

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS 2026

SECTION "A" (Keelboats)

The notation '(DP)' in a rule means that the penalty for a breach of that rule may, at the discretion of the protest committee, be less than disqualification.

1 **Rules**

- 1.1 The racing will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing 2025-2028 (RRS), IRC2026 rules where applicable and the Crouch Harbour Byelaws.
<https://crouchharbour.uk/byelaws/>
- 1.2 The helm or owner must be a sailing member of the Burnham on Crouch Sailing Club (BSC).
- 1.3 One-design class rules will apply when boats are racing in a one design class and valid association membership is needed where applicable. Any crew weight limit rules for IRC are exempt for Club racing in Class One and Class two. If a one design is racing out of class in the local handicap classes, class rules do not apply.

2 **Notices to Competitors**

- 2.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice boards located in the clubhouse and on the BSC website and social media channels when possible.

3 **Changes to Sailing Instructions**

- 3.1 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.

4 **Signals Made Ashore**

- 4.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed at the BSC using the appropriate flag boards displayed on the upper storey balcony.
- 4.2 If the V flag flies from the flag halyards by the Club Burgee all boats and support vessels need to maintain radio watch on CH37 and 16 to potentially assist with a search and rescue.

5 **Schedule of Races**

- 5.1 Dates as in the BSC Programme 2026.
- 5.2 Class One is open to all yachts with a current valid IRC certificate. Class Two is for yachts with a current valid IRC certificate of 0.940 and below. Class Three is for yachts sailing under YTC/ Local handicap. Cruisers in both IRC and YTC/local handicap divisions can enter the series under a non-spinnaker handicap.
- 5.3 The scheduled warning signals for each class are as follows:-

Class	Warning Signal	Start
Elite	1755	1800
Class One	1800	1805
Class Two	1805	1810
Squib	1810	1815
Class Three	1815	1820
RBOD	1820	1825

ALL TIMES ARE **BST**

6 **Class Flags**

6.1 Class Flags will be:-

Elite	E
Class One	NP1
Class Two	NP2
Squib	NN9
Class Three	NP3
RBOD	NN4

7 **Racing Area**

7.1 The racing will take place on the Rivers Crouch and Roach

8 **The Courses**

- 8.1 The courses will be set from the BSC Course Card 2026. A chartlet is provided showing the approximate locations of marks.
- 8.2 The BSC line is a mark of the course when a boat passes through it on any leg of their course.

9 **The Start**

- 9.1 Races will be started using RRS 26 with the warning signal made 5 minutes before the starting signal and then at 4, 1, GO.
- 9.2 The starting line will be between 2 triangles on the South Shore and a transit on the race box.
- 9.3 [DP] Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area during the starting sequence for other races.
- 9.4 A boat that does not start within 30 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes RRS A4 AND A5.

10 **The Finish**

- 10.1 The finish line is the same as the start line, between the two triangles on the South Shore and a transit on the Race Box.
- 10.2 If the race committee is absent when a boat finishes, the helm should report their finishing time, and position in relation to nearby boats, to the race committee at the first opportunity.

11 **Shortening Course**

- 11.1 Courses may be shortened in accordance with RRS 32.
- 11.2 If the H flag is displayed on its own or over an individual Class Flag at a rounding mark, the course changes. Pass the mark on the correct side from the direction of the previous mark and sail to the finish line.
- 11.3 In rare situations when it is impracticable to send a rib to a rounding mark the Racebox may announce the H flag and Class flag instructions over the VHF radio.
- 11.4 The finishing line is to be crossed from the direction of the last mark. This changes rule 32.

12 **Penalty System**

- 12.1 For Classes Elites, One, Two, Three and Royal Burnham one designs RRS 44.1 is changed so that a two-turn penalty is replaced by a one-turn penalty.
- 12.2 A yacht in Class One, Two or Three who goes aground may use her engine to get off, ensuring no further advantage is gained. The yacht going aground and using her engine must inform the race officer as soon as possible and accept a 2% or 1 place penalty, whichever is greater.

13 **Time Limits**

- 13.1 The time limit for each race is 3 hours after the start time for the first boat. If no boat finishes within the time limit the race committee will abandon the race. Boats failing to finish within 30 minutes after the first boat sails the course and finishes or within the time limit, whichever is later will be scored Did Not Finish without a hearing. This changes RRS 35 A4 and A5.

14 **Protests and Requests for Redress**

- 14.1 Protest forms are available from the Race Box.
- 14.2 For each class the protest time limit is 90 minutes after the last boat has finished.
- 14.3 Notices must be posted no later than 45 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 box as soon as practicable. Where possible arbitration will be used.

15 **Scoring**

- 15.1 Scoring will be under the low points system as per RRS Appendix A where A5.3 is in effect.
- 15.2 Discards will be applied as follows: 4 or more races 1 discard, 7 or more races 2 discards, 9 or more races 3 discards, 14 or more races 4 discards.

16 **Safety Regulations**

- 16.1 Anchors stowed on deck shall not protrude over the bow.
- 16.2 Outboard engines shall not be tilted up so as to protrude beyond the transom
- 16.3 A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race box as soon as possible.
- 16.4 All boats racing in Class One, Two and Three will carry the minimum of:
 - Buoyancy aid or life jacket for each person aboard
 - A bucket with lanyard
 - A knife suitable for cutting ropes
 - A floating throw line or equivalent of 6mm minimum diameter and a minimum of 15m in length
 - A VHF capable of receiving and transmitting VHF 37 (M1).
 - A suitable anchor
- 16.5 Day Boats racing as one designs must carry adequate personal buoyancy and a VHF capable of receiving VHF 37 (M1) and any other safety requirements as laid out in their class rules.
- 16.6 Boats failing to observe rules 16.1 and 16.2 may be disqualified without a hearing. Photographic evidence may be used for boats failing to comply with these rules.

17 **Waste Disposal**

- 17.1 All waste must be taken ashore and disposed of properly.

18 **Radio Communication**

- 18.1 Except in an emergency a boat that is racing shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data transmissions that are not available to all competitors.

19 **Prizes**

- 19.1 Prizes will be awarded at the annual prize giving dinner.

20 **Disclaimer of Liability**

- 20.1 Competitors participate in the racing entirely at their own risk. See RRS 3 Decision to Race
The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone. For under 18s the parent or Guardian takes the responsibility.
The organising 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 sailing event.

21 **Insurance**

- 21.1 Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with minimum cover of £3,000,000.