COURSES

Courses will be displayed on the map at the side of the clubhouse.

9 MARKS

Marks of the course will be displayed on the map at the side of the clubhouse.

10 AREAS THAT ARE OBSTRUCTIONS

All competitors are advised to keep 5m from the shore that will be indicated on the map at the side of the clubhouse to avoid damage from underwater obstructions.

11 THE START

11.1 The starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange surface on either the committee boat or on the shore on the starting marks and the designated ODM.

11.2 Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area during the starting sequence for other races.

11.3 A boat starting later than 5 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes rules A4 and A5.

12 CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

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

13 THE FINISH

The finishing line will be as described by the race officer at the briefing.

14 TIME LIMITS

14.1 If, due to conditions, a time limit is required the race officer will provide details at the briefing.

15 PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

15.1 Protests must be raised immediately after the race verbally to the race officer who will convene a protest committee if required. If the issue cannot be dealt with quickly the formal hearing will be held after the end of racing.

15.2 Breaches of instructions 11.3, or 18 will not be grounds for a protest by a boat. This changes rule 60.1(a). Penalties for these breaches may be less than disqualification if the protest committee so decides. The scoring abbreviation for a discretionary penalty imposed under this instruction will be DPI.

16 SCORING

16.1 The Low Point System of Appendix A will apply.

17 SAFETY REGULATIONS

17.1 There is no requirement to check out at the end of a race.

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

18 NOMINATION OF RIG

- 18.1 Competitors shall nominate which type of rig they will use before racing.
A Competitor shall use the same type of rig for all races.

19 EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules and sailing instructions.

20 OFFICIAL BOATS

Official boats will be described at the briefing.

21 STATEMENT OF RISK

Rule 4 of 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;

22 INSURANCE

Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £2million per event or the equivalent.