



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 boats.

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.