Race Office (RO) Guidance Notes

March 2026

Contents

ONE WEEK BEFORE RACE DAY 3
ONE DAY BEFORE RACE DAY 3
RACE DAY – BEFORE LAUNCHING 4
ON THE WATER – PRIOR TO THE RACE START 7
THE RACE – START TO FINISH 10
AFTER RACING IS COMPLETED 15
THE "BEEHIVE RACE" AND OTHER "AROUND THE HARBOUR" RACES 16
PURSUIT RACES 18
Appendices 21
Flag Sequences 21
Emergency call script/procedure 22
RYA Results Codes 23
Dinghy Pursuit Race Times 24

Further reading -

ROs should be familiar with the following documents, available on our website:

- Dinghy Sailing Instructions (Home/Racing/Dinghy Race Instructions)
  LSC Website > Racing > Dinghy Race Instructions
- Support Boat Safe Loading (Home/Racing)
  LSC Website > Racing > Support Boat Safe Loading
- Poole Harbour Commissioners Notice 05 of 2026:
  Guidance for Small Craft in or near Shipping Channels
- Poole Harbour Commissioners Yacht racing guideline:
  Safety Boat Emergency Protocol (v5 2025)
- This document! (Race Officer Guidance Notes):
  LSC Website > Racing > Dinghy Race Instructions > RO Notes

ONE WEEK BEFORE RACE DAY

Check Dutyman to see who is in your team	Contact them (by whatsapp, email or phone) to confirm they are all okay for the duty and if they have any questions.

ONE DAY BEFORE RACE DAY

Check the weather forecast for race day	It will actually tell you very little, but will provide a heads-up on possible wind direction (course numbers) and possible wind strength (likely go or no-go). Sources of weather: - XC Weather - Met Office - Windy - Windguru LSC Camera (go to Member's Area of website and set this up well beforehand)
Check tide conditions	Have a good understanding of directions/strengths of tide during the races and the latest time that all boats must be back at the LSC landing. You can access 7 days of free tide data on https://www.bbc.co.uk/weather/coast-and-sea/tide-tables/8/36a (for Poole Harbour) Be aware of significant high pressure that may reduce the tide available. Rule of thumb: a 1cm decrease in tide for every millibar above the standard 1013 millibar
Don't cancel the race before race day	… unless extreme weather conditions are forecast. Leave final decision until the day of the race and make your decision whilst you are at LSC (conditions can differ from the forecasts). Assess online live wind conditions at Parkstone YC Race Box https://weatherfile.com/location?loc_id=GBR00015

Ideally, we don't wish to cancel early, only to find conditions were within our agreed limits (refer to LSC limits below)	The priority here is the running of the race (or not). We don't want races cancelled early, in order to appease those on duty, at the expense of a race or races. Feel free to communicate to the "LSC Dinghy Sailing" group via whatsapp. This may include a reminder that there are races e.g. "tomorrow, starting at 10am", or that "a decision as to racing will be taken in the morning an hour or so before the race start, due to possible strong winds".
Possible courses	It's useful to think about possible courses that you may use e.g. if it's likely that the wind will be from the south-west, make a note of all the south-west courses that are available and familiarize yourself with them

RACE DAY – BEFORE LAUNCHING

Get a good weather forecast	
Arrive early	Arrive a good deal earlier than the usual one-hour before the start of the first race
Check over the RO box (in the Committee Room)	Is everything there? Both stopwatches working? Blank race sheets available?
Stopwatches – familiarize yourself with how they work or use your own, or both	Check "start", "stop" and "clear" Does it count down/up or just up?
Get race sheets ready for your ARO	For the ARO to record the names and boat details. Don't forget to include the duty team names, so they can claim average points.
Check radios are charged	And ensure radio covers are used for all club radios
Look over the Support Boats	This helps you deal with any issues in good time. e.g. are pillar buoys and large buoy inflated?
Cup of tea time	Perhaps bring a flask

Identify and welcome your team as they arrive	Some will arrive at the last minute with inappropriate clothing. If you have a spare flotation jacket, bring it along. Everyone on the race team (incl. RO & ARO) must wear a flotation device.
WIND LIMITS (GUSTS)	**"Around the cans"** **- gusts up to and including 21 knots** **Long-distance (Beehive, Arne, Bristol):** **– gusts up to and including 18 knots**
The RO is the club officer responsible for safety on race day	**The RO must decide whether they are happy to run the race(s). Consideration should be given to:** **(i) conditions affecting both the dinghy sailors and the whole race team; and** **(ii) (ii) the relevant experience of the race team (drivers, crew RO and ARO)** **e.g. a small team of experienced dinghy sailors may all be very keen to race. However weather conditions over 2-3 hours of racing may be unsuitable for those on the SBs and on Little Holly.**
If winds strong or very light or no wind – decide whether the race/s will be held	**Cancel the race if you think our safe limits are likely to be exceeded.** **If you are a new RO, then ask for help from someone more experienced (or more than one person).** **If sailing conditions are forecast to improve somewhat, feel free to postpone the launching of SBs and boats. If tide and light permit, it is better to have one race than none at all.**
TEAM BRIEFING **It's useful to have a team briefing on the slipway, prior to leaving**	**The team briefing can cover:** **(i) checking the VHFs are working, on the correct channel, set to low power and locked. Perform a radio check.** **(ii) ensuring there is a driver in each boat that is approved and PB2 qualified. Drivers and crew will usually have been told who is paired in each SB (either on DutyMan or by the Duty Coordinator). Otherwise agree driver/crew pairs with the drivers.** **(iii) discuss the weather conditions and tide and the likely courses, so that everyone has a rough idea of what they're doing.**

VHF RADIOS One for the RO on Little Holly and one each for the SBs	Channel P4 for Lilliput SC races (M2 on some other handsets) Channel 37 / 37a for EDSC races (M, or 37A on some other handsets) Set to Low power for unless running long harbour races (Beehive etc.), where High power could be used.
Due to boat capacity, family members and hangers-on cannot be taken afloat	…but they could be put to good use as beach masters
CONTACT "Poole VTS" PRIOR TO RACING **This is best done at the club, as it is easily forgotten when on the water. Use either:** - **the Race Officer mobile phone (07928 789226) in the Race Box – leave the phone switched on until you arrive back at LSC; or** - **your own mobile. You must therefore take it with you onto Little Holly and leave it switched on until you arrive back at LSC**	**ALL races now require us to notify Poole VTS (01202 440 230) prior to the race - they're usually very friendly. You can call them before you leave LSC.** **Notify them of the phone number you are using, the likely race times on the water, approx. number of dinghies and race area e.g. between North Channel and Blue Lagoon or "around Brownsea, Furzey and Green Islands".** **Check for any planned traffic movements and take account of these when boats may need to cross the main channel (for example Beehive, Bristol or Arne trophies).**
Ensure that the Support Boats are aware of any relevant traffic movements or updates	
The RO may choose to abandon any race where the number of boats in the start area is less than 3	
If there are 3-4 dinghies racing in good conditions, you may decide that the conditions are safe to use only one SB, but usually there must be 2 SBs	

ON THE WATER – PRIOR TO THE RACE START

Check SB is towing the large buoy rather than carrying it on-board (and trying to peer around it)	
Max. 3 people on each SB	**Therefore RO and ARO are ferried out to Little Holly on separate SBs**
Yellow flag up (on Little Holly's mast)	Confirms wind direction and assists with your course decisions – get the ARO to do this as soon as you arrive
Switch on Little Holly's fixed VHF, using the electrical switch on the white box above the VHF unit. **It is pre-set to Channel 14. Leave it on Channel 14**	**This allows the RO to monitor Poole Harbour ferries and large ship movements from Poole VTS (without interrupting the channel used for organizing the races)**
SELECT A COURSE Depending on the wind direction and strength	Take your time. Don't feel hurried. Choose a short course if winds are light. Use the course charts in the Race Box booklet. Check your rationale with your ARO (especially if they are an experienced ARO). Ensure that marks are not laid in the North Channel, or too close to the main channel. Notify the SBs (via VHF) of the course number and the number of laps.

Windward mark (depending on the course set, this is either a buoy laid by an SB or is a fixed racing or harbour navigation mark)	Ensure the windward mark is directly upwind of Little Holly – or as close as possible to upwind Liaise closely via VHF with the SB laying the windward mark Feel free to adjust the position of the windward mark if you're not comfortable with it Ensure windward mark is not obscured by moored yachts and is not too close to the shore The windward mark is usually one of the long pillar buoys. However the large buoy can be used, if there is no gybe buoy required
Start line	Ideally, this is laid at right angles to the wind direction. If the start line is badly skewed from right angles to the wind, it means one end of the line becomes strongly favoured, so that all the boats crowd into that end, with the possibilities of collisions, recalls and cross words…. When first dropping the start line mark, wait for it to settle. It will often need adjusting. The start line can be laid to the port or starboard side of Little Holly. If possible, try to avoid the line interfering with moored yachts. The length of the start line is at the RO's discretion. However, the more dinghies there are in the race, the longer the line should be. Rule of thumb: the line should ideally be 1.5 times the total length of the boats in the race.
Leeward mark	Ensure the leeward mark (if there is one) is directly downwind of Little Holly – or as close as possible to downwind.
Courses 1 and 2 "Triangle and sausage" Used for any wind direction	Note that these two courses require the dinghies to sail through the Start/Finish line both after the "triangle" and after the "sausage". This then counts as 1 lap.

Course number and laps	Display these on the hooks on the side of Little Holly Notify the SBs via VHF on the course and number of laps No. of laps can always be shortened (and often are) so best to have more than you think will be needed, given the wind conditions and course length (3 is usually sufficient)
Get all the flags ready on deck	This includes all of the flags for starting the race, for shortening the race, for postponing the race and for notifying sailors that one of more were over the start line. Each flag "stick" has clearly marked instructions as to its use.
Black and white Start/Finish line pole	Place the pole in the bracket on the Start Line side. The Start Line is the line from the black and white pole to the outer pin (flag on a floating buoy).
Check how many boats have signed on	**Can you see them all? If not, where are they? Liaise with SBs if needed.**
Notify the SBs of the number of boats registered for the race and the number waiting for the start (they should tally)	
Direct the SBs as to where you want them to be during the race	e.g. at the gybe mark / or downwind leg in strong conditions. Alternatively, one SB to roam nearer the windward mark, the other more towards the leeward mark. If you feel if an SB is too close to the Start Line or maybe obstructing dinghies at the start, let them know by radio.

Agree start sequence duties with your ARO	Who is going to raise and lower the flags? Who is going to start the stopwatches? Who is going to use the hooter? Who is checking the start line at the start? e.g. you might wish to have: ARO to raise and lower flags ARO to use hooter for 5 minute warning RO to start stopwatches RO to monitor timings (4, 1, Start) RO to use hooter (4, 1, Start) RO to check line at start If anyone is unfamiliar with the hooter, remind them NOT to point it at someone. It is very loud!

THE RACE – START TO FINISH

The first race start sequence should begin 5 minutes prior to the published start time	e.g. if the race is published to start at 10.30, then the start sequence should begin at 10.25. However, allow some leeway in start time to ensure stragglers (particularly those new to racing) can get out of the lagoon (but be aware of limitations re tide and twilight).
POSTPONE procedure (if needed)	Raise the Red and white striped “AP” flag 2 short hoots! To end the postponement, Drop Red and white striped “AP” flag 1 short hoot! The race start sequence begins 1 minute after the AP flag is dropped.
When should the RO use the POSTPONE procedure?	POSTPONE if: (i) If there is to be a significant delay to the published start time (but only for the first race, as later races have no published time); or (ii) If you make a mistake during the start sequence. It’s easily done e.g. you ‘hoot’ at the wrong time, the stopwatch(es) weren’t activated correctly or you’re confused about where you are in the start sequence.

RULE: Once you begin the start sequence, don't answer the radio, until all dinghies are across the start line	...unless there is an emergency.
STOPWATCHES use two (one as backup)	There are different ways to use the stopwatches: (i) Start the first stopwatch at the beginning of the 5 minute start sequence. Then start the second stopwatch at the start of the race. However remember which one you are using to record the race. OR (ii) Start both Stopwatches at the beginning of the 5 minute start sequence. Tuck one of these carefully away, as the spare. Note: Some stopwatches can also be used to countdown the 5 minutes. Therefore, at the start of the race, the watch starts at 0 seconds.
START SEQUENCE	5 minutes – 1 hoot and raise red class flag 4 minutes – 1 hoot and raise Blue Peter 1 minute – 1 hoot and drop Blue Peter Start – 1 hoot and drop red class flag
At the Race Start	Check the line to ensure no boat is over the line.
INDIVIDUAL RECALL If one (or a couple) of boats are over the line	1 hoot and raise Individual Recall Flag (blue cross on white background) It's always useful (though not technically required) to yell out loudly who was over, either name(s) of people or dinghy sail numbers.
GENERAL RECALL If a number of boats were over the line and it's difficult to determine which boats were and which boats weren't	2 hoots and raise the General Recall Flag (yellow and blue) Shout out "General Recall" Rarely needed. Sometimes required in very light winds Repeat the Start Sequence
Advise SBs to always be counting the number of dinghies	**The RO and ARO should also always be aware of where the dinghies are and how many they can see**

RO and ARO must keep a close watch on all the boats throughout all of the races	**The RO plays an important role in instructing the SBs in the event of any capsizes or collisions.** **Although the SBs are usually closer to incidents and can make autonomous decisions (provided they communicate what they are doing to the RO), sometimes the RO needs to step in to request a particular action from the SB e.g. if they can see that a boat needs assistance but the SB is not acting, or if the RO can see that a boat's mast is stuck in the mud and a specific recovery action is required.** **The RO can use the binoculars provided to get a better view.**
EMERGENCY EVENT **In the event of an emergency requiring external help, the boat attending the emergency must make a Mayday call using the script on the boat console or race box. These are specific to each boat: (MarmalAid, OrangeAid and Little Holly)**	**This will result in the Coastguard taking control on that channel (everyone should switch to Channel 16), but our SBs will likely be rescuing people as required.** **An urgent medical casualty should be taken to Parkstone Marina (if by the SB or as directed by the Coastguard.**
During the race (only if you have time), think about the course for the second race (if there is a second race)	
As the dinghies complete the first lap, either tick the box on the sheet or take the times of (at least) the first and last dinghy	Recording the times will determine the likely overall times of the first and last boat. This will help you assess how many laps are needed. For a standard "around the cans" race, the **last dinghy** should finish after about 50 minutes. However this can be reduced, depending upon tides, light wind conditions (both strong and very light winds).

REDUCED LAPS FOR SLOW BOATS Often referred to as "average laps"	It is acceptable to 'scale up' the times of slower boats if they have completed a whole number of laps, but not the full course e.g. completed 2 out of the 3 laps You can do this at your discretion if: - waiting for a slow straggler will cause an unnecessary delay in getting everyone ashore, or starting a second race; AND - is not expected to significantly alter the race results.
SHORTEN COURSE PROCEDURE	Keep a close eye on the first and last dinghies. If the course needs shortening, then: - 2 hoots as the first dinghy rounds the new final (leeward) mark and - raise the "S" flag (blue square on white background).
Where can we shorten the course?	The course can be shortened on any leg where boats are travelling between the leeward mark and the windward mark (as they are required to pass through the start finish line). Therefore, boats do not need to do complete "laps" in the case of sausage plus triangle courses. However be careful to remember whether boats are on the sausage or the triangle part of the course when finishing each boat – it is easily mixed up.
FINISHING THE RACE	1 hoot as each dinghy crosses the line. Record the time in mm:ss from the stop watch.
Recording the results on the race sheet	Make sure the sheet states clearly whether the timing is from the start of the race or the start of the countdown
IF THERE IS A SECOND RACE Remove the course and lap numbers once all dinghies have finished the first race.	

Consider whether to use the same course or a different course	If the course used in the first race worked well, then perhaps use that course again. Consider perhaps moving the windward, leeward or gybe buoys (further away, closer) to provide a different challenge However, many ROs like to use a different course and many sailors like the variation. Therefore: Display these on the hooks on the side of Little Holly Notify the SBs via VHF on the course and number of laps
Be mindful of tide issues and lack of light (for evening races)	If tide or light is the limiting factor, feel free to shorten. It's important that all dinghies and SBs get back to LSC. A 20-30 minute race is fine under these circumstances.
Check whether any dinghies have returned to LSC prior to the second race.	**Dinghies should notify either the RO or an SB that they are retiring from racing. However they don't always do this.** **SB crew and/or RO should announce the boats who have returned/retired on VHF and the new count of participating boats.**
Start sequence and running of the race (as per the first race)	If there is any significant delay in starting the second race, it is helpful to use the 'postponement' sequence during the delay, so that racers are made aware before the start sequence is about to commence.

AFTER RACING IS COMPLETED

Instruct the SBs to pick up any buoys (windward, leeward, gybe and start/finish line flag)	Many of the SB drivers will automatically do this once the last dinghy has sailed past a mark for the last time
Remove the course and lap numbers from the hooks and place in the box – these are stored on Little Holly	
Lower the yellow flag and place in the race box	
Switch off the fixed VHF on Little Holly using the electrical switch (white box above the VHF unit)	Easy to forget this one!
Ensure all the race box material is back in the race box (hooters, stopwatches, race forms, pens etc)	
All race flags and the B&W start/finish pole to be placed on the shelf in Little Holly	
Once back at LSC, call Poole VTS (01202 440 230) to confirm racing is finished and all dinghies are accounted for	The PHC "Guidance for Race Officers" (2025) reads "Advise VTS when racing has completed for the day, and all participants safely accounted-for".
Thank your team	ARO, drivers and crew
Return Race Box to Committee Room	Ensure the drivers/crew have returned the SB cannisters to the Committee Room. Report any issues with Race Box to Pete Harlow.
Ask if both SBs worked OK or identify any defects	Strictly the role of the SB driver, but RO should be aware of this.
Take a photo of each results sheet and post to the Dinghy WhatsApp Group	The hard copies can be placed in the shelving in the Committee Room

THE "BEEHIVE RACE" AND OTHER "AROUND THE HARBOUR" RACES

The Beehive" can be either a clockwise or anti-clockwise course (around Brownsea, Furzey and Green Islands).	Depending upon wind conditions, this generally takes from 1-2 hours.
There are six Beehive Courses (B1 – B6)	This ensures that the RO can choose to run a clockwise or anti-clockwise course, to start the race to a windward mark (Starboard or Port) or not to have a windward mark at all.
Clockwise course (the usual preferred option)	**This has the advantage that the dinghies are less spread out (and easier to keep an eye on) when passing by Brownsea Castle. This is the most problematic part of the course.** **Refer to the Appendices for the PHC "Guidance for Small Craft in or near Shipping Channels".**
Course selection (for "around the harbour" races)	If choosing an "around the harbour" course, keep in mind: • When crossing the channels, pick a course that is at right angles to the channel. • You can use harbour race marks (but **not** main channel marks, or posts). If you use these marks you will need to brief the racers about these beforehand.
MONITOR CHANNEL 14 **Take another VHF radio on an SB** **(many of the dinghy sailors have their own VHF radios, so use one of these if needed)**	**This is important. Having already called Poole VTS for information about shipping movements, it remains important for the SBs to be aware of ships, particularly coming into the harbour (a blind spot).**
FEEL FREE TO POSTPONE…	**…until shipping has passed or is no longer a danger to the running of the race.**
There are only 5 race team members for the Beehive race (and other "around the harbour" races), rather than the usual 6	The RO and ARO will start the race on Little Holly (as usual), then EITHER the RO or ARO will transfer to an SB for the duration of the race. Thereafter only one person is required on Little Holly, as the dinghies (tend) to finish individually. **Ensure the person remaining on Little Holly** - **has a handheld VHF radio and knows how to use it.** - **Is comfortable remaining alone on Little Holly for up to 2 hours or more**

The maximum wind strength for a Beehive race or other "around the harbour" races is gusts of 18 knots	**If wind gusts above 18 but below 22 knots, then run a "round the cans" race instead.**

PURSUIT RACES

If scheduled, pursuit races are usually run as the first of two races on a Sunday – the Jean Webb Trophy races are all pursuit races. However the Regatta Series or the Personal Handicap Series may include a pursuit race.

We would look to ensure that no new RO would be assigned a pursuit race. That said, it's not too difficult, if the procedures are followed.

Each dinghy class is provided a starting time – this being the number of minutes AFTER the Race Start. The slowest class starts first and the fastest class starts last.

Every race is 50 minutes long – that is 50 minutes after the Race Start. There is no finish line. After 50 minutes, the placings of the dinghies are determined by where they are on the course.

Check that there is a copy of the dinghy "Pursuit Race Times" list in the Race Course Book in the RO Box (if not, print from the website)!	The latest version of the Pursuit Race Times document is on the website here: https://tinyurl.com/lscPursuitRaceTimes … and an example is included in the Appendices.
If possible, speak with each dinghy sailor prior to departing and confirm their class start time	
On your hard copy printout, highlight the dinghy classes competing, so it is clear to you what start times are relevant	
COURSE Set a simple course, ideally one that is fully within sight of Little Holly	Do not set a sausage and triangle course as it can lead to confusion.
START SEQUENCE Is the same as for any other race i.e. 5, 4 ,1 Start	At the Starting hoot, there may not be any dinghy starting
Thereafter, hoot for the start of each dinghy class that is racing and shout out the dinghy class name e.g. "Supernova Start!"	

Slowest boats start first	We often find it is the most inexperienced starting first, therefore you may get an SB to "guide" them to the first few marks
When the race nears 50 minutes, liaise closely with the SBs	The SBs need to be where most of the dinghy fleet is located, so the SBs can record the finishing placings. Notify the SBs that they should have their pencil and waterproof notepad ready to use.
At exactly 50 minutes, give 1 long hoot	The race is over
Assess the placings and get feedback from the SBs either on VHF or directly	The RO will need to note the exact order (finish position) of all the boats at the finish hooter. You may want to ask the SBs to position themselves to help with this if the positions are close. Clarify positions by asking competitors to state who was immediately in front and behind them Advise the SBs to let sailors know the race has finished Be aware of dinghies that may be lapped or almost lapped
Write the race order (1st, 2nd, 3rd etc) on the Race Sheet	No timings are recorded

REGATTA RACES

The ROs officiating at the regatta races should be experienced ROs. However it is worth noting the following differences between the usual weekly races and the Regatta races.

There are usually two fleets of dinghies racing at the same time – "Fleet A" and "Fleet B". Both fleets start at the same time.

Each fleet will have its own class flag.

The start sequence is the same as for any other race i.e. 5, 4 ,1 Start. However **both fleet** class flags will be raised at the 5 minute warning signal. At the Start signal, both fleet class flags will be lowered.

The race can be shortened independently for each fleet - this is usually the case. If a race is shortened (at a mark) for one fleet only, there will be two hoots and that fleet's class flag will be raised together with the code flag S (blue square on white background).

Dinghy Sailing Instructions for regatta racing are provided in advance of racing. This provides detailed race requirements for both the dinghy sailors and the race teams.

Appendices

Flag Sequences

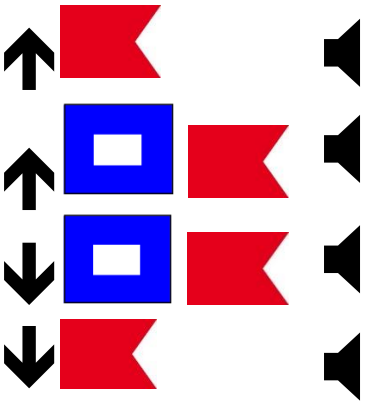
Normal Start Sequence

5 mins to start

4 mins

1 min

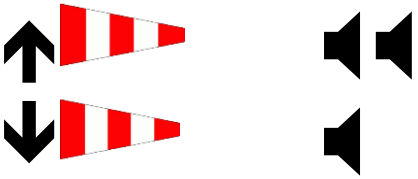
Start!



Postponed Start

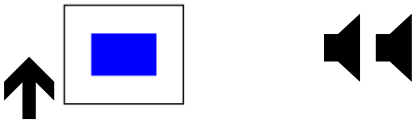
Start of postponement

1 min
to new start sequence



Shortened Course

As lead boat
rounds last mark



Individual Recall

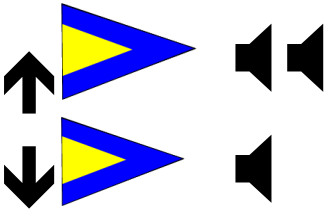
After start



General Recall

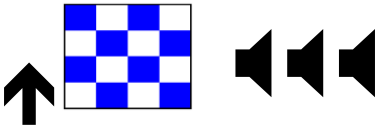
After start

1 min
to new start sequence



Race Abandoned

Anytime



Emergency call script/procedure

1 - RADIO EMERGENCY

Set the Radio to **Channel 16** and **HIGH POWER**

Press **Transmit Button**. Slowly and clearly say:

- **MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY**
- **This is:**

LILLIPUT SAFETY BOAT LITTLE HOLLY,

LILLIPUT SAFETY BOAT LITTLE HOLLY

LILLIPUT SAFETY BOAT LITTLE HOLLY

- **MAYDAY**
- **MY POSITION WITHIN POOLE HARBOUR IS …**
  (say where you are or what buoy is nearest)
- **I HAVE …**
  (number and type of injuries or why you need emergency help)
- **IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE REQUIRED**
- **OVER**

2 - Back-Up Emergency Procedure

Only use phone, if Radio unsuccessful

Dial **999**

ask for COASTGUARD, say

I'm on a Lilliput Sailing Club Safety Boat Little Holly

- **My name is …**
- **I am at …**
  (say where you are - on a mooring between North Channel 10 and Blue Lagoon Entrance)
- **I have …**
  (say what has gone wrong and help needed)
- **The nearest place I can go ashore is …**
  (For example : Lilliput Sailing Club, 200a Sandbanks Road, Poole, BH14 8HA

RYA Results Codes

These are the codes we most commonly use at LSC

DNC	"did not compete" To count as a competitor in a race, the boat must be in the vicinity of the start line after the 5 minute warning. If a boat retires from the first of our races and returns to shore, it should either be marked DNC for the second race, or simply omitted from the results sheet for that race. Similarly if a boat launches, but returns to shore before the 5 minute gun, it should be recorded as DNC.
DNS	"did not start" If a boat is in the vicinity of the start line after the 5 minute gun, but does not start the race by crossing the start line after the start gun, then it should be marked DNS (this gives the boat the same points as "retired").
OCS	"on course side" If a boat crosses the start line too early, it is allowed to return and start properly, and all is forgiven. But if a boat fails to return, it should be marked OCS (which gives the boat the same points as "disqualified").
RTD	"retired" If a boat retires after the start, it should be marked RTD.
DSQ	"disqualified" If a boat fails to sail the correct course (for example, missing a mark, or not passing through the start-finish line on the windward leg), we usually mark it DSQ, as the boat has failed to sail the proper course. Other breaches of rules that might result in disqualification should be dealt with after the race, either by our arbitration procedure or by a protest committee (very rarely)! In general, the race officer is not supposed to decide that a rule has been broken and disqualify a boat. We try to avoid disqualifying boats - a quiet chat after the race might result in the offending boat retiring.

Dinghy Pursuit Race Times

(Sample only – use the latest update!)

Note – the latest version is in the Race Course Book (and on the noticeboard and website):

Dinghy Class	PY	Start Time (mins:secs) Including slower boats	Start Time (mins:secs) Slowest boat is Laser 4.7
MIRROR - SH, No Spinnaker	1376	00:00	-
Topper	1369	00:15	-
Mirror	1364	00:26	-
Laser Pico	1330	01:40	-
Sailing Canoe	1300	02:46	-
Comet Zero	1250	04:35	-
ILCA 4 / Laser 4.7	**1218**	05:44	**00:00**
Lightning small rig	**1206**	06:11	**00:30**
Wanderer	**1201**	6:22	**00:42**
Lightning 368	**1171**	0	**01:56**
ILCA 6 / Laser Radial	**1156**	08:0	**02:33**
RS Vision	**1150**	08:13	**02:47**
GP14	**11**	8:24	**03:00**
Solo	**11**	08:37	**03:15**
Enterprise	**1137**	08:41	**03:20**
2000	**1122**	09:14	**03:56**
Streaker	**1**	09:16	**03:59**
Wayfarer	**1107**	09:46	**04:33**
ILCA 7 / Laser	**1103**	09:55	**04:43**
Wayfarer Asym	**1087**	10:30	**05:23**
Supernova	**1075**	10:56	**05:52**
RS Aero 7	**1062**	11:25	**06:24**
Phantom	**998**	13:44	**09:02**
Fireball	**960**	15:07	**10:35**

SAMPLE