

## Shearwater Class 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Open Meeting 2026

Organising Authority: Minnis Bay Sailing Club (MBSC)

Dates: July 18-19, 2026

Location: Minnis Bay Sailing Club, Hengist Road, Minnis Bay, CT7 9QP

### Sailing Instructions (SIs)

#### 1. Rules

- 1.1 The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing 2025 - 2028
- 1.2 Competitors should note that the Organising Authority implements the RYA Racing Charter and that they will be expected to sail in compliance with it.
- 1.3 The RYA Arbitration of the RYA Rules Disputes procedures shall apply (for information, go to [www.rya.org/uk/go/rulesdisputes](http://www.rya.org/uk/go/rulesdisputes)). The outcome of an RYA Arbitration can be referred to a protest committee, but an arbitration cannot be reopened or appealed. This changes RRS Part 5B, Rule 63.1
- 1.4 The Equipment Rules of Sailing shall apply
- 1.5 In the event of contradiction between these Sailing Instructions and the event NoR or RRS 2025-8 these SIs will take precedence
- 1.6 The notation '(NP)' in a rule means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1(a).
- 1.7 Rule 40.1 always applies while afloat

#### 2. Code of Conduct

- 2.1 (NP) Competitors and support persons shall comply with reasonable requests from race officials
- 2.2 (NP) Competitors and support persons shall handle any equipment, or place advertising, provided by the organizing authority with care, in accordance with any instructions for its use, and without interfering with its functionality

#### 3. Changes to Sailing Instructions

- 3.1 (NP) Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted on the Official Notice Board (ONB) at least one hour before the first warning signal of the day it will take effect
- 3.2 (NP) Changes to the sailing instructions may be made on the water by drawing competitors' attention by a hail, flag or whistle from a Patrol Boat and verbally communicated to a boat before the next warning signal

#### 4. Communication

- 4.1 The Official Notice Board (ONB) is located in the wet bar area of Minnis Bay Sailing Club CT7 9QP
- 4.2 The Race Office is located in the wet bar area at Minnis Bay Sailing Club, Hengist Road, Minnis Bay, CT7 9QP
- 4.3 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

#### 5. Signals Made Ashore

- 5.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed on the MBSC Race Box situated above the slipway
- 5.2. When flag AP is displayed ashore, the time "1 minute" is replaced with "not less than 30 minutes". This changes the RRS Race Signals
- 5.3. (NP) Flag K with one sound means 'Boats shall not leave the shore until this signal is removed. The warning signal will not be made before the scheduled time or less than 30 minutes after flag K is removed accompanied by a sound signal

## **6. Schedule**

- 6.1 Registration at the Race Office between 08.30 and 1030 on Saturday August 9 to collect meal tickets, trolley tags etc.
- 6.2 Parents of competitors under 18 must complete parental permission forms at registration
- 6.3 3 races per day are scheduled. The maximum number of races per day is 4
- 6.4 Racing will be continuous without coming ashore between races, although this may be modified at the organiser's discretion
- 6.5 The scheduled time of the first start on Saturday July 18 is 1200 and on Sunday July 19 is 1200.
- 6.6 An event briefing will be held on Saturday August 9 at 1030
- 6.7 On Sunday August 10 no race will be started after 1600

## **7. Fleet flags**

- 7.1 There will be one start for all boats entered
- 7.1.1 The warning flag for this fleet will be a red rectangle with figure 2 in black (this changes NoR)

## **8. Courses**

- 8.1 Races will have a target time of 45 minutes for the leading boat
- 8.2 Course options will be indicated in Appendix A course 1 with the order in which the marks are to be passed and the side on which they are to be left. The exact course configuration will be advised at the briefing
- 8.3 The number of laps for each race will be displayed on a board on the committee boat before the warning signal

## **9. Marks**

- 9. Racing course marks will be:
  - 9.1.1 Large orange inflatable triangular buoys, and/or
  - 9.1.2 Inflatable yellow or orange cylindrical buoys

## **10. Obstructions**

- 10.1 (NP) Competitors must keep clear of any commercial shipping
- 10.2 Continuing obstructions will include the Margate Hook sandbank
- 10.3 Other objects or areas such as the disused outfall pipe will be advised during any briefing or by the RO on request

## **11. The Start**

- 11.1 All race starts will be held from a Committee Boat line, within approximately a 1-mile radius of MBSC.
- 11.2 Races will be started as follows and this changes RRS 26:
  - 11.2.1 A general warning will be sounded a short time before the first start sequence and an orange flag displayed on the Committee Boat
- 11.3 The starting line is between a staff displaying an orange flag on the committee boat at the starboard end and the course side of the port-end starting mark, which will be an orange inflatable cylindrical buoy with a flag
- 11.4 A boat that does not start within 4 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start (DNS) without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.1 and A5.2

## **12. Change of the next leg of the course**

- 12.1 If the next mark of the course has been significantly moved Flag 'C' will be displayed near the start of the leg, with repetitive sounds. No other signals will be displayed. This changes RRS 33

## **13. The Finish and Finishing**

- 13.1 The finishing line is between a staff displaying a blue flag on the Committee Boat and the port end starting mark
- 13.2 Races may be shortened according to RRS 32
- 13.3 After the first boats have finished, a boat may be finished on a leg if the Race Committee points Flag 'W' at her or otherwise communicates this decision to her orally on the water. The finish position will be taken from the last time she crossed the finish line. She should return to the starting area immediately. This changes RRS 28, 35, A5.1, A5.2 and A10

## 14 Penalty system

14.1 RRS 44.1 is changed so that the Two-Turns Penalty is replaced by the One-Turn Penalty

## 15 Time Limits

15.1 The Mark 1 Time Limit, Race Target time and the Finishing Window are shown in the table below

Race target time (first boat)	Mark 1 Time Limit	Finishing Window
45 minutes	20 minutes	20 minutes

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

15.3 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, penalized, or given redress, will be scored Did Not Finish (DNF) without a hearing. A boat scored DNF shall be scored points for their finishing place one more than the points scored by the last boat that finished within the Finishing Window. This changes RRS 35

15.4 The Race Officer's finishing position decisions are final and will not be grounds for a competitor to seek redress. This changes RRS 35

## 16 Hearing Requests

16.1 The protest time limit is 30 minutes after the last boat finishes the last race of the day or the race committee signals no more racing that day, whichever is later

16.2 Hearing request forms are available from the Race Office at MBSC

16.3 Notices will be posted on the Official Notice Board no later than 30 minutes after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses

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

16.5 Request for redress based on a protest committee decision shall be delivered no later than 30 minutes after the decision was posted. This changes RRS 62.2

## 17 Scoring

17.1 Scoring shall be in accordance with the low point scoring system as defined in RRS A4

17.2 Three races are required to be completed to constitute a series

17.3 When fewer than 4 races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores

17.4 When 4 or more races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores but excluding her worst score

17.5 Rule A5.3 applies

## 18 Safety Regulations

18.1 Competitors shall always wear personal flotation devices adequate for the conditions whilst afloat except briefly if clothing changes require removal. Flag Y will not be displayed. This changes the preamble to RRS Part 4

18.2 Parents, guardians, and those acting in loco parentis, are solely responsible for ensuring that young competitors in their care comply with this instruction and RRS 40

18.3 A boat that retires from a race shall notify the Race Officer at the first reasonable opportunity

## 19 Replacement of crew or Equipment

19.1 Substitution of competitors is not allowed after Registration without prior written approval of the Race committee

## 20 Equipment and Measurement checks

20.1 A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules, Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions

## **21. Official Vessels**

- 21.1 (NP) Official vessels must be identified directly to the Race Officer (or via a MBSC Patrol Boat) before they communicate with or assist a competitor (unless in an emergency)

## **22. Support Teams**

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

## **23. Trash Disposal**

- 23.1 (NP) Trash may be placed aboard official or support vessels but must not be dropped overboard

## **24. Prizes**

- 24.1 MBSC Prizes will be given (depending on numbers) for the leading 3 boats  
24.2 Additional prizes may be made available by MBSC or sponsors  
24.3 The prize giving ceremony will be as soon as possible after the completion of the last race

## **25. Risk Statement**

- 25.1 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 the 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

## **26. Insurance**

- 26.1 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

**Course TL: Triangle**



1

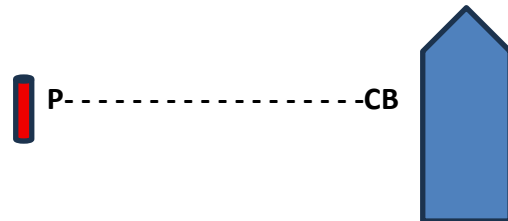


2



3A

3B



**Course**

Start between P to Port and Committee Boat (CB) to Starboard

Lap 1 and subsequent "odd" Laps

Round 1 to Port  
Round 2 to Port  
Round 3A to Starboard or 3B to Port

Finish between P and CB

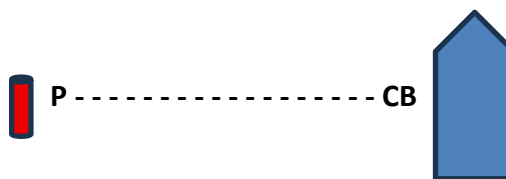
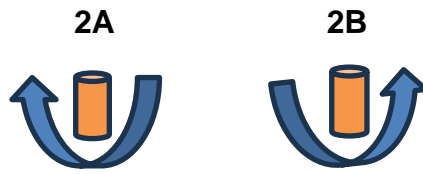
Lap 2 and subsequent "even" laps

Round 1 to Port  
Round 3A to Starboard or 3B to Port

# Course L



1



## Course

Start between P to Port and Committee Boat (CB) to Starboard

## Lap 1 and all following

Round 1 to port

Round 2A to Starboard or 2B to Port

Finish between P and CB