

Sailing Instructions

British Keelboat League 2026

www.britishkeelboatleague.co.uk



BKL Schools Championship

The Royal Thames Yacht Club at Queen Mary Sailing Club

7th to 8th March 2026

1. Rules

- 1.1. These Sailing Instructions change RRS 26, 29.1, 33, 35, 61.4(b)(1), A4, A5, G3 and Race Signals.
- 1.2. NoR Appendix UF change RRS 7, 14, 17, 20, 28.2, 31, 44.1, 44.2, 60.2(a)(1), 60.5(c), 61.4(b), 63.7(b), 70.
- 1.3. The event will be sailed in provided seven metre keelboats with symmetrical spinnakers and no lifelines. There are no class rules.
- 1.4. Attachments A, C & L to these sailing instructions apply at all times while afloat.

2. Eligibility

- 2.1. To become eligible, a team shall register as required by the notice of race and pre-event information.
- 2.2. After registration only registered team members may race. No change to the list of registered team members may be made without the prior permission of the Race Committee.

3. Safety

- 3.1. While racing, and except in an emergency, a boat shall neither make nor receive communications by radio or mobile phone except for those made on the provided UHF Radios.
- 3.2. Support Boats shall be clearly marked to identify the Team they are supporting. They shall maintain a listening watch on the Race Committee VHF Channel; they may not transmit on this channel except in an emergency. Unless requested by the Race Committee; support boats shall remain a minimum distance of 50 meters from any racing boat, mark, start line or finish line and shall not make waves in the racing area or otherwise affect racing.

4. Event Format and Scoring

- 4.1. The event will be a series of short fleet races with all boats competing in each race.
- 4.2. A High Point Scoring System will apply. No scores shall be excluded.
- 4.3. Points will be awarded with first place being equal to the number of boats available at the start of the event, second place will be one point less and so on.
- 4.4. The Score for DNC, DNS, OCS, NSC, RET or DSQ will be zero points. This changes RRS A5.
- 4.5. Before starting and after finishing or retiring, boats shall sail to minimise any delay to the race schedule and without interfering with any boat still racing.
- 4.6. The initial schedule of races will be displayed online using the Online Official Noticeboard. Any changes thereto and schedules for subsequent races will be displayed not less than 10 minutes before the start of those races.
- 4.7. The schedule of races may be modified during the event in as fair and practical way as possible determined by the Race Committee taking into account the entries, weather conditions, time constraints and any other relevant factors. Any change shall not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 61.4(b).
- 4.8. When crews have not sailed the same number of races, places will be calculated by the average points scored (to 2 decimal places) in all races they have sailed.

5. Equalisation and Allocation

- 5.1. The Race Committee will allocate the boats to be used in each race. A boat shall remain the responsibility of the crew until handed over to the Race Committee or the next crew to use that boat.
- 5.2. The Organising Authority will take all reasonable steps to equalise the boats.
- 5.3. Neither the allocation of boats, nor any variation between the boats and their equipment, shall be grounds for redress. This amends RRS 61.4(b)
- 5.4. The last crew on board a boat at the end of each sailing day shall return the boat to the dock and moor it to the satisfaction of the Organising Authority and are responsible for:
 - (a) folding, bagging and placement of the sails as directed.
 - (b) removing all trash, tape and marks.
 - (c) leaving the boat in a satisfactory state of cleanliness.

(d) releasing backstay tension.

(e) complying with any instruction from any person appointed by the Organising Authority.

5.5. A breach of SI 5.4 may be considered as damage and the cost of rectification charged against the Team.

6. Sail Combinations

6.1. A breach of a rule within SI 6 may result in disqualification by the race umpires in accordance with Attachment UF 3.5(c).

6.2. The sail combination to be used will be displayed on the signal vessel, with or before the warning signal. The signals will have the following meanings.

Signal	Meaning
No Signal	All sails may be used
NN 2	Boats shall sail with a single reef in the main sail
NN 3	Spinnakers shall not be used.

6.3. After the starting signal and at Mark 1, the Race Committee may signal a change to the use of spinnakers by displaying one of the following signals, accompanied by repetitive sounds.

Signal	Meaning
NN 9	Spinnakers may be used in the remainder of the race
NN 3	Spinnakers shall not be used in the remainder of the race

7. Courses and Marks

7.1. The Course and Marks are described in SI Attachment C.

7.2. The Race Committee may change the course at Mark 2. The signal shall be the display of Flag C with repetitive sounds and a coloured shape (described in C3.1) indicating the colour of the next Mark 1. This changes RRS 33.

8. The Start

8.1. The starting line will be between a staff on the signal vessel and the course side of the starting mark; an orange flag will not be displayed, this changes RRS Race Signals, Orange Flag.

8.2. The number of the next race to start may be displayed on the signal vessel no later than the warning signal.

8.3. Attention may be drawn to an imminent warning signal by a series of short sound signals.

8.4. Races will 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 amends RRS 26.

Minutes before Starting Signal	Visual Signal	Sound Signal	Means
3	British Keelboat League Class Flag	One	Warning Signal
2	P Flag Displayed (see SI 8.5)	One	Preparatory Signal
1	P Flag Removed	One	One Minute
0	Class Flag Removed	One	Starting Signal

8.5. The Course Signal will be a shape of a single colour indicating which colour of Mark 1 is to be used. The colours and shapes which may be used are listed in SI C3.1. This will be displayed between the preparatory and 1 minute signals.

8.6. The second sentence of RRS 29.1 is changed to: The flag (X) shall be displayed until the hull of each such boat has been completely on the pre-start side of the starting line or one of its extensions but no later than one minute after the starting signal.

The Race Committee may hail the total number of premature starters or boat numbers. The nature of this hail and the order in which the boat numbers are hailed shall not be grounds for redress, this changes RRS 61.4(b).

8.7. A boat that fails to start having been subject to RRS 29.1 and either enters the zone at, or rounds the first mark may be disqualified by the race umpires in accordance with Attachment UF 3.5(c).

8.8. A boat that fails to start within 3 minutes of her starting signal will be scored DNS without a hearing, this changes RRS A5.

9. The Finish

9.1. The finishing line will be between a staff on the signal vessel and the course side of the finishing mark; a blue flag will not be displayed, this changes RRS Race Signals, Blue Flag

9.2. The time limit for each race is 25 minutes.

9.3. Boats that start and are still racing two minutes after the second boat has sailed the course will be scored for the place the umpires judge them to be in at that time without a hearing. This changes RRS 35, A4 and A5. This score shall not be grounds for redress, this changes RRS 61.4(b).

10. Breakdowns

- 10.1. Crews are responsible for inspecting their boats before racing.
- 10.2. Before the warning signal of a 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 the next start. The boat shall proceed as soon as possible to a position just to leeward of the signal vessel and remain there unless otherwise directed.
- 10.3. The time allowed for repairs or treatment of an injury will be at the discretion of the Race Committee and is not grounds for a request for redress by a competitor, this changes RRS 61.4(b).
- 10.4. After the warning signal of a race, it will not be postponed or abandoned due to breakdown unless the breakdown signal was displayed as required by SI 10.2.
- 10.5. When to continue racing after damage or breakdown risks further damage, the boat shall retire immediately.

11. Changes to Sailing Instructions

- 11.1. Any change to the Sailing Instructions will be posted one hour before the start of the first race in which it will first take effect, except for changes to the schedule as allowed in SI 4.7.
- 11.2. Any changes made afloat will be communicated orally.

12. Risk Statement and Damage

Competitors are reminded of their acceptance of the Risk Statement and Damage process as included in the Event Notice of Race.

Attachment A – Event Specific Rules

Event Programme

Date	Event (& Notes)	Time(s)
06/03/26	Training – Pre-Booked Sessions	14-1600
	Registration	13-1700
07/03/26	Registration	0830-0855
	Competitor Briefing (Queen Mary Sailing Club)	0900
	Dock Out for First Race	0910
	First Warning Signal will not be before	0927
08/03/26	Dock Out for First Race	0900
	First Warning Signal will not be before	0927
	Last Warning signal at approximately	1600
	Prize Giving	1630

A1 Event Specific Rules and Byelaws

A1.1 The following local Rules will also apply:

- (a) All competitors are considered 'Users' of Queen Mary Sailing Club (QMSC) and therefore are subject to their byelaws. The QMSC byelaws can be located at <https://www.queenmary.org.uk/club/club-documents/>.

A1.2. Course Limits

- (a) [NP] Several concrete buoys are laid near the racing area marking the anchors of dredgers operating on the reservoir. In addition, part of the bund dividing the east and west sections of the reservoir has been removed, down to below the current water level. The line of the former bund between the dredger and the remaining part of the bund is marked by pillar buoys on both the east and west sides. No part of a boat's hull shall cross the imaginary straight line between any two adjacent buoys marking the perimeter of either the dredger or the bund. These areas are designated as exclusion zones.
- (b) The imaginary lines that are created between these buoys are designated as obstructions.

A2 Notices to Competitors

A2.1 Notices to Competitors will be posted on the Online Official Notice Board at <https://events.ksail.co.uk/RTYC/2026/BKLSchools/>

A3 Signals Made Ashore

A3.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed on the mast of the Committee Vessel

A3.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore the warning signal will be made not less than 15 minutes after removal. This changes race signal AP.

A4 Racing Area

The Western Side of Queen Mary Reservoir

Attachment C – Course

C1. The course diagram and table show the course, the order in which marks are to be passed, and the side on which each mark is to be left.

Signal	Mark Rounding Order
Numeral pennant 1	Start – 1 –Finish
Numeral pennant 2	Start – 1 – 2 – 1 - Finish

C2 Marks 1 and 2 are rounding marks

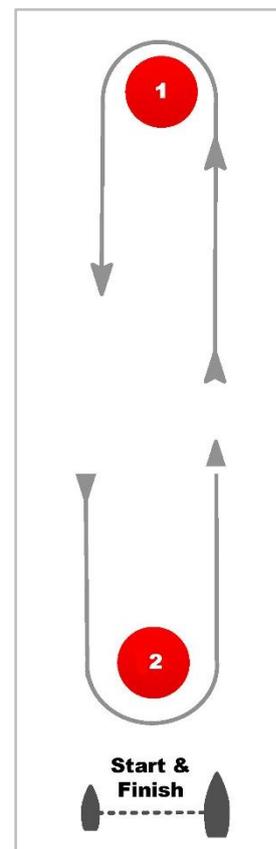
C3 The colours and matched shape available for mark 1 and shapes to be displayed are as follows

Mark 1 Colour	Shape
Orange	Ball (Orange)
Black	Cylinder (Black)
Blue	Cone (Blue)

C4 Mark 2 will be Grey.

C5 The Starting and Finishing mark will be White.

C6 Where practical, the Race Committee may remove any unused marks; failure to do so will not be grounds for redress; the changes RRS 62.4(b).



Attachment L - Boat Rules and Permitted Actions –

<https://ksailevents-user-files.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/2026/03/02/Attachment L - Boat Rules and Permitted actions.pdf>

A breach of these rules may result in a penalty initiated by an umpire in accordance with Series Attachment UF.