

## **Lark, Wayfarer & Europe Open**

### **27<sup>th</sup> / 28<sup>th</sup> September 2025**



## **Sailing Instructions**

### **1 Rules**

- 1.1 The event is governed by the rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing 2025-2028.
- 1.2 The Sailing instructions may also change rules. In the event of there being any conflict between the aforementioned, these sailing instructions will take precedence at all times.
- 1.3 Competitors shall sail in accordance with the RYA Racing charter.
- 1.4 All competitors are required to wear personal floatation devices while afloat and on club pontoons.
- 1.5 Competitors and support persons shall comply with all reasonable requests from race officials, safety team club volunteers and staff.

### **2 Notice to Competitors**

- 2.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the Northampton Sailing Club website and at the clubhouse on the official notice board, during the event.
- 2.2 <https://northamptonsailingclub.org>

### **3 Changes to Sailing Instructions**

- 3.1 Any changes in the sailing instructions will be posted no later than 30 minutes before the advertised starting time of the race or races concerned. These changes will be valid for all subsequent races in the series.
- 3.2 Changes in the Sailing Instructions will be displayed at the clubhouse on the official notice board and may be signalled by displaying flag "L" from the flagpole. When no further changes have been made Flag "L" may be lowered after the start of the last race of that day.

### **4 Signals made ashore**

- 4.1 Signals made ashore will be hoisted on the flagpole located on the Veranda at the North East corner of the Clubhouse.
- 4.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore "1 minute" is replaced with "not less than 30 minutes" in race signal AP.
- 4.3 Signals ashore made under a class flag shall only apply to that class.

### **5 Schedule of Races**

- 5.1 The race times are scheduled to be as follows:-  
Race Briefing at 11.00am at the front patio.

Day 1		Day 2	
Race 1	11:55 am 1 <sup>st</sup> warning signal	Race 4	10.25 am 1 <sup>st</sup> warning signal
Race 2	To follow	Race 5	To follow
Race 3	To follow		
	Back to back	Prize Giving	As soon as possible after racing is completed

Class Starts will be Larks followed by wayfarers then Europes separated by 5mins. If number of class entries are low then starts may be combined at the discretion of the race officer.

- 5.2 On the last scheduled day of racing no warning signal will be made after 14.00hrs.  
5.3 Three races are planned for day 1 and 2 races on day 2, but more or less may be sailed at the discretion of the Race Officer.  
5.4 To alert boats that a race will begin shortly, an orange flag will be displayed from the committee boat with one sound signal, 2 minutes before the first warning signal.

## 6 Fleet Flag Signals

- 6.1 The fleet flags will be as follows:

Lark Class Flag or an alternative flag designated by the RO at the briefing  
Wayfarer Class Flag or an alternative flag designated by the RO at the briefing  
Europe Class Flag or an alternative flag designated by the RO at the briefing

## 7 Racing Area

- 7.1 The location of the racing area will be at Pitsford Reservoir detail of course area provided at the briefing by the Race Officer.

## 8 The Courses

- 8.1 The course marks will be large cylindrical orange P&B buoys labelled 1-4.  
8.2 The course configuration will be displayed on the stern of the committee boat. The numbers of the marks will be coloured red for port rounding and green for starboard rounding. Examples of the types of courses which may be used, are indicated at the end of the Sailing Instructions.  
8.3 When "line" is displayed on the course board, boats will pass between the committee boat and the end of line mark on each round.  
8.4 In the event that the course displayed is changed prior to a race starting, the Race Officer may indicate this by flying flag C from the committee boat mast.  
8.5 The Race Officer will record boats seen by the race team to have sailed the wrong course as NSC (not sailed course), including missing the line when set as part of the course.  
8.6 There may be a lead rib boat for each race, who will display the 'Follow me' flag L. However this boat will also provide safety cover and its priority will be to deliver safety cover, the 'Follow me' flag will be lowered in this event. It will be the discretion of the Race Officer if a lead boat is provided.

## **9 Obstructions**

- 9.1 Fishing boats, whether engaged in fishing or not. This includes a radius of 15m around the boat.
- 9.2 Safety boats and the committee boat when not displaying defined start and finish signals/flags.

## **10 Number of Laps**

- 10.1 The number of laps will be displayed on the stern of the committee boat.

## **11 The Start**

- 11.1 Races will be started by the warning signal given 5 minutes before the start signal. The sequence will follow 5, 4, 1 - Go.
- 11.2 The start line is defined as the line between the mast displaying an Orange flag on the committee boat and an end of line mark, flying an orange flag.
- 11.3 Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the start area.
- 11.4 A boat starting later than 4mins. after her start will be scored DNS.
- 11.5 A race may not be started if, in the opinion of the Race Officer, there is insufficient or excessive wind.
- 11.6 Boats who's warning signal has not been made shall keep clear of the starting area.

## **12 Recalls**

- 12.1 Individual recalls will be signalled by the Race Officer
- 12.2 If a general recall is made for the first class they will continue to remain the first fleet to start
- 12.3 The Race Officer where he deems necessary will apply RSS 30.3 - the 'U' Flag Rule. This may be at any start and not solely after a General Recall.

## **13 Change of Position of the Next Mark**

- 13.1 It may be necessary to change the position of the next mark. The Race Officer, at his discretion, may move the original mark to a new position. The change will be signalled before the leading boat has begun the new leg, although the mark may not yet be in its new position. The direction it has been / will be moved to will be signalled by the boat at the previous mark showing red for movement to port and green for movement to Starboard. Any mark to be rounded after rounding the moved mark may be relocated without further signalling to maintain course configuration. If the relocation is less than 20m from its original position, no signals will be made.

## **14 Shortening Course**

- 14.1 The Race Officer may deem the race to be shortened and will display a shortened course flag on the committee boat, followed by two sound signals ideally when the leading boat rounds the final mark before the finish.

## **15 The Finish**

- 15.1 The finish line will be between the mast displaying a blue flag on the committee boat or a RIB, and the end of line marker or other mark of the course

- 15.2 The Race Officer may finish tail end slower boats as close to the leading boats finish time as possible. This may necessitate finishing individual boats without shortening the course for the entire fleet. The Race Officer and their assistants will notify the competitors that they have finished by verbal communication, there will be no visual or sound signal. This is known as a Race Officers discretionary finish. The Race Officers decision is final and is not grounds for redress.

## **16 Time Limit**

16.1 Time limits are set by the race officers discretion, failure to meet the target times will not be grounds for redress. ;

- First Mark time limit - 20 minutes
- Race Target time - 45- 50 minutes
- Finishing window time limit - 20 minutes

## **17 Protests and Requests for Redress**

17.1 Protests shall be written on forms available at the race control desk and delivered there within 30 minutes of the last boat finishing the race of the day.

17.2 Protest hearings will commence as soon as possible thereafter racing has completed.

## **18 Scoring**

- 18.1 The low point scoring system will be used, the boat with the lowest total score will win the event.
- 18.2 Unless otherwise stated in the NOR the number of races to count shall be as follows. Two races shall constitute a series. If less than three races are sailed no discards will be allowed. If four or more races are sailed then one race will be discarded
- 18.3 If there is a Series score tie, each boat's race scores shall be listed in order from best to worst, and at the first point where there is a difference the tie shall be broken in favour of the boat with the best score. No discarded scores shall be used. If a tie still remains, the boats scores shall be ranked in order of their scores in the last race. These scores will be used even if they are discarded scores. Any remaining ties (e.g. if both DNC in last race) shall be broken by using the tied boats scores in the next to last race and so on until tie is broken.

## **19 Safety Regulations**

- 19.1 All competitors are required to wear personal floatation devices while afloat and on club pontoons.
- 19.2 Neither a wet suit or a dry suit constitute adequate personal buoyancy
- 19.3 It is not permitted to land outside of the club enclosure except in an emergency.
- 19.4 When the race committee considers that a boat or competitor is in difficulty it may instruct the boat or competitor to accept outside help, retire or sail ashore.
- 19.5 A boat retiring from a race shall inform a safety boat or committee boat where possible before returning to shore.

## **20 Declarations**

- 20.1 Signing on before each race will not be necessary although it will be necessary to have entered the series to be eligible to start a race.
- 20.2 A declaration sheet will be displayed near the official notice board which must be signed within 30 minutes of the last boat finishing in each race ONLY by competitors who have retired.



## **21 Equipment and Measurement Checks**

- 21.1 Before a boat is eligible to race, if applicable for her class, her valid measurement certificate and buoyancy test certificate may be required to be presented
- 21.2 Boats may be measured before or after any race at the discretion of the Class or Race Committee.

## **22 Class Association Membership**

- 22.1 Competitors taking part in the event shall be members of the class association.

## **23 Disclaimer of Liability**

- 23.1 Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. The organizing authority will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during or after the regatta as detailed within the Notice of Race.

## **24 Insurance**

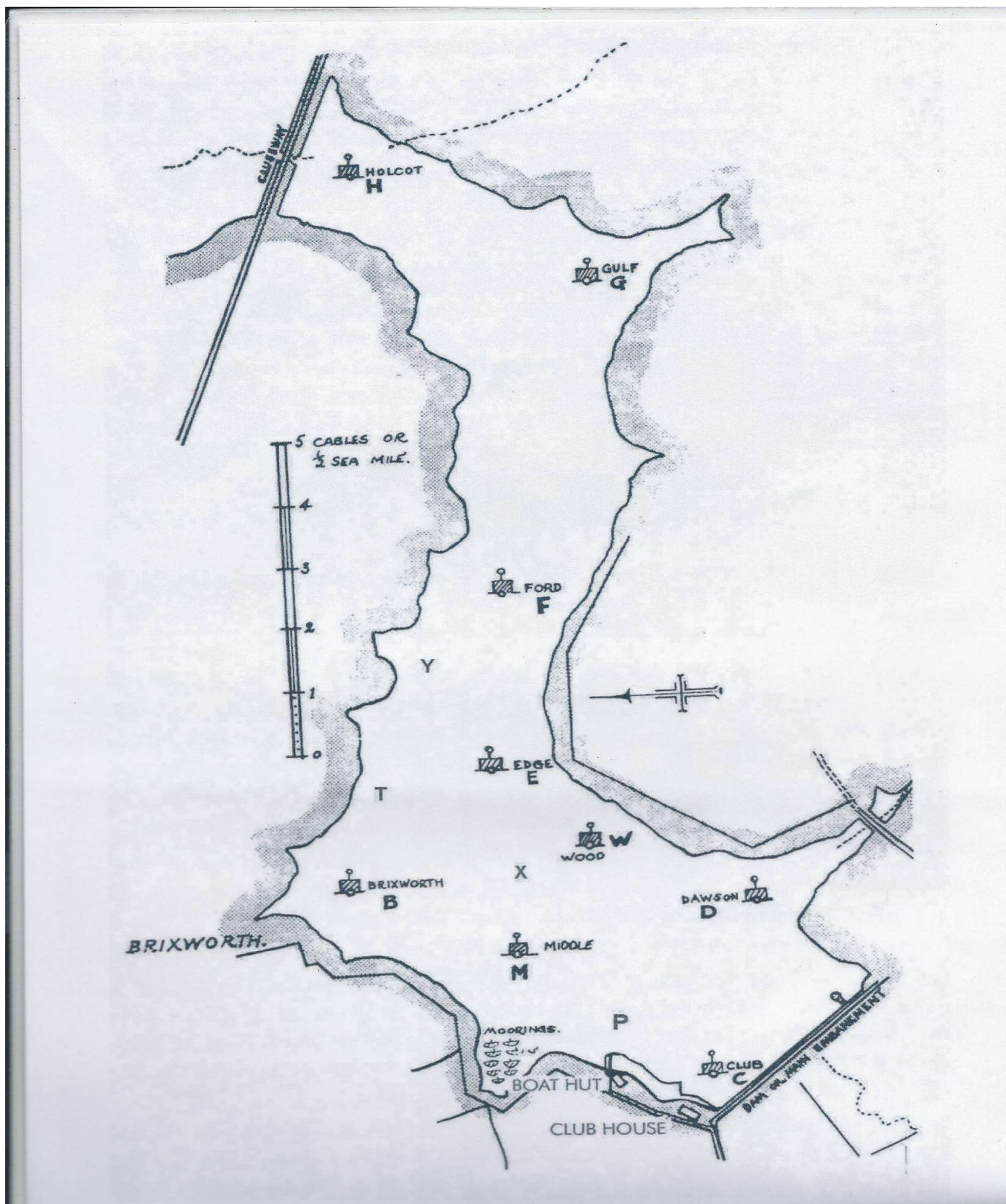
- 24.1 Each participating boat shall be insured with a valid Third Party Liability Insurance with a minimum Cover of £3 million.

## **25 Trash disposal**

- 25.1 Trash must be retained within the competitors boat and disposed in the club waste bins at the of the days racing.

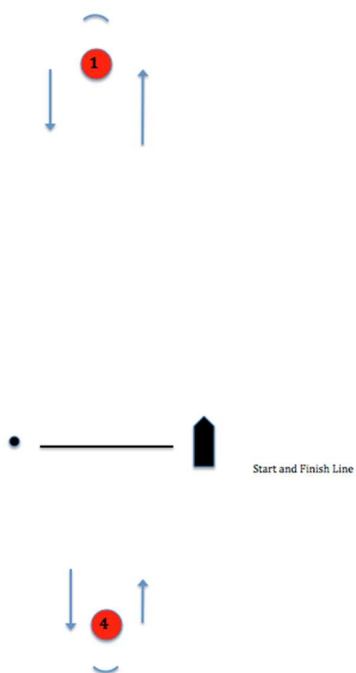


Pitsford Water Sailing Area

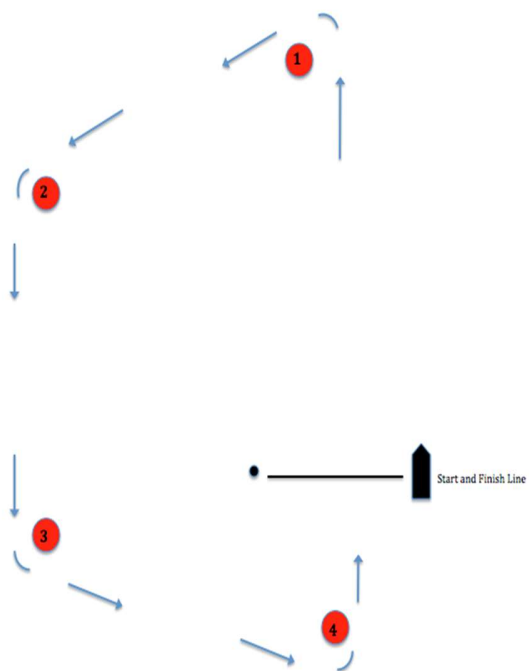


## Examples of courses that may be used

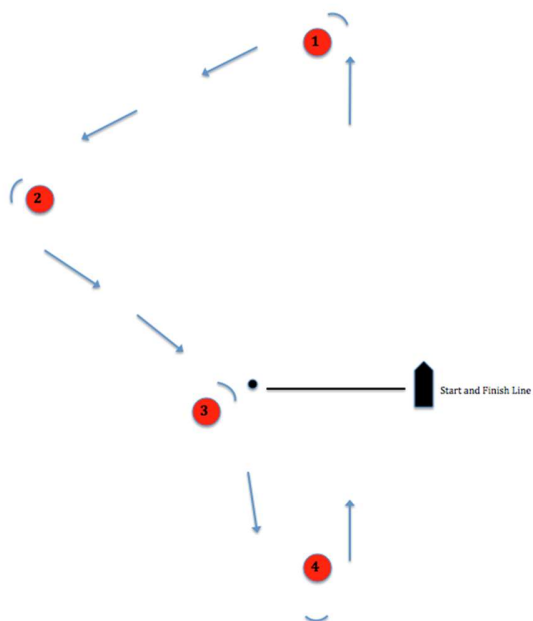
**Windward Leeward**



**Trapezoid**



**Inverted P**



**Triangle Sausage**

