



WARSASH SAILING CLUB

THURSDAY PURSUIT SERIES – SAILING INSTRUCTIONS – 2026



Rules

The RYA Racing Rules of Sailing 2025-2028 including prescriptions shall apply unless amended by these instructions.

A boat will be deemed to be taking part in the event from the time the course flag is flown until she has finished, noted her position in the fleet if still racing at the time limit, or retired.

Notice to Competitors

The Pursuit Series will take place on Thursday evenings on the dates shown below. The scheduled time of the first Start is 18:45 with the warning signal for the sequence at 18:40 (BST).

Cruiser Racing is open to WSC members and, by agreement, visitors from other clubs.

Eligibility

Racing will be for monohull yachts which will race in two fleets – Sporty (Class 1 flag to be flown) and Cruiser (Class 2 flag to be flown). Multihulls & Vessels outside the normal handicap range, not previously accepted to race, may apply to the Cruiser Racing Coordinator (email: cruiserracing@warsashsc.org.uk) for dispensation to race, which may be declined if it is considered that the boat is not suitable for the event. Vessels with sound reasons to do so may apply to race outside their normal fleet. If a boat changes fleet during a series, only its points for races with one fleet shall count towards its individual position.

Entry: Club members are required, for each boat they enter, to complete the appropriate online entry/registration form via the “**Book Online**” Tab on the **Members Portal**, prior to competing. Access to the necessary form is via the Club’s Website (www.warsashsc.org.uk) and the links: - Yachts – Thursday Pursuit Racing. Visitors or Members unable to use this pathway may apply for a form by emailing cruiserracing@warsashsc.org.uk

All entrants should make a charitable donation of at least £25 to enter the series.

This should be done via the Donation Link on the Club Website – Yachts - Thursday Pursuit Racing

Schedule of Races

30th April Race 1
7th May Race 2
14th May Race 3
21st May Race 4
28th May Race 5
4th June Race 6
11th June Race 7
18th June Race 8
25th June Race 9 & Ladies Race
2nd July Race 10

Races 1 to 10 will form the Series. There will be two Classes within the Series: Cruiser Class and Sportier Class. Please note that Race 9 will be part of the series and will include a prize for the winning boat with a lady helm.

Additional “Bottle” Races will take place on the 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th of July. These races may use courses outside the normal list. These will be distributed with start times before the race.



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Courses

Courses should be downloaded from the Club's Website (www.warsashsc.org.uk) and the links: - Yachts – Thursday Pursuit Racing. Additional courses may be added during The Series. All registered entrants will be sent a copy of any new or changed courses by email and the courses added to the website. The Evening's Course will be indicated by a flag flown on the Committee Boat. If it is not possible to set a suitable course from those available, a course will be broadcast on VHS Channel M1(37a) and Flag J will be flown.

Start numbers and start time

Each boat will be given her own starting time and this information is provided separately to competitors and will be sent to the email address held on the Club website in Sailing Club Manager, or to the registered email of any visiting competitors.

Start times will be amended during the series and all boats will be informed by email.

Each week the previous week's winner in each class shall start one minute later from the following week. Other changes may be made if Handicaps do not truly reflect performance.

Start Line

The start line will be between the Committee Boat and Bald Head Buoy [73]

Starting procedure

All starts will be Committee Boat starts and the procedure will be:

At least five minutes before the first boat is due to start the Committee Boat will fly the relevant flag for the course to be sailed and this will remain hoisted until the last boat has started.

At 18:40 a sound signal will be made, and the time (minutes only - 40) will be displayed on a board on the Committee Boat.

Thereafter the time will be changed at one-minute intervals accompanied by a sound signal.

BOATS WILL START WHEN OR AFTER THEIR TIME IS DISPLAYED.

Boats not about to start shall avoid the starting area during the starting times for other boats.

Recalls

It is not always possible to recall premature starters. If a boat starts before her start time and fails to return, she will be penalised, losing five places if she starts less than one minute before her start time or disqualified if she starts more than one minute before her start time.

Shortening the Course

The course may be shortened by the Committee Boat at the Race Officer's discretion. If the course is shortened the Race Officer will make an announcement on VHF Channel M1(37a) and the Committee Boat, flying flag S, will take up station at one of the marks of the course, the finish line will be between the Committee Boat and this mark. In the event that the course is shortened at the entrance to the river, for courses A, B, D, F and G the finish line will be between the Committee Boat and Pile 1, for course E the finish will be between the Committee Boat and Pile 2.

Finish Line

The Finish line will be between the Committee Boat and Pile 10 unless shortened.

The Race Officer will set the course with the aim of finishing as many boats as possible at Pile 10, or at any mark of the course if shortened.



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If the leading boat does not reach the finishing line by 20:15 the Committee Boat will make a sound signal and announce the race has ended on VHF Channel M1(37a).

The Race Officer will attempt to place the Committee Boat in a position where it is possible to take the position of the leading boats in the fleet at that time, However the procedure below should be followed by all competitors.

Boats that are still racing and have not crossed the finish line before 20:15 must record the Names and Sail Numbers of boats immediately in front and behind when the signal/announcement is made, or if not heard, at 20:15. This information must be Sent by text to 07971795221, by email to ntedwards0@gmail.com or be recorded on the declaration sheet on the notice board by the upstairs bar in the Clubhouse before 22:00 on the day of the race. Boats not completing the declaration by 22:00 will be deemed to have retired from the race.

Postponements

In the event of a postponement, the Committee Boat will announce the postponement, and revised start time, on VHF Channel M1(37a).

The start procedure will begin at the revised start time, with the displayed start time as 40.

Although the time of the start will change the numbers will remain the same. The finishing time will be one and a half hours after the 45 is displayed.

Scoring

Points will be awarded according to the RYA low points system (RRS App A.4) except that the points for a 'retirement', 'did not start' or 'did not finish' shall be the number of starters +1 and a boat stating in the minute before her allocated time shall be finishing position +5, but no worse than the number of starters.

All boats that 'do not compete' in a race will be scored number of entrants + 1

Number of Races to count in the series:

1 – 5	All races to count
6	1 discard
7	2 discards
8	3 discards
9 or 10	4 discards

Trophies

The Vic Croft Trophy will be awarded to the winner of the Cruising Class with the Sportier Plate awarded to winner of the Sportier Class. Other prizes will be at the discretion of the race committee.

VHF Procedure

The Committee Boat will broadcast a time check before 18:40 if radio traffic allows.

The Committee Boat will, if possible, announce the race has ended by calling "Warsash Pursuit Competitors" on VHF Channel M1(37a).

In the event of postponement, the Committee Boat will announce on VHF Channel M1(37a) what time the first boat will start.

Anchors

Anchors must not be carried on the stemhead fitting whilst taking part in the event; boats seen carrying anchors on stemhead fittings will be disqualified.



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Race Officers

To run races when a volunteer cannot be found, competitors may be asked to run the race from their own boat or Lobster on an agreed date. If Lobster is to be used and nobody within the crew possesses a current PB2 certificate, the event coordinator will attempt to recruit a Lobster helmsperson. It is hoped that Competitors will volunteer, and a request to that effect will be made to all competitors by email. It is possible to volunteer via the Duty System in Sailing Club Manager accessible via the Portal on the club's Website and the volunteering – Duty roster areas.

One point will be awarded to the boat whose crew undertakes a race duty. Only in exceptional circumstance will more than one such point be awarded to any boat.

RISK STATEMENT

All boats retiring during the race will notify the Committee Boat. VHF Channel M1(Ch 37a)

Rule 3 of the Racing Rules of Sailing states: “The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone”

Sailing is by its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event, each competitor agrees and acknowledges that:

- (a) They are aware of the inherent element of risk involved in the sport and accept responsibility for the exposure of themselves, their crew and their boat to such inherent risk whilst taking part in the event;
- (b) They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore;
- (c) They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions;
- (d) Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate;
- (e) The provision of a race management team, patrol boats (if any) and other officials and volunteers by the event organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities;
- (f) The provision of patrol boat cover (if any) is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can practically be provided in the circumstances;
- (g) It is their responsibility to familiarise themselves with any risks specific to this venue and be aware of any requirements from ABP and the Harbour Master. Particularly in the Precautionary Area and the North Channel
- (h) Their boat is adequately insured, with cover of at least £3,000,000 against third party claims;