



Looe Sailing Club Sailing Instructions (SI's)

The P&B Fireball Association

UK Nationals and Open Championships

24th, 25th, 26th and 27th May 2025

1 RULES

- 1.1 The event is governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing*.
- 1.2 The following Rules have been changed RRS 35, 44.1, 61.1, 60.5b ,A4, A4.1, A5, A5.1, A5.2, A10

RRS 42 is changed to insert at new rule, RRS 42.3(i):

"42.3(i) When the wind speed is clearly over 12 knots across the course, the Race Committee may signal in accordance with RRS Appendix P5 that pumping, rocking and ooching are permitted after the starting signal. This changes RRS 42.2(a), 42.2 (b) and 42.2(c)."

2 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1 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.

3 COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

- 3.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located at the Beach Master's office.
- 3.2 While racing [From the first warning signal until the end of the last race of the day], except in an emergency, a boat shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats.

4 CODE OF CONDUCT

- 4.1 Competitors and support persons shall comply with reasonable requests from race officials.
- 4.2 Competitors and support persons shall handle any equipment or place advertising provided by the organizing authority with care, seamanship, in accordance with any instructions for its use and without interfering with its functionality.

5 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 5.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed on the flag post at the Boat Park on the seafront.
- 5.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 45 minutes' in Race Signals AP.
- 5.3 Hoisting the class flag ashore with two sound signals means that tallies have been released.
- 5.4 [DP] Boats shall not go afloat until released which will be notified by displaying flag D with one sound signal. The warning signal will not be made before the scheduled time or less than 45 minutes after flag D is displayed.

6 SCHEDULE OF RACES

Date	Race	Warning Signal
Saturday 24th May	Points Race 1 Points Race 2	12:55 Back to back
Sunday 25 th May	Points Race 3 Points Race 4	12:55 Back to back
Monday 26 th May	Points Race 5 Points Race 6	12:55 Back to back
Tuesday 27 th May	Points Race 7 Points Race 8	10:55 Back to back

- 6.1 The schedule above indicates proposed start times and may be subject to change to accommodate prevailing weather and/or tidal conditions.
- 6.2 One extra race per day may be sailed, provided that the programme does not become more than one race ahead of schedule and the change is made according to SI 2.1.
- 6.3 To alert boats that a race or sequence of races will begin soon, the orange starting line flag will be displayed with one sound at least five minutes before a warning signal is made.

6.4 On the last scheduled day of racing no warning signal will be made after 14:00.

7 CLASS FLAGS

7.1 The Fireball Class flag is a solid red circle on a white background.

8 RACING AREA

8.1 The racing area is in Looe Bay.

9 COURSES

9.1 The diagram(s) below in SI Addendum 1 show(s) the course(s), including the approximate angles to the wind, the order in which marks are to be passed, and the side on which each mark is to be left. The approximate windward leg length will be c. 0.7 to 1 nautical mile dependent upon weather and tidal conditions.

9.2 No later than the warning signal, the race committee signal vessel will display the approximate compass bearing of the first leg.

10 MARKS

10.1 Marks 1, 2 and 3 will be orange cylinder buoys.

10.2 Mark 1a (Spacer Mark) will be a yellow cylinder buoy. The Spacer Mark will constitute a mark of the course on every round.

10.3 The Port end **starting mark** will be a yellow cylinder buoy OR where a vessel is used the vessel shall display an orange flag on a mast where the mast will be the pin end.

10.4 The Finishing Mark will be a yellow cylinder buoy unless shortening the course at a Mark of the course where it will be a Mark of the Course.

10.5 For a windward finish, the finishing marks will be a race committee vessel at the starboard end of the line and a yellow cylinder buoy at the port end of the line.

10.6 The Free Floating Starting mark (Gate Start) will be an orange spherical buoy.

11 OBSTRUCTIONS

11.1 Competitors are reminded of their personal responsibilities for complying with International and National Regulations and Local by-laws governing marine navigation.

Abridged extract from the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at sea, 1972:

"A boat shall not impede the passage of a vessel which can safely navigate only within a narrow channel or fairway. A boat shall not cross a narrow channel or fairway if such

crossing impedes the passage of a vessel which can safely navigate only within a narrow channel or fairway. The latter vessel may use five short and rapid blasts of her sound signal if she is in doubt as to the intention of a crossing boat."

12 THE START

- 12.1 To alert boats that a race or sequence of races will begin soon, the orange starting line flag will be displayed with one sound at least five minutes before a warning signal is made or G flag when it is a gate start.

Races will be either line or gate starts with the warning signal made 5 minutes before the starting signal. Further signals of 4 minutes and 1 minute will be made prior to the start signal

Races will be started as follows:

LINE STARTS

- 12.2 The starting line is between a staff displaying an orange flag on the Committee Boat at the starboard end and the port-end starting mark a yellow cylindrical buoy . The buoy may be replaced by a safety boat displaying an Orange flag, in this instance the mast displaying the Orange flag shall indicate the port end of the line
- 12.3 A limit mark may be laid adjacent to the Committee Boat. Boats shall not pass between the limit mark and the Committee Boat after the preparatory signal. Any boat so doing will be disqualified without a hearing. This alters rule 60.5b
- 12.4 A boat starting later than 5 (five) minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.1 and A5.2.

GATE STARTS

- 12.5 Flag "G" displayed from the committee vessel indicates a gate start
- 12.6 Races will be started in accordance with Rule 26, with the warning signal given 5 minutes before the starting signal.
- 12.7 The starting area will be to leeward of the course.
- 12.8 The Gate Launch will display International Code Flag "G" and the Guard Launch, if used, will display International Code Flag "U". International Code Flag G will be displayed from the Gate Launch when in position to start the Gate. Starting signals will be made on the Committee Boat.
- 12.9 Pathfinder - The pathfinder and reserve pathfinder for the first race will be nominated by the Race Committee and thereafter will normally be the 5th (fifth) and 6th (sixth) boats respectively in the final finishing order of the preceding race. However, no boat shall be pathfinder for more than one completed race of the Championship.

In the event of a previous pathfinder finishing in 5th place in subsequent race(s), the highest placed competitors finishing in 6th or the next numerically greater places who have not previously been pathfinders will be nominated as pathfinder and reserve pathfinder respectively. If 2 or more races with gate starts are being sailed on one day, the pathfinder's sail number for the additional races will be displayed on the committee vessel prior to the warning signal.

- 12.10 The sail numbers of the pathfinder and reserve pathfinder will be posted on the Race Notice Board and will be displayed on the Committee vessel. They shall both report to the Committee vessel **5 minutes before** the warning signal. In exceptional circumstances the Race Officer may appoint a boat at sea to act as pathfinder or reserve pathfinder. A pathfinder, or reserve that fails to report will be scored **did not start**. This changes rules A4 & A5.
- 12.11 At least 5 minutes before the warning signal the committee vessel will display a board on the starboard side which will indicate the minimum length of time, in minutes, that the pathfinder will maintain her course.
- 12.12 Approximately 2 minutes before the starting signal the Pathfinder shall come within hail of the Gate Launch and place herself under the direction of the Race Officer. Approximately 15 seconds before the starting signal the Pathfinder will cross the bow of the Gate launch and commence sailing on a close-hauled course on port tack. She will be followed by the Gate Launch and may be preceded off her starboard bow by a Guard Launch.
- 12.13 The leeward end of the starting line will be marked by a free floating orange buoy released approximately 5 seconds before the start signal. The starting line will be between the free floating Starting Mark and the centre of the stern of the Gate Launch.
- 12.14 The Pathfinder shall maintain her course for at least 2 minutes plus any further time the Race Officer considers appropriate. When released by the Race Officer she may tack onto starboard or hold her course as she pleases. The Gate Launch will hold her course and speed for a further period at the discretion of the Race Officer. A sound signal will be made when the gate is fully open at which point the Gate Launch will stop and drift for at least one minute. At the end of this period code flag "G" on the Gate Launch and Committee Boat will be lowered to indicate closing of the gate. No boat shall start after flag "G" has been lowered. A boat failing to start before lowering of flag "G" will be scored "Did Not Start". This alters rule A4.1.

- 12.15 A boat, not having already correctly started, which is on the port side of the Gate Launch while the Gate is opening, shall not cross the start line from the course side.
- 12.16 After the preparatory signal, a boat which interferes with or tries to pass between the Pathfinder, Gate Launch or/and Guard launch, if a guard launch is used, or that causes another boat to interfere in these ways, will be disqualified without a hearing. If the race is restarted, re-sailed or rescheduled she is not entitled to compete. This alters rule 60.5b.
- 12.17 The Gate Launch, Guard Launch (if used) and Pathfinder until released rank as starting marks.
- 12.18 A boat that cannot otherwise avoid fouling a starting mark may hail a right-of-way boat for room and then shall immediately retire.

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. Movements of less than 100M may not be signalled.

14 THE FINISH

- 14.1 The finishing line is between the committee boat staff displaying a blue flag and a yellow cylinder buoy. The finish line will either be set near the windward mark or near the leeward mark positions

15 PENALTY SYSTEM

- 15.1 For the Fireball class, RRS 44.1 is changed so that the Two-Turns Penalty is replaced by the One-Turn Penalty.

16 TIME LIMITS [AND TARGET TIMES]

- 16.1 The Mark 1 Time Limit, Race Time Limit (see RRS 35), and the Finishing Window are shown in the table below.

Mark 1 Time Limit	Race Target Time	Finishing Window	Race Time Limit for 1 st boat
25 Mins	50 Minutes	15 Minutes	80 Minutes

- 16.2 If no boat has passed the first mark within the Mark 1 Time Limit, the race will be abandoned.

16.3 The Finishing Window is the time for boats to finish after the first boat sails the course and finishes. Boats failing to finish within the Finishing Window, and not subsequently retiring, penalised, or given redress, will be scored Did Not Finish (DNF) without a hearing. A boat scored DNF shall be scored points for the finishing place one more than the points scored by the last boat that finished within the Finishing Window. This changes RRS 35, A5.1, A5.2 and A10.

16.4 Failure to meet the Target Time will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 61.1

17 PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

17.1 The protest time limit is 90 minutes after the last boat finishes the last race of the day or the race committee signals no more racing today, whichever is later. The time will be posted on the official notice board.

17.2 Hearing request forms are available from the Beachmaster's Office near the head of the slipway and may be available via social media.

17.3 Notices will be posted no later than 30 minutes after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. The location and time of these hearings will be displayed at this time.

17.4 A list of boats that have been penalized for breaking RRS 42 under Appendix P will be posted.

17.5 RRS 62.2(a) and 66.2(a) shall apply.

18 SCORING

18.1 The scoring system is as follows:

18.2 3 races are required to be completed to constitute a series.

18.3 A boat's series score is the total of her race scores.

18.4 A boat's series score is the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.

18.5 (a) When fewer than 4 races have been completed, a boat's series score is the total of her race scores.

(b) When from 4 to 8 races have been completed, a boat's series score is the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.

(c) When 8 races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her two worse scores.

19 SAFETY REGULATIONS

- 19.1 **Adequate Personal Buoyancy** shall be worn at all times whilst on the water. Neither a wetsuit nor a dry suit constitutes adequate buoyancy. Inflatable type buoyancy aids will not be considered adequate unless fully inflated. Rule 40.1 applies.

19.2 Tally System

A Tally Number will be allocated to each boat, launching trolley and allocated space. A Tally Board will be situated near the launching area before each race. There will be a Tally wristband for each helm and crew with the boat's Tally Number. Both helm and crew shall take their Tally wristband afloat visibly displayed on their right wrist. Timing for the release of Tallies prior to going afloat will be on the instruction of the Race Officer. Tallies shall be returned to the appropriate Tally Board within 30 minutes of returning ashore or not later than 60 minutes after the last boat finishes the last race of the day, whichever is earlier.

It is the sole responsibility of the crew to ensure that he / she has tallied correctly.

Failure to comply with this Sailing Instruction will result in disqualification without a hearing and / or a fine of **£10** payable to the benefit of the local (Looe) branch of the RNLI. Failure to pay this fine prior to the first race on the following day, or by the start of the Prizegiving on the final day, will result in disqualification from the race in question without a protest hearing.

This alters Rule 60.5b

- 19.3 A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee at the first reasonable opportunity. Promptly after returning to shore, the boat shall complete a retirement declaration form, which is available at the Beachmaster's Office.

20 REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT

- 20.1 Substitution of competitors is not allowed without prior written approval of the Race Committee.

21 EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

- 21.1 A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules, notice of race and sailing instructions.
- 21.2 When instructed by a race official on the water, a boat shall proceed to a designated area for inspection.

22 SUPPLIED BOATS

23 OFFICIAL VESSELS

- 23.1 Official vessels will be identified as follows: Will display a yellow flag or be listed on the on the official race notice board.

24 SUPPORT TEAMS

- 24.1 Team leaders, coaches and other support persons shall stay outside areas where boats are racing from the time of the preparatory signal for the first start until all boats have finished or retired or the race committee signals a postponement, general recall or abandonment.

25 BERTHING

- 25.1 Boats shall be kept in the allocated berths in LSC boat park

26 PRIZES

- 26.1 Prizes will be given to the winner and to several other boats at the discretion of the organisers and class.

27 RISK STATEMENT

- 27.1 RRS 3 states: 'The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue to race is hers alone.' By participating in this event each competitor agrees and acknowledges that sailing is a potentially dangerous activity with inherent risks. These risks include strong winds and rough seas, sudden changes in weather, failure of equipment, boat handling errors, poor seamanship by other boats, loss of balance on an unstable platform and fatigue resulting in increased risk of injury. **Inherent in the sport of sailing is the risk of permanent, catastrophic injury or death by drowning, trauma, hypothermia or other causes.**

28 INSURANCE

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

SI Addendum 1

