



2025 British American Cup

Match Five of Series Six

Royal Thames Yacht Club at Queen Mary Reservoir

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

22nd to 25th October 2025

1. RULES

- 1.1. The event will be governed by the *rules* as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing* (RRS), including Appendix D.
- 1.2. RRS 40.1 shall always apply while afloat or on a pontoon.
- 1.3. The right of appeal will be denied in accordance with RRS 70.3(b).
- 1.4. RRS D1.1(d) will apply, arm signals are required.
- 1.5. Appendix D – Team Racing Rules is changed as follows:
 - (a) RRS D1.2(a): Add “(4) not protest for a breach of a sailing instruction annotated [NP].”
 - (b) RRS D2.1(b): Replace “red flag” with “flag Y”.
 - (c) RRS D2.3(d): Add “The umpires may decide that any hard contact (contact between hulls, crews and/or rigs) is damage.”
 - (d) RRS D2.3 Penalties Initiated by an Umpire: Add “(g) fails to comply with any ‘Prohibited Items or Actions’ in SI Addendum C or SI 5.4, and 7.”.

2. CHANGES TO THE SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1. Changes to these Sailing Instructions (SI)
 - (a) When Ashore, will be posted on the official notice board not less than 10 minutes before the warning signal for the first race affected.
 - (b) When afloat, communicated verbally by the umpire team and will be effective immediately.
- 2.2. Any change to the schedule will be published by 2100 the day before it will be implemented.

3. COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

- 3.1. Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located at <https://events.ksail.co.uk/RTYC/2025/BACup/>
- 3.2. Signals made ashore will be displayed from the mast aboard the committee vessel when it is docked at the pontoon. When signal AP is displayed ashore, ‘1 minute’ is replaced with ‘not less than 15 minutes’. This changes Race Signal AP.

4. FORMAT AND SCHEDULE

- 4.1. Thursday - Maximum of five races but not to exceed three race wins for one team.
- 4.2. Friday - Maximum of eight races but not to exceed six race wins for one team.
- 4.3. Saturday - Maximum of seven races.
- 4.4. This schedule may be amended if the forecast prevents racing or may prevent racing in succeeding days.
- 4.5. The Sails to be used by each team shall be allocated by random draw at the first training session.
- 4.6. The Hulls to be used by each team shall be allocated by draw at the Welcome Reception on Wednesday.
- 4.7. Teams will alternate hulls each day.

5. THE COURSE

- 5.1. The course(s) will be a port square as described in Addendum D and shall not be shortened.
- 5.2. The selected course shall be identified by the display of the corresponding Numeral Code Flag as the Warning Signal.
- 5.3. Unless a boat is on the leg that it terminates, the race committee may move a mark at any time. RRS 33 is deleted.
- 5.4. Exclusion Zones [NP]
 - (a) Several yellow buoys are laid near the racing area marking the anchors of dredgers operating on the reservoir, the pump out station, and the shallows around the Bund.
 - (b) At any time when sailing, no part of a boat's hull shall cross a straight line between any two adjacent yellow buoys, or a line perpendicular to the shore and a nearby yellow buoy. These areas are designated as *obstructions*.

6. MARKS

- 6.1. The start/finish mark will be a dan buoy. All other marks will be orange inflatable buoys.
- 6.2. While racing, neither the crew nor any part of a boat's hull shall touch a starting mark before starting, a mark that begins, bounds or ends the leg of the course on which she is sailing, or a finishing mark after finishing. In addition, while racing, a boat shall not touch a race committee vessel that is also a mark. This changes RRS31.

7. SAIL CONFIGURATION LIMITATIONS

- 7.1. At or before the Warning Signal, the sail combination to be used will be displayed on the signal vessel, the signals will have the following meanings.

Signal	Meaning
No Signal	All sails may be used
R	Boats shall race with a single reef in the mainsail
K	Spinnakers shall not be used

- 7.2. After the starting signal the race committee may display Flag K with repetitive sounds at a mark to signal that the use of spinnakers is prohibited.
- 7.3. If Flag K has been displayed, the race committee may display Flag J with repetitive sounds at a mark to indicate that the use of spinnakers is permitted.

8. THE START

- 8.1. The number of the next race to start will be displayed on the starting vessel from before the warning signal.
- 8.2. The Race Committee shall inform the sailors of an upcoming start sequence by radio transmission no less than thirty seconds before that sequence unless as a result of a short postponement. The Race Committee may also make a series of short sound signals prior to a warning signal.
- 8.3. Races shall be started by using the following signals, times shall be taken from the start of each sound signal, the failure of a visual signal shall be disregarded. This changes RRS 26.

Minutes before Starting Signal	Visual Signal	Sound Signal	Meaning
3	Numeral Flag Displayed	One	Warning
2	Flag P Displayed	One	Preparatory
1	Flag P Removed	One Long	One-Minute
0	Numeral Flag Removed	One	Starting Signal

- 8.4. The starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the RC signal boat and the course side of the nearby starting mark.
- 8.5. Attention may be drawn to an imminent warning signal by a series of short sound signals and/or transmission on UHF Radio.
- 8.6. When a boat is subject to RRS 29.1, Flag X need not be displayed for longer than one minute after the starting signal. The RC shall attempt to hail the number(s) of boats identified, failure to make or hear a hail will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 29.1. and 64.1(b).

9. TIME LIMITS

- 9.1.

Mark 1 Time Limit	Race Time Limit	Race Target Time
15 minutes	75 minutes	40 minutes

- 9.2. If no boat has passed the first mark within the Mark 1 Time Limit, the race will be abandoned.
- 9.3. Failure to meet the Target Time will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 64.1(b).

10. THE FINISH

- 10.1. The finishing line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the committee vessel and the course side of the nearby finishing mark.

11. ABANDONMENT

- 11.1. To abandon an individual race in progress, Flag N may not be flown but the RC may request the umpires in the race to communicate the decision to abandon verbally. This changes RRS 32.3 and Race Signals.

12. PROTEST AND REDRESS REQUESTS

- 12.1. Protests and requests for redress that have not been decided afloat shall be notified to the race office within 10 minutes after the relevant incident or, if the incident is afloat, within 10 minutes after coming ashore.

- 12.2. The protest committee will be appointed by the Jury Chair. This changes RRS 91(a).
- 12.3. RRS 63.7 (b) & (c) are deleted.
- 12.4. Any boat that commits a breach of sportsmanship, including dissent as described in Team Race Call M8, may have their actions reported to the protest committee. If the protest committee decides that RRS 2 was broken, they may penalise the relevant team. In addition, the protest committee may initiate proceedings under RRS 69.

13. BREAKDOWNS

- 13.1. RRS D5.2: Replace “red flag” with “Flag L”.
- 13.2. Competitors are responsible for inspecting their assigned boat before each race for possible breakdowns and missing equipment. Discrepancies must be reported to the race committee or bosun immediately.
- 13.3. Before the warning signal of its next race or within two minutes of changing into a new boat, whichever is the later, a boat may display Flag L to signal breakdown or damage to the boat, sails, or injury to the crew and request a delay to its next start. The boat shall proceed as soon as possible to a position off the starboard bow of the signal vessel and remain there unless otherwise directed.

END

Addendum B – Penalties for damage resulting from contact between boats racing
Addendum C – Rules for Handling Boats
Addendum D – Course Diagrams

ADDENDUM B - PENALTIES FOR DAMAGE RESULTING FROM CONTACT BETWEEN BOATS RACING.

The umpires may impose a penalty for breaking RRS 14 without a protest hearing, unless a boat involved in the incident requests a hearing, in which case the umpires shall report the incident to the protest committee. If it has good reasons to do so, the protest committee may impose a greater penalty than what the umpires determined was appropriate. This Addendum explains how damage will be assessed and prescribes the appropriate penalty level. There are several things we are trying to achieve with damage penalties:

Minimize damage to keep costs down and avoid delays while boats are repaired.

Ensure that penalties fit the breach and are consistent.

Damage will be divided into 3 levels as shown in the following table:

Level	Effect	Race Penalties Round Robin
Level A Minor Damage	Boat may race without repair although minor work may be required after the event. Repairs should not normally require more than 1 hour of work. <i>For example: No taping is required.</i>	No Penalty
Level B Damage	The damage does not affect the normal operation of the boat in that race but may need some (temporary) work before racing again. Requires more than 1 hour of work but should not normally require more than 3 hours of work. <i>For example: taping is required before the boat can continue to sail.</i>	½ race win
Level C Major Damage	The boat cannot continue to race that day or requires more than 3 hours of work.	1 race win

Penalties

Race-win penalties may be imposed by umpires after a race to boats that break RRS 14. Any penalties are deducted from one boat's or both boats' team's total race wins for the round-robin or knock-out stage in which the damage occurred. If both boats are given the same penalty in a race during a knock-out stage, the penalties are offsetting and will be disregarded for scoring purposes.

Damage Costs

Any charges for damage are a matter for the Organizing Authority and are not related to and do not affect any race win penalties imposed by the Umpires or Protest Committee.

ADDENDUM C – RULES FOR HANDLING BOATS [NP]

1. GENERAL

- 1.1. While all reasonable steps are taken to equalize, variations in the boats will not be grounds for redress. This changes Rule 61.4(b)
- 1.2. Before starting and after finishing or retiring, boats shall sail to minimise any delay to the race schedule and without interfering with any race in progress.

2. PROHIBITED ITEMS AND ACTIONS - Except in an emergency or in order to prevent damage or injury, or when directed by an umpire otherwise, the following are prohibited:

- (a) The use of electronic instruments other than watches;
- (b) Moving the mast blocks;
- (c) The use of the shrouds (including any inner shrouds) or the boom, to facilitate tacking or gybing by aiding the projection of a crew member outboard;
- (d) Using the spinnaker pole to wing out the jib;
- (e) Sitting with leg(s) outboard of the boat;
- (f) The use of halyards, non-working sheets and spinnaker twinning lines for hiking;
- (g) Omitting any headsail car or turning block;
- (h) Sailing in an area designated as an exclusion zone (SI 5.3);
- (i) Having the head of the spinnaker above the main boom gooseneck when tacking;
- (j) Using tape to mark halyards;
- (k) Changing the number of purchases in either the main or jib sheet;
- (l) Using the spinnaker twinning lines to facilitate hiking;
- (m) The addition of any tape or other material to the spinnaker or jib halyard other than where it attaches to the sail;
- (n) Hoisting or lowering the spinnaker from anywhere other than a cockpit locker;
- (o) The use of the spinnaker pole stowage loop on the boom for controlling the position of the boom;
- (p) The use of any equipment for a purpose other than that intended or specifically permitted.

2.2. Actions subject to protest by the RC or the PC

- (a) Any additions, omissions or alterations to the equipment supplied. In particular, the cutting or shortening of any sheets, control lines or other running rigging;
- (b) The replacement of any equipment without the sanction of the RC;
- (c) Sailing the boat in a manner that it is reasonable to predict would cause significant damage;
- (d) Taking a boat without permission from its berth or mooring without having paid the required Damage Deposit or having permission from the RC, or while AP is displayed ashore;
- (e) Marking directly on the hull or deck with permanent ink;
- (f) Perforating sails, even to attach tell tales;
- (g) The use of any equipment for a purpose other than that intended or specifically permitted;
- (h) Adjusting or altering the tension of standing rigging, excluding the backstay when fitted;
- (i) Moving equipment from its normal stowage position except when being used;
- (j) Hauling-out or cleaning surfaces below the waterline.

3. PERMITTED ITEMS AND ACTIONS - The following are permitted:

3.1. Taking on board the following equipment:

- (a) basic hand tools; electrical tape; line (elastic or otherwise of 4 mm diameter or less); tell-tale material; watches and timers; shackles and clevis pins; velcro tape.

3.2. Using the items in 3.1 to:

- (a) prevent fouling of lines, sails and sheets; attach tell tales; prevent sails being damaged or falling overboard; mark control settings; make minor repairs and permitted adjustments.

3.3. Using lazy sheets and active control lines for the purpose of hiking normally. This changes RRS 49.1.

4. MANDATORY ITEMS AND ACTIONS - The following are mandatory:

4.1. At the end of each sailing day:

- (a) rolling, bagging and placement of the sails as directed.
- (b) leaving the boat in the same state of cleanliness as when first boarded that day, including removing all trash.
- (c) complying with the directions posted on the boats or given by the OA.

4.2. Any request to alter, in any way, the equipment on a boat shall be in writing and worded to permit a yes/no answer.

