

Offshore Spring Challenge

2nd to 5th May 2025

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

The Organising Authority (OA) is Fairlie Yacht Club (FYC).

1 RULES

- 1.1 The Event will be governed by the rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS).
- 1.2 The prescriptions of the RYA available at www.rya.org.uk/racing/rules will apply.
- 1.3 The World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations (OSR) available at www.sailing.org will apply.
- 1.4 The IRC rules available at www.ircrating.org will apply (except for Part D which will NOT apply).
- 1.5 The CYCA Handicap System available at www.cyca-online.org.uk will apply.
- 1.6 The Multihull Offshore Cruising & Racing Association (MOCRA) Rating Rules available at <https://mocra-sailing.org.uk/racing/> will apply.

2 SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted on the OA website not less than six hours before the start on the day it will take effect.

3 COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

- 3.1 The online official noticeboard is located at www.fairlieyachtclub.org.uk.
- 3.2 The race committee may make courtesy broadcasts to competitors on VHF Channel 77.
- 3.3 A Whatsapp Chat group will be established for the event.

4 CODE OF CONDUCT

- 4.1 Competitors and support persons shall comply with reasonable requests from race officials.

5 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

Signals ashore prior to the start of the first race will be made from the flagpole located at Largs Sailing Club.

6 SCHEDULE OF RACES

- 6.1 Dates of Racing: Friday 2nd May to Monday 5th May 2025

7 RACING AREAS

The race area is the Firth of Clyde, the North Channel and the Irish Sea.

8 THE COURSES

- 8.1 **Race 1: Largs to Peel** – Largs to Peel, Isle of Man (approx 100nm). via the following two interim gates, to be passed from North to South:

Gate 1: a straight line between Corsewall Point lighthouse at 55 00.417N, 5 09.572W and virtual waypoint at 55.03.698N, 5 25.344W.

Gate 2: a straight line between Crammag Head lighthouse at 54 39.906N, 4 57.869W and virtual waypoint at 54 34.6N, 5.12.8W.

Competitors must take their own times when passing through each gate, using GPS read-out for verification where possible.

- 8.2 **Race 2: Peel to Largs** – Peel to Largs via Chicken Rock (54 2.3N, 4 50.3W) to starboard, Strangford safe water buoy (54 18.6N, 5 28.7W approx) to starboard and South Rock lateral buoy (54 24.5N, 5 22.0W approx) to port. (approx 140 nm)

- 8.3 **Alternative Courses** – the Race Officer may shorten the course of either race in the event of adverse conditions. For Race 1, a finish at either of the two Interim Gates referred to above may be considered. Communication will be made on VHF Channel 77 and by text or Whatsapp to competitors' mobile phones.

9 THE STARTS

- 9.1 Race 1 will start at 2000 on Friday 2nd May 2025. The Start line for Race 1 shall be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the committee vessel lying off Largs Marina and Mark K (approx. position 55 46.59N, 4 52.17W). Additional marks on or near the start line shall be ignored. The start line shall be crossed from North to South. The Committee vessel may transmit its position on VHF Ch 77. Competitors should be aware of shallow water to the north of the starting line.
- 9.2 Race 2 will start at 0740 on 4 May 2025. The Start line for Race 2 shall be between the lighthouse at the end of Peel Harbour pier and an inflatable mark lying to the NE of it. The start line shall be crossed from South to North.
- 9.3 A countdown to starting signals and additional race information may be broadcast on VHF Ch 77.
- 9.4 If any part of a boat's hull is on the course side of the starting line at her starting signal and she is identified, the race committee will attempt to hail her sail number. Failure to hail her number, failure of her to hear such a hail, or the order in which boats are hailed will not be grounds for a request of redress. This changes RRS 62.1(a).
- 9.5 Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area.

10 THE FINISHES

- 10.1 The Finish Line for Race 1 shall be between the lighthouse at the end of Peel Harbour pier and a racing mark lying to the NE of it, passed from north to south.
- 10.2 The Finish Line for Race 2 shall be between Mark K (approx. position 55 46.59N, 4 52.17W) and Largs Sailing Club flagpole. Mark K shall be left to Port. The finishing line shall be crossed from south to north. Competitors should be aware of shallow water to the north of the finishing line. Boats shall not re-cross the finish line after finishing.
- 10.3 All competing yachts shall identify themselves by calling the Race Committee on VHF Ch 77 approximately 5 minutes from the finish line. In addition, yachts finishing during the hours of darkness shall illuminate their sail number to assist identification. After finishing and once clear of the finishing area and in safe water, competing yachts shall report to the Race Committee on VHF Ch 77 to ensure correct identification and recording of their finishing time. In addition, boats should take their own finishing time, and where possible, the identity of boats immediately ahead and astern.
- 10.4 Any boat that retires from the race shall notify the Race Committee on VHF Ch 77, or by telephoning or texting the Race Officer on 07711 849646.

THE RACE COMMITTEE MUST BE INFORMED IF A BOAT RETIRES AND AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT SHOULD BE RECEIVED. THIS IS AN IMPORTANT SAFETY MATTER.

11 PENALTY SYSTEM – no additional penalties are applicable at this event.

12 TIME LIMITS

- 12.1 Race 1: 1800 on 3 May 2025.
- 12.2 Race 2: 1900 on 5 May 2025.
- 12.3 Boats that do not finish within the time limit shall be scored TLE. This changes RRS 35, A4 and A5.

13 HEARING REQUESTS

- 13.1 The Exoneration Penalty and the Advisory Hearing and RYA Arbitration of the RYA Rules Disputes Procedures may be available
- 13.2 Protest forms are available from: <https://www.rya.org.uk/racing/running-racing/templates> or from www.fairlieyachtclub.org.uk >Racing Information page
- 13.3 Protests should be delivered to a Race Committee Member (07711 849646 for location), by the time limit.
- 13.4 The protest time limit is 60 minutes after the last boat has finished or the race time limit
- 13.5 Notices shall be posted on www.fairlieyachtclub.org.uk within 30 minutes of the expiry of the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. The venue for protest hearings shall be included in the notice.
- 13.6 Notices of protests by the race committee shall be posted to inform boats under RRS 61.1(b).
- 13.7 Protests shall be heard as soon as possible, in approximately the order of receipt. It is the responsibility of the Protestor, Protestee and Witnesses to make themselves available for the hearing.
- 13.8 A request for reopening a hearing shall be delivered no later than 15 minutes after the party requesting reopening was informed of the decision. This changes RRS Rule 66.
- 13.9 The Protest Committee may impose a penalty that is less than DSQ for boats that have been found to break RRS 55.

14 SCORING

Each race will be scored individually on the basis of corrected time, and there will be overall prizes for the best performance over both races, calculated on the basis of lowest aggregate corrected time.

15 SAFETY REGULATIONS

15.1 Clydeport Operations Limited Restrictions

NARROW CHANNELS. Attention is drawn to the International Regulations for the prevention of collisions at sea, 1972. Particular notice shall be taken of Rule 9b, which states that “a vessel of less than 20m in length or a sailing vessel shall not impede the passage of a vessel which can safely navigate only within a narrow channel or fairway”. Whilst racing or on a passage in the Firth of Clyde north of Cumbrae Head yachts shall regard any such recommended channels as a “NarrowChannel” within the meaning of the IRPCS 9b.

Furthermore, Clydeport Operations Limited has decreed that any waters in the Firth of Clyde where vessels by virtue of their size, draught, speed or proximity to land, hazards and other vessels are unable to manoeuvre freely shall be regarded as a “Narrow Channel”. Whilst racing, any yacht which is unable for reasons of lack of wind or other cause, to sail clear of a large power-driven vessel shall start her engine and/or paddle in order to clear and thereafter shall report full details to the Race Committee.

Competitors are reminded of the Clydeport Operations Limited by-law which prohibits yachts and other craft from manoeuvring within 100m of any ferry terminal. Particular regard should be paid to this when in the vicinity of the CalMac facilities at Largs and Cumbrae.

15.2 Sailing During The Hours Of Darkness

Between the hours of sunset and sunrise, the rules contained in RRS Part 2 shall cease to govern the race, which shall be continued under the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea. Navigation lights shall be shown during the hours of darkness. Yachts not displaying navigation lights during the hours of darkness will be disqualified.

15.3 Boats shall comply with the World Sailing OSR as follows:

All Classes: Category 3, amended as below.
Category 3 is intended for races over open water, most of which is relatively protected or close to shorelines.
At least one spare lifejacket shall be carried on each boat.
A liferaft, or liferafts must be carried by each boat, with places for the entire crew..

15.4 The use of autopilots is permitted for limited times only during such times as sail changes or matters of safety but not during manoeuvres such as tacking, gybing or routine course keeping normally carried out under fully crewed circumstances.

16.5 Remove 4.23 and replace with:

4.23 Pyrotechnic and Light Signals ** Pyrotechnic signals shall be provided conforming to SOLAS LSA Code Chapter III Visual Signals and not older than the stamped expiry date (if any) or if no expiry date stamped, not older than 4 years. Race Category Red Hand Flares LSA III 3.2 Orange Smoke Flares LSA III 3.3 MoMu0,1,2,3 4 2 MoMu4 2.
Pyrotechnic signals may be substituted by electronic flare signals

16 REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT

Substitution of the registered person in charge during the race is not permitted without prior written approval of the Race Committee.

17 EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

[DP] A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the appropriate rules and sailing instructions.

18 TRASH DISPOSAL

Trash should be retained onboard individual boats and disposed of in the receptacles provided on returning to port.

19 **BERTHING AND SOCIAL AT PEEL – The OA will endeavour to arrange berthing at Peel Harbour marina on 3 May 2025, but competitors should note that this is not guaranteed. The latest time to lock in to the marina is 1800 on 3 May 2025, and the latest time for locking out on 4 May 2025 is 0630. A social will be held at Peel Sailing & Cruising Club on the evening of 3 May 2025, to which all competitors are cordially invited.**

20 PRIZES

- 20.1 The Prize-giving for Race 1 will be held in Peel Sailing & Cruising Club on the evening of 3 May 2025. The Prize-giving for Race 2 (and overall prizes) will be held at Largs Sailing Club as soon as possible after the last competitor has finished on Monday 5 May 2025. Details shall be broadcast on VHF 77.
- 20.2 Fairlie Yacht Club will award Club Trophies to Class and Overall winners at the Prize-giving in LSC.

21 RISK STATEMENT

21.1 Rule 4 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, committee boats and other officials and volunteers by the event organiser, does not relieve them of their own responsibilities.
- (f) 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.

22 INSURANCE

Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £3,000,000 per event or the equivalent