

STRANGFORD LOUGH REGATTA PROGRAMME
Amended May 2021

It is the function of the Strangford Lough Regatta Conference, (SLRC) on which all the yacht and sailing clubs of the Lough are represented, to co-ordinate, compile and publish a calendar of regattas and other events on Strangford Lough. We must emphasise that the SLRC has no responsibility whatsoever for the running of the regattas and other events, and that each yacht and sailing club has the sole responsibility for the running of its own regattas and events.

NOTICE OF RACES AND GENERAL RULES AND SAILING INSTRUCTIONS FOR
STRANGFORD LOUGH REGATTAS

1. RULES

This Notice of Race applies to each of the events listed on the site and marked “Regatta” or “Bar Buoy Race.” The organising authority for each event is the club listed for the corresponding date. These races are traditionally described as the relevant club’s regatta. The races will be governed by the World Sailing Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS); the Prescriptions of the RYA; the rules of each class concerned; this Notice of Race/General Sailing Instructions and each regatta’s Supplementary Sailing Instructions. In the event of conflict between a regatta’s Supplementary Sailing Instructions and this document, the former will prevail.

Each club’s Supplementary Sailing Instructions, which also list the classes and start times for each race, are available for downloading on the site. All competitors are reminded that their decision to participate in these events is theirs alone, in accordance with RRS 3, Decision to Race, and that such participation signifies their recognition of RRS 4, Acceptance of the Rules.

2. RACE ENTRIES AND ELIGIBILITY

2.1 To be eligible to race in Strangford Lough Regattas, owners who are members of Strangford Lough Clubs and whose yachts are not listed, or are not correctly listed on the boat list must register with the SLRC through their Club Sailing Secretary.

2.2 Owners of visiting yachts from outside Strangford Lough may, at the discretion of the organising club, be permitted to participate in individual club events by registering their boat details with the host club’s Sailing Secretary.

2.3 It is the owner’s responsibility to ensure that relevant yacht details have been correctly registered with the Race Organisers.

2.4 Each yacht must adequately display the sail number which has been registered; yachts with no sail number may not be given a finish. Any changes must be notified to the Race Organisers before the start of the race.

2.5 If a race for a one-design class is included in a regatta programme, yachts of that class shall not race in any alternative handicap race except with the express permission of, or unless they have been so directed by, the race organisers.

2.6 A yacht may start in only one race in each regatta.

3. CHANGES TO REGATTA PROGRAMMES

The race committee of each regatta reserves the right to alter the programme and to postpone or abandon the regatta.

4. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Local arrangements, if any, for notifying competitors of changes to Sailing Instructions will be specified in the Supplementary Sailing Instructions for each regatta.

5. HANDICAPS

5.1 Handicap classes will be as follows.

Cruiser IRC1(TCC 0.950 and over) Numeral 1

Cruiser IRC2(TCC 0.949 and under) Numeral 2 (see Rule 5.1.4 below)

Cruiser NHC1 Numeral 3

Cruiser NHC2 Numeral 4

Cruiser NHC1 Restricted Sail Numeral 5

Cruiser NHC2 Restricted Sail Numeral 6

A yacht competing in any class listed above, for which a numeral is specified, shall fly that numeral pennant from her backstay while racing.

5.1.1 Yachts wishing to race in IRC must have a currently valid IRC certificate.

5.1.1a IRC Rules Part A, B and C shall apply.

5.1.1b IRC rule 15 shall not apply and RRS 52, Manual Power, is re-instated.

5.1.1c IRC rule 22.4 shall not apply. There will be no limitations on crew number or weight.

5.1.2 For the National Handicap for Cruisers (NHC), handicap numbers will be applied in accordance with the principals published in RYA publication NHC Rules and Guidance for Clubs. NHC Handicaps will be adjusted using the Rules and Guidance after each regatta on the Lough.

The list of registered boats published on the SLRC website will indicate which class a particular boat should race in. This class will not change due to NHC handicap adjustments during any particular season.

Competitors should note the SLRC website will list their current handicaps, which shall be adjusted after each regatta.

The use of spinnakers, cruising chutes, or any other type of off-wind sail, is prohibited in the NHC restricted sail classes. Yachts registered in either of the restricted sail classes shall not race in any other NHC class, and vice versa. Between regattas a yacht may opt to change from Restricted Sail to full NHC or vice versa by advising the Regatta Conference Boat List Convenor at least seven days prior to the first race the yacht wishes to compete in as part of the new class. In this event, their handicap shall be applied as the higher rating between their base number and their current adjusted number.

5.1.3 For the Portsmouth Yardstick Scheme (PYS), handicap numbers will be applied in accordance with the principals published in RYA publication PN List 2021:

Dinghy PYS 1130 and under
Dinghy PYS 1131 and over

5.2 In the event of there being fewer than three starters in the IRC2 Class, the class may be combined into a single NHC1 class and the IRC2 yachts shall be deemed to be competing in NHC1.

5.3 Between regattas a yacht may change from a NHC class to an IRC class (in accordance with 5.1.1 above), but having done so shall be limited to that IRC class for the remainder of the season.

5.4 Any one regatta may not necessarily cater for all classes.

6. STARTING SIGNALS

Unless specified otherwise in the Supplementary Sailing Instructions for a regatta the Starting signals specified in RRS26 are amended as follows: The warning signal for each class shall be displayed 10 minutes before its start. The preparatory signal shall be displayed 5 minutes before the start of the first class and shall not be removed until after the last class has started. Each regatta's schedule of classes and start times will be specified in the Supplementary Sailing Instructions for that regatta.

7. LATE STARTING

A yacht which infringes RRS 42 before she starts by using power, manual propulsion or receiving a tow to first reach the vicinity of the starting line after her preparatory signal may absolve herself by completing a 720° turns penalty under sail on the pre-start side of the starting line or its extensions and after her starting signal. Such a yacht shall keep clear of all other yachts until she has completed her 720° turns penalty and has started.

8. RECALLS

Unless specified otherwise in the Supplementary Sailing Instructions for a regatta, RRS 29.1 Individual Recall is amended by substituting "keep the class flag lowered to the dip and give a second sound signal" in place of "promptly display Flag X with one sound".

9. PROTESTS/REDRESS

9.1 Protests or requests for redress shall be lodged with the Race Organisers as specified in the individual regatta's Supplementary Sailing Instructions.

9.2 In RRS 61.3 Protest Time Limit, the time limit shall be changed to one hour after the last boat in the regatta finishes.

10. SAFETY AND RESCUE

10.1 All dinghy crews must wear personal flotation devices, irrespective of the use of flag Y (RRS40)

10.2 All dinghies should:

10.2.1 Have adequate self-buoyancy;

10.2.2 Have adequate means for bailing;

10.2.3 Carry a tow rope extending at least 2m beyond the bow and secured to a strong point at all times;

10.2.4 Carry appropriate means for manual or powered propulsion for use in an emergency;

10.3 All dinghy and sailboard sailors must register their entry with the officer appointed by the individual club before the start of the race. Those arriving by sea in company with their own club's safety launch need not do so individually, provided that their club launch conveys a list to the appointed officer specifying for each entry their club, class, name, colour, and names of helm and crew.

10.4 Crews must accept help if so directed by a safety crew and non-acceptance of such help may result in disqualification.

10.5 A yacht retiring from racing shall report her retirement to the race officials or safety boats before leaving the race area. Failure to comply may result in disqualification. All dinghies and sailboards must report their safe return to the appointed officer not later than 30 minutes after finishing or retiring.

11. TIME LIMIT

RRS 35 Time Limit is amended to read, "any yacht in any race not finishing by the time specified in the Supplementary Sailing Instructions for a regatta shall be scored as DNF".

12. RISK STATEMENT

Rule 4 of the Racing Rules of Sailing states: "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue to race is hers alone." Sailing by its nature is an unpredictable sport and therefore inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event, each competitor agrees and acknowledges that:

- (a) 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;
- (b) They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore;
- (c) They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions;
- (d) Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate;
- (e) The provision of a race management team, patrol boats and other officials and volunteers by the event organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities.
- (f) The provision of patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions as can be practically provided in the circumstances.
- (g) It is their responsibility to familiarise themselves with any risks specific to the Strangford Lough sailing area or the event and draw to their attention to any rules and information produced for the events or venues
- (h) Their boat is adequately insured, including cover of at least £3m against third party claims.