

Sailing Instructions

PCC Regatta

Weekend of 19th/ 20th September 2026

Discounted berthing kindly sponsored by:

boatfolk

1.0 THE EVENT

1.1 Racing on the weekend of 19th and 20th September 2026 will take place in King Road off Portishead in the Severn Estuary in the vicinity of Portishead Marina.

1.1.1. A maximum of 6 races are scheduled over the two days.

1.1.2. The scheduled start time of the first race on 19th September is 11h20 BST

1.1.3 There will be a post race event following completion of racing on 19th September (see section 8 below)

1.1.4 The scheduled start time of the first race on 20th September is 12h20 BST

1.2 The organising authority is Portishead Cruising Club (PCC) via email to commodore@pccsail.com.

1.3 These Sailing Instructions (SIs) must be read in conjunction with the Notice of Race (NoR). In the event of conflict between the NoR and the SIs, the SIs shall prevail.

1.4 Racing will be run in accordance with the RSS of the ISAF and the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, except where varied by these instructions and/or the Notice of Race.

1.5 For boats racing under IRC, the IRC rules for the given year (Parts A, B and C) will apply (unless changed as stated below, or in the NoR), except for IRC rule 14.1 (identification on sails), which does not apply.

2.0 RESPONSIBILITY

2.1 Yacht racing can be dangerous. The attention of owners, skippers and crew is drawn to RRS Fundamental Rule 4: "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone". The safety of a yacht and her crew is the sole and inescapable responsibility of the owner or owner's representative who must do their best to ensure that the yacht is fully found, thoroughly seaworthy and manned by an experienced crew who are able to sail in bad weather. They must be satisfied as to the soundness of the hull, spars, rigging, sails and all gear. They must ensure that the safety equipment is properly maintained and stowed and that the crew know where it is kept and how it is to be used. Nothing, whether in the Notice of Race or Sailing Instructions or anywhere else, reduces this responsibility.

2.2 Nothing done by the organisers can reduce the responsibility of the skipper nor will it make the organisers responsible for any loss, damage, death or personal injury, however it may have occurred, as a result of the boat taking part in the race. The organisers encompasses everyone helping to run the race and the event, and includes any appointed organising authority, race committee and race officers.

2.3 PCC conducts races in areas of intermittent shipping. It is the entrants responsibility to monitor VHF CH12 at all times and to remain clear of all commercial shipping (which will likely be constrained by draught), particularly those vessels that are 'swinging' (proceeding past the dock and performing a sharp turn to port to face a flooding tide as they approach the lock). Any competitor interfering with shipping will be liable to disqualification.

2.4 RSS 40.1 applies to all races (all competitors must wear lifejackets).

2.5 All boats must comply with the safety requirements as detailed in Appendix 1.

3.0 SCORING

3.1 The low point scoring system, in accordance with RRS 90.3 will be used.

3.2 Yachts scoring DNF will score points for the number of starters in the race +1. All other yachts not classified (i.e. DSQ, OCS etc.) will score points for the number of entries +2.

3.3 Discards: if 4 or more races are sailed there will be 1 discard.

4.0 THE START AND FINISH

4.1 The Race Officer shall inform the racing fleet of the location of the start and finish lines prior to the warning signal of each race.

4.2 No sound or visual signals will be given at the start or finish of the race. Countdowns may be provided at 5, 4, 1, 0 minutes in before the start on VHF CH37/M1. This replaces RRS 26 (starting races).

4.3 Entrants should keep clear of the start / finish areas unless starting / finishing so as not to interfere with competing boats.

4.4 Any boat retiring from a race must confirm this to Race Control (VHF CH37/M1).

5.0 THE COURSES

5.1 Courses will be set on the day from (but not limited to) the following list of marks:

- Cockburn: port channel mark to north of King Road
- Denny Shoal: south cardinal mark to north of King Road
- Newcome: port channel mark to north of King Road
- Firefly: starboard channel mark to south of King Road
- Outer: starboard channel mark to south of King Road
- Middle: starboard channel mark to south of King Road
- Denny Island: rocky islet 2nm NNW of Portishead pier
- Yellow mark: PCC laid mark in vicinity of N51°29.75' W002°44.95'

5.2 The location of many of the marks above are shown in Appendix 2.

5.3 Course details will be announced over VHF before the warning signal.

5.4 The Race Officer may shorten the course over VHF by removing legs of the course that have not been started by the leading boat.

5.5 There is a time limit of 2 hours for all races.

6.0 COMMUNICATIONS

6.1 All competitors should monitor CH37 (M1) while in the starting area and for the duration of race. To contact the Race Officer call "PCC Race Control".

6.2 All entrants should monitor Bristol VTS CH 12 when in their zone of control.

6.3 Any Notices to Competitors and/or Changes in Sailing Instructions will be announced by the Race Officer on CH37 and/or via WhatsApp.

6.4 Results will be published via WhatsApp as soon as possible after each day's racing.

7.0 PROTESTS

7.1 Boats intending to protest are requested to inform the Race Officer as soon as possible by VHF. Protests shall then be delivered in writing to the Race Officer within 2 hours of the end of racing for the day.

7.2 Protests should be submitted with a protest fee of £25, which will only be returned if the protest is upheld.

7.3 Protests not involving direct inter boat damage will be decided by arbitration. Where arbitration proves unsuccessful, or there is contact and damage, then a protest committee will be formed. This replaces RRS 63.1.

8.0 POST RACE EVENT

8.1 There will be a post race event on Saturday 19th September next to the Lock Control Building at Portishead Marina. Drinks and food will be available to purchase. The start will immediately follow completion of racing and the time will be confirmed via WhatsApp.

APPENDIX 1 – SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

A1.1 All safety equipment shall be of a suitable size and type for the boat, shall be accessible and serviceable, and all equipment and fittings shall be securely fastened.

A1.2 A lifebelt/ring and heaving line shall be carried, plus a lifejacket for every person on board.

A1.3 Each boat shall be equipped with a bilge pump and bucket.

A1.4 All boats shall carry an operational marine VHF radio equipped with channels:

- 12 (Bristol VTS)
- 16 (Emergency)
- 37/M1 (Race Control)

A1.5 Boats shall carry suitable anchor and sufficient cable to hold the boat in the likely depth of water and weather conditions.

A1.6 Boats shall also carry a fire extinguisher, first aid kit, foghorn, compass and navigation lights.

A1.7 Each boat must carry a knife suitable for the cutting of any rope on the boat

A1.8 Dan buoy flags shall be rolled up so as not to be visible unless purposely deployed.

APPENDIX 2 – KING ROAD

A2.1 Shipping channels are clearly illustrated below. Any competitor interfering with shipping will be liable to disqualification..

A2.2 Many of the racing marks are also illustrated, including the 'yellow mark'.

