Grafham Water Sailing Club

Cat Open - Pre event guidance notes, Sailing Instructions and Race Briefing

Bravo Course-Dart 18 Single Handed, Sprint 15 & Medium Handicap Fleets

Questions to consider and guidance before attending your event at Grafham Water Sailing Club for sailors, parents and authorised guests

Before you leave home:

- **If you have COVID-19 symptoms or a positive test result you should be staying at home and not attending the event. Follow the guidance at stay at** Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).
- You are making an active OPT IN choice to take part in this event, go on the water and understand that you increase your risk and therefore household risk of exposure to COVID 19.
- Please comply with any Government travel restrictions in force in the area you are travelling from. If new restrictions have been imposed since you entered the event, meaning you can no longer travel, you will be entitled to a refund of your entry fee. Please contact the Club office or your Class Association depending on how you have entered.
- Have you prepared yourself due to the limited availability of changing and shower facilities?
- Have you read the GWSC Covid-19 procedures on our web site https://www.grafham.org/covid-19-operating-procedures.html ?
- Do you have your face covering?

On entry to the site:

- The club is required to request everyone who visits the site to scan the NHS Covid-19 QR code.
- If you do not already have the App on your mobile device please install it before arrival.
- The QR code is displayed at multiple sites on the building and around the grounds; please open the App and scan it every time you visit the site

Camping and overnight:

The Clubhouse toilets will be available over the weekend. There is also a Portaloo toilet for use on the west side of the clubhouse.

Ashore at the venue:

- Unless camping overnight, please do not arrive at the venue before 0900.
- The changing rooms will be accessible using a tally system with a limit of 20 men or 10 ladies using them at any one time. All bags must be removed and returned to cars after changing. The communal men's showers are restricted to a maximum of three people at a time.
- Toilet facilities can only be accessed via the outside doors at the top of the steps to the side of the main entrance to the club house. There is no access from the internal stairwell.
- Maintain Social distancing of 1m+ with all outside your bubble.
- Please wear a face covering whenever you are indoors.
- Authorised guests (non-sailors), have a plan what you will do when your sailors are on the water - there may be no indoor space to wait in.
- The Official Notice Board and all communication with the race office will be done electronically, so please bring your mobile device. The Notice Board can be accessed via https://www.grafham.org/online-noticeboard.html. Email for use during the event notices will be office@grafham.org

Wash down:

- Boats must be washed down before leaving the Club to comply with non-native species guidance. The main wash down facility is above the slipway to the west of the clubhouse. A separate wash down facility may be available above the east slipway if launching is advised from there

While afloat at the event:

- To avoid unnecessary contact with safety crews only go on the water if your sailing skills are of a standard that enables you to right your boat unaided and return to the shore under the prevailing weather conditions on the day.
- Carry your own personal supply of food, drink and kit, you will not be able to deposit your dry bags nor trash in the safety boats.

Results:

- Will be published online as soon as possible after the completion of racing on the GWSC web site.

Prize giving:

- Prize arrangements are described in the race briefing.

Cafe:

- Face covering to be worn when ordering and collecting food. Follow the one way system, entering via the door facing the lake. Sanitiser is placed next to entrance and exit doors. Contactless card payments are preferred.
- Breakfasts will be available from 0830 each day.

Consideration for people working at the event (race management teams, coaches, volunteers):

- They are in a work environment. Please respect their social distancing of 1m +.
- Coaches may be working with many other groups of sailors; please help them to stop cross infection to these groups.

Site map:

SAILING INTRUCTIONS BEGIN ON THE NEXT PAGE

Bravo Course Sailing Instructions - Dart 18 Single Handed, Sprint 15 & Medium Handicap Fleets

1. RULES

1.1. The event is governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing 2021 - 2024*.

1.2. Entrants and authorised guests are temporary members of Grafham Water Sailing Club during the period of the event and shall comply with Club Rules and Bylaws. *Failure to observe these may result in exclusion from the club premises.*

1.3. [DP] before a rule indicates that penalty other than disqualification may be applied by the Race Committee

1.4. SAIL NUMBERS

1.4.1. A boat shall not race with an incorrect sail number unless she has notified the Race Committee at registration. Even when such confirmation is received the Race Committee does not have the authority to amend the requirements of class rules. As a result, a boat could be protested for failing to comply with class rules.

2. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

2.1. Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted not less than 45 minutes before the start of any race affected.

3. COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

3.1. Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located at https://www.grafham.org/online-noticeboard.html

3.2. The race office is located on the first floor of the club house, telephone 01480 810478, email office@grafham.org

3.3. A competitor briefing will take place outside the café at 1040.

3.4. 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.

4. CODE OF CONDUCT

4.1. [DP] Competitors and support persons shall comply with reasonable requests from race officials.

5. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

5.1. Signals made ashore will be displayed on flagpole 2 on the foreshore in front of the Clubhouse.

5.2. When flag AP is displayed ashore '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 30 minutes' in the Race Signal AP.

6. SCHEDULE OF RACES

6.1. Scheduled Race times

		Scheduled Warning Signal Start 1 **Dart 18 Single Handed**	**Scheduled Warning Signal Start 2** **Sprint 15**	**Scheduled Warning Signal Start 3** **Medium Handicap**
Race 1	**Saturday 30th October**	**1157**	**1201**	**1205**
Race 2 & 3	**Back to back after race 1**			
Race 4	**Sunday 31st October**	**1027**	**1031**	**1035**
Race 5 & 6	**Back to back after race 4**			

6.2. One extra race per day may be sailed, provided that no class becomes more than one race ahead of schedule and the change is made according to SI 2.1.

6.3. To alert boats that a race or sequence of races will begin soon, the orange starting line flag will be displayed with multiple sound signals at least one minute before the warning signal is made.

6.4. On the last day of the regatta no start signal will be made after 1430.

7. CLASS FLAGS

7.1. The Class flags are:

Dart 18 Single Handed - D Sprint 15 – F Medium Handicap - W

8. RACING AREA

8.1. The racing area will be announced at briefing.

9. THE COURSES

9.1. The diagrams in SI Addendum A 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

10. MARKS

10.1. Marks are described in ADDENDUM A.

11. [DP] AREAS THAT ARE OBSTRUCTIONS

11.1. The following areas are designated as obstructions:

11.1.1. The prohibited area at the West end of the water is an obstruction. Its boundary is a line of small yellow buoys forming its eastern boundary.

11.1.2. Each fishing boat, and an area extending 20 metres in any direction from the fishing boat is a prohibited area and an obstruction.

11.1.3. A safety boat in close attendance to a craft or competitor in difficulty is an obstruction and a prohibited area. Boats must not sail between the safety boat and the craft or competitor in difficulty.

12. THE START

12.1. Races will be started as follows:

12.1.1. Races will be started using a three minute start sequence. This changes RRS 26.

Minutes before starting signal	Visual signal	Sound	Means
3	Class flag	One	Warning Signal
2	P, U, or Black flag	One	Preparatory Signal
1	Preparatory flag removed	One long	One minute
0	Class flag removed	One	Starting signal

12.2. 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 dan buoy displaying an orange flag.

12.3. Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area during the starting sequence for other races.

12.4. The warning signal for the next fleet to start will be made not less than one minute after the preceding start
.

12.5. A boat that does not start within 4 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.1 and A5.2.

13. CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

13.1 Legs of the course will not be changed after the preparatory signal.

14. THE FINISH

14.1. The finishing line will be between the staff of the committee boat flying a blue flag and a dan buoy displaying a blue flag.

14.2. Each race will be approximately 45-55 minutes duration, at the discretion of the race committee. When a race is to finish, the Race Committee will signal a shortened course in accordance with RRS 32.2. All boats racing on that course will finish the next time they pass through the gate/finishing line. The first boat to be finished may not necessarily be the leading boat. The results will be calculated on an average lap time basis where the result of each race will be calculated on the number of laps sailed against elapsed time for each boat.

15. PENALTY SYSTEM

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

15.2. Boats that fail to pass through the upwind gate (see Addendum A) will not be disqualified but will be credited only with the number of laps they have sailed correctly.

16. TIME LIMITS

16.1. The Mark 1 Limit, Race Time Limit (see RRS 35), and the Finishing Window are shown in the table below.

Mark 1 Time Limit	Race Time Limit	Target Time
20 minutes	80 minutes	45 minutes

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

16.3. Failure to meet the Target Time will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 62.1(a).

17. HEARING REQUESTS

17.1. For each fleet the protest time limit is 4 minutes after the last boat [in that class] finishes the last race of the day or the race committee signals no more racing today, whichever is later. The time will be posted on the official notice board.

17.2. Hearing request forms are available from the race office. .

17.3. 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 and the location of the hearings. Alternatively hearings may be held remotely and may be after the event, the parties involved will be advised by email of the arrangements.

17.4. Notices of protests by the race committee or protest committee will be posted to inform boats under Rule 61.1(b).

17.5. **RYA Arbitration**

17.5.1. The exoneration Penalty and the RYA Arbitration of the RYA Rules Disputes Procedures will be available. Decisions from RYA Arbitration can be referred to a protest committee but cannot be reopened or appealed. See the Official Notice board for details.

18. SCORING

18.1. The scoring system is APPENDIX A

18.2. One race is required to be completed to constitute a series.

18.3. When fewer than four races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her races scores.

18.4. When four or more races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race score, excluding her worst score.

19. SAFETY REGULATIONS

19.1. [DP] A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee at the first reasonable opportunity. Promptly after returning to shore, the boat shall notify the race office and no later than 30 minutes after the last boat finishes that race (or the last race before going ashore if races are sailed back-to-back).

20. REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT

20.1. Unless otherwise specified in class rules, for the series of races comprising this event only the helm named on the entry form will be eligible.

20.2. Substitution of damaged or lost equipment will not be allowed unless authorized in writing by the Race Committee. Requests for substitution shall be made to the committee at the first reasonable opportunity, which may be after the race.

21. EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

21.1. A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the relevant class rules, notice of race and sailing instructions.

21.2. [DP] When instructed by a race official on the water, a boat shall proceed to a designated area for inspection.

22. SUPPLIED BOATS-Not used

23. OFFICIAL VESSELS-Not used

24. (DP) SUPPORT VESSELS

24.1. Support teams vessels are not allowed.

25. TRASH DISPOSAL

25.1. Trash may not be placed aboard official vessels. It must correctly be disposed of ashore.

26. BERTHING

26.1. (DP) Boats shall be kept in their assigned places while in the boat park.

27. HAUL OUT RESTRICTIONS – Not used

28. DIVING EQUIPMENT AND PLASTIC POOLS – Not used

29. PRIZES

29.1. Prizes will normally be given to the square root of the entry numbers. There will be no official prizegiving and these will either be collected outside the Clubhouse or by post if vouchers.

30. RISK STATEMENT

Rule 3 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 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 organizer 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 this venue or this event drawn to their attention in any rules and information produced for the venue or event and to attend any safety briefing held for the event.

31. INSURANCE

31.1. Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £2 million per incident or the equivalent.

32. OTHER INFORMATION

32.1. **SIGNALS MADE ASHORE**

32.1.1. The safety flags below are flown in the flagpole near the coxswains shed.

32.1.2. A RED FLAG – no launching, if afloat together with a long sound signal from shore the lake is closing in 30 minutes, and you must be ashore within this period. Repeated sounds, come ashore immediately.

32.1.3. A RED YELLOW FLAG means the water is closed with exceptions, see the monitor, or notice boards in the Café about exceptions

32.1.4. A BLUE AND WHITE experienced windsurfers only (wind at 28kts or higher)

32.1.5. A BLACK flag indicates that wet or dry suits must be worn at all times whilst afloat

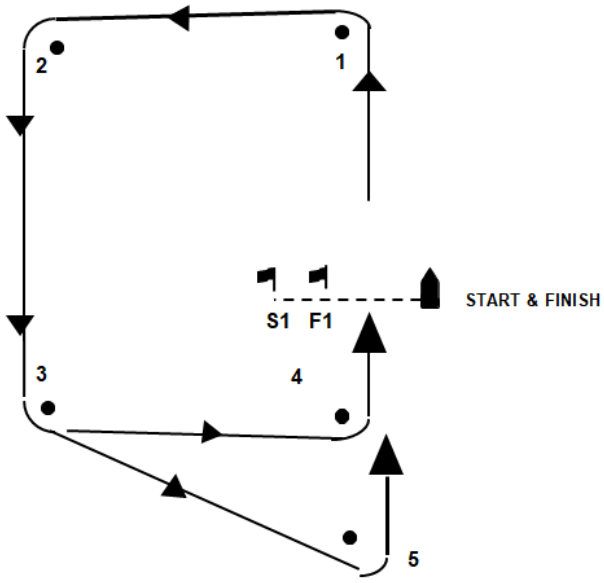
32.1.6. A BLUE AND GREEN flag indicates the presence of BLUE GREEN ALGAE in the reservoir and care should be taken whilst afloat and during launching and recovery of boats.

32.2. **EMERGENCY MEETING POINT**

32.2.1. If you are involved in an emergency and you need to go to or direct others (including an emergency service such as an ambulance) to the Emergency Meeting Point at the Coxswain's Shed **52° 17.49 N, 000° 18.85 W.** Should aid be needed elsewhere on site, club staff and/or volunteers will divert resources there.

32.2.2. If you call an emergency service, you **must** inform a Staff Member (Coxswain or Office) so that GWSC can invoke its Emergency Protocol. [Telephone 01480 810478].

ADDENDUM A



The Course

Sprint 15 - 1, 2, 3, 4, G, etc where G denotes going through the finish line

Medium H/C – 1,2,3,5, G, etc where G denotes going through the finish line.

Dart 18 Singlehanded- 1,2,3,5, G, etc where G denotes going through the finish

MARKS

Marks 1, 2, 3 & 4 will be ORANGE Pillar Buoys. Mark 5 will be a YELLOW Pillar Buoy
The start mark S1 will be an Orange Dan Buoy with an ORANGE flag
The finish mark F1 will be an Orange Dan Buoy with a BLUE flag

Race briefing

Please follow the COVID procedures as detailed in the guidance.

Race Areas
This is likely to be the centre area of the Lake but will be confirmed at briefing

Launching is likely to take longer than usual, there are a lot of boats, so do allow time for this. Please do not move your boat onto the slipway until it is rigged, and you are ready to launch.

Starting Procedure
It is probable that we will use “U” (Uniform) as the preparatory flag initially, moving to “Black flag” in the event of a General Recall. If there are frequent General Recalls we will probably use Black throughout the remainder of the event.

Note the start sequence (SSI 12.1).

Race Length
Target time is 40-45 minutes for the first boat to finish.

Remember to pass between the committee bat and the blue flag finish pin each lap.

Sound signals at the finish are optional: we will most likely signal only the first three finishers in each class

First race of the day
Our aim is to start on time on both days: please allow adequate time for launching; take into account the number of competitors and COVID separation recommendations and plan accordingly