

ROYAL MERSEY YACHT CLUB

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS 2023

1 RULES

- 1.1 All events will be governed by the rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing.
- 1.2 The Post-Race Penalty and the Advisory Hearing and RYA Arbitration Procedures of the RYA Rules Disputes Procedures are available. The Post-Race Penalty shall be two places. Details can be found at [RYA Rules Disputes Process](#) on the RYA website.
- 1.3 Boats shall not impede commercial shipping, as required by the International Regulations for the Prevention of Collision at Sea and any local regulations.

2 NOTICES to COMPETITORS

- 2.1 Notices to Competitors will be displayed on the notice board in the Club House.

3 CHANGES to SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 3.1 Any changes to the Sailing Instructions will be displayed on the notice board not later than ONE hour before the start of the race. Any change to the programme of races will be displayed on the notice board SEVEN days before the proposed change takes place.
- 3.2 In very exceptional circumstances, and only when already afloat, changes to the Sailing Instructions may be given orally in accordance with Rule 90.2(c). Code Flag L will be displayed and the Race Officer will notify the boats.

4 RISK STATEMENT

Rule 3 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 omission;
- 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 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;

5 SAFETY

- 5.1 Boats shall carry appropriate marine safety equipment to comply with Class Rules including personal buoyancy for each person on board, a VHF radio, first aid kit, towing warp, anchor and warp adequate for all tidal conditions and oars or paddles. PERSONAL BUOYANCY SHALL BE WORN AT ALL TIMES WHILST TRAVELLING IN THE PATROL BOATS.
- 5.2 The Race Officer will monitor VHF Channel M2 (P4) and safety announcements may be made on that channel.

6 INSURANCE

- 6.1 Boats shall carry adequate insurance, including third party liability, to a minimum of £3,000,000.

7 SCHEDULE of RACES

- 7.1 Races are scheduled in the Club Sailing Programme for the year.

8 STARTING LINE

- 8.1 **Inshore Starting Line:** Between the foremast on the Mark Boat and the centre of an Inshore Mark positioned approximately 150 metres inshore of the Mark Boat. This is the default line and no Code Flag will be displayed to designate its use.
- 8.2 **Offshore Starting Line D:** Between the foremast on the Mark Boat and the centre of Mark Dingle. Code Flag D will be displayed to designate this Starting Line.

- 8.3 **Offshore Starting Line G:** Between the foremast on the Mark Boat and the centre of Mark G1. Code Flag G will be displayed to designate this Starting Line.

9 SIGNALS

- 9.1 All sound signals will be of the same duration. This changes Rule 26.
- 9.2 There may be a test sound signal well before the commencement of the starting sequence.
- 9.3 Class flags will be displayed superior to flag signals which apply to individual classes. This changes Race Signals.

10 COURSES and MARKS

- 10.1 Courses and Marks are specified in Appendix A to these Sailing Instructions. The course to be sailed will be displayed at least FIVE minutes before the Warning Signal. The course for the International Etchells Class will be displayed in yellow numerals. The course for the RMYC Mylne and National Squib Classes will be displayed in pink numerals. This changes Rule 27.
- 10.2 When using the Inshore Starting line, references to Outer Mark (OM) in the courses of Appendix A shall be taken as the Mark Boat. When using Offshore Starting Line D, OM shall be Mark Dingle. When using Offshore Starting Line G, OM shall be Mark G1.

11 STARTING

- 11.1 Rule 30 is deleted.
- 11.2 Order of Starting: The order of starting will be indicated by the Class Flag displayed. The first warning signal will not be more than five minutes before the advertised start time. The normal sequence of class starts should be: Etchells; Mylne; Squib, but this may be altered.
- 11.3 In the event of a General Recall for a Class, the Class will restart five minutes after the last class to start and so on for any second or subsequent class subject to General Recall. This changes Rule 29.2.
- 11.4 Boats whose preparatory signal has not been displayed shall keep clear of the starting area.

12 FINISHING

- 12.1 Finishing Line: In any race the finishing line shall be the same as the starting line.

13 SHORTENED COURSE From Committee Boat.

- 13.1 **Shortened Course:** As the leading boat in a class approaches or rounds the last Mark of a lap of the course, or the preceding mark where OM is the last mark of the course, Code Flag S will be displayed and TWO sound signals made. Boats shall cross the designated Finishing Line directly from the last Mark of the lap of the course, or directly from the preceding mark where OM is the last mark of the course. This changes Race Signals and Rule 32.
- 13.2 **Alternative Shortened Course:** As the leading boat is in the vicinity of the Finishing Line (or an extension thereof), Code Flag S with the Answering Pennant inferior will be displayed and TWO sound signals made. Boats shall continue to the first Mark of the next lap of the course, round the Mark on the prescribed side and then return directly to the designated Finishing Line. This changes Race Signals and Rule 32.

14 TIME LIMIT

- 14.1 For evening races only, the time limit shall be ONE AND A HALF hours after the start of each class. If the first boat finishes within that limit, an extra HALF hour shall be added. Any boats not finishing within the time permitted shall be scored DNF. This changes Rule 35. No other limit shall be used. If no boat finishes within one and a half hours of her start, the race shall be abandoned.

15 SCORING SYSTEM

- 15.1 **Series Scores:** If four or more races are sailed in a series then each boat's series score shall be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score. If eight or more races are sailed in a series then her worst two scores shall be excluded and if twelve races are sailed her worst three shall be excluded. Rule A5.3 applies.

16 PROTESTS

Protests should be written on forms, available in the Club House, and lodged with the Captain, a Flag Officer or representative of the Sailing Committee within THREE hours of the end of the race or last race of the day. The Protest Committee will meet as required.

APPENDIX A TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS 2023

COURSES AND MARKS

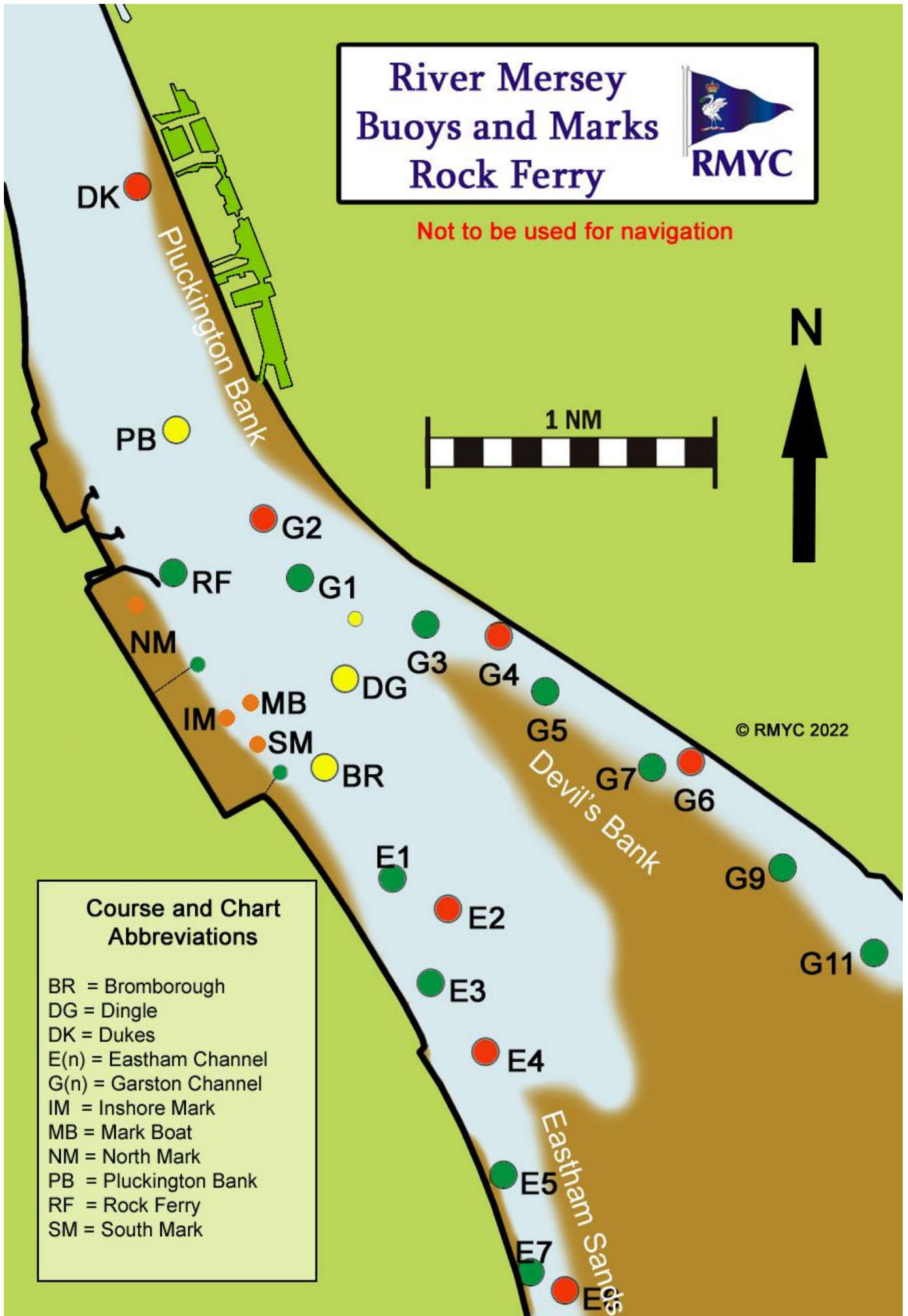
No.	Marks	Laps	Rounding to Port/Starboard
1	NM(s), OM(p), SM(S), OM(S)	4	AS COURSE
2	NM, BR, OM	3	STARBOARD
3	NM, DG, SM, OM	3	STARBOARD
4	NM, DG, BR, OM	4	STARBOARD
5	NM, G1, E1, OM	3	STARBOARD
6	NM, G1, BR, OM	3	STARBOARD
7	NM, E2, OM	3	STARBOARD
8	NM, E1, OM	3	STARBOARD
10	RF, BR, OM	3	STARBOARD
12	RF, DG, BR, OM	4	STARBOARD
13	RF, DG, SM, OM	3	STARBOARD
20	RF, G1, E1, OM	3	STARBOARD
21	RF, G1, BR, OM	3	STARBOARD
23	RF, E2, OM	3	STARBOARD
24	RF, E1, OM	3	STARBOARD
25	RF, G5, OM	4	STARBOARD
26	RF, G7, OM	3	STARBOARD
27	RF, PB, G1, BR, OM	4	STARBOARD
28	RF(s), E1(p), G5(p), BR(s), OM(s)	2	AS COURSE
29	RF(s), E1(p), G7(p), BR(s), OM(s)	2	AS COURSE
30	PB, E2, OM	3	STARBOARD
31	PB, BR, OM	3	STARBOARD
34	DK, BR, OM	2	STARBOARD
35	G5, RF, OM	3	PORT
40	BR, PB, OM	3	PORT
41	BR, DG, G1, RF, OM	3	PORT
42	BR, DG, NM, OM	3	PORT
43	BR, G1, NM, OM	3	PORT
45	BR, DG, RF, OM	3	PORT
46	BR, RF, OM	4	PORT
47	BR(s), NM(s), OM(p)	4	AS COURSE

No.	Marks	Laps	Rounding to Port/Starboard		
50	E1, RF, OM	3	PORT		
51	E1, DG, NM, OM	3	PORT		
52	E1, DG, RF, OM	3	PORT		
53	E1(s), NM(s), OM(p)	3	AS COURSE		
54	E2, RF, OM	3	PORT		
56	E2, PB, OM	2	PORT		
57	E2(s), NM(s), OM(p)	3	AS COURSE		
61	SM(s), OM(s), NM(s), OM(p)	4	AS COURSE		
62	SM, DG, NM, OM	3	PORT		
63	SM, DG, RF, OM	3	PORT		
64	SM, PB, RF	3	PORT		
65	SM, RF, OM	4	PORT		
70	RF(p), BR(p), OM(s)	3	AS COURSE		Low Water Courses
71	RF(p), SM(p), OM(s)	4	AS COURSE		
72	PB(p), OM(p), BR(p) OM(s)	3	AS COURSE		
73	SM, NM, OM	4	PORT		
80	G7, E6	1	STARBOARD	Up River Courses	
81	BR(p), G5(s), G9(p), G7(p), BR(s)	1	AS COURSE		
82	E5(s), RF(s), OM(p)	3	AS COURSE		
83	E5, DG, RF, OM, BR	1	PORT		
90	T(s), OM(p), E2(s)	1	AS COURSE	Down River Courses	
91	T, CA	1	STARBOARD		
92	BZ, CA	1	STARBOARD		
93	C22, BZ	1	PORT		
94	EG, PB	1	STARBOARD		
95	CA, EG	1	PORT		
96	T, EG	1	PORT		
97	BZ, EG	1	PORT		

River Mersey Buoys and Marks Rock Ferry



Not to be used for navigation



Course and Chart Abbreviations

- BR = Bromborough
- DG = Dingle
- DK = Dukes
- E(n) = Eastham Channel
- G(n) = Garston Channel
- IM = Inshore Mark
- MB = Mark Boat
- NM = North Mark
- PB = Pluckington Bank
- RF = Rock Ferry
- SM = South Mark

River Mersey Buoys and Marks Port of Liverpool



Not to be used for navigation



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Course and Chart Abbreviations

BZ = Brazil
CA = Canada
C(n) = Crosby Channel
EG = Egg
DK = Dukes
PB = Pluckington Bank
T = Tower

C22 ●

● BZ

● CA

● T

● EG

● DK

● PB

Pluckington Bank