



Topper Northern Championships

Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th August 2026

Hosted by Carrickfergus Sailing Club



SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

The notation '[NP]' in a rule of the notice of race (NoR) and sailing Instructions (SI) means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1.

1 RULES

- 1.1 The event will be governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing*.
- 1.2 Racing rule(s) Signal AP, 33, 35, 60.1, 60.3(b), 61.1(a), 61.2(b)(1), 61.4(b), 63.5(c), A2, A5.1, A5.2, P2 will be changed. The changes are detailed in the notice of race or in these sailing instructions.
- 1.3 In the event of a discrepancy between the Notice of Race and the Sailing Instructions, the Sailing Instructions take precedence. This changes RRS rule 63.5(c).

2 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted before 0900 on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 2000 on the day before it will take effect.

3 COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

See NoR 3.

4 CODE OF CONDUCT

[DP] Competitors and support persons shall comply with reasonable requests from race officials.

5 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 5.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed at the flagpole to the side of the Race hut in front of the club.
- 5.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 45 minutes' in the race signal AP with regard to when the warning signal will be made following its removal. This changes Race Signal AP.
- 5.3 [DP] Flag D with one sound signal means the warning signal will be made not less than 45 minutes after flag D is displayed. Boats shall not leave the shore until this signal is made.

6 SCHEDULE OF RACES

See NoR 9

7 CLASS FLAGS

Class flags will be: 5.3 m² Fleet Code Flag T
 4.2 m² Fleet Code Flag Numeral 6

8 RACING AREAS

The Racing Area will be in Belfast Lough, in the vicinity of Club.

9 THE COURSES

Topper Trapezoid Courses will be used. The diagrams in Attachment A show the courses, including the order in which marks are to be passed, and the side on which each mark is to be left.

ITCA(IRL) Sailing Instructions

10 MARKS

- 10.1 Mark 1 will be a spherical red buoy with a black stripe, marks 2, 3P, 3S and 4 will be spherical red buoys. The Start Mark for the 5.3 and 4.2 classes will be a large green spherical mark. The Finish Mark for both fleets will be a black spherical mark.
- 10.2 When a leeward gate is set, if one or other of the gate marks is missing, the remaining mark shall be left to port. This changes RRS 34.

11 AREAS THAT ARE OBSTRUCTIONS

A safety/patrol boat in close attendance to a competitor in difficulty is an obstruction.

12 THE START

- 12.1 The starting line for the 5.3 m² and the 4.2 m² fleet will be between a red and white striped staff on the committee boat displaying an orange flag at the starboard end and the course side of the start mark.
- 12.2 A boat that does not start within 5 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.1 and A5.2.
- 12.3 [DP] Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area during the starting sequence for other races.

13 CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

- 13.1 To change the next leg of the course, the race committee will move the original mark (or the finishing line) to a new position.
- 13.2 Minor Course changes may not be signalled, this changes RRS 33.

14 THE FINISH

- 14.1 The finishing line will be between a staff displaying a blue flag on the committee boat and the course side of the finish mark.
- 14.2 A boat that retires before finishing or takes a one-turn or two-turn penalty under RRS 44.2 shall record the details, before the end of protest time, on the declaration form located in the Race Office.

15 PENALTY SYSTEM

See NoR 14

16 TIME LIMITS

- 16.1 Boats failing to finish within a 15 minute finishing window after the first boat in her class sails the course and finishes will be scored Did Not Finish without a hearing. This changes RRS 35, A5.1 and A5.2.
- 16.2 In addition to RRS 32, the race committee may also award a finishing score to a boat that is still racing by displaying to her from a committee vessel (which may be in motion) flag W with two sound signals. A boat so notified is no longer required to sail the course, shall stop racing and shall return to the starting area, or return ashore if there is no more racing. A finishing score under this sailing instruction will be the score she would have received had she sailed the course and finished within any time limit, without gaining or losing any place. However, when two or more boats that are overlapped are notified, they will be scored as if they were tied. The decision by the race committee to use this procedure or not to use it shall not be grounds for requesting redress. This changes rules 61.1(a) and 61.4(b).

17 HEARING REQUESTS

- 17.1 The protest time limit for protests about an incident observed in the racing area is 90 minutes after the last boat has finished the last race of the day or the race committee signals no more racing today, whichever is the later. The protest time limit for other

ITCA(IRL) Sailing Instructions

protests is 60 minutes after the relevant information is available to the protestor. This changes RRS 60.3(b) and 61.2(b)(1).

17.2 Hearing Request forms are available in the Alcorn room.

17.3 Notices will be posted no later than 30 minutes after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Hearings will be held in the race office or a location to be declared at the time of scheduling.

18 SCORING

See NoR 15

19 SAFETY REGULATIONS

19.1 [DP] A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee as soon as possible.

19.2 [DP] All competitors shall tally out and tally in as described at the briefing.

20 REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT

20.1 [DP] [NP] Substitution of competitors is not allowed without prior written approval of the race committee.

20.2 Substitution of damaged or lost equipment is not allowed unless authorised by the race committee. Requests for substitution shall be made at the first reasonable opportunity.

21 EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

[NP] A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules, notice of race and sailing instructions.

22 EVENT ADVERTISING

Does not apply to this event.

23 SUPPLIED BOATS

Does not apply.

24 OFFICIAL VESSELS

The Committee Vessel will be described at the Competitor's Briefing.

25 [DP] [NP] SUPPORT TEAMS

See NoR 16

26 TRASH DISPOSAL

Trash may be placed aboard official or support person vessels.

27 BERTHING

[DP] [NP] Boats shall be kept in their assigned places in the dinghy park.

28 HAUL-OUT RESTRICTIONS

Does not apply.

29 DIVING EQUIPMENT AND PLASTIC POOLS

Does not apply.

30 PRIZES

See NoR 24

31 RISK STATEMENT

See NoR 22.

32 INSURANCE

See NoR 23

ATTACHMENT A – COURSES

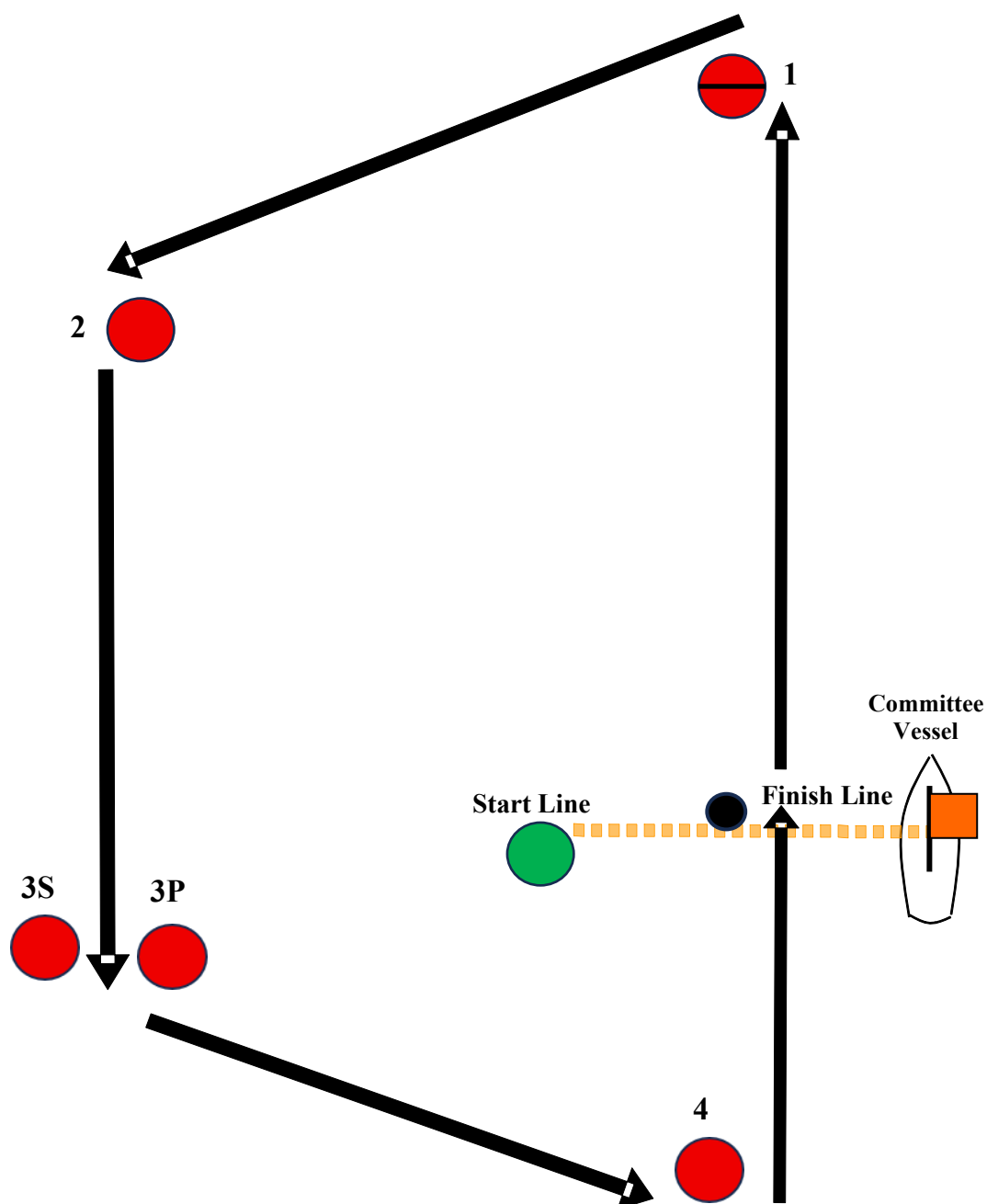
4.2 m² Course

Start – 1 – 2 – 3P – 4 – Finish

The Start Pin is a green round buoy.

Mark 1 is Red with a black stripe, Marks 2, 3P, 4 are red and are to be rounded to Port.

The Finish Pin is a black round mark for all Fleets.



5.3 m² Course

Start – 1 – 2 – 3P/3S – 2 - 3P – 4 – Finish

The Start Pin is a green round buoy.

Mark 1 is Red with a Black stripe, Marks 2 and 4 are Red and are to be rounded to Port.

Marks 3P/3S are a Gate and may rounded to Port or Starboard.

Mark 3P on the final reach to Mark 4 is to be rounded to Port.

The Finish Pin is a black round mark for all Fleets.

