



## LOCH EARN SAILING CLUB

### First Fling 2026

#### SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Saturday 2 May – Sunday 3 May 2026

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#### 1. Rules

These Sailing Instructions (SIs) shall be governed by the **Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) 2025–2028**, the prescriptions of the RYA, the class rules of each participating fleet, and these Sailing Instructions. In the event of a conflict, these Sailing Instructions shall prevail over class rules, except where the RRS states otherwise.

#### 2. Entries & Safety

The safety of a boat and her entire management, including insurance, shall be the sole responsibility of the owner or person in charge. They must ensure that the boat and crew are fully adequate to face the conditions that may arise during racing. Neither these Sailing Instructions nor any inspection of a boat limits or reduces the absolute responsibility of the owner/person in charge for the crew, boat, and her management.

The race organisers shall not be responsible for any loss, damage, death, or personal injury howsoever caused to the owner, person in charge, or crew as a result of their taking part in the racing. Every owner/person in charge warrants the suitability of their boat for the race or races.

Personal buoyancy **shall be worn at all times** while afloat. This is a mandatory requirement and is not subject to waiver.

#### 3. Participating Fleets

The following fleets are scheduled to race. Each fleet shall be started and scored separately in accordance with the provisions of these Sailing Instructions:

Fleet	Class Flag	Start Order	Scoring System
Enterprise	E	1st	Class Racing
Supernova (Saturday Only)	SN	2nd	Class Racing
Blaze	BL	3rd	Class Racing
RS Aero	RA	4th	Class Racing
Open Handicap	H	5th	Portsmouth Yardstick (PY)
Open Keelboat	C	6th	Portsmouth Yardstick (PY)

Class flags shall be as indicated in the table above and will be used during the starting sequence. Any changes to fleet participation will be communicated on the Official Notice Board and at the pre-race briefing.

#### 4. Notices to Competitors

All official notices to competitors shall be posted on the **Official Notice Board** located in the clubhouse foyer. The posting of a notice will be signalled by the display of Flag **L** from the flagpole at the Race Hut. Competitors are responsible for checking the Notice Board before and between racing sessions.

#### 5. Postponements (Onshore)

The display of Pennant '**AP**' accompanied by two sound signals indicates that racing is postponed. One sound signal will be made when the pennant is lowered. When boats are ashore, the Warning Signal for the first race will be made not less than **20 minutes** after AP is lowered.

#### 6. Changes to Sailing Instructions

Any change to these Sailing Instructions shall be posted on the Official Notice Board at least **one hour** before the Warning Signal of the race to which it applies. If time does not permit, such changes may be announced verbally at the Race Officer's discretion and confirmed in writing as soon as practicable.

#### 7. Schedule of Races

The intention is to sail **three (3) races on Saturday** and **three (3) races on Sunday**. The schedule is as follows:

Races	Day	Warning Signal	First Start
Races 1–3*	Saturday	12:54	13:00
Races 4–6*	Sunday	10:54	11:00

\* The number of races sailed on any day will depend on weather conditions and daylight. No fewer than two (2) races per day shall be completed to constitute a valid day's racing, unless racing is abandoned due to adverse conditions.

No Warning Signal shall be made after **15:00 on Sunday**.

#### 8. Competitor Briefing

A mandatory briefing for all competitors will be held at **12:00 on Saturday** from the club patio. A horn will sound to indicate the start of the briefing. Attendance at the briefing is strongly encouraged. Information regarding course layouts, any changes to these SIs, and relevant safety information will be communicated at the briefing.

#### 9. Racing Area

The racing area is Loch Earn, as shown on the **course card** issued to competitors. **N.B.** Over the course of the season some club marks may have drifted from their charted positions. Any changes to the course card will be communicated at the briefing and posted on the Official Notice Board in accordance with section 4.

#### 10. The Course

Courses shall be set by the Officer of the Day (OOD) using the fixed club racing marks as shown on the course card issued to competitors. The course for each race will be displayed on the board at the Race Hut **prior to the Warning Signal**.

On the Course Board: marks to be passed to **port** will be shown on a **RED tile**; marks to be passed to **starboard** will be shown on a **GREEN tile**. The number of laps will also be displayed.

The Course Board will identify fleet starting groups as follows:

1. S1 – Enterprise
2. S2 – Supernova (Saturday Only)
3. S3 – Blaze
4. S4 – RS Aero
5. H – Open Handicap Fleet
6. C – Open Keelboat Fleet

Any change to the above will be communicated at the briefing and posted in accordance with section 4. Should the Race Officer consider it necessary to change the course after the Warning Signal, the race shall be postponed and Flag **AP** displayed in accordance with section 5.

Competitors should check the course board between races, as the course may change. Competitors must only pass through the start/finish line as detailed in section 12 on each lap. Competitors must not pass through the start/finish line when not completing a lap.

### 11. Marks

Races shall be sailed using the fixed club marks indicated on the course chart. Mark positions are approximate. All marks display the appropriate number or letter. It is the responsibility of each competitor to verify the actual location of marks prior to racing. **Temporary marks will not be used.**

### 12. The Start

1. Given the fixed start line and marks at Loch Earn, a **3-minute start sequence** is used. With the Class Flag displayed at 6 minutes until minute 0 for the starting fleet. Fleets will start 3 minutes after the previous fleet. This alters RRS Rule 26.
2. There shall be up to **six (6) starts** depending on the number of participating fleets on a particular day. The intended starting order is: Enterprise → Supernova → Blaze → RS Aero → Open Handicap → Open Keelboat. Alterations to this will be communicated as a notice and/or at the briefing for the event
3. Class flags shall be as detailed in section 3.1 of these Instructions.
4. In the event of a general recall, the class involved will be moved to the rear of the starting order and will continue in the 3-minute sequence.
5. The starting line will be a transit from the **orange pole** on the shore in front of the Race Hut to **Mark X** as the outer limit of the line.
6. Boats not currently in sequence are requested to stay away from the starting area as depicted in the course card

### 13. Mark Boats

Mark boats may be used for the first race of each day, subject to the availability of volunteers. Where mark boats are deployed, their presence will be communicated at the briefing.

### 14. The Finish

The finishing line will be between the **orange pole** at the front of the Race Hut and **Mark X**. All boats must cross the finishing line in the direction of sailing. Competitors should hail the Race Officer on crossing the line to assist with accurate recording.

## 15. Shortened Course

When a course is shortened, **Flag S** will be displayed accompanied by the relevant class flag and two sound signals. The leading boat for that fleet will finish at the end of the lap still to be completed at the time the signal is made.

## 16. Time Limits & Target Race Times

The target time per race will be **45 minutes**, which may be extended at the discretion of the Race Officer. This changes RRS Rule 35. The target time for the first-placed boat shall be approximately 45 minutes.

"Average laps" may be used at the Race Officer's discretion for boats that have not completed the full course. No Warning Signal shall be made after **15:00 on Sunday**.

## 17. Protests & Requests for Redress

Protest forms are available at the Race Office and must be delivered within **30 minutes** after the last boat in the relevant fleet has finished the last race of the day. Failure to deliver within this time limit shall be deemed a waiver of the right to protest, except as provided in RRS 61.3.

A boat intending to protest shall hail "**PROTEST**" at the time of the incident, as required by RRS 61.1(a).

## 18. Scoring

The '**Low Point**' scoring system (RRS Appendix A4) shall apply to all fleets.

Eight (8) races are scheduled for the series. One (1) discard shall apply after four (4) or more races have been sailed. A minimum of **two (2) races** must be completed to constitute a valid series.

The **Open Handicap and Open Keelboat fleets** shall be scored on elapsed time corrected using Portsmouth Yardstick (PY) numbers. PY numbers shall be those published by the RYA for the current year, unless a class-specific number has been notified in the NOR or at the briefing.

## 19. Ties

Ties shall be broken in favour of the boat with the most first-place finishes (after discards), then most second-place finishes, and so on. If a tie still remains, the best result in the last race shall decide the winner in accordance with RRS Appendix A8.

## 20. Prizes

Prizes shall be awarded in accordance with the Notice of Race (NOR) and at the discretion of the organising authority. Prize-giving will take place at the club after the completion of racing on Sunday. Competitors are encouraged to remain for the prize-giving.

## 21. Disclaimer of Liability

Competitors participate entirely at their own risk — see RRS Rule 4. The organising authority will not accept any liability for material damage, personal injury, or loss of life sustained in conjunction with, prior to, during, or after the event.