

	<h1>Contessa 26</h1> <h2>National Championships</h2> <p>9th and 10th September 2017</p> <h1>SAILING INSTRUCTIONS</h1> <p>Incorporating changes from Amendment 1</p> <h2>Royal Southern Yacht Club</h2>	
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1 ORGANISATION

The Organising Authority is the Royal Southern Yacht Club.

2 RULES

2.1 The series of races will be governed by the 'rules' as defined in the ISAF Racing Rules of Sailing 2017-2020 (RRS) together with, as appropriate:

- "World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations Appendix B for Inshore Races."
- For Class 1, the IRC Rules Parts A, B & C – including sail limitations, but excluding rule 22.4 (Crew Number / Weight) There will be no limitations on crew number or weight.

2.2 Amendments will be published on the Royal Southern Yacht Club web site: <http://www.royal-southern.co.uk/Afloat/Racing> and the official Notice Board and distributed to all entrants.

2.3 All boats shall comply with Associated British Ports Southampton harbour byelaws 2003. http://www.southamptonvts.co.uk/admin/content/files/PDF_Downloads/Soton%20Byelaws.pdf

2.4 All boats shall comply with current ISAF Special Regulations for Category 5 Inshore races except that regulations 3.09.1, 3.09.2 and 3.09.4 as regards cockpit self-draining, water tightness and draining and the height of the cockpit sole shall not apply. Boats may use a trysail instead of reefing equipment to reduce mainsail luff by at least 40%.

3 CHANGES TO THE RACING RULES OF SAILING

Any changes to the Racing Rules will be detailed in the Sailing Instructions.

4 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

Notices to Competitors will be posted on the Official Noticeboard which is located in the Royal Southern Yacht Club.

5 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

Signals will be displayed on the Royal Southern Yacht Club Flagstaff.

6 ELIGIBILITY and CLASSES

6.1 The National Championships is open to all boats of the Contessa 26 class.

6.2 There will be no race for a class unless at least two boats enter and start in that class.

6.3 Boats racing in Class 1 shall hold a valid IRC certificate.

6.4 Boats without IRC certificates can race in either Class 2 or if they elect and declare it in the Entry Form Class 3 Non - spinnaker (white sails).

7 SCHEDULE OF RACES

Start times are as set out below:

Date	Number of Races	Portsmouth HW (BST)	Class	Class Flag	1 st Warning Signal	1 st Start Signal
Sat 9 th September	Up to three	1417 (4.8m)	IRC – Class 1	Numeral Pennant 5	10:10	10:15
Sat 9 th September	Up to two	1417 (4.8m)	Class Handicap classes 2 & 3	Numeral Pennant 6 & 7	See SI 7.3	See SI 7.3
Sunday 10 th September	One	1456 (4.7m)	All classes	Numeral Pennants 5, 6 and 7	10:10	10:15

- 7.1 The Race Committee request that all boats fly their class flag, as detailed above, from their backstay, although this is not compulsory.
- 7.2 It is intended that two races will be windward-leeward for class 1, one for classes 2 and 3, and two races will be round the cans.
- 7.3 The warning signal for the first race for classes 2 and 3 on Saturday will follow the last start for the first race of the September Regatta Black group classes. This will not be before 11:00.

8 RACING AREA

- 8.1 All racing will take place in the Central Solent. The start area may be 4 miles or more from the Royal Southern Yacht Club and boats should allow enough time to get there.
- 8.2 All races will start and finish from a Committee Vessel.
- 8.3 The position of the committee boat and start line will be announced on VHF Radio (See 11 Communications for frequency) at frequent intervals from **09.00hrs** and will be referred to as near to a charted navigation or racing mark.

9 COURSES AND RACE MARKS

- 9.1 The course to be sailed will be communicated only by VHF. Course boards will not be used.
- 9.2 Courses will use marks as identified in the Royal Southern Solent Marks list for 2017, available at <http://royal-southern.co.uk/afloat/Racing#511524-generic-files> and a copy is attached. Each mark will be announced by using its 2-character ID code in the list.

10 AREAS THAT ARE OBSTRUCTIONS

Rule 9 parts (b) and (d) of the International Collision Regulations should be complied with at all times as follows:

(b) A sailing vessel shall not impede the passage of a vessel which can safely navigate only within a narrow channel or fairway.

(d) A vessel shall not cross a narrow channel or fairway if such crossing impedes the passage of a vessel which can safely navigate only within such channel or fairway. The latter vessel may use the sound signal prescribed in Rule 34(d) if in doubt as to the intention of the crossing vessel.

11 COMMUNICATIONS

- 11.1 The race committee will broadcast to the Contessa fleet on **VHF 72** and will use the call sign "Royal Southern Race Control".
- 11.2 No acknowledgement to these announcements will be required and return traffic may not be acknowledged.

12 THE START

- 12.1 The start sequence will be 5, 4, 1, GO. However the Race Committee will endeavour to warn the fleet of an impending sequence, via VHF, ten minutes before their start is due.
- 12.2 The start line will be between a staff flying an orange flag on the committee vessel and a laid inflatable mark.
- 12.3 A boat starting later than 15 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start (DNF) without a hearing. This changes RRS A4.

13 THE FINISH AND SHORTEN COURSE

- 13.1 The finish line will be detailed when the course is read over VHF
- 13.2 Boats shall keep well clear of the finishing line after finishing.
- 13.3 Courses may be shortened at any point on the course by an official boat displaying flag S, plus an orange flag if available. A RIB may be used. A sound signal may be given as each boat finishes.

14 RATINGS

- 14.1 Boats entered for IRC classes shall have a valid rating certificate (Endorsed certificates are recommended) issued by Seahorse Rating (RORC), no amended IRC ratings will be accepted after the 6th of September.
- 14.2 The National Handicap for Cruisers (NHC) system will be used for classes 2 and 3. Handicaps will be adjusted after each race. Boats will be provided with a starting handicap using Class handicap information. A measurement form and information may be requested.

15 PENALTY SYSTEM

- 15.1 For all classes rule 44.1 is changes so that the Two Turns Penalty is replaced by the One-Turn Penalty.

16 RACE AND PROTEST TIME LIMITS

- 16.1 The time limit for races on Saturday is 3hrs. The time limit for races on Sunday is 4hrs.
- 16.2 Boats failing to finish within the time limit or within 40 minutes of the first boat to finish in class will be scored Did Not Finish (DNF) without a hearing. This changes rules 35, A4 and A5.
- 16.3 The time limit for protests is 90 minutes after the RC finish boat reaches the shore. Notices will be posted on the official noticeboard.

17 SCORING AND DISCARDS

- 17.1 The Low Point Scoring system will be used.
- 17.2 Boats will be scored in sequence from the shortest corrected time after the elapsed time (applying any penalties) has been multiplied by the relevant correction factor.
- 17.3 If 3 or fewer races are completed then all races will count to the series score. In Class 1 if 4 races are completed then 1 discard will be applied. This changes RRS Appendix A2.
- 17.4 1 race is required to be completed to constitute a series.

18 PRIZE GIVING

- 18.1 Prizes will be presented on Sunday as soon as possible after racing at the Royal Southern Yacht Club and trophies will be re-presented at the Co 26 Class AGM on 25th November 2017 at RLYC.

19 RISK STATEMENT

- 19.1 Rule 4 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,"
- 19.2 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 and other officials and volunteers by the event organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities;
 - f. The provision of patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances.

- g. They are responsible for ensuring that their boat is equipped and seaworthy so as to be able to face extremes of weather and there is a crew sufficient in number, experience and fitness to withstand such weather; and that the safety equipment is properly maintained, stowed and in date and is familiar to the crew; and
- h. Their boat is adequately insured, with cover of at least £2,000,000 sterling against third party claims.

20 BERTHING

- 20.1 Limited berthing is available at the Royal Southern Yacht Club Yacht Haven, please contact the sailing office for more details.

21 RYA CHARTER

- 21.1 Competitors should note that the Royal Southern Yacht Club has implemented the RYA Racing Charter and that, when entering, competitors will be required to undertake to sail in compliance with the Charter, which can be found at the front of the RYA rule book (Racing Rules of Sailing 2017-2020) or at www.rya.org.uk/racing/charter.

22 SOCIAL FUNCTIONS

- 22.1 SOCIAL GATHERING: All Skippers and their crews are invited to an informal gathering in the bar / restaurant at the Royal Southern Yacht Club during the evening of Friday 8th September.
- 22.2 CHAMPIONSHIP DINNER: All participants and their families are welcome to attend the Championship dinner on Saturday 9th September at the Royal Southern Yacht Club 1930 for 2000hrs. Attendees must book with the Class Association. Tickets must be paid for at the point of booking.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Sailing Secretary The Royal Southern Yacht Club
+44 (0) 2380 450318
Sailing.assistant@royal-southern.co.uk

Mike Harrison (h 01983 297406) (m 07968 362101) or
Tom Olden (m 07795 023936).
Email either of them on:
racing_captain@contessa26.net