



BMW Cruiser National Championships 2012



ORGANISED BY The Irish Cruiser Racing Association (ICRA) in association with Howth Yacht Club

Sailing Instructions

Principal Race Officer: David Lovegrove (IRO)

Race Officers: Derek Bothwell (NRO) and Harry Gallagher (NRO)

Note: When entering/leaving Howth Harbour, stay on the right hand side of the fairway and harbour entrance i.e. always pass port to port, Boats shall not impede trawlers.

SECTION 1 - GENERAL

1.1 Rules and Eligibility

The Event is governed by the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) of the International Sailing Federation (ISAF), the prescriptions of the Irish Sailing Association (ISA), the IRC Rating Rule parts A-C, the ISA ECHO Performance Handicap System, the rules and Constitution of ICRA, class association rules where applicable, the Notice of Race and the Sailing Instructions and any changes thereto. In the event of a conflict, the Sailing Instructions shall prevail.

1.2 Notices to Competitors

Notices to competitors will be posted on the Official Notice Board located adjacent to the Marina Office.

1.3 Changes To Sailing Instructions

Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted not later than two hours before the scheduled start of the first race so affected, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 2100 on the day before it will take effect. Flag L displayed on the club flagpole denotes that a competitor notice has been posted.

1.4 Signals Made Ashore

Signals made ashore will be displayed on the flagpole at the clubhouse. When flag AP is displayed ashore, "one minute" is replaced with "not less than 60 minutes" in race signal AP.

1.5 Hindering Boats - Starting/Finishing Lines

All boats shall avoid the starting lines until their warning signal.

Boats, having started and cleared their starting line, shall not re-cross that line whilst starts are in progress. Boats shall not cross any other starting line at any time.

Boats shall not re-cross a finishing line, except to finish having completed a penalty.

The Protest Committee may penalise a boat failing to comply with this Sailing Instruction with a score of its discretion, including DNE.

1.6 Starting Time Limit

A boat starting later than 10 minutes after her starting signal will be scored DNS, Did Not Start. This changes RRS A4.1. & A5.

1.7 Allocation & Identification of Divisions & Fleets

The following pennants shall identify the divisions:

Division 0 - Numeral 0
 Division 1 - Numeral 1
 Division 2 - Numeral 2
 Division 3 - Numeral 3
 Division 4 - Numeral 4

Non - Spinnaker A – Numeral 5
 Non - Spinnaker B – Numeral 6

The same numeral flags will be used by the Race Committee as the flag for each Division.

Boats shall display prominently their division pennants from their backstay at all times while racing. Any boat not doing so shall be scored DNF, this changes RRS A5.

The allocation of Divisions into fleets will be as follows:

<u>Fleet 1 VHF Channel 69</u>	<u>Fleet 2 VHF Channel 71</u>	<u>Fleet 3 VHF Channel 77</u>
Division 0	Division 2	Non - Spinnaker A
Division 1	Division 3	Non - Spinnaker B
	Division 4	

1.8 Schedule of Races:

<u>Friday 25 May</u> HW Howth 15:07	Fleet 1: <u>Races 1 & 2 (see section 2)</u> "Windward Leeward" races. (Signal Boat - Free Enterprise) The Warning Signal for Race 1 (Division 0) will be displayed at 1555 The Warning Signal for Race 2 will be displayed as soon as practical after Race 1
	Fleet 2: <u>Races 1 & 2 (see Section 3)</u> "Round the Cans" races. (Signal Boat - Sea Wych) The Warning Signal for Race 1 (Division 2) will be displayed at 1555 The Warning Signal for Race 2 will be displayed as soon as practical after Race 1
	Fleet 3: <u>Races 1 & 2 (see Section 4)</u> "Round the Cans" races. (Signal Boat - Spirit of the Irish) The Warning Signal for Race 1 (Non Spinnaker A) will be displayed at 1555 The Warning Signal for Race 2 will be displayed as soon as practical after Race 1
<u>Sat 26 May</u> HW Howth 15:53	Fleet 1: <u>Races 3, 4 & 5 (see Section 3)</u> "Round the Cans" races. (Signal Boat - Sea Wych) The Warning Signal for Race 3 (Division 0) will be displayed at 1055 The Warning Signal for Race 4 will be displayed as soon as practical after Race 3 The Warning Signal for Race 5 will be displayed as soon as practical after Race 4
	Fleet 2: <u>Races 3, 4 & 5 (see Section 2)</u> "Windward Leeward" races. (Signal Boat - Free Enterprise) The Warning Signal for Race 3 (Division 2) will be displayed at 1055 The Warning Signal for Race 4 will be displayed as soon as practical after Race 3 The Warning Signal for Race 5 will be displayed as soon as practical after Race 4
	Fleet 3: <u>Races 3 & 4 (see Section 4)</u> "Round the Cans" races. (Signal Boat - Spirit of the Irish) The Warning Signal for Race 3 (Non Spinnaker A) will be displayed at 1055 The Warning Signal for Race 4 will be displayed as soon as practical after Race 3
<u>Sun 27 May</u> HW Howth 16:45	Fleet 1: <u>Races 6 & 7 (see Section 2)</u> "Windward Leeward" races. (Signal Boat - Free Enterprise) The Warning Signal for Race 6 (Division 0) will be displayed at 1055 The Warning Signal for Race 7 will be displayed as soon as practical after Race 6
	Fleet 2: <u>Races 6 & 7 (see Section 3)</u> "Round the Cans" races. (Signal Boat - Sea Wych) The Warning Signal for Race 6 (Division 2) will be displayed at 1055 The Warning Signal for Race 7 will be displayed as soon as practical after Race 6

- Fleet 3:** Races 5 & 6 (see Section 4)
"Round the Cans" races. (Signal Boat - Spirit of the Irish)
The Warning Signal for Race 5 (Non Spinnaker A) will be displayed at 1055
The Warning Signal for Race 6 will be displayed as soon as practical after Race 5

The Race Committee reserves the right to change the Schedule of Races, Courses or the number of Races to be sailed in a day.

1.9 Prohibited Area - Howth Sound

All boats are prohibited from sailing through Howth Sound at all times while racing.

1.10 Penalty System

The Scoring Penalty, rule 44.3, will apply

A boat that has taken a penalty or retired under rule 31 or 44.1 shall complete an acknowledgement form at the race office within the protest time limit.

1.11 Time Limits

The Time Limit for all races is 2.5 hours from the time of the valid start for each division. If a boat in a division finishes within this limit, boats will be timed up to a maximum of 30 minutes from the finishing time of the first boat to finish in that division. A boat, which fails to finish within the time limit, will be scored DNF. This changes RRS 35 and A4.1.& A5.

1.12 Protests

The Protest Time Limit is 90 minutes from the time of finish of the last boat, in the last race of the day, in the division concerned.

Protests and Requests for Redress shall be delivered to the Race Office within the Protest Time Limit. ISAF Protest Forms will be available at the Race Office.

Notices of protests by the Race Committee and the Protest Committee will be posted to inform boats under rule 61.1(b). This changes RRS 61.1(b). The listing of a boat on these schedules shall constitute informing her of a hearing under RRS 63.2. Parties involved shall present themselves and their witnesses at the time and place indicated on the schedules.

On the last scheduled day of racing a request for reopening a hearing shall be delivered

- a) within the protest time limit if the requesting party was informed of the decision on the previous day;
- b) no later than 30 minutes after the requesting party was informed of the decision on that day.

This changes rule 66.

On the last scheduled day of racing a request for redress based on a protest committee decision shall be delivered no later than 30 minutes after the decision was posted. This changes rule 62.2.

The Protest Committee may decline to hear a request for redress against an OCS decision by the Race Committee if, in the sole opinion of the Protest Committee the request does not disclose evidence that is capable of amounting to an improper action or omission of the Race Committee. This changes RRS 63.1

1.13 Protest Arbitration (changing RRS 44.3, 63, 64 and 66)

When a protest alleges a breach of a rule of Part 2 or RRS 31 (Touching a Mark), a boat may at the same time request arbitration or, Protest Committee may offer it.

If the parties and a member of the Protest Committee agree that arbitration is suitable, an arbitrator will call a hearing. The arbitrator may be a member of the Protest Committee. The hearing will be conducted in accordance with Part 5 of the RRS except that RRS 64.1 will not apply. Instead, if the arbitrator decides that a boat that is a party to the hearing broke a rule for which the Exoneration Penalty is available the party will be invited to accept that Penalty. If it is accepted, the protesting boat will be allowed to withdraw its protest. This changes RRS 63.1

If there is not agreement to use arbitration, a protest is not withdrawn, or the Exoneration penalty is not applicable to the facts, there will be a normal protest hearing at which the arbitrator may be a member of the Protest Committee. Rule 66 shall not apply to an arbitration decision.

A boat may accept the Exoneration Penalty at any time before the start of a protest hearing, or she may retire.

The Exoneration Penalty is a 30% scoring penalty calculated in accordance with RRS 44.3(c) and based on the number of entrants in the race (except that the minimum penalty is two places and no boat shall be scored worse than if she had been scored DNF). An Exoneration Penalty does not reverse an OCS score or a disqualification under RRS 30.3, and, it is not available where a boat has caused injury or serious damage, or gained a significant advantage by her breach.

1.14 Scoring

Scoring shall be as per RRS Appendix A4, Low Point System.

Three races are required to be completed to constitute a championship.

Fleets 1 & 2 - Seven races are scheduled and if six or more are completed one discard will be allowed.

Fleet 3 (Corinthian Cup) – Six races are scheduled and if four or more are completed one discard will be allowed.

The last race shall be non-discardable. This applies to all Fleets.

1.15 Safety

Competitors participate entirely at their own risk, see Fundamental Rule 4, Decision to Race and the ISA Safety Booklet. The responsibility for the safety of competing boats and their crews lies solely with the said competitors. The wearing of personal flotation devices is strongly recommended at all times.

The safety of a boat and her crew is the sole responsibility of the **person in charge** who must do his/her best to ensure that the boat is fully found, thoroughly seaworthy, and manned by an experienced crew who have undergone appropriate training and are fit to face the conditions encountered. He/she must be satisfied as to the soundness of hull, spars, sails, rigging and all gear. He/she must ensure that all safety equipment is properly maintained and suitably stowed. The crew must be familiar with the use and position of such safety equipment.

Competitors participate in the championship at their own risk. ICRA, Howth Yacht Club and their officers, servants and agents accept no responsibility in respect of loss of life, personal injury or loss of or damage to property sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during or after the championships.

1.16 Advertising

Boats shall display advertising supplied by the Organising Authority in accordance with Regulation 20.3(d)(i) on the forward part of the hull. Boats shall affix this advertising in accordance issued with the advertising and ensure that it stays in place for the duration of the championship.

1.17 Radio Communications

Competitors are advised to keep a listening watch on VHF Channel 69 for Fleet 1, Channel 71 for Fleet 2 and Channel 77 for Fleet 3 where information relevant to racing may be broadcast. Course information for the "Round the Cans" racing will be provided only by VHF radio. Should this information be broadcast, it shall not constitute outside assistance and shall not be the subject of any protest nor claim for redress. Failure to broadcast this information shall not be the basis for any claim for redress.

Competitors who retire from a race shall inform the respective Signal Vessel on the designated VHF Channel.

1.18 Prizes

A daily prize may be awarded, at the discretion of the Organising Committee in each division. A prize will be awarded under IRC and under Echo but a boat shall not be awarded, on the same day an IRC and ECHO prize; the IRC prize shall take precedence.

Overall prizes will be awarded in each division on the basis of the number of entries as follows; 2 boats – 1st prize only; 3 to 5 boats 1st and 2nd prizes; 6 or more boats 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes. Perpetual Trophies will be award for the 1st place boat in each division.

1.19 Insurance

Each participating boat shall be insured with adequate, valid, third party liability insurance

SECTION 2 - WINDWARD/LEEWARD : Committee Boat: Free Enterprise

2.1 Starting Area

The starting area will be North of Howth Harbour and competitors are advised that the starting area could be up to **five miles** from Howth Harbour. When on station the Signal Vessel will broadcast its position on the designated VHF Channel for the relevant Fleet.

2.2 Starting Line

The starting line will be between the red and white pole or the main mast of the signal vessel at the starboard end and the port end inflatable mark

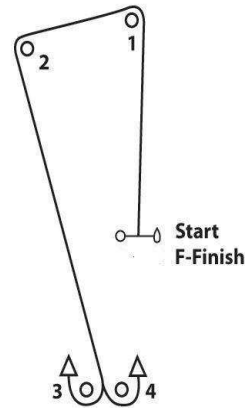
2.3 Starting Signals

Starts shall be in accordance with RRS 26, with starts at 5-minute intervals.

2.4 Course Configuration

Windward/Leeward:

- Start mark Port
- Mark 1 Port
- Mark 2 Port
- Gate (Mark 3 - Starboard/Mark 4 - Port)
- Mark 1 Port
- Mark 2 Port
- Gate (Mark 3 - Starboard/Mark 4 - Port)
- Finish



No later than the warning signal the Signal Vessel may display the approximate compass bearing of the first leg.

Every effort will be made to lay a leeward gate. In the event where this is not possible a single mark will be laid as a leeward mark and this mark shall be rounded to port.

2.5 Identification of Marks

All course marks will be large yellow inflatable marks.

2.6 Change of Course

When a change of course is required the Race Committee will relocate the mark(s). Minor adjustment to the configuration of the course will not be signalled. This changes RRS 33.

A significant change of course will be signalled before the leading boat has begun the leg, although the new mark may not yet be in the new position.

Any mark to be rounded, after rounding the moved mark may be relocated without further signalling.

2.7 Shorten Course at start/finish line

If the race is to be shortened at the start/finish line, a signal boat will position itself at the preceding mark (mark 2 or leeward gate) and display Flag F with repetitive sound signals. Having rounded either mark 2 or the gate, boats shall proceed directly to the finishing line and cross the finishing line from the direction of the last mark. This is in addition to RRS 32.2.

2.8 Finishing Line

The finishing line will be between the red and white pole or main mast on the finishing vessel displaying a blue flag at the starboard end and the port end finishing mark which will be a dan buoy. Except when finishing, boats shall not cross the finish line in either direction when the blue flag is displayed. (Note: it is possible that the start mark may be in position when boats are finishing).

SECTION 3 - ROUND THE CANS COURSES: Committee Boat: Sea Wych

3.1 Starting Area

The starting area will be North of Howth Harbour and competitors are advised that the starting area could be up to **five miles** North of Howth Harbour. When on station the Signal Vessel will broadcast its position on the designated VHF Channel for the relevant Fleet

3.2 Starting Line

The starting line will be between the red and white pole or the main mast of the signal vessel at the starboard end and the port end Orange inflatable mark.

3.3 Starting Signals

Starts shall be in accordance with RRS 26 with starts at 5-minute intervals.

3.4 Courses

The course to be sailed will be notified on the VHF Channel for the relevant Fleet and will give the order in which the marks are to be rounded and on which hand, immediately after the Warning signal, and may be repeated before the start.

The references and approximate positions of the marks are shown on the Course Card.

3.5 Marks

Marks will be Howth Yacht Club conical racing marks and navigation marks where appropriate. An inflatable Black mark L "LIMA" may be laid each day and the position of this mark will be displayed on the Official Notice Board before racing.

3.6 Finishing Line

The finish, unless shortened, shall be to windward of the last mark of the course.

The finishing line, unless shortened, will be between the red and white pole or main mast on the finishing vessel displaying a blue flag at the starboard end and the port end finishing mark which will be a dan buoy.

SECTION 4 : FLEET 3: Committee Boat: Spirit of the Irish

4.1 Starting Area

The starting area will be North of Howth Harbour and competitors are advised that the starting area could be up to three miles North of Howth Harbour. When on station the Signal Vessel will broadcast its position on the designated VHF Channel 77

4.2 Starting Line

The starting line will be between the red and white pole or the main mast of the signal vessel at the starboard end and the port end orange inflatable mark.

4.3 Starting Signals

Starts shall be in accordance with RRS 26 with starts at 5-minute intervals.

4.4 Courses

The course to be sailed will be notified by VHF channel 77 and will give the order in which the marks are to be rounded and on which hand, immediately after the Warning signal and may be repeated before the start.

The references and approximate positions of the marks are shown on the Course Card.

4.5 Marks

Marks will be Howth Yacht Club conical racing marks and navigation marks where appropriate.

4.6 Finishing Line

The finish, unless shortened, shall be to windward of the last mark of the course.

The finishing line, unless shortened, will be between the red and white pole or main on the finishing vessel displaying a blue flag at the starboard end and the port end finishing mark which may be a dan buoy.