



2015 East Coast Sailing Festival



General Sailing Instructions

20th August – 23rd August



1. Organising Authority

- a. The Organising Authority for the event is the East Coast Sailing Festival Committee. The event is managed by the Regatta Committee of the Forth Yacht Clubs Association, herein after referred to as, “The Committee”.

2. Rules

- a. The event will be governed by the ‘Rule’ as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) 2013-2016, RYA prescriptions and class regulations, except as amended or added to by these sailing instructions.

3. Races

- a. The series shall consist of the following races:

Division	Passage Race	Orienteering Race	Round the Cans
1	1	2	6
2	1	4	3
3	1	2	6 (W/L)
4	2	4	0
5	2	4	0
6	2	4	0
7	2	4	0
8	/	/	4+

- b. The Planned Schedule is:

Day	Division 1	Division 2	Division 3	Divisions 4,5,6,7	Division 8
Thursday	Passage Race	Passage Race	Passage Race	Passage Race	/
Friday	Orienteering Race (x2)	Orienteering Race (x2)	Orienteering Race (x2)	Orienteering Race (x2)	/
Saturday	Round the Cans (x3)	Round the Cans (x3)	Rnd the Cans W/L (x3)	Passage Race (Kelpie Cup)	Rnd the Cans W/L (x4+)
Sunday	Round the Cans (x3)	Orienteering Race (x2)	Rnd the Cans W/L (x3)	Orienteering Race (x2)	/

(Note: Division 3 will sail with Division 2 on Thursday and Friday)

4. Rules

- a. The Regatta will be governed by the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS 2013 -2016) except as amended by the Sailing Instructions.
- b. Advertising may be displayed in accordance with ISAF Code 20. Boats may be required to display advertising chosen and supplied by the organising authority.

5. Reservations

- a. The Committee reserves the right;
 - i. To reject or rescind any entry in accordance with RRS 76.1.
 - ii. To cancel, combine or alter classes at their discretion.
 - iii. To make any alteration to the schedule and Sailing Instructions they consider necessary. Such alterations will be posted on the Official Notice Board at the Regatta Office at Port Edgar Yacht Club at least 2 hours before the start of the first race of the day. Flag 'L' will be flown from the flagpole outside the clubhouse to signify an alteration has been made. Flag 'L' will also be displayed by the Committee Boats in the appropriate race areas and announced by VHF.
 - iv. To take appropriate disciplinary action, which may include disqualification from the race or the series, against owner / skipper /crew which causes damage ashore or afloat, which by bad behaviour brings discredit on East Coast Sailing Festival, or otherwise incurs the censure of the Protest Committee in terms of RRS 69.1, all of which the Committee shall be the sole judge. This alters RRS 69.1.

6. Handicaps

- a. Race results shall be calculated using the RYA Portsmouth yardstick (PY) handicap system.
- b. A boat or boat type already listed by the FYCA Handicap Committee shall use its 2015 FYCA PY handicap. A boat type not so included but listed in RYA YR2 shall use its RYA published handicap. Modification for configuration differences (e.g. propeller or keel) shall use the FYCA published adjustment allowances.
- c. A boat with a NECRA rating shall use a PY handicap converted by the formula agreed for 2015 by the Handicap Sub-committee of the ECSF Steering Group and published in the FYCA NECRA Policy. Anomalous NECRA rating conversions may be subject to minor adjustment after consultation with ECSF Handicap sub-committee.
- d. Any other boat shall be allocated a PY handicap, with trial number status (TN) based on the relevant information provided on the Entry Form. A TN status handicap may be altered at any time during the regatta at the discretion of the Race Committee.

7. Divisions

Divisions	Handicap	Class Flag
1	940 & below	White
2	941 - 1040	Dark Green
3	Hunter 707	No. 7 Pennant
4	Cruiser/Racer 1041 - 1160	Dark Blue
5	Restricted Sail 920 - 1049	Yellow
6	Restricted Sail 1050 - 1149	Purple
7	Restricted Sail 1150 - Above	Light Blue
8	RS 400 Dinghy	RS 400 class flag

a. Restricted Sail Class restrictions

No spinnakers shall be allowed, and any headsail flown shall comply with the RYA prescription to Rule 50.4. Additionally all headsails shall be attached to a permanent forestay (or forestays in the case of a cutter) along the whole luff. Sails flown loose luffed are not permitted. Only one headsail may be flown at any one time from any forestay, except when changing sail so long as both headsails are on the same stay and are hoisted together for the shortest possible time consistent with changing sail whilst racing.

b. Five or more boats of any one design may constitute a separate class but may be required to start and sail with an appropriate handicap class.

8. VHF Channels

Division	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1	77	77	77	77
2	77	77	77	69
3	77	77	77	77
4	77	77	69	69
5	77	77	69	69
6	77	77	69	69
7	77	77	69	69

9. Sail Numbers

- a. All boats must have a sail number, easily identifiable from the Committee boat. Sail numbers on all headsails, including spinnakers, must be the same as those on the mainsail. Boats unable to conform to this rule must advise the Committee in writing prior to the start of the race.

10. Course Area

- a. The course area is on the River Forth estuary east and west of Port Edgar, but competitors should note that the committee vessel may be situated as far as 5 miles from the marina. (Admiralty charts numbers 735, 736 & 737 shows the relevant waters.)
- b. All boats are required to observe FPA regulations regarding distances to be kept from Rosyth Dockyard (150m) and Hound Point Terminal (50m).
- c. **BOATS OBSTRUCTING SHIPPING MAY BE DISQUALIFIED.**
- d. Ships have right of way as per Forth Navigation Bylaws. Particular attention must be paid to the designated shipping channels, especially between the Beamer and the Forth Bridges where ships change course about 40 degrees.
- e. Due to the construction of the new Forth Crossing a number of exclusion zones are in operation and there is an increase in the number of barges and tugs moving in the area outside Port Edgar Marina. Yachts are advised to keep at least 100m from a ship as it passes.

11. Start Line

- a. The Start line for each race is defined in the **Daily Race Instructions**. All boats shall keep clear of the Start Line until their Preparatory Signal has been made.
- b. No boat may start later than 10 minutes after her starting signal.

12. Starting Procedure (all races)

Signal	Flag and Sound	Minutes before starting signal
Warning	Class Flag ; 1 sound	5
Preparatory	P or a penalty flag; 1 sound	4
One-minute	Preparatory / Penalty flag removed; 1 sound	1
Start	Class Flag removed; 1 sound	0

- a. Succeeding classes will be started at five minute intervals by displaying the Warning Signal with the Starting Signal of the preceding class.

13. Recalls

- a. Recalls shall follow the procedure as laid down in RRS29. Individual recalls may be broadcast on the designated VHF Channel for that race area. However it is the responsibility of each individual boat to decide whether it is OCS.

14. Late Starting

- a. This clause alters RRS 42. A boat arriving late in the vicinity of the start line may remain under power or tow after her Preparatory signal and until, but not after, she starts provided that, after stopping her engine / paddling or casting off her tow, she carries out two full 360° turns (720 °) in the same direction (including two tacks and two gybes) on the pre-start side of the line or its extensions. Such a boat shall keep clear of all other boats until she has completed her turns and has started. No boat in the vicinity of the Start Line shall use her engine / paddle or accept a tow after her Preparatory signal. Any boat doing so may be subject to protest.

15. Finish Line

- a. The Finish Line for each race shall be defined in the Daily Race Instructions.

16. Finishing

- a. Every boat, when finishing, shall ensure that her sail number is clearly visible to the Committee Boat. In case of doubt, immediately after finishing, she should sail such a course that her sail number can be distinguished. Any boat failing to comply may not receive a finish time. (Each boat should note its finish time and that of the boat that finished ahead of it). Having finished, boats are requested not to re-cross the Finish Line so as not to impede other boats still to finish nor obstruct the view from the Committee Boat.

17. Shortening Course

- a. This is defined in the Daily Race Instructions

18. Time Limit

- a. The Time limit for each race is defined in the Daily Race Instructions for each race.

19. Abandoned Races

- a. If no boat finishes within the time limit the race shall be abandoned. However a result may be obtained using times taken at a rounding mark. The choice of which mark to be used is at the sole discretion of Race Committee. This alters RRS 32.

20. Protests

- a. Boats intending to protest should draw the attention of the Race Officer to their protest flag by hail or on its designated VHF channel. Protests must be lodged in writing at the Race Office within 60 minutes of the committee vessel returning to harbour on Thursday, Friday and Saturday but within 30 minutes on Sunday. This time will be displayed on the official notice board.
- b. The time and place of hearings will be displayed as soon as possible on the Official Notice Board. It is the responsibility of all competitors to check on their involvement with protests and to appear at the appointed time.
- c. Parties involved in a protest may agree to use the RYA Arbitration Procedure. After submitting a written protest, one representative from each boat will meet with a RYA qualified arbitrator. No witnesses will be allowed. Protests not resolved by the arbitrator will be forwarded to a Protest Committee. A boat that accepts the arbitrator's opinion that it broke a rule of Part 2 shall receive a Scoring Penalty of 40% as calculated in RRS 44.3c, but not less than 3 places, provided that this does not exceed DNF points. The acceptance of an arbitrator's opinion cannot be grounds for redress or be appealed.

21. Retirals

- a. Boats retiring must communicate this to the Committee Boat as soon as possible.

22. Responsibility and Insurance

- a. The safety of a boat and its entire management, including insurance, shall be the sole and inescapable responsibility of the owner/skipper.
- b. Rule 4 of the Racing Rules of Sailing states: "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone."
- c. Sailing is by nature an unpredictable sport and therefore inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event, each competitor agrees and acknowledges that:
 - i. 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;
 - ii. They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore;
 - iii. They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions;
 - iv. Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate;
 - v. Their boat is adequately insured, including racing risks, with cover of at least £2,000,000 against third party claims;
- d. The fact that the race committee may conduct inspections of boats does not reduce the responsibilities of each competitor set out in the Sailing Instructions.
- e. The committee of East Coast Sailing Festival shall not be liable for any loss, damage or death or personal injury, howsoever caused, to the owner, his skipper or crew as a result of their taking part in the Series.

23. Safety

- a. Minimum Safety Equipment*
 - i. Personal Buoyancy for all crew members must be worn or carried on boats. Competitors must wear a correctly fitted lifejacket or buoyancy aid, complying with the relevant EN standard if IC Flag 'Y' is displayed before the class start indicating that RRS 40 is in operation.
 - ii. All yachts must carry safety equipment in accordance with FYCA Category 4R.
 - iii. All yachts must carry an engine and sufficient fuel to reach and return from its race area which may be up to 4 miles from the Marina.
 - iv. The 707 yachts are required to carry an engine for the races on Thursday and Friday.
 - v. The 707 yachts are not required to carry an engine on Friday and Saturday. If they choose not to, two paddles must be carried and a 13 Kg weigh attached to the boat in accordance with 7.1.5 of the 707 Class Rules.
 - vi. The Dragon yachts must comply with their class rules and carry two paddles.
 - vii. RS 400 dinghies will comply with their Class Rules and relevant Appendices inc. two paddles.
 - viii. All yachts shall carry a suitable main anchor and ground tackle, and a working VHF transceiver which can receive all **Primary Intership Working Channels**: 06, 08, 09, 10, 13, 15, 17, 67, 69, 72, 73, and 77.
 - ix. Failure to accept inspection or to rectify shortcomings identified by inspection will be assessed by the Race Committee which may protest the boat under the RRS. This does not reduce the responsibilities of the owner/skipper.
 - x. Race Committee vessels will fly pink flags to distinguish them from other vessels that may pass through the race area during racing.

*Yachts' refers to boats sailing in Divisions 1-7.

24. Scoring System and Prizes

- a. The Series will be scored as provided in RRS Appendix A, except as amended by the Sailing Instructions. Yachts entering the Points Series shall enter all the races of the Series. For the Points Series, 4 races must be completed and each yacht's score will be the sum of her scores for all races except that if five or more races are completed in a class, each yacht shall exclude her worst score. The Series for 707 competitors will be calculated on the Saturday and Sunday races.
- b. Yachts not entering the full Points Series prior to the start of the first race of the Series will not be awarded series points. However, for any particular race entered they will be awarded a place according to their result and will be eligible for that day's race prizes.
- c. A yacht's score in each race will count towards the Points Series. However, for the purpose of awarding trophies and prizes for the day, a yacht's score will be the sum of her scores in all races on that day. Daily prizes will be awarded for each race at 18:00 in the marquee.

25. Regatta Office

The Regatta Office and Official Notice Board will situated at PEYC Clubhouse in Port Edgar Marina.

26. Results

Results will be announced at the daily prize giving, this will be 18:00 on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. On Sunday this will be as soon as possible after completion of racing.