

THE GJW DIRECT
67th FIREFLY NATIONAL
CHAMPIONSHIP



**SATURDAY 27 JULY – FRIDAY 2 AUGUST
2013**



Organising Authority

**ROYAL TORBAY YACHT CLUB
TORQUAY DEVON ENGLAND**

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

ALL TIMES ARE BRITISH SUMMER TIME (BST)

1 RULES

- 1.1 The championship will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing and these Sailing Instructions.
- 1.2 Rules of the National Firefly Class will apply (except as any of these are changed by the Sailing Instructions).
- 1.3 If there is a conflict between languages the English text will take precedence.

2 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located at Royal Torbay Yacht Club.

3 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted before 0900 on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 2000 on the day before it will take effect.

4 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 4.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed from the Royal Torbay Yacht Club flag mast located at the inshore end of Haldon Pier.
- 4.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore “1 minute” is replaced with “not more than 60 minutes” in the race signal AP.

5 SCHEDULE OF RACES

- 5.1 Dates of racing and number of races:

Date	Race	Warning Signal	Course	Trophy
Sat 27 July	Practice	1525	Triangle-Windward-Leeward	
Sun 28 July	Points 1 Points 2	1225 As soon as possible after Points 1	Triangle-Windward-Leeward Triangle-Windward-Leeward	City of Plymouth Tomato Boats
Mon 29 July	Points 3 Points 4	1055 As soon as possible after Points 3	Trapezoid Trapezoid	Felixstowe Ferry Mike Nye Memorial
Tue 30 July	Points 5 Crews Race	1055 As soon as possible after Points 5	Triangle-Windward-Leeward Triangle-Windward-Leeward	Sussex Silver Firefly
Wed 31 July	Points 6 Gore and Marlow	1055	Triangle	RAFSA Sir Ralph Gore Challenge Cup and Marlow Cup
Thu 1 Aug	Points 7 Points 8	1055 As soon as possible after Points 7	Trapezoid Trapezoid	Avon Bailer Stern Light
Fri 2 Aug	Points 9	1055	Triangle-Windward-Leeward	Olympic

- 5.2 One extra race per day may be sailed, provided that the championship becomes no more than one race ahead of schedule and the change is made according to instruction 3.
- 5.3 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.
- 5.4 On the last day of the championship no warning signal will be made after 1400.

6 CLASS FLAG

The class flag will be flag F.

7 RACING AREA

The racing area will be in Torbay.

8 THE COURSES

- 8.1 The diagrams in the attachments show the courses, including the approximate angles between legs, the order in which marks are to be passed and the side on which each mark is to be left.
- 8.2 The course and the number of rounds to be sailed will be indicated on a blackboard on the race committee signal boat.
- 8.3 No later than the warning signal, the race committee signal boat may display the approximate compass bearing of the first leg.

9 MARKS

- 9.1 Marks 1, 2, 3 and 4 will be orange inflated buoys.
- 9.2 New marks as provided in instruction 11 will be yellow inflated buoys.

10 THE START

- 10.1 When flag G is displayed on the race committee signal boat, a gate start will be used and instruction 10.4 will apply.
- 10.2 When flag W is displayed on the race committee signal boat, a line start will be used and instruction 10.5 will apply.
- 10.3 Change from gate start to line start and vice versa:
Should a change from a gate start to a line start and vice versa be decided upon, flag G will be lowered with two sound signals and flag W will be hoisted with two further sound signals and vice versa.
- 10.4 **Gate Start**
 - 10.4.1 A starting mark will be a white dan buoy with an orange flag, which will be laid at the leeward end of the gate.
 - 10.4.2 The gate launch will display flag G. Starting signals will be made on the race committee signal boat.
 - 10.4.3 The pathfinder for the practice race will be nominated by the race committee. The pathfinder for the first points race will be the boat that finished tenth in the 2012 Firefly National Championship or as nominated by the race committee. Subsequently, the pathfinder will be the tenth boat in the preceding race. When she is unable to race, or has been the pathfinder previously in the championship, the pathfinder will be the eleventh boat in the preceding race and so on. Her number will be posted on the official notice board. The pathfinder shall report to the gate launch five minutes before the warning signal.
When two races with gate starts are being sailed on the same day, the pathfinder's sail number for the second race will be displayed on a blackboard on the race committee signal boat prior to the warning signal.
 - 10.4.4 At or around the starting signal the pathfinder will sail from the starting mark on a close-hauled port tack and will be followed by the gate launch.
 - 10.4.5 The starting line will be between the starting mark and the centre of the stern of the gate launch.
 - 10.4.6 The pathfinder shall maintain her course until released by the race officer.
 - 10.4.7 After the release of the pathfinder, the gate launch will maintain her course and speed for a period of time determined by the race officer, subject to the gate having been open for at least two minutes after the starting signal. When she stops she will lower flag G half way and make a sound signal. This indicates that the gate is fully open. The gate launch will then drift for up to three minutes at the discretion of the race officer and then Flag G will be lowered accompanied by a sound signal indicating the closing of the gate.
 - 10.4.8 A boat not having correctly started which is on the port side of the gate launch while the gate is opening shall not cross the starting line from the course side.

10.4.9 After the preparatory signal a boat which interferes with or tries to pass between the pathfinder and the gate launch, 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 changes rule 63.1.

10.4.10 The gate launch and the pathfinder until release, rank as starting marks.

10.4.11 A boat that cannot avoid touching a starting mark may hail a right-of-way boat for room and shall retire.

10.5 Line Start

10.5.1 The starting line will be between a mast displaying an orange flag on the race committee signal boat at the starboard end and a mast displaying an orange flag on a race committee boat at the port end.

10.5.2 A boat starting later than five minutes after her starting signal shall be scored "Did Not Start". This changes rule A4.

11 CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

To change the next leg of the course, the race committee will lay a new mark (or move the finishing line) and remove the original mark as soon as practicable. When in a subsequent change a new mark is replaced it will be replaced by an original mark.

12 THE FINISH

The finishing line will be between a mast displaying a blue flag on the race committee signal boat at the starboard end and a white dan buoy displaying a blue flag at the port end.

13 TIME LIMITS

13.1 With the exception of instruction 13.3, when one race is scheduled in a day, boats failing to finish within 60 minutes after the first boat sails the course and finishes will be scored "Did Not Finish", except that if the first boat fails to sail the course and finish within 2 ½ hours of a valid start, the race will be abandoned. This changes rules 35 and A4.

13.2 When two or more races are scheduled/re-scheduled in a day, boats failing to finish within 30 minutes after the first boat sails the course and finishes will be scored "Did Not Finish", except that if the first boat fails to sail the course and finish within 2 hours of a valid start, the race will be abandoned. This changes rules 35 and A4.

13.3 For the Sir Ralph Gore Challenge Cup and Marlow Cup, boats failing to finish within 60 minutes after the first boat sails the course and finishes will be scored "Did Not Finish", except that if the first boat fails to sail the course and finish with 4 ½ hours of a valid start, the race will be abandoned. This changes rules 35 and A4.

14 PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

14.1 An arbitration procedure is available for Protest of Rules in RRS Part 2. Providing all parties to the protest agree to arbitration the procedure to be adopted is to be found in the Appendix of these sailing instructions.

14.2 Protest forms are available at the race office. Protests and requests for redress or reopening shall be delivered there within the protest time limit.

14.3 The Protest time limit is 60 minutes after the last boat has finished the last race of the day or the race committee signals "No More Racing Today", whichever is later.

14.4 Protests will be heard in approximately the order of receipt and as soon as possible.

14.5 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. Hearings will be held in the race office.

14.6 Rule 61.1(b) is amended so that the listing of a boat on the protest schedule shall constitute informing the boat and the time limit is altered accordingly. It shall be the sole responsibility of the competitors to check the official notice board and to attend any protest hearing together with witnesses.

- 14.7 Breaches of instructions 16.2, 17, 21, 22 and 23 will not be grounds for a protest by a boat. This changes rule 60.1(a). Penalties for these breaches may be less than disqualification if the protest committee so decides.
- 14.8 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.
- 14.9 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.

15 SCORING

- 15.1 Three races are required to be completed to constitute a series.
- 15.2 (a) When fewer than four races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores.
- (b) When four or more races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.
- 15.3 RRS A4.2 (scoring) is altered to read "A boat that did not start or was disqualified shall be scored points for the finishing place one more than the number of boats entered in the series. A boat that starts a race but does not finish, or retires after finishing shall be scored points for finishing one more than the number of boats that started that race".

16 SAFETY REGULATIONS

16.1 Personal Buoyancy

Competitors shall wear personal flotation devices at all times whilst afloat. Wet suits and dry suits are not personal flotation devices. This changes the preamble to part 4 and rule 40.

16.2 Tallies

- 16.2.1 The tally board will be located at the top of the slipway in Torquay Harbour.
- 16.2.2 Competitors shall collect a tally before going afloat.
- 16.2.3 Competitors shall return their tally to the tally board on returning ashore.
- 16.2.4 Timing for the release of tallies prior to going afloat will be on the instruction of the principal race officer.
- 16.2.5 Competitors who forget to tally out will be liable to a fine of £5 each, which will be donated to the RNLI.

17 GENERAL SAFETY

- 17.1 Competitors are strongly advised to ensure that their boat has adequate buoyancy that is properly secured so that in the event of a capsize they may right, bale out and continue to race or to sail home without becoming an undue liability to safety boats.
- 17.2 As soon as possible before the start of each day's racing and no later than the preparatory signal, each boat shall display her sail number to the race committee by sailing close by the starboard side of the race committee signal boat.
- 17.3 A boat that retires from a race shall, when possible, notify a race committee vessel or safety boat before leaving the race area and shall notify the beachmaster immediately upon returning ashore.
- 17.4 Competitors in difficulty must obey the instructions of safety boat handlers. A competitor who needs assistance from a safety boat shall signal this by waving his/her hands with clenched fists.

18 REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT

- 18.1 Substitution of competitors will not be allowed without prior written approval of the race committee.

- 18.2 Substitution of damaged or lost equipment will not be allowed unless approved by the race committee. Request for substitution shall be made to the race committee at the first reasonable opportunity.

19 EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules and sailing instructions. On the water, a boat can be instructed by a race committee equipment inspector or measurer to proceed immediately to a designated area for inspection.

20 PRIZES

Prizes will be given for the series and individual races at the discretion of the N.F.A. as follows:

Sir Richard Fairey Points Cup	The winner of the points series during the Nationals. This does not include the practice race and includes a discard if enough races have been sailed.
Rothmans Trophy	The helmsperson with the best position overall for the week counting all races. This includes the practice race and allows for no discard even if enough races have been sailed.
Sir Ralph Gore Challenge Cup	The winner of the Gore Race normally sailed on the Wednesday of the championship by the top half of the fleet.
Marlow Cup	The winner of the Marlow Race normally sailed on the Wednesday of the championship by the second half of the fleet.
International Paints Trophy	The helmsperson from the Marlow Cup Fleet with the best position overall for the week counting all races. This includes the practice race and allows for no discard even if enough races have been sailed.
City of Plymouth Trophy	Winner of the first points race.
Tomato Boats Trophy	Winner of the second points race.
Felixstowe Ferry Trophy	Winner of the third points race.
Mike Nye Memorial Trophy	Winner of the fourth points race.
Sussex Silver Firefly Trophy	Winner of the fifth points race.
RAFSA Trophy	Winner of the sixth points race.
Avon Bailer Trophy	Winner of the seventh points race.
Stern Light Trophy	Winner of the eighth points race.
The Olympic Trophy	Winner of the ninth points race.
Deben Ladies Trophy	The helmswoman with the best position in the Sir Richard Fairey Points Cup.

Geriatric Trophy	The helmsperson over 50 with the best position in the Sir Richard Fairey Points Cup
Veterans Trophy	The helmsperson over 50 with the best position in the Gore Race.
The Ultimate Trophy	The most senior crew with the best position in the Sir Richard Fairey Points Cup. This is raced for by the 5 oldest boats, calculated on the combined crew and helm ages.
Tolly Cobbold Cup	The club which has the lowest aggregate points in the Sir Richard Fairey Points Cup from their 4 best placed helms.
Collin Whittle Trophy	Winning crew in Sir Richard Fairey Points Cup.
Restronguet Ovaloid Trophy	Best helmsperson under 18 in the Sir Richard Fairey Points Cup.
The Chris Lynham Trophy	Best helmsperson under 21 in the Sir Richard Fairey Points Cup.
Eden Trophy	The best improver from their position in the Sir Richard Fairey Points Cup at the previous year's national to the current position in the Sir Richard Fairey Points Cup.

21 EVENT ADVERTISING

Boats shall display event advertising supplied by the organising authority as follows:

Two GJW Direct stickers will be issued at registration which must be attached, one to each side of the boom, for the duration of the championship.

22 TRASH DISPOSAL

Trash may be placed aboard support or official boats.

23 RADIO COMMUNICATION

Except in an emergency, a boat shall neither make radio transmissions while racing nor receive radio communications not available to all boats. This restriction also applies to mobile telephones.

24 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 racing is hers alone".

Sailing is by its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event, each competitor agrees to acknowledge that:

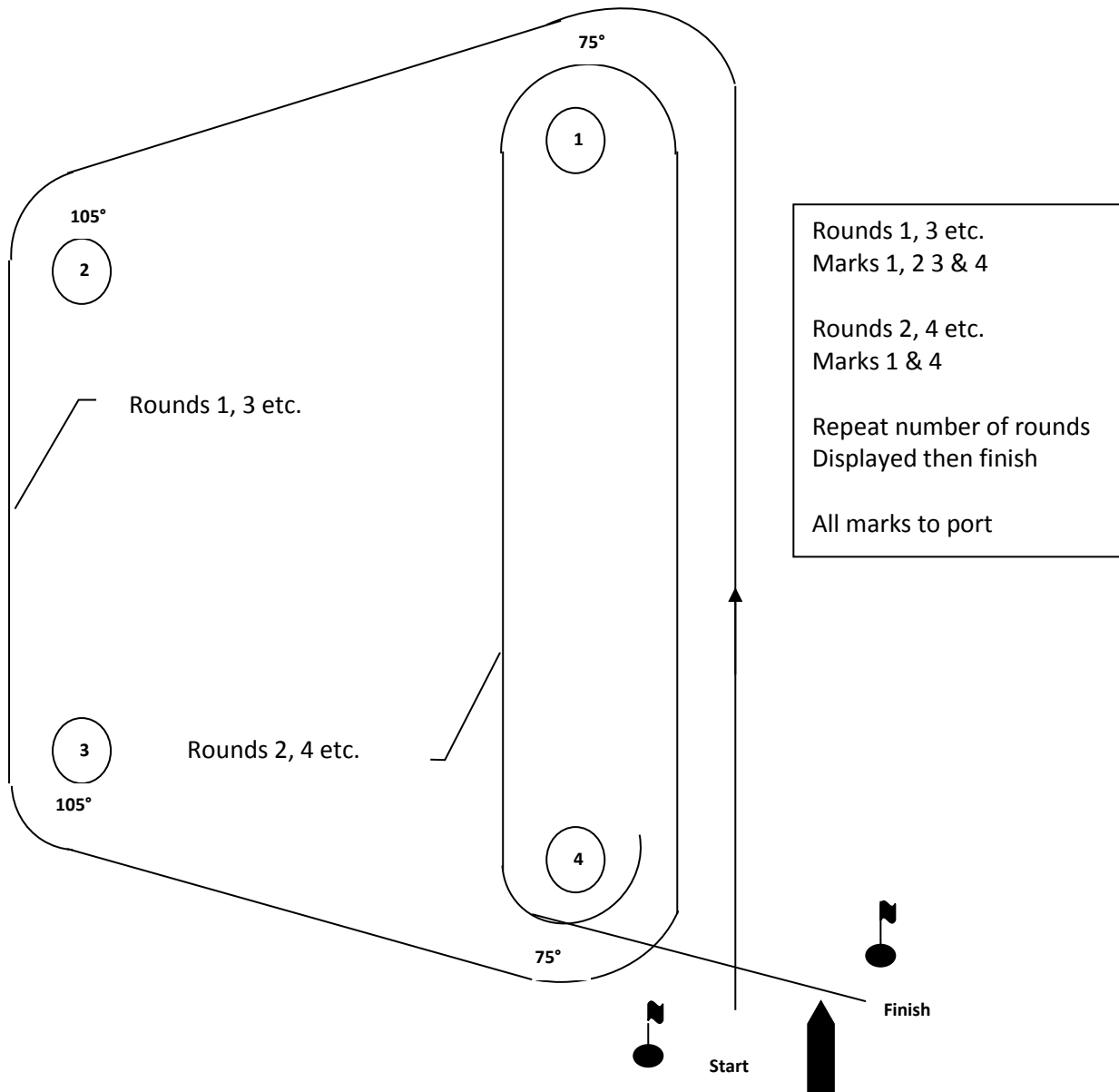
- (a) They are aware of the inherent element of risk involved in the sport and accept responsibility for the exposure of themselves, their crew and their boat to such inherent risk whilst taking part in the event;
- (b) They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their 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 provisions 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.

25 INSURANCE

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

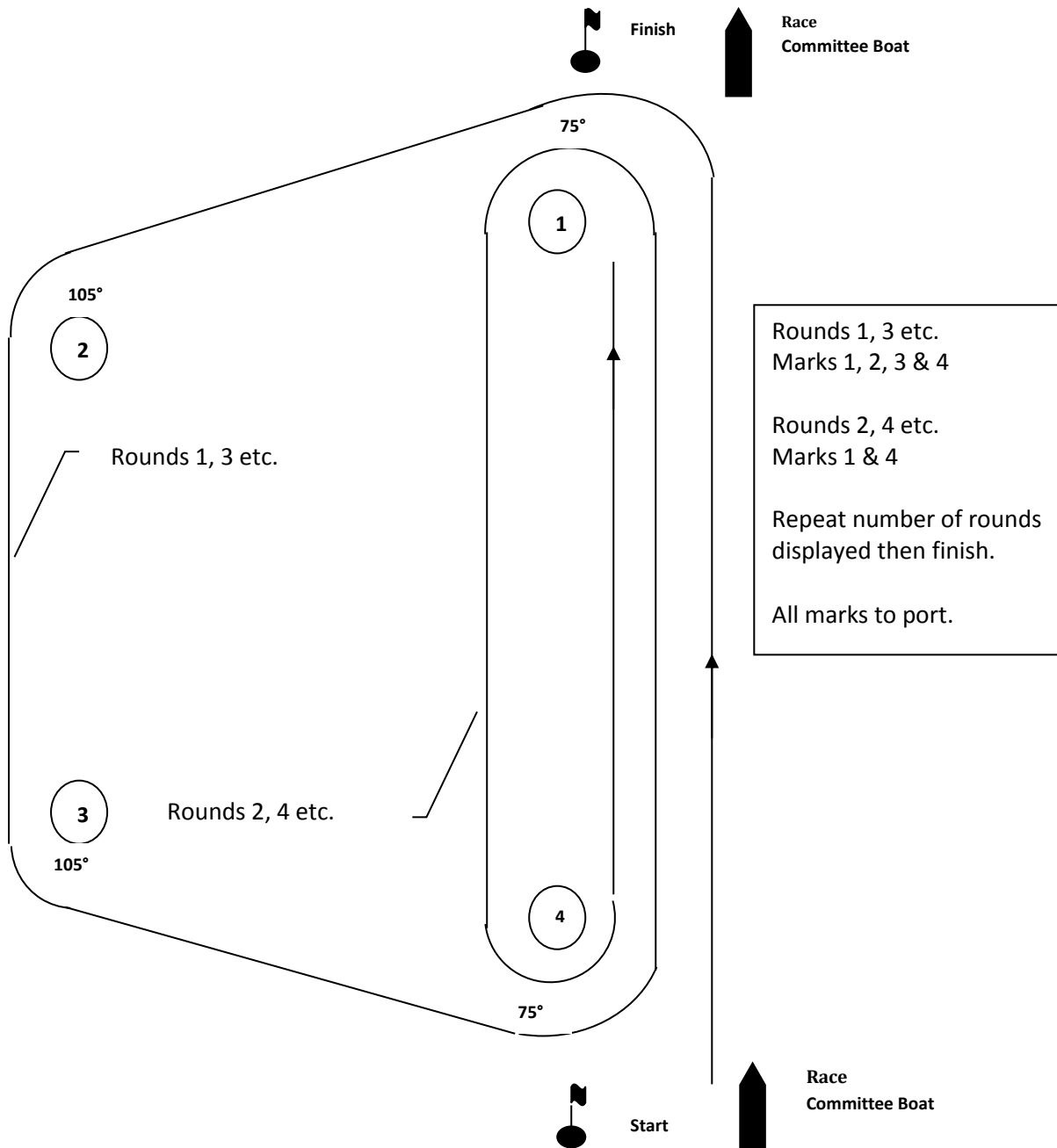
ATTACHMENT TRAPEZOID COURSE - A



Note:

1. Start below leeward mark 4 (if laid).
2. Leeward mark 4 (if laid) is not a mark of the course on the first leg of round 1.
3. Repeat number of rounds displayed on a blackboard on a race committee signal boat and then sail from mark 4 to the finish.

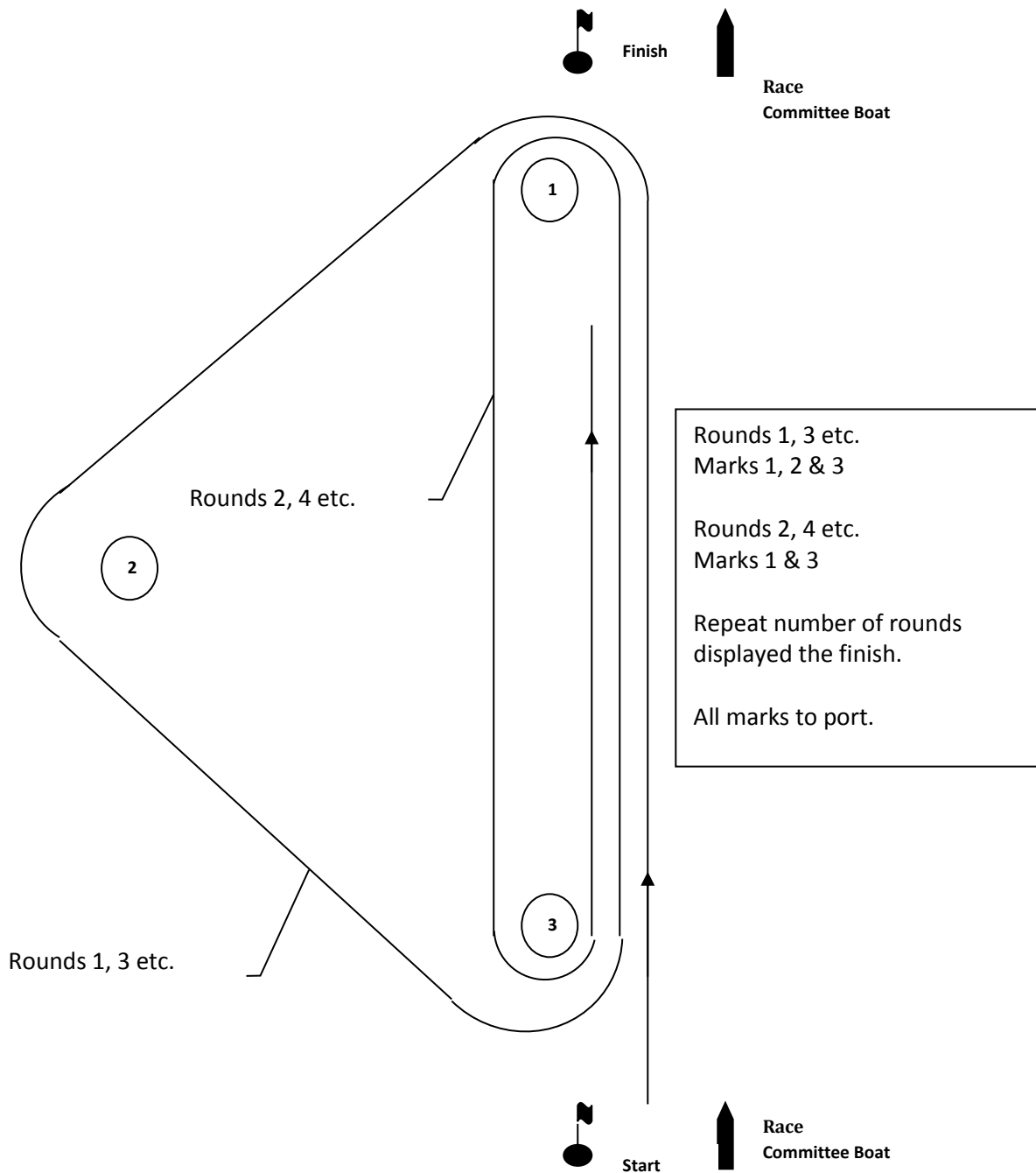
ATTACHMENT TRAPEZOID COURSE - B



Note:

1. Start below leeward mark 4 (if laid).
2. Leeward mark 4 (if laid) is not a mark of the course on the first leg of round 1.
3. Repeat number of rounds displayed on a blackboard on race committee signal boat and then sail from mark 4 to the finish.
4. Windward mark 1 is not a mark of the course on the finishing leg.

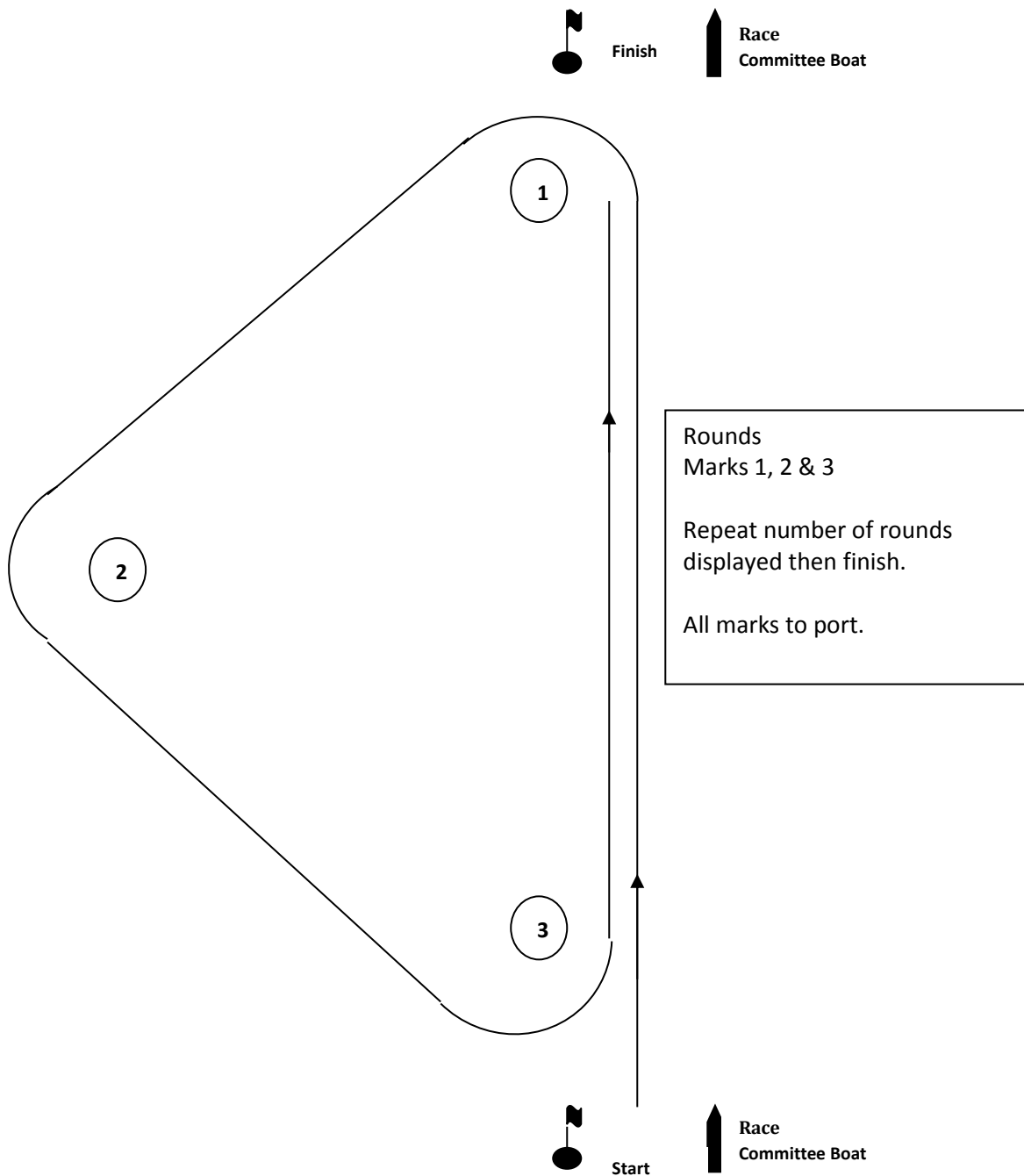
ATTACHMENT TRIANGLE-WINDWARD-LEEWARD COURSE - C



Note:

1. Start below leeward mark 3 (if laid).
2. Leeward mark 3 (if laid) is not a mark of the course on the first leg of round 1.
3. The approximate internal angles between legs on rounds 1, 3 etc. will be 60°.
4. Complete number of rounds displayed on a blackboard on race committee signal boat and then sail from mark 3 to the finish.
5. Windward mark 1 is not a mark of the course on the finishing leg.

ATTACHMENT TRIANGLE COURSE - D



Note:

1. Start below leeward mark 3 (if laid).
2. Leeward mark 3 (if laid) is not a mark of the course on the first leg of round 1.
3. The approximate internal angle between legs will be 60°.
4. Complete number of rounds displayed on blackboard on race committee boat and then sail from mark 3 to the finish.
5. Windward mark 1 is not a mark of the course on the finishing leg.

APPENDIX

ARBITRATION

1. After a protest has been lodged in accordance with the Sailing Instructions, all parties involved in protests alleging infringements of a rule of Part 2 shall be entitled to be heard by an Arbitrator appointed by the Race Committee.
In exception to the above, incidents where damage or injury is involved shall not be subject to arbitration but shall be referred directly to the Protest Committee for a hearing.
2. Only one party to the protest from each boat involved, who shall have been on the boat at the time the incident occurred, shall attend the arbitration hearing. No witnesses shall be allowed.
3. The arbitrator will have each party describe the incident, limiting each party to approximately 3 minutes. After hearing these descriptions, the arbitrator will offer one of the following opinions:
 - a) **No rule was broken**
If the protesting boat accepts this opinion she can agree to withdraw the protest and the protest is then settled.
 - b) **A rule was broken by one of the boats involved**
If that boat accepts this opinion she may accept a 20% penalty and the protest is then settled.
 - c) **Both boats broke a rule**
If both boats accept this opinion and each agrees to accept a 20% penalty then the protest is then settled.
 - d) **The arbitrator is unable to offer an opinion based on the brief description given by the parties**
4. Once the protest has been settled under 3. a), b) or c) above, the arbitrator shall record this on the protest form and the matter shall not thereafter be referred to the protest committee and is not subject to request for redress, reopening or appeal by any party.
If however:
 - (i) The protestor does not withdraw the protest under 3. a) above; or
 - (ii) If a boat does not accept the arbitrator's opinion that she broke a rule under b) or c); or
 - (iii) If the arbitrator is unable to offer an opinion under (d), the protest shall be submitted to the protest committee for a hearing.
5. If the arbitrator's opinion is not accepted, there shall be no further discussion of the incident with the parties and the testimony given at the arbitration hearing shall remain confidential and shall not be discussed with any person prior to the protest hearing.
6. If one party fails to attend, the arbitration may still be heard in line with rules 63.3(b).
7. When protests are submitted to the Protest Committee, the arbitrator shall not be a member of the committee hearing the protest. However, he/she may be present to ensure that the incidents are described in the same way as in arbitration. If the facts given are different he may intervene to restate the original arbitration details. The arbitrator shall not discuss the matter with committee members until after the Committee's decision has been posted.
8. Application of the 20% penalty shall be calculated in accordance with rule 44.3, except that the penalty is modified to read 20%.