



The Keelboat General Sailing Instructions

Version 8.2, Issued 30 September 2022

Note: underlined text in blue has been used to show the changes from the previous version of the Keelboat General Sailboat Instructions

1. ORGANISING AUTHORITY

(a) The Organising Authority is the Sailing Committee of the Russell Boating Club (“the Club”).

2. WHAT RULES APPLY

(a) All the Club's keel boat races except the Tall Ships and Classic Invitation races will be sailed under the current operative Racing Rules of Sailing, including the Yachting New Zealand prescriptions, (“the Racing Rules”) and under the current operative Safety Regulations of Sailing, including the Yachting New Zealand prescriptions (“The Safety Regulations”) as further amended and added to by these Sailing Instructions, and by applicable Notice of Races.

(b) Where there is a conflict between these Sailing Instructions and the Racing Rules or the Safety Regulations, these Sailing Instructions shall apply.

(c) Where a specific Notice of Race or set of Sailing Instructions is issued for a particular race or series of races, this shall take precedence over these General Sailing Instructions.

(d) These Sailing Instructions do not apply to the Tall Ships or Classic Invitation races.

(e) Between sunset and sunrise Part 2 of the Racing Rules shall cease to apply and will be replaced with the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea.

(f) Competitors in the sport of sailing are governed by a body of rules that they are expected to follow and enforce. A fundamental principle of sportsmanship is that when competitors break a rule they will promptly take a penalty or retire.

(g) If a competitor contravenes any rule in Part 2 of the Racing Rules while racing, it can exonerate itself by getting well clear of other boats as soon after the incident as possible and taking a one turn penalty. This modifies rule 44 in the Racing Rules. If a competitor touches a mark while racing, a one turn penalty applies. If serious damage or a significant advantage results from a rule contravention, the competitor must retire.

(h) Rule 44.3 of the Racing Rules, which provide for scoring penalties, shall not apply.

(i) Notices to competitors will be posted on the Club notice board and will be available from the start box. Changes or additions to these Sailing Instructions shall be posted at least 45 minutes before the starting time of a race. *The notice board is located within the club*

house.

3. SKIPPER'S RESPONSIBILITY

(a) Competitors participate in the Club races at their own risk, see racing rule [3](#), *Decision to Race*. It is the sole responsibility of each competing skipper or other competitor to decide whether or not to start and to continue to race. The Club will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with with or prior to, during or after any race.

(b) It is the responsibility of all skippers to ensure that their vessel and equipment is, at all times, satisfactory and maintained to a standard to ensure the safety of crew and of other competitors.

(c) Competitor's attention is drawn to the fundamental rules of racing in Part 1 of the Racing Rules. *These cover helping those in danger, life-saving equipment and personal buoyancy, fair sailing, acceptance of the rules, the decision to race and banned substances and methods.*

4. SAFETY STANDARDS

(a) The following safety standards must be complied with:

- i. For keel boats and multihulls: Category 5 of Part II of the Safety Regulations.
- ii. For sports boats: Category B of Part VI of the Safety Regulations with the addition of a waterproof vhf radio.
- iii. For trailer and sports trailer yachts (includes Elliott 5.9s): Category C of Part V of the Safety Regulations with the addition of a waterproof vhf radio.
- iv. For unballasted centreboard and open yachts, sailboards, and ballasted yachts not covered by i to iii above (includes Tornado catamarans): Part 1 of the Safety Regulations with the addition of a waterproof vhf radio. Where any race goes beyond the line between Tapeka Point to Brampton Buoy these vessels shall be accompanied by a motorised support boat carrying adequate safety gear. One support boat can support more than one competitor.
- v. It is recommended that all personal floatation devices have a whistle attached.

(b) All competitors are to sign a declaration that they comply with the relevant safety standards before the racing for the season. Failure to provide this declaration shall result in disqualification from races.

(c) The Officer of the Day or any member of the Sailing Committee may inspect any competitor for compliance with safety standards and/or request a declaration from the skipper that the relevant safety standard is met. Where a declaration is requested it shall be supplied within 48 hours of the request. Failure to comply with the relevant safety standard may result in disqualification from races.

(d) It is recommended that yachts with vhf radios maintain a listening watch on channels 16 and 77 while racing.

(e) On any boat sailing single handed a personal flotation device with a whistle attached must be worn at all times while racing.

(f) A personal flotation device with a whistle attached must be worn by each crew member on a sports boat while racing where the wind speeds exceed 20 knots.

5. IDENTIFICATION OF VESSELS

(a) All competing vessels should be registered with Yachting New Zealand and display their Yachting New Zealand sail number in accordance with rule 77 of the Racing Rules, or have some other means of clearly identifying the competitor to the satisfaction of the Officer of the Day. *Failure to comply with this rule may result in the starter/finisher being unable to identify the competitor and a finish time not being taken.*

6. RACES

(a) Notice of Races shall be displayed on the Russell Boating Club notice board, and published ~~in the annual Club calendar and~~ on the Club website. *The notice board is located in the club house.*

(b) The Notice of Races shall identify races that comprise a series, specify the number of races in the series that shall be counted towards the final points, and specify any other eligibility restrictions applying to the series.

(c) Where it is specified that a race is a non-spinnaker race, all headsails must be hanked onto the forestay or have their luff attached by a foil. Poles used to support clews are to be attached to a mast. A spinnaker, as defined by rule [55.4](#) of the Racing Rules, shall not be used.

(d) Where it is specified that a race is a women's race, a woman must helm the vessel for the entire duration of the race, from five minutes before the start until the finish. This does not mean the same woman must helm for the whole race. If this rule is breached during a race, a full report on the incident must be made to the Officer of the Day within the protest period. The Officer of the Day may, at his or hers discretion, impose no penalty, may impose a time penalty or may disqualify the boat concerned.

(e) Failure to comply with eligibility restrictions applying to any race or series of races may result in disqualification from that race or series at the discretion of the Sailing Committee.

(f) Where a race is changed from the day given in the Notice of Races, either the new date and time for the race shall be stated on the Russell Boating Club notice board at least two weeks beforehand or all current racing members shall be individually informed (this may be by email) of the new date and time at least one week beforehand. *The notice board is located within the club house.*

7. COURSES

(a) Numbered and specified courses for races starting and finishing at Russell are published from time to time.

(b) Where the published courses are being used, the particular course number for a race from the published courses shall be displayed from the start box or start boat and/or announced over VHF channel 77 at least 10 minutes prior to the start of the race.

(c) Numbered and specified evening courses have marks underlined. If the first keel boat is not past the underlined mark with 1 hour from the start, proceed from the underlined mark

directly to the finish after rounding the mark. A single orange shape will be shown if a shorted evening course applies.

(c) In the event of a conflict between the numbered course in the most recent version of the published courses for a particular course and the same course as shown on any chart, map or diagram, the written instructions specified in the most recent published courses shall prevail.

(d) Nothing in these Sailing Instructions shall prevent the Sailing Committee or the Officer of the Day setting a course not found in the published courses. Any course that is set that is not found in the most recent version of the published courses must be displayed on the Club notice board at least 45 minutes prior to the start of the race and made available at the start box. In the event of a conflict between the written instructions displayed on the club notice board and the same course as shown on any chart, map or diagram, the written instructions shall prevail.

(e) Notwithstanding the above, The Officer of the Day can amend any course identified under 6(b) or (d) above if all competing boats are informed at least 5 minutes before the scheduled start of the race.

(f) Marks given in courses are turning marks unless otherwise stated.

8. ENTERING RACES

(a) Competitors shall enter their vessel before a race by either notifying the Officer of the Day before the race, or entering their vessel at the Club House before the race or by informing the starter at the wharf or on VHF channel 77 prior to the 10 minute gun. Failure to enter may result in a competitor's time not being taken. *Note: VHF channel 77 may not be monitored during a race.*

(b) A minimum of 2 yachts must come to the start area to make a race.

8. STARTING AND RECALLS

(a) Unless otherwise specified, the start and finish line shall be a line between the 5 yellow knot buoy and the pole on the Russell Wharf with the Russell Boating Club pennant on it

(b) No competitor shall be under power or under tow or other propulsion other than sails within five minutes of the start, or, in the case of a multi-division start, within five minutes of the start of the division within which the competitor is racing.

(c) The following starting sequence will apply to all races except where the Officer of the Day specifies otherwise:

- ~~15 minutes before the start a vhf call (channel 77) will be made; one orange shape may be shown;~~
- 10 minutes before the start a sound signal and vhf call (channel 77) will be made; a second orange shape may be shown;
- 5 minutes before the start a sound signal and vhf call (channel 77) will be made; a third orange shape may be shown;
- 4 minutes before the start a sound signal and vhf call (channel 77) will be made; if orange shapes have been displayed, one orange shape will be obscured (leaving two orange shapes showing);

- 1 minute before the start a sound signal and vhf call (channel 77) will be made; if orange shapes have been displayed, one orange shape will be obscured (leaving one orange shape showing);
- to start the race, a sound signal and vhf call (channel 77) will be made; if orange shapes have been displayed, the final shape will be obscured.

(d) Notwithstanding 2(i), where a different start sequence is specified by the Officer of the Day, this different start sequence may be described on the course sheet for the race (where relevant), and shall be described over VHF channel 77 between 10 and 15 minutes before the scheduled start of the race.

(e) These starting instructions modify rule 26 of the Racing Rules. *Details of other start sequences e.g. division starts or starts from a start boat will be given prior to the particular race where such a start sequence is being used.*

(f) A general recall will be indicated by the sounding of two sound signals. This modifies rule 29.2 of the Racing Rules. At the starter's discretion, a general recall message may be broadcast on vhf channel 77. The first substitute code flag may also be flown. A restart will be made as soon as practicable thereafter.

(g) An individual recall will be indicated by the sounding of one sound signal. No recall numbers will be displayed, the offending competitor or competitors must return and restart. At the starter's discretion, an individual recall message may be broadcast on vhf channel 77. This modifies rule 29.1 of the Racing Rules. Code flag "X" may also be flown.

(h) At the starter's discretion competitors subject to an individual recall may be identified on VHF channel 77.

(i) Any competitor that starts prematurely and that fails to return and restart when recalled shall either incur a penalty equivalent to ten percent of the competitor's actual elapsed time for a race starting later than 1700 hrs and five percent of the competitor's actual elapsed time for all other races or disqualification, at the officer of the day's discretion

10. FAIRWAY MARKS AND RESTRICTED AREAS

(a) Yachts, when racing, must pass:

- to the west of Kaiaraara (Mill) Island
- to the north and west of Fraser Rock and not between Fraser Rock and Tapeka Point
- to seaward of all the Black Rocks (which are to the north and east of Moturoa Island up to but not including Flat Island)
- to seaward of all the islands along the northern side of [Moturoa](#) Island between Kent Passage and (but not including) Flat Island
- to the south of Pakatahi Island (southern end of Moturoa Island)
- to the south of all rocks off the south eastern end of Motukiekie Island
- to the north of Motutara Islands (northern end of Motukiekie Island, in Army Bay passage)
- to the west of Motukauri Island (northern entrance to Manawaora Bay)
- to the channel side of registered moorings at Opuā, Tapu Point and Okiato

(b) [Yachts, when racing, shall not pass between Motuarohia \(Roberton\) Island and Moturoa Island.](#)

11. TIME LIMITS

- (a) Unless otherwise specified by the Officer of the Day, a race will be abandoned if the first boat does not complete the course and finish :
- within seven hours where the race starts between 9 am and 10 59 am inclusive; or
 - within five hours where the race starts between 11 am and 1 pm inclusive; or
 - within two hours where the race is an evening race.
- (b) The Officer of the Day shall specify the time limit for any other race.

12. RETIREMENTS

- (a) If any competitor retires from the race, for whatever reason, then the skipper must inform the Officer of the Day or the starter at the earliest opportunity. A competitor that retires from the race must not cross the finish line.

13. PROTESTS

- (a) Protests by racing yachts will be heard provided that the protesting boat complies with rule 61 of the Racing Rules and informs the Officer of the Day on completion of the race, fills in the appropriate form and delivers that form to the Officer of the Day within two hours of finishing the race.
- (b) The Protest Committee will hear the protest at a time and place to be decided by them.
- (c) [The protesting boat shall inform the other boat\(s\) of the protest on VHF channel 77 at the first reasonable opportunity. This applies in addition to rule 61.1 of the Racing Rules.](#)

14. HANDICAPS

- (a) Any changes to larger sails or spars or to the propeller or to the trim of a vessel which may enhance the performance of the vessel should be reported to the Handicapper at least 24 hours before the start of the race.
- (b) In any races conducted by the Russell Boating Club to the PHRF handicap system or ORC handicap system or the IRC rating system, yachts must sail in the trim specified on their PHRF Certificates or ORC Certificates or Endorsed IRC Certificates, as the case may be.
- (c) Where a boat is sailing under IRC, the IRC Rules Parts 1,2 and 3 shall apply.

15. POINTS AND TROPHIES

- (a) Except as provided for in paragraph 14(b) & (c) of these Sailing Instructions, for a competitor to qualify for points or trophies, the skipper must be a current Full, Family Full, Life or Honorary member of the Russell Boating Club and the racing fee for season must be paid in full.
- (b) Points and trophies will only be awarded to competitors in races held from the day the membership and racing fee is fully paid.

(c) For a competitor to qualify for points or trophies in any race or series of races run by the Russell Boating Club that is identified in the Notice of Races as being open to the members of other specified yacht clubs in the Bay of Islands, the skipper of the competitor must, at the time of the start of the race, be a current racing member of the specified yacht club in the Bay of Islands.

(d) For series results the low point scoring system shall be used as set out in Appendix A of the Racing Rules. *This provides that any DNF boat is scored at the number of yachts in the series that finish the particular race plus one, and that any DNS boat is scored at the number of yachts in the series plus one.*
