

LSC COVID-19 Dinghy racing
Combined Notice of Racing
And Sailing Instructions

Please don't participate if you should be isolating due to COVID exposure. If you're on the race team, let the race officer know as early as possible.

General

These sailing instructions override and add to the published club sailing instructions for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic social separation rules. They are intended to allow competitive sailing to start at the club whilst respecting those laws and guidance from the government and RYA. It is really important for your health and safety and for the clubs reputation that we all comply with these guidelines. If we find them being persistently ignored we will have to close down again, so please take the time to read and understand.

The latest RYA guidelines can be summarised by stating that separation is not essential if it is only fleetingly below 1m, not face-to-face and does not accumulate to more than 15mins total. Beyond this, extra mitigation such as face covering should be considered. This allows both support boats and sailing dinghies to be crewed with more than one household.

Racing will be conducted on Wednesday evenings and Sundays as tide allows. Additional requirements on separation at launch and recovery are in place.

Race management will be by WhatsApp – contact Alex Clapperton on 07736 875072 to be added to the relevant group.

Signing on / off is waived this year which places extra responsibility on the race officer to keep track of competitors and ensure they all return safely. However, skippers must register any non-members as guests by emailing signin@lilliputsc.org.uk, providing name and contact number, or in the book on the shelf inside the Clubhouse yard door.

Race teams are drawn from volunteers only and these volunteers must understand and be prepared to compromise social distancing in an emergency.

Guidelines for race management team.

The latest RYA guidelines allow multi-household support boat crewing provided separation below 1m is fleeting, not face to face and totalling less than 15m in the session. This, in conjunction with cleaning mean that we can go back to fully crewed race teams and revert to F6 22knt max gust wind speeds.

1. The teams will be rostered for 5 people; 2 drivers, 2 crew and one committee boat person.
2. Race teams should arrive 90mins before race start and launch both support boats as a priority.

3. Support boat 1 driver will ferry the committee boat person to the committee boat, set the start line and return to shore to collect their crew.
4. Support boat 1 crew will act as beachmaster to marshal separation at the slip and will remain in this role until the majority of dinghies racing have launched.
5. Support boat 2 helm and crew will take details of competitors and then head to the start area.
6. Launch and recovery of the support boats should be done with one household at each end of the boat to maintain 1m separation between households. A third may assist using the boat painters or rope attached to the trolley provided this allows 1m separation.
7. The support boat helm will clean the support boat with soap and water after racing, paying attention to all touch points.
8. The race officer will be responsible for setting out the cleaning kit (A labelled blue bucket with detergent and sponge) at the top of the main slipway and returning it to the committee room post-race.

Guidelines for competitors

Remember that as ever, you participate entirely at your own risk and must take personal responsibility for compliance with Covid-19 guidance and restrictions.

1. Check that the conditions are appropriate to your abilities and the boat. If in any doubt, stay ashore.
2. If the crew of a competitor's boat is drawn from more than one household, the skipper should ensure that the crew observe the guidelines to remain more than 0.5m apart other than fleeting or non-face-to-face contact.
3. During this phase of reopening, the club will waive the restrictions on maximum number of visits by guests from your same household, so feel free to bring competent household members who are not club members to help you get on the water.
4. Changing rooms are closed until further notice. Come prepared.
5. Make sure your boat is serviceable. Double check common failure points - tiller extension universal joints are a favourite. Consider carrying spares.
6. Plan for self recovery should the wind drop - take a paddle. Consider rigging righting lines and mast head flotation.
7. Take a VHF or mobile phone. If using VHF, the race team will be using channel M2/P4 but it might be useful to set up a scan with Channel 14 – Harbour Control and Channel 16.
8. Make sure your painter is of adequate length and strength for a tow. Brush up on best towing techniques for being towed in your boat type – typically $\frac{3}{4}$ up centreboard, crew aft, steering slightly to side of RIB, line secured with one turn around the mast and held by crew, sails down if being towed downwind in a breeze.
9. Take a decent watch. It needn't be expensive but should be waterproof. Decathlon do them for a tenner. Record your time preferably as elapsed time, but BST will do if you've sync'd your watch recently. Also note who is ahead of you and who's behind. Report all this via WhatsApp once you're ashore.

10. Be careful to observe social distancing at all times but particularly during launch and recovery. A beach master will be on hand to assist marshalling during the launch and recovery phases to help achieve this.
11. Arriving earlier than you normally would as the launching will take longer than normal.
12. Where possible, particularly for double-handers, return your trolley to your dinghy bay after launch to avoid others having to handle it.
13. Give the person in front of you plenty of time to clear the slipway before approaching it yourself, both on launch and return. Consider use of the mooring buoys to the east of the main slip.
14. Park and recover your own trolley to avoid common touch points. If this doesn't happen, clean your hands and trolley handles with soap and water.
15. We have two taps in the yard – if the further one is free, use it first to avoid congestion at the main slip. Try not to wash your boat on the slip but park it further into the yard but within range of the hose. Bear in mind that returning boats need space on the slipway.
16. Signing in is waived this year, but make sure the race officer knows your name and that your trolley is labelled.
17. If you retire early or intend to continue sailing after the race, make sure you let the race management team know.

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Decision point – 2hrs before start

1. The support boats are running at full strength now, so we'll return to the normal F6 22kt max gust strength.
2. 2hrs prior to the scheduled start, from home, the RO will make a go/no-go decision based on the current wind strength at Parkstone and any available forecasts. If any of these show gust strength is greater than 22kts then the race officer will cancel racing by WhatsApp message. This is in an attempt to avoid gatherings at the club debating suitability of the conditions.

Preparation / launch

3. Signing in for competitors is waived this year, so the onus is on the race officer to make sure all boat helm and crew names are recorded and all boats return to the slip. The trolley labeling system will be in place but we are encouraging competitors to leave their trolley in their bay rather than on the slip, so patrol the yard after racing to make sure all dinghies are safely ashore.
4. The launch beach master will launch last and will marshal the launch process to ensure social distancing is maintained and trolleys are stored correctly.
5. The launch beach master will report the number of dinghies launched to the race officer.

Course selection

6. The race officer will select a course from the course sheet appropriate to the wind direction which

involve the minimal amount of mark laying, preferably start line only. There are many with two marks or fewer, so it is anticipated that the large mark will be left ashore.

7. The race officer will set a generous start line for the number of boats competing. We have tended to err on the short side in the past but this must be avoided to allow boats to space out well.

Start

8. Prior to the start, one support boat will be on patrol and the other used to help manage the start.

Racing

9. Once started, both support boats will patrol the course.

Finishes

10. At the finish, one support boat will return to the committee boat to record finish times and or shorten course. If the support boat has both helm and crew, the crew will man the committee boat and the helm will continue patrolling.
11. If at any time a situation occurs which needs safety cover, race management will focus on safety cover. Competitors will be encouraged to take their own finish times so we can fall back on those should you be needed elsewhere.
12. The Race Box, including stopwatches, VHF radios and pens must be cleaned with disinfectant wipes on return to the committee room.

Recovery

13. The first competitor to return to shore will be the recovery beach master. They will marshal the recovery process to ensure separation and attempt to keep the main slip clear so boats do not stack up in the lagoon.
14. The recovery beach master will count the number of dinghies returned and report this to the race officer.

Rev 8

20/08/2020