

# The Flying Fifteen Association of Ireland National Championships of Ireland 2026

**Carrickfergus Sailing Club**

**4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> September**

## **SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**



### **ORGANISING AUTHORITY**

This event will be organised by Carrickfergus Sailing Club (CSC) in conjunction with International Flying Fifteen Class Association of Ireland.

The notation '[NP]' in a rule of the notice of race (NoR) and the 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 championship will be governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing*.
- 1.2 The International Flying Fifteen Class Association rules will apply in so far as they do not conflict with 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 09:00 on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 20:00 on the day before it will take effect.

### **3 COMMUNICATION 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 on the Club flagpole.
- 5.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 60 minutes' in the race signal AP.

### **6 SCHEDULE OF RACES**

- 6.1 7 races are scheduled:

| Date         | Races | Warning Signal                               |
|--------------|-------|----------------------------------------------|
| Friday 4th   | 2     | First warning signal 14.25 Race(s) to follow |
| Saturday 5th | 3     | First warning signal 10.55 Race(s) to follow |
| Sunday 6th   | 2     | First warning signal 10.55 Races to follow   |

- 6.2 To alert boats that a race or sequence of races will begin soon, an orange flag will be displayed with one sound for at least five minutes before a warning signal is displayed.
- 6.3 An additional race may be run on Friday or Saturday at the discretion of the Race Committee but may never be more than one ahead of schedule. To indicate the intention to do this the finish boat will display numeral one at the end of the scheduled races. This changes NoR 9.4
- 6.4 On the last day of the event no first warning signal for a race will be made after 14:30.
- 7 CLASS FLAGS**  
Class flag will be: IC Code J – Juliet
- 8 RACING AREAS**  
The Racing area shall be the waters of Belfast Lough.
- 9 THE COURSES**
- 9.1 The diagrams in Addendum A show the courses, the order in which marks are to be passed, and the side on which each mark is to be left. Boats shall not sail through the Start/Finish line after they have started, until they are finishing.
- 9.2 Windward Leeward course and Laps will be signalled by displaying a course designation on a Board on CV
- 9.3 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.
- 10 MARKS**
- 10.1 Windward/Leeward and Triangle Courses: Mark 1, 2S and 2P will be large red inflatable marks, Mark 1A an offset will be a small inflatable black mark.
- 10.2 The Starting & Finishing mark will be a red inflatable mark.
- 11 OBSTRUCTIONS**
- 11.1 A safety/patrol boat in close attendance to a competitor in difficulty is an obstruction. There is a reef running out from the Castle that should be avoided. Unofficial markers should be ignored as they are not accurately placed. The area to the south of the Marina entrance is very shallow at low water.
- 12 THE START**
- 12.1 The starting line will be between a staff displaying an Orange Flag on the Race Committee Vessel (RCV) at the starboard end and the course side of the port end outer distance mark.
- 12.2 A boat starting later than 5 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes rules A4 & A5.
- 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 Except at a gate, boats shall pass between the race committee boat signaling the change of the next leg and the nearby mark, leaving the mark to port and the race committee RIB to starboard. This changes rule 28.1.
- 14 THE FINISH**  
The finishing line will be between a staff displaying a Blue flag and the course side of an Outer distance mark.
- 15 PENALTY SYSTEM**  
See NoR 11
- 16 TIME LIMITS**
- 16.1 The time limit for a race is 90 minutes. Boats failing to finish within 15min after the first boat sails the course and finishes will be scored Did Not Finish without a hearing. This changes rules 35, A4 & A5.
- 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 is 60 minutes after the last boat has finished the last race of the day.
- 17.2 Notices will be posted no later than 15 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 protest room, the location of which will be posted on the official notice board.
- 17.3 On the last scheduled day of racing a request for redress based on a protest committee decision shall be delivered no later than 30 minutes after the decision was posted. This changes rule 60.3(2).

## **18 SCORING**

See NoR 10.

## **19 SAFETY REGULATIONS**

- 19.1 [DP] [NP] A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee as soon as possible.
- 19.2 [DP] [NP] Boats shall keep clear of commercial shipping at all times.

## **20 REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT**

[DP] [NP] Substitution of competitors will not be allowed without prior approval of the race committee.

## **21 EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS**

[DP][NP] A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules and sailing instructions. On the water, a boat can be instructed by a race committee equipment inspector or measurer to proceed immediately to a designated area for inspection.

## **22 SUPPLIED BOATS**

Does not apply

## **23 OFFICIAL VESSELS**

The main Committee vessel is an ELAN 32, Blue Hull named Free Spirit.

## **24 SUPPORT TEAMS**

Does not apply

## **25 TRASH DISPOSAL**

[DP] [NP] Boats shall not put trash in the water. Trash may be placed aboard support and race committee boats.

## **26 BERTHING**

The boats will be berthed in the adjacent Carrickfergus marina (i.e. this is a "wet event"). Competitors may wish to supply additional fenders and spring lines.

## **27 HAUL-OUT RESTRICTIONS**

The boats will be launched from Carrickfergus Sailing Club slipway on Friday before racing and retrieved from the same slipway on Sunday after racing.

Friday 4 Sept – HW 1643 & Sunday 6 Sept – HW 1928

## **28 DIVING EQUIPMENT AND PLASTIC POOLS**

Does not apply

## **29 PRIZES**

See NoR 14

## **30 RISK STATEMENT**

RRS 3 of the Racing Rules of Sailing states: "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue to race is hers alone".

Sailing by its nature is 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 to attend any safety briefing held for the event.

**31 INSURANCE**

Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £3,000,000 / €3,000,000 per event or the equivalent.

**32 DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY**

Competitors participate in the event entirely at their own risk. See RRS 3, Decision to Race and SI 30. The organizing authority will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the regatta.

Addendum “A” COURSE DIAGRAMS

A. The Courses

- A.1 The Championship will be raced on a Windward - Leeward course as indicated on the board displayed on the committee boat.
- A.2 After starting, the marks shall be rounded, to port, except at the Leeward Gate where boats shall pass between Marks 2S/2P(Gate) from the direction of the previous mark.
- A.3 The diagram is not to scale and does not indicate the length or angle of the legs.

| LA     | COURSE: WINDWARD / LEEWARD<br>with spreader mark and leeward finish        |
|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Signal | Mark Rounding Order                                                        |
| LA2    | Start - 1 - 1a - 2s/2p - 1 - 1a - Finish                                   |
| LA3    | Start - 1 - 1a - 2s/2p - 1 - 1a - 2s/2p - 1 - 1a - Finish                  |
| LA4    | Start - 1 - 1a - 2s/2p - 1 - 1a - 2s/2p - 1 - 1a - 2s/2p - 1 - 1a - Finish |

