



OPEN REGATTA MEETING

30th and 31st May 2026

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

1 RULES

The Open Meeting will be governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing*. (RRS) and the Notice of Race.

2 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located in the lobby of Ribble Cruising Club

3 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted before 08.30 on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 20.00 on the day before it will take effect.

4 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

Signals made ashore will be displayed on the club flagstaff above the race box on the main club building.

5 SCHEDULE OF RACES

5.1 Dates of racing:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Open Dinghy Event</u>
Sat 30 th May	Dinghy Open Meeting race 1 Followed by race 2 Cruiser Race 1
Sun 31 st May	Dinghy Open Meeting race 3 Followed by race 4 Cruiser Race 2

5.2 Times noted in the handbook under 'OTW' are the approximate dinghy launching times.

Dinghy launching times each day are approximately:-

Sat 30 th May	09.15
Sun 31 st May	09.45

5.3 The first dinghy race each day will start when all dinghies, which intend to race, are in the vicinity of the start line, the scheduled time of the warning signal for the first race on each day is :-



Sat 30th May

Approximately 09.45

Sun 31st May

Approximately 10.15

- 5.4 After a long postponement, to alert boats that a race or sequence of races will begin soon, one long sound signal will be made at least four minutes before a warning signal is displayed.
- 5.5 On the last day of the open meeting no warning signal will be made after 14.00 hrs
- 5.6 Dinghy races will run 'back to back' each day.
- 5.7 The cruiser race will start after the first dinghy race has started.
- 5.8 Cruisers intending to race shall display their appropriate class flag [Number one or number two, or a club burgee] on the back-stay, or prominent position aft of the mainsail], failing that, they shall radio the clubhouse to confirm their intention to race before the official start time.

6 RACING AREAS

Attachment A shows the location of racing area and the layout of the marks.

All racing marks are yellow with black numerals with the exception of V mark which is a red buoy.

A Temporary mark 'X' (Yellow inflatable tube) may be used.

- 6.1 Fishing boats and their equipment, mooring buoys and other pleasure craft that may stray into the racing area, shall rank as an *obstruction* as defined in the RRS definition.

7 THE COURSES

- 7.1 The race course for both races on that day will be posted on the official course board no later than 20 minutes before the first warning signal that day.
- 7.2 The mark numbers will be displayed in sequence followed by either S (starboard) or P (port) indicating whether the mark is to be passed to port or starboard.

Within the course instructions the requirement to cross the start/finish line is denoted by 'Line' or abbreviation 'L'. [see definition of 'The start' and 'The finish']

- 7.3 The number of laps will also be indicated on the same notice. Courses may be shortened.
- 7.4 Legs of the course will not be changed after the preparatory signal.

8 MARKS

- 8.1 All racing marks are yellow with black numerals with the exception of Vw mark which is red.
- 8.2 A lap is completed by sailing across a line (Line A) which is the projection of a line between the club mast and the yellow post, with diagonal cross, on the foreshore.



9 AREAS THAT ARE OBSTRUCTIONS

The following areas are designated as obstructions:

- Boats moored in the river and in the vicinity of the race marks.
- The jetty including the basket and pole at the river end.

10 THE START

10.1 Races will be started by using rule 26.

"Times shall be taken from the visual signals (lights); the absence of a sound signal shall be disregarded" (Rule 26).

10.2 The starting line is a transit of the mast on the clubhouse and the yellow post with a yellow diagonal cross located on the foreshore.

When crossing the start and finish line dinghies must also pass between the Outer Distance Mark (yellow mark ODM) and the shore, and Cruisers may pass on either side of the ODM.

10.3 There will be no flags during the start sequence.

10.4 The start sequence will utilise the club lights mounted on the white triangle which is mounted on the roof of the club facing the river.

Flashing coloured beacons are mounted below the triangle on the clubhouse roof and indicate which classes the start (triangle) lights refer to. They do not form part of the start sequence but are illuminated before the start sequence begins and are extinguished after the start sequence has been completed.

They are also illuminated whenever further signals, such as shorten course, are required to be communicated to a particular class.

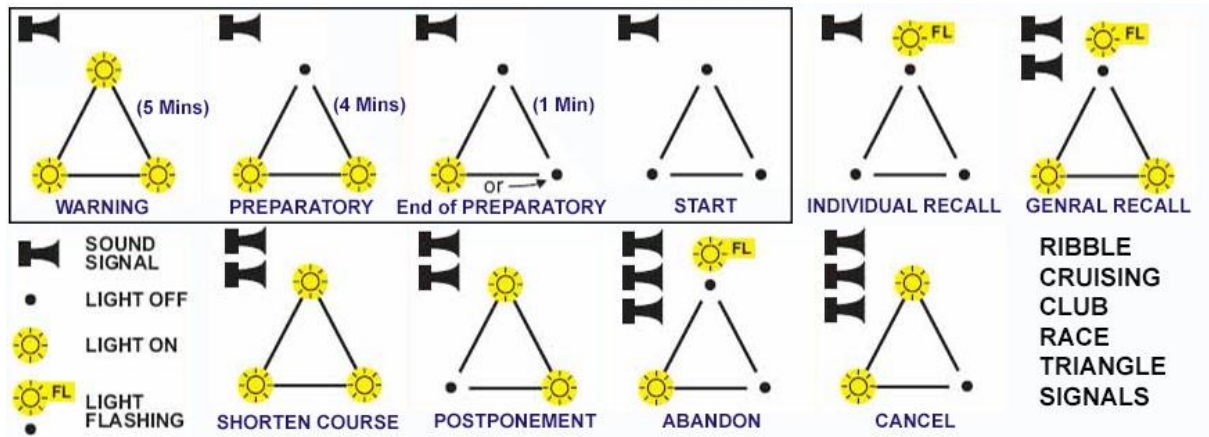
The coloured beacons are as follows:-

- Green Flashing Beacon** - Fast Handicap Dinghies (PY 1200 and below)
- Red Flashing Beacon** - Slow Handicap Dinghies (PY 1201 and above)
- Blue Flashing Beacon** - Fast Handicap Cruisers [class flag number 1]
- Orange Flashing Beacon** - Slow Handicap Cruisers [class flag number 2]

The start sequence (white triangle) will be as follows:-

Warning signal	(5 minutes to start time)	3 lights	-Sound signal
Preparatory signal	(4 Minutes to start time)	2 lower lights	-Sound signal
End of Preparatory	(1 Minute to start time)	1 lower Light	-Sound signal
Start		no lights	-Sound signal

If boats are over the start line at the start the top flashing light will be illuminated. (See light sequence below.) Indicating either an individual or general recall.



ALL STARTS FOLLOWING A GENERAL RECALL WILL BE AS THE BLACK PREPARATORY FLAG, as rule 30.3.

- 10.4 A boat starting later than 30 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing.

11 THE FINISH

The finishing line will be a transit of the mast on the clubhouse and the yellow post with a yellow diagonal cross located on the foreshore.

- 11.1 Dinghies crossing the finishing line (L) must also pass on the clubhouse side of the ODM.
- 11.2 Cruisers crossing the finishing may pass on either side of the ODM.
- 11.2 Boats crossing the finishing line may be acknowledged by a sound signal.
- 11.3 The race committee may decide to finish boats on the course at an appropriate mark. In which case the finish line will be between the mark and a safety boat flying a blue flag.

12 PENALTY SYSTEM

- 12.1 The penalties described in RRS 31.2 and RRS 44.1 will apply. Failure to take a penalty when breaking a rule is considered a serious breach of the basic principle of sportsmanship.
- 12.2 As provided in rule 67, the protest committee may, without a hearing, penalise a boat that has broken rule 42.
- 12.3 Appendix P will apply.



- 12.4 Penalties for breach of rule 41, outside help, shall be at the discretion of the protest committee. Any outside help shall be reported to the race committee before the end of the protest period on that day of sailing.

13 TIME LIMITS AND TARGET TIMES

- 13.1 There is a target time on each dinghy race of 60 minutes.
- 13.2 Boats failing to finish within 30 minutes after the first boat sails the course and finishes will be scored 'Did Not Finish' without a hearing. This changes rules 35, A4 and A5.

14 PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

- 14.1 Protest forms are available at the race office and can be obtained subject to payment of a £5 'donation' to the RNLI. Protests and requests for redress or reopening shall be delivered there within the appropriate time limit.
- 14.2 The protest time limit is 60 minutes after the last boat has finished the last race of the day.
- 14.3 Notices will be posted no later than 30 minutes after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Hearings will be held in the protest room, located in the clubhouse.
- 14.4 Decisions of the protest committee will be final as provided in rule 70.5.

15 SCORING

- 15.1 The RYA Portsmouth Yardstick 2025, amended where necessary by the Sailing Committee (see Sailing Committee PY handicaps), shall be used as the basis of handicapping.
- 15.2 The following scoring system will apply:-
- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| First Place | 1 Point |
| Second Place | 2 points |
| Third Place etc. | 3 points |
| Retirement | Number of starters |
| Retirement after rule infringement | Number of starters +1 |
| Disqualification | Number of starters +4 |
| Did not start on a series race where the boat has previously completed another race in that series | Number of starters |
- Ties will be decided by taking in to account discarded result(s) and if there is still a tie the first race sailed in the series shall be the tie breaker.
- 15.3 One race is required to be completed to constitute a series.
- 15.4 When one or two races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores, when three or four races have been completed a boats series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.



16 SAFETY REGULATIONS

- 16.1 Check-Out and Check-In: The dinghy's crew is responsible for signing out prior to launching and signing in after coming ashore on the appropriate sheet on the official notice board.

Failure to do so within 30 minutes of the completion of the final race of the day will render the crew liable to a 'donation' to the RNLI of £10.

- 16.2 A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee as soon as possible.

17 REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT

- 17.1 Substitution of competitors will not be allowed without prior written approval of the race committee.

- 17.2 Substitution of damaged or lost equipment will not be allowed unless authorized by the race committee. Requests for substitution shall be made to the committee at the first reasonable opportunity.

18 PRIZES

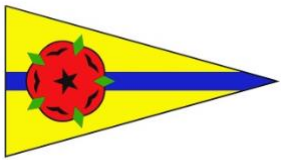
Prizes will be given for the first two boats as a minimum.

19 DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

Competitors participate in this open event entirely at their own risk. See rule 4, Decision to Race. 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 racing.

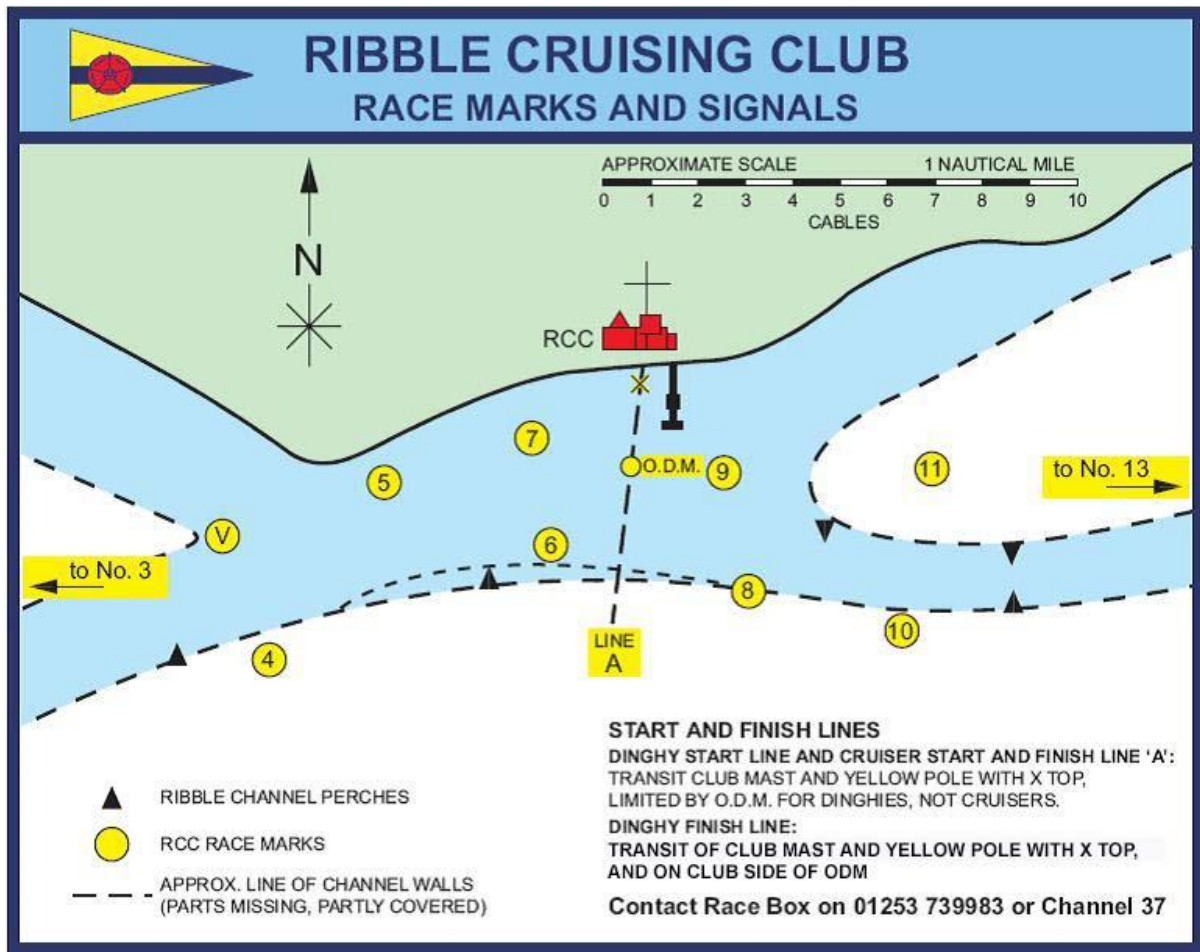
20 INSURANCE

Each participating boat shall be insured with third-party liability insurance to the value of £3 million.



ADDENDUM A

ILLUSTRATION OF THE RACE MARKS



End of Sailing Instructions