



## Garrykennedy Sailing Club

### SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

**These Sailing Instructions apply to all regattas, races, series and other events run by Garrykennedy Sailing Club (herein referred to as “GSC”).**

- 1. Rules:** The regatta/race/series will be governed by *The Racing Rules of Sailing* (RRS), save as changed by these sailing instructions.
- 2. Schedule of Events:** The schedule of races, series and other events and the briefing time for each race, are set out in the annual GSC Race Calendar which is posted on the GSC Website and/or circulated by email to GSC members each year before the date of the first event. GSC reserves the right to revise the calendar during the year, to cancel events, giving due notice to members, and to run other events additional to those on the calendar.

Some events on the calendar are run by other sailing clubs.

### **3. Entries:**

- 3.1.** Eligible boats must enter each race by attending the briefing held in advance of that day's racing (details as per the Race Calendar), notifying the Principal Race Officer (PRO) at the briefing of their intention to race and paying the race entry fee, save where other arrangements are made by the GSC Committee or the PRO giving due notice to participants.
- 3.2.** Eligible Boats are boats owned by paid up Members of GSC for which GSC has provided a current race handicap and such other boats as GSC may designate for the purpose of any race for which GSC has provided a current race handicap.
- 3.3.** Certain races organized by GSC, as specified in the GSC Race Calendar or otherwise, are Open Races. On Open Race days, the definition of Eligible Boat is expanded to include boats owned by paid up members of Iniscealtra Sailing Club, Lough Derg Yacht Club and such other clubs as the GSC Committee shall designate provided the owner of the boat has advised the GSC Committee of their club of membership on entering the race or before.

- 4. Changes to Sailing Instructions:** Any change to the Sailing Instructions will be advised at (or broadcast following) the briefing on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the Race Calendar will be advised to members by email and may be posted on the website 24 hours before it will take effect. Where possible, changes to these Sailing Instructions will be posted on the GSC website or sent by email to boat owners in advance of racing. Failure to post or notify in such manner shall not be grounds for redress.

- 5. Signals Made Ashore:** Signals made ashore will be displayed at the GSC Flagpole.

### **6. Racing Classes**

6.1. Racing in GSC is run in two classes, generally with the faster boats in Class 1 and other boats in Class 2. Prior to each series boats will be allocated to each class by the GSC Committee and the Committee's decisions in this matter are final.

## 6.2. Class Flags:

Class Flags are:

Class	Flag as per Racing Rules of Sailing
1	Pennant 1
2	Pennant 2

7. **Racing Area:** The racing area is in the general area of Lough Derg typically between Oilean Mor (to the north) and Scilly Island (to the south) but marks may be set anywhere on Lough Derg.

## 8. Courses:

8.1. The course for a given race will be as written down at the briefing and as clarified by the PRO where appropriate. In the event of any doubt as to the correct course, the course as written and as clarified by the PRO at the briefing shall prevail.

8.2. Racing at GSC uses a combination of Shannon Navigation marks, and special race marks laid by GSC, which include the following:

Mark Name (4 digit number)	Latitude	Longitude	Colour/Shape	Navigation or GSC Mark
Garrykennedy	52° 54.46' N	08° 20.70' W	Yellow Round	GSC
Hare (1192)	52° 55.38' N	08° 20.61' W	Red Can	Nav
Inishparran (1200)	52° 55.23' N	08° 23.80' W	Red Can	Nav
Mountaineer	52° 55.55' N	08° 19.19' W	Green Can	Nav
Scilly (1223)	52° 54.05' N	08° 24.77' W	Green Can	Nav
South Shore	52° 54.44' N	08° 22.88' W	Yellow Round	GSC
Youghal	52° 54.07' N	08° 18.40' W	Yellow Round	GSC
Williamstown (1173)	52° 56.41' N	08° 19.64' W	Red Can	Nav
Garraunfadda	52° 54.88' N	08° 19.43' W	Yellow Round	GSC
Forest (Formerly "Gerry")	52° 54.42' N	08° 21.22' W	Yellow Round	GSC

8.3. Please note that Shannon Navigation marks are not named by Waterways Ireland, and the naming convention used in 8.2 above is purely for the assistance of GSC sailors. The actual identifiers of these marks are their 4 digit codes, usually written on their top marks and as indicated above. These positions are approximate, **are not to be used for navigation purposes**, and are provided only to give a general indication of the location of the marks identified.

8.4. Other marks may be used from time to time. The approximate location and description of these marks will be provided at the briefing.

8.5. Other than where being rounded as part of the course in use, all navigation marks shall be passed on their correct side.

8.6. Other than the start and finish marks, all course marks are rounding marks unless otherwise advised at the briefing.

**9. Changing the Course:** This instruction changes RRS rule 33.

**9.1.** The PRO may change the next leg & subsequent legs of the course, prior to the leading boat rounding the mark at which the change of course will come into effect, by broadcasting the change of course to all competitors on the VHF Working Channel designated at the briefing, advising them of the new next mark and subsequent marks to be rounded, and whether the marks are to be rounded to port or starboard.

**9.2.** Races may be shortened by the PRO at any mark (and particularly at the Garrykennedy Mark where the PRO is on shore) by flying Flag S, and/or making the appropriate sound signals (2 hoots) as the lead boat approaches the mark to finish and/or by broadcasting the shortened course to all competitors on the VHF Working Channel designated at the briefing before the lead boat reaches the mark to finish.

**10. The Start:** Intended starting times will be stated in GPS time.

**10.1.** Races shall start under RRS rule 26. Races may be started without visual signals. This changes RRS rule 26. Where races start without visual signals the following rules shall apply.

- Races are deemed to start under the P Flag.
- Races shall be started using Horn or VHF Radio signals or both.
- Where both Horn and VHF signals are used times shall be taken from whichever has issued first.

**10.2.** The intended starting times will be advised at the briefing and will normally be:

Class 1:

Warning Signal: The listed briefing time plus 40 minutes.

Starting Signal: The listed briefing time plus 45 minutes.

Class 2:

Warning Signal: The listed briefing time plus 25 minutes.

Starting Signal: The listed briefing time plus 30 minutes.

Where the PRO decides to start both classes together the boats will start at the Class 1 starting time.

**10.3.** Two or more boats in the same class are required before a start will be provided to such class.

**10.4.** Where the fleet sails in just one class, and unless otherwise advised at the briefing, the boats will start together at the Class 1 start time. Racing as a single class will not effect series scoring as provided for at 13 below.

**10.5. Start Line:** Unless otherwise advised at the briefing, or on the Race Calendar, the start line will be between the GSC Flagpole on the shore and the Garrykennedy mark.

**10.6.** Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area when other boats are in a starting sequence.

**11. Recalls:** Where races are started without visual signals sound signals only will signal a recall. This changes RRS rules 29.1 and 29.2. The PRO may advise effected boats by VHF Radio but the absence of such advice shall not be grounds for redress.

**12. The Finish:**

**12.1. Finishing Line:** Unless otherwise changed by the PRO under 9 above, the finish line will be between the same marks as the start line as in 10.5 above, and crossed in the direction from the last mark rounded.

**12.2. Time limit:** The time limit for each class to complete a race and finish after its starting signal shall be advised by the PRO at the Race Briefing and, for each class, provided the first boat has finished within that time, the time limit for subsequent finishers in that class shall be extended to 30 minutes after the finish of the first boat in that class. Boats that finish outside of the time limit will be scored DNF.

### **13. Scoring & Handicapping:**

**13.1. Scoring:** Boats shall be timed, and the boats scored based on their corrected time (elapsed time adjusted by the boat's handicap). The lowest corrected time will be declared the winner, and thereafter boats will be placed based on their corrected times, subject to the outcome of any protest which might change the order of finish on corrected time. Race Scores shall be based on each boat's corrected time using the Low Points system outlined in Appendix A of the RRS.

**13.2. Scoring for Non-racing PRO Boat:** The Race Calendar specifies the designated PRO for each race. In circumstances where the boat owned by the PRO is unable to race because its owner/skipper/crew is acting as PRO for that race, such boat will be awarded average points for that race in calculating her series result. Average points shall be calculated based on that boat's actual results in all of the other races sailed or not sailed by such boat in that series, less any discard if applicable. Average points may therefore include DNS and DNF results. Where a designated PRO does not attend on the race day where he/she is designated PRO, and does not have a prior arrangement with the Sailing Secretary for a replacement PRO, then such boat shall be ineligible for that series prizes. Where the boat owned by the PRO is entitled to average points for that race the boat owner shall advise the Sailing Secretary as soon as possible but at the latest within one hour of the last boat finishing in the last race of that Series. In the absence of such advice average points will not be awarded.

**13.3. Handicaps:** All boats competing in the race/series/regatta must, in advance of racing in any race, have a current handicap provided by the GSC Handicap Committee. All handicaps are provided at the discretion of the GSC Handicap Committee. The starting handicap of each boat in each race can be obtained from the Sailing Secretary before each race and will normally be advised to competitors in advance. The decision of the GSC Handicap Committee is final. A summary of the handicapping process in current use in GSC is maintained on the club's web site.

**13.4. Series Racing:** Save as changed under Instruction 2, racing for each Class is divided into 4 series, corresponding broadly to the months of April, May, September and October. Each series normally comprises 5 races less any races cancelled or abandoned. Some series races may be run by other sailing clubs. Details of the series are contained in the Race Calendar. Two races are required to be completed to constitute a series.

**13.5. Discards:** When 3 or more races have been completed in a series, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.

### **14. Safety Regulations**

#### **14.1. SKIPPER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR DECISION TO RACE.**

It is the responsibility of the skipper of each boat to determine whether to start and participate in any race or other event, to inform him/herself on the weather and sea conditions forecast, and to provide

safety equipment and an appropriate personal flotation device for each member of his/her crew.

It is the responsibility of the skipper to ensure that all necessary safety equipment is on board, its location known and accessible to all crew members, and is in good working order at all times when on the water.

#### **14.2. REQUIRED SAFETY EQUIPMENT:**

**PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICE COMPULSORY** Each member of the crew must wear an appropriate personal flotation device (PFD) at all times when not tied up alongside or made fast to an anchor, marina, pier or mooring.

**VHF RADIO** Each boat must have a VHF radio switched on at all times when racing. It must be immediately accessible, audible in the cockpit and tuned to the race working frequency (one of CH 6, 8, 72, 76) and CH 16.

**ANCHOR** Each boat must have available an anchor (with chain and line) capable of anchoring that boat on Lough Derg in the weather and conditions likely to be experienced.

**RECOMMENDED ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT** It is strongly recommended that all crew have the following equipment securely attached to their person or foul weather gear when racing:

A knife

Safety Harness and Tether

Whistle

**14.3. Retiring:** A boat that retires from a race shall notify the PRO as soon as possible by VHF Radio or by other means if VHF notification is not feasible.

#### **15. Protests:**

**15.1.** Protest forms are available from the PRO, protests and requests for redress or reopening of protest hearings shall be delivered to the PRO within the appropriate time limit.

**15.2.** For each class, and for each race, the protest time limit is 60 minutes after the last boat has finished the last race of the day.

**15.3.** Unless the PRO can assemble an appropriate Protest Committee on the day, protests will not be heard on the day. Protests will, where possible, be held in advance of the briefing on the next following race day, at a time and place notified to protestor, protestee and PRO by the Sailing Secretary. Notices of protest hearings will be sent by email or text to the contact details supplied with the protest forms and/or supplied by boats at registration. Notices of decisions by the Protest Committee will be advised to the protestor and protestee within 48 hours of the decision by email.

**15.4.** A request for reopening a hearing must be delivered within 48 hours of the decision of the Protest Committee being advised to the protestor and protestee. This changes RRS rule 66.

**16. Radio, Data & Telephone Communication:** Except in an emergency or in matters of personal urgency, a boat shall not make radio, data or telephone transmissions while racing nor receive radio, data or telephone communications not available to all boats, except that a boat may monitor communications of the PRO without interfering with PRO communications and respond if called by the PRO and may advise the PRO by VHF Radio if retiring. The PRO may communicate with competitors using a VHF channel which will be specified at the briefing.

## **17. Prizes:**

### **17.1. Trophies and Series Prizes:**

Only boats owned by paid up members of GSC shall be awarded trophies and/or other prizes for series run by GSC.

Race trophies are awarded to the winning boat on a combined class basis. Only boats owned by paid up members of GSC and other eligible boats as provided for at Instruction 3.3 shall be awarded race trophies.

### **17.2. Race Prizes:**

Race prizes shall be awarded to each of Class 1 and Class 2, or as a single class where Instruction 10.4 applies, on the following basis:

- If 2 or more boats in a class start a race, 1 glass will be awarded to the first placed boat in that class on handicap,
- If 3 or more boats in a class start a race, a bottle of wine will be awarded for 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- If 4 or more boats in a class start a race, a second bottle of wine will be awarded for 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**18. Disposal of Trash:** No boat shall intentionally dispose of trash (whether solid or liquid) in the water.

**19. Disclaimer of Liability:** Competitors participate in the GSC regatta/series/race or other event entirely at their own risk. See 14.1 Decision to Race. GSC does not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with, prior to, during, or after the regatta/series/race or other event.

**20. Insurance:** Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of €2,000,000 per event.

Further to 19 above, it is the responsibility of each boat owner and/or skipper to ensure that they and their boat have appropriate insurance cover in place for all and any risk/s that may arise while participating in any GSC regatta/series/race or other event. GSC will not, and has no responsibility to, check or ensure that any participating boat complies with Instruction 20 but any boat found to be in breach of this Instruction shall be retrospectively disqualified from any race/s participated in while in breach of this rule and shall be ineligible to race until insurance cover is in place in compliance with this rule.

**21.** Entry of any boat into any GSC regatta/series/race or other event represents acceptance by her owner and/or skipper of each and all of the rules and conditions of these Garrykennedy Sailing Club Sailing Instructions.