



# Briefing – The Western Qualifiers 2026

- **Thanks to Indie and her team for organising this event.**

- **First Aid:**

The designated First Aid Officer is the PRO, **Martin Smethers**. Any medical incident must be reported to him **as soon as possible**.

- **Car Parking:**

Please follow the instructions of the parking marshals.

- **Changing Rooms:**

All competitors' property is to be stored in cars during the day (especially on Sunday). Please keep the changing rooms clean and tidy.

- **Balcony:**

**The balcony is not to be used as a viewing platform. It is only for entering or leaving the club room. Do not congregate on it and move off as quickly as possible.**

- **Grass:**

No sliding on the grass.

- **Social Event:**

Saturday informal social is covered by **rule 69**.

- **Authority of Rules:**

This briefing is for information only. The **SI's and rules take precedence**.

- **Event Format:**

- HLS.
- Schedule and results are online.

- **Course:**

Usual starboard-handed S-shaped course.

- **Race Number Board:**

Check the board—**this is what matters** for knowing which race is next.

- **Sailing Conduct:**

Sail to the start and away from the finish while **avoiding the course area**.

- **Fishing:**

See SIs for prohibited areas relating to fishing hatches, fishermen on the shore and fishing bvoats.

# Flags & Signals

- **AP Flag:**
  - Two hoots when raised.
  - No hoots when lowered.
  - Indicates a delay.
- **Rapid Hoots:**
  - Rapid sound signals indicate that something is about to happen.
- **Starting Sequence:**
  - Battens/tubes and sound signals.
  - The AP flag may be raised with two hoots at any point in the sequence to introduce a delay.
  - Rapid hoots will signal an imminent action.
- **“X” Flag – Individual Recall:**
  - One hoot.
  - The start boat *may* shout the **number of boats over**.
  - They *may* also call sail numbers or give other identifying hints, but this is **not guaranteed**.
  - The X flag flies for **one minute only**, even if recalled boats have not yet returned.
  - You **must still return** if you were over the line.
- **General Recall:**
  - Very rare. Usually indicated by the X flag plus a call that **six (or however many) boats** were over.

## Team Racing Reminders

- The object of team racing is to get **your team into a winning position**.
- If you have a dispute on the water, it is often better to **take a penalty and sail on** - your team may still win.

## Start Procedures & Responsibilities

- Get to the start **on time** - it is your responsibility to monitor the schedule.
- There will be a start approximately **every 3 minutes**, so you should be able to work out when you are required.
- If a team is not present, **the start will go ahead** anyway, though we will ensure all boats have completed their previous race.
- Breakages on your own university boat are **not a valid reason** for missing a start or for a claim for redress.
- **Sunday Timing:**
  - Start times will be kept strictly. We will **not wait for late teams**.
  - If Bristol can prepare the boats on time, competitors should also arrive on time.

**If you have any questions, please post them in the WhatsApp Group, where they will hopefully be answered before the event.**