RSC Christmas Pudding race Sailing Instructions 2026

Restronguet SC, Falmouth, Cornwall

The Organizing Authority is Restronguet Sailing Club

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1. RULES. All races will be sailed under the current Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), the prescriptions of the Royal Yachting Association, and the Boat's Class Rules, as amended by these Sailing Instructions.

2. AMENDMENTS TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS. Any amendments to these Sailing Instructions will be posted on the Club Notice Board at least half an hour before the start of the race in which it takes effect. Code Flag 'L' will be flown on the club flagstaff. A list of amendments applying will be posted on the website https://www.restronguetsc.org/dinghies/sis-and-amendments.

3. CONDITIONS

a) Sail Markings

No boat may use the sail number of another boat, and no boat may race without a sail number, without first obtaining the permission of the Race Officer.

b) On The Water Registration

All competitors intending to race shall sail past the stern of the committee boat before the start of their racing for the day and receive an acknowledgement from the race team. This is to allow a list of boats racing on that day to be compiled for safety reasons, and so the correct RRS Scoring Abbreviations (e.g. DNC, DNF, RTD) can be applied.

c) Outside Help

Sailors who are novice racers or new to their class of boat and are towards the back of their fleet or behind on corrected time may receive coaching from a safety boat or other craft. The objective should be to encourage the sailors, but not to affect the results of the race leaders. This modifies RRS 41.

4. SCHEDULED RACES The Christmas Pudding pursuit race is scheduled for 13th December with the warning at 11:00. There will be one race, using a Committee Boat start.

Please note the following advice for Race Officers and Competitors in Pursuit races.

a) STARTS.

Set your watch in count up mode, and start it on the Warning signal. Start times and the prescribed finish time are then easy to read off, and will correspond to the start times shown in these Sailing Instructions & the list of start times posted on the Official Notice Board.
If possible, the Race Officer will use a radio set watch, and make the Warning signal at the exact time shown in the Sailing Programme.
If possible, the Race Officer will use a loud hailer to keep competitors informed of who is starting next, for example "Next start Firefly, in about 1 minute". This is for back up and information only, not to set your watch by!

If possible, the Race Officer and Shorebase will broadcast and call out the countdown to the warning signal on the beach, so fast boats still on shore can set watches to it.

b) COURSE LENGTH

The lap length needs to be as long as reasonably possible without compromising safety (too large an area is difficult to run safety cover). This will minimise the number of laps the early starter have completed by the time the faster boats start.

c) FINISH

The principle in a pursuit race is to "freeze" the positions of all racing yachts at the prescribed finish time (which is defined in section 9). Practically this means laying a line in front of the leading boats, so the first boat crosses the line as near as possible to the finish time, and laying a second line further back, usually at the preceding mark. No boat should sail back to a line behind it. All boats crossing the front finish line will be placed ahead of all boats finishing on the second line.

Tail-enders can be given a finishing position based on where they are at the finish time. If as

race officer you do this, try to use the megaphone, or get a RIB to hail, to tell them.

5. STARTS (With changes to RRS 26, 29 & "Race Signals")

a) Starting Line

The starting line will be a line between the forward flag pole on the Committee Boat and Mark 'D' on the course diagram.

b) Order of starts

Boats will start in the Portsmouth Yardstick order for their class in their fleet. A list of start times (in minutes after the warning signal) for each class of dinghy, will be posted on the official notice board and http://www.restronguetsc.org/dinghies/sis-and-amendments.

c) Visual Signals for Starting . Signals will be made as set out below. Times will be taken from the visual signals; the absence of a sound signal shall be disregarded. A boat's "preparatory signal shall be 2 minutes before her start, there may be no visual or sound signal of this. Sound signals will be made every two minutes, until the last class has started, irrespective of whether a class is starting.

Signal and sequence of starts	**Flag and sound**	**Time in minutes**
Warning signal Minisail	'O' flag; 1 sound	0
Preparatory signal Minisail	Raise P flag; 1 sound	2
Start Minisail	Dip P flag; 1 sound	4
Start Optimists	Dip P flag; 1 sound	6
Start other dinghy classes as listed	Dip P flag, 1 sound	Other dinghy classes start times as posted on the official notice board.
Start International Moth	Lower P flag, 1 sound	As posted on the official notice board

6. COURSES & FLEETS

There will be two fleets defined as follows;

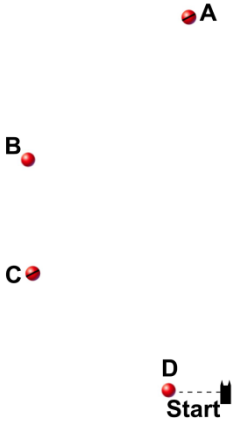
1) The Main fleet for boats in the Asymmetric division, Medium division, Laser division, Aero division, Fast division, Turbo division & Catamaran division classes.

2) The Slow fleet for boats in the Slow division class.

There will be two possible courses numbered one and two. The choice of course will be posted on the Official notice board & may be repeated by a numeral pennant flown from the Committee Boat. Both fleets will sail the same course. The courses are:

1) A course comprising harbour navigation buoys, POFSA race marks and laid club racing marks. The course will be described on the Official notice board.

2) A trapezoid course comprising club racing marks laid as shown below.



After the start the mark order is A, B, C, D, A, B……. All marks are left to port. The start line is not the finish line.

7. AREAS THAT ARE OBSTRUCTIONS
   For boats racing in Turbo division and Catamaran division classes, the permanent moorings lying to the West of the Mylor Marina fairway buoys, occupied by a yacht or boat, are designated as an *obstruction*. Outlying unoccupied buoys, or temporarily anchored yachts, shall be disregarded for the purpose of this rule. At their discretion, the protest committee may impose a points penalty less than disqualification for an infringement of this rule, if it is accidental and a first offence.

8. NUMBER OF ROUNDS
   A boat should continue to lap the course until she crosses the finish line.

9. CHANGING THE COURSE AFTER THE START (With changes to RRS 33) The course will not be changed after the start.

10. FINISHING

   a) For boats in the Slow fleet, the finishing line will be the line between forward flag pole on the Committee Boat, which shall be flying a flag ‘O’ and either a race committee boat or a mark of the course. It will be laid ahead of the leading boats in the Slow fleet with the intention that the leading boat will cross the finish line 66 minutes after the warning signal. Other boats in the Slow fleet may be finished by crossing a line between a race committee boat flying flag ‘O’ and a mark of the course, or, at the discretion of the Race Officer, by a visual sweep of the fleet.

   b) For boats in the Main fleet, the finishing line will be the line between forward flag pole on the Committee Boat, which shall be flying flag ‘S’ and either a race committee boat or a mark of the course. It will be laid ahead of the leading boats in the Main fleet with the intention that the leading boat will cross the finish line 104 minutes after the warning signal. Other boats in the Main fleet may be finished by crossing a line between a race committee boat flying flag ‘S’ and a mark of the course, or, at the discretion of the Race Officer, by a visual sweep of the fleet.

11. SCORING A boat’s score will correspond to her finishing place within her fleet.

12. COMMERCIAL SHIPPING AND DIVERS. Any Boat that interferes with commercial shipping movements shall be disqualified. Boats shall keep well clear of moving ships that are constrained by draught and size from manoeuvring freely. Boats shall keep well clear of divers and of dive boats displaying the code flag "A".

13. GENERAL RESPONSIBILITY. The safety of a Boat and her entire management including insurance shall be the sole responsibility of the owner/competitor racing the Boat, who must ensure that the Boat and crew are adequate to face the conditions that may arise in the course of the race. Neither the establishment of these sailing instructions nor the inspection of a Boat under these conditions, in any way limits or reduces the absolute responsibility of the owner/competitor for the crew, the Boat and the management thereof for any loss, damage, death or personal injury howsoever caused to the owner/competitor, skipper or crew, as a result of their taking part in the race or races. Moreover, every owner/competitor warrants the suitability of the Boat for the race or races. Where appropriate the parent/guardian is to assume the responsibility of the owner/ competitor in the above.