



Armada Challenge 2021

Sailing Instructions

Date: 14 August 2021
Organisation: Thurrock Yacht Club and Erith Yacht Club
Event VHF Channel: 37/M1/P1

General

Unless specified in this sailing instruction, this event will be run in accordance with the Racing Rules of Sailing 2017-20.

The event organisers reserve the right to change these instructions, and such changes will be advised at the event briefing.

Event Preparation

All skippers are to ensure their boats meet all the conditions of the Entry Form and Risk Assessment, including but not limited to:

- The boat is seaworthy and adequately equipped for a race/cruise of this duration.
- There is access to a working vhf radio for the duration of the race/cruise
- The boat carries third party insurance

Course

The course is outlined in the Notice of Event. The race officer may shorten the course to suit conditions at any time prior to, or during the event.

Event Briefing

There will be an onshore briefing at Erith Yacht Club at the published time. This will be followed by a briefing on the event VHF channel for skippers not able to make it ashore.

Radio Checks

All boats are required to conduct a radio check on the Event VHF channel prior to crossing the start line. This will also act as confirmation that the boat is participating.

Start Procedure

The following start sequence shall apply (please note "engines off" at 1 minute signal to give boats best chance of making the line in anticipated tidal conditions).

- 5 minute – warning via Event VHF Channel
- 4 minute – warning via Event VHF Channel
- 1 minute - warning via Event VHF Channel – ENGINES OFF!
- Start – via Event VHF Channel



Thurrock and Erith Yacht Clubs



Handicaps

Boats will race to their standard (white sail) Byron Handicap as declared on their entry form.

Boats are encouraged to fly their spinnakers if they are competent to do so, and conditions allow. In the event of first hoisting a spinnaker (prior to the sail setting), then the boats handicap will change as follows:

- If the boat has declared a Byron issued spinnaker rating on their entry form, then it will be applied.
- If there is no Byron issued spinnaker rating, a deduction of 2% will be made on the boat's standard rating.

River Traffic

All participants are reminded of their responsibilities to stay clear of commercial shipping in the Thames. The following guidance is published on the Thurrock Yacht Club website:

- Do not cross in front of large vessels
- Keep a lookout astern as well as ahead.
- If approaching a large vessel, make a prompt turn to starboard and get to the right side of the fairway. If you have a loud horn, sound one short blast, but in any case be clear and concise in your manoeuvres.
- If sailing in races or company, make other boats aware of large vessels on channel 37 (M).
- Consider making short tacks and go about midway across the fairway.
- Always carry a functioning VHF Radio and maintain a listening watch on London VTS, unless participating in an organised club event where another channel is prescribed.

Emergency Use of Engine

Boats are permitted to use their engines to avoid collision with shipping or other hazards. In the event of starting the engine, the boat must adopt a position whereby no advantage is gained towards the finish line before switching off their engine and rejoining the race. All such incidents are to be reported to Race Control on the Event VHF Channel.