

# CARDIFF BAY YACHT CLUB

*GAFFERS IN THE BAY*



**2026**

## **Sailing Instructions for Gaffers Series Inside of the Barrage**

### **Safety and Responsibility**

- 1.1** Sailing can be dangerous. The attention of owners, skippers and crew is drawn to RRS Fundamental Rule 4: A yacht is solely responsible for deciding whether or not to start or to continue racing'. The safety of a yacht and her crew is the sole and inescapable responsibility of the owner or owner's representative who must do their best to ensure that the yacht is fully found, thoroughly seaworthy and manned by an experienced crew who are physically fit to face bad weather. They must be satisfied as to the soundness of the hull, spars, rigging, sails and all gear. They must ensure that the safety equipment is properly maintained and stowed and that the crew know where it is kept and how it is to be used.
- 1.2** Cardiff Bay Yacht Club accept no responsibility or liability for loss of life or injury to members or others, or for the loss of, or damage to any vessel or property.
- 1.3** The owner and crew will be held jointly responsible for the conduct of the yacht's crew before, during and after a race. Misconduct may result in both owner and crew being excluded from future series and render a yacht liable to disqualification.
- 1.4** Yachts must hold a valid and current boat insurance which covers them for third party claims of up to £3,000,000 for the entire period of the series.
- 1.5** Crew members' attention is drawn to RRS 12 life-saving equipment ... 'Each competitor is individually responsible for wearing personal flotation devices adequate for the conditions.'
- 1.6** No yacht may carry an anchor that overhangs its bow.

- 1.7 Transom mounted outboard motors are considered a part of the yacht's equipment.
- 1.8 The Cardiff Harbour Authority regulations and Notices to Mariners will apply.
- 1.9 The skipper is responsible for ensuring their boat is equipped and seaworthy so as to be able to complete the series course; that the skipper and crew are of sufficient number, experience and fitness to complete the race course safely; and that the safety equipment is properly maintained, stowed and the crew know how to use it.

## **2. Rules**

- 2.1 The series will be organised by Cardiff Bay Yacht Club and governed by these sailing instructions, the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), the prescriptions of the RYA, except as any of these are changed by these Sailing Instructions.
- 2.2 The series are designated Category C as described in the ISAF Advertising Code.

## **3. Eligibility**

- 3.1 All yachts are required to display any sponsor's stickers or flag as provided.
- 3.2 Yachts shall have a starting handicap decided by the Gaffers Committee based on the T(H)CP handicap for Gaff Rigged Boats.
- 3.3 Once each boat has completed 4 races in total over all series the handicap will revert to the calculated Cardiff Bay rating, which is based on actual times previously recorded.
- 3.4 The series results will then be recalculated retrospectively using the revised Cardiff Bay rating.

## **4. Radio Communication**

- 4.1 All yachts must carry a working VHF transceiver and monitor Ch M while taking part in the Series.
- 4.2 Yachts should keep radio communications to the minimum on Channel M except on matters of safety or unless contacted by the Series officer.

## **5. Notices to Competitors and Changes in Sailing Instructions**

Notices to Competitors and Changes in Sailing Instructions will be displayed on the club website at [www.cbyc.co.uk](http://www.cbyc.co.uk) and/or on VHF Ch M.

## **6. Schedule of Series**

The schedule of races will be displayed on the Club website and are as indicated in the Notice of Series.

## **7. Courses**

All skippers should make themselves familiar with the Gaffers Chart of the Bay published on the CBYC website.

- 7.1 Marks will be fixed within the bay. The start line, finish line and turning point will be transit between buoys C4 and C5. The turning point in the Inner Harbour is the transit between buoys D2 and D3 on all legs.

- 7.2 The course will be open for Gaffers in the Bay use between 14.30 and 1 hour before sunset.
- 7.3 Each boat should pass through the start line on each and every lap.
- 7.4 All laps should be separately timed and the times of two consecutive laps completed at any time during the sailing period reported to the Series Officer as soon as possible.
- 7.5 If a boat only manages to complete only one lap this time must be sent to the Series Officer and average times will be used for the purpose of producing the results.
- 7.6 Buoys H protect the CYC moorings. Boats should not pass through this line as part of their course.
- 7.7 Buoys C and D are for speed limit purposes. Boats may pass through these lines as part of their course.

## **8. Starting & Finishing Procedures**

- 8.1 There will be no fixed start time but the earliest start time for completing laps cannot be before 14.30 as the Bay will be used by TARS.
- 8.2 Boats can start at any time within the sailing period but must complete their consecutive laps before the sailing period finishing time.
- 8.3 There will be no sound or VHF communications relating to start or finishing procedures.

## **9. Time Limits**

There are no time limits for completing the two laps but these must be completed by 1 hour before sunset.

## **10. Protests**

- 10.1 Series officials have no power to disqualify any boat, only the Protest Committee may take this action, RRS Rule A5.
- 10.2 The Series Committee may protest a boat for breach of rules, including failure to sail the course, within the time limit specified in 10.3.
- 10.3 The Series Officer must be informed of any protest as soon as possible. Protests shall then be delivered in writing to the Series Officer, member or delegate of the Series Committee within 1 hour of the end of sailing for the day. Any protest after that time limit is invalid
- 10.4 Official protest forms will be available behind the bar in the CBYC Clubhouse.
- 10.5 Protests where there has been no contact:

All Protests where there has been no contact will be decided by Arbitration. Arbitration shall replace the protest hearing required under RRS 63.

A Protest Mediator or his designated substitute will decide if the protest is valid. Each party being protested shall then provide a written response to the Protest within 24 hours of being supplied with a copy of it. The Protest will be decided on the basis of the written Protest form and the reply from each party protested. The Protest Mediator shall have total discretion as to whether further evidence (including witness evidence) may be submitted. The Protest Mediator shall have total discretion as to whether to convene a hearing to hear further evidence. The decision will be final.

If having read the evidence the Protest Mediator considers that the matter should be put to a full Protest Committee, he shall decide accordingly and have full discretion.

**10.6** Protests where there has been contact:

Protests where there has been contact will be decided by a Protest Committee in accordance with RRS 63

**10.7** Penalty for Protests decided by Arbitration

Any party found to have infringed a rule shall not be disqualified but shall incur a 2 place penalty.

No penalty shall result in a score which would exceed that of a Disqualification, (DSQ), see 11.3.

Application of a penalty shall not affect the place or score of other boats.

Any decision shall be final.

**11. Scoring & Discards**

**11.1** The low point scoring system will be used.

**11.2** Yachts scoring DNF or RET will score points for the number of boats that came to the start area + 1.

**11.3** Yachts scoring DNC will score points for the maximum number of boats in any one sail in the series + 1. All other yachts not classified (i.e., DSQ, OCS etc) will score points for the maximum number of boats in any one sail in the series + 2 points.

**11.4** Yachts still sailing at the sailing time limit will be awarded points based on their elapsed time for their first lap if completed. If there are no finishers then no points will be awarded.

**11.5** Discards will be decided on a series basis, normally 6.

**12. Penalties at the time of an incident**

Penalty turns shall be taken in accordance with RRS 44

**13. Results**

Results will be displayed on the Cardiff Bay Yacht Club website as soon as possible after the race.

**Series Committee**

Roger Wallington, Charlie Harris