

FIREBALL UK NATIONAL & UK OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026

Monday 20th to Friday 24th July



Royal Torbay Yacht Club
12 Beacon Terrace, Torquay, England, TQ1 2BH

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Times stated in these Sailing Instructions or in any other instructions concerning the races are in British Summer Time (UTC + 1).

1. RULES

- 1.1 Racing will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing 2025-2028, and as stated in the event's Notice of Race.

2. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1 Any change to the Sailing Instructions will be published on the Official Notice Board (ONB) at least 2 hours before the scheduled warning signal on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 20:00 hours on the day before it will take effect.

3. COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

- 3.1 Notices and communications to competitors will be published on the ONB on the event website: <https://rtyc.org/event/uk-fireball-nationals/>
- 3.2 While racing, except in an emergency, a boat shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communications that are not available to all boats. This restriction also applies to mobile phones.
- 3.3 A competitor's WhatsApp group will be used, providing notifications and Race Committee communications whilst ashore. Sign-up details are available at registration. Failure to receive WhatsApp messages shall not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 61.4(b)(1).

4. CODE OF CONDUCT

- 4.1 Competitors and support persons shall comply with reasonable requests from race officials.
- 4.2 Competitors and support persons shall handle any equipment or place advertising provided by the Organising Authority with care and seamanship, in accordance with any instructions for its use and without interfering with its functionality.

5. SIGNALS ASHORE

- 5.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed on the flagpole at the inshore end of Haldon Pier, adjacent to the slipway.
- 5.2 When Flag AP is displayed ashore, 1 minute is replaced with not less than 60 minutes in Race Signals AP.
- 5.3 From Wednesday 22nd – Friday 24th July, boats shall not leave the harbour until Flag D is displayed with one sound signal.

6. CLASS FLAG

- 6.1 The class flag is a blue flag with the Fireball Class insignia.

7. COURSES

- 7.1 The course diagrams are shown in Addendum A.
- 7.2 No later than the warning signal, the main Race Committee vessel will display either flag T or Numeral Pennant 1 and, on a board, display the course signal TS or ST with the approximate compass bearing and distance to mark 1.

8. MARKS

- 8.1 Marks 1, 1a, 2, 3p and 3s will be orange inflatables.
- 8.2 The change mark for mark 1 will be a black inflatable.
- 8.3 The start marks will be Race Committee vessels with a mast displaying an orange flag.
- 8.4 The finish marks will be Race Committee vessels with a mast displaying a blue flag.
- 8.5 If one of the gate marks is missing and has not been replaced as described in RRS 34, the remaining mark shall be rounded to port.

9. OBSTRUCTIONS[NP]

- 9.1 A yellow buoy with associated trailing buoys serving as a wave monitor located at approximately 050°433N 003°517W is an obstruction.
- 9.2 Boats shall not obstruct the harbour entrance or ferries departing from or entering the harbour.

10. THE START

- 10.1 The starting line will be between the masts of the Race Committee vessels displaying an orange flag.
- 10.2 To alert boats that a race will soon begin, the orange starting line flags will be displayed with one sound at least 5 minutes before a class warning signal is displayed.
- 10.3 A boat that does not start within 4 minutes after its starting signal will be scored 'Did Not Start' without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.1 and A5.2.

11. CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

- 11.1 To change the next leg of the course, the Race Committee will either lay a new mark 1, move the gate, or move the finishing line and remove the original mark as soon as practicable. This adds to RRS 33.

12. THE FINISH

- 12.1 The finishing line will be between the masts of the Race Committee vessels displaying a blue flag.
- 12.2 Alternative finishing line / W Flag. The Race Committee may give a finishing place to any boat that is still racing by displaying flag W to her and hailing her sail number from an Official Vessel (which may be in motion). A boat's finishing place in these circumstances will be the place she would have received had she sailed the course and finished within any time limit, without gaining or losing any place. In the event that it is not possible to accurately determine a boat's position on the course, the order of rounding at the previous mark may be used if recorded by an Official Vessel.

13. TIME LIMITS AND TARGET TIMES

- 13.1 If no boat has passed mark 1 for the first time within 20 minutes of the start time, the race will be abandoned.
- 13.2 Boats failing to finish within 20 minutes after the first boat sails the course and finishes will be scored as Did Not Finish (DNF). This changes RRS 35, A4 and A5.

14. PENALTIES AND HEARING REQUESTS

- 14.1 Spare.
- 14.2 Penalties for breaches of a rule other than a rule of Parts 1 or 2 of the RRS may be less than disqualification if the Protest Committee so decides. This changes RRS 60.5(c).
- 14.3 Rules in the Sailing Instructions marked [NP] shall not be grounds for a protest by a boat. This changes RRS 60.1.
- 14.4 The Protest Time Limit, for hearing requests about an incident observed in the racing area, is 90 minutes after the last boat has finished the last race of the day or the race committee signals no more racing today, whichever is later. The Protest Time Limit will be posted on the ONB.
- 14.5 Hearing request forms are available from the Race Office or the event website.
- 14.6 Notices will be posted no later than 20 minutes after the Protest Time Limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Hearings will take place in a room located at the Royal Torbay Yacht Club.
- 14.7 A list of boats penalised for breaking RRS 42 under Appendix P will be posted on the ONB after racing before the Protest Time Limit.
- 14.8 Images from cameras fitted to boats in accordance with class rule 8.2 shall not be submitted as evidence in a protest hearing. Adding to RRS 63.4(b).

15. SAFETY REGULATIONS [NP]

- 15.1 A boat that retires from a race shall notify the Race Committee as soon as possible or the Race Office immediately after returning to the harbour.
- 15.2 When returning to the harbour, boats may be held outside the harbour entrance to avoid unnecessary congestion in the harbour. All boats are required to follow the safety vessels' instructions.

16. SAFETY TALLIES [NP]

- 16.1 Tallies will be used, and the following procedure applies:
- 16.2 The location of the tally point will be at the top of the slipway on Haldon Pier.
- 16.3 All competitors shall individually "tally out" before launching after D flag is displayed and "tally in" on returning to shore.
- 16.4 The penalty for failing to "tally out" is five points, added to the boats score in the first race of that day but not worse than DNC, without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.
- 16.5 The time to "tally in" ends 15 minutes after the last boat is ashore. The penalty for failing to "tally in" is five points added to the boat's score in its last race of the day, but not worse than DNC, without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.
- 16.6 A competitor who does not tally out must request and receive permission to compete from the Race Committee whilst afloat before starting. The five-point penalty identified in Sailing Instruction 16.4 will still apply.

17. REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT

- 17.1 Substitution of competitors is not allowed without the prior written approval of the Race Committee.
- 17.2 Substitution of damaged or lost equipment will not be allowed without the written approval of the Technical Committee. Requests shall be made at the first reasonable opportunity.

18. OFFICIAL VESSEL IDENTIFICATION

- 18.1 The main Race Committee vessel will be identified by a yellow flag with Race Committee in red letters.
- 18.2 Mark-laying vessels will be identified by a yellow flag with the letter "M" on the flag.
- 18.3 Media-Press vessels will be identified by a white flag with the letter "P" on the flag.
- 18.4 Safety vessels will be identified by a numbered Yellow flag.
- 18.5 Registered support vessels will be identified by a numbered white flag.
- 18.6 Protest Committee vessels will be identified by an orange flag with Jury in black letters.
- 18.7 Technical Committee vessel will be identified by a purple flag with TC in white letters.

19. SUPPORT PERSONS AND SUPPORT VESSELS

- 19.1 Support Persons shall register in accordance with NOR 16.
- 19.2 A registered Support Vessel shall carry on board and operate while on the water a VHF radio capable of transmitting and receiving on VHF Channels 16 and 72 and shall agree to assist the Race Committee if directed to do so, RRS 37.
- 19.3 Whilst afloat, all Support Vessel crew shall wear a personal flotation device. The Support Vessel operator shall wear a functioning engine kill cord device whilst the engine is running.
- 19.4 Support vessels shall display identifying flags, a white flag with a black number issued by the Organising Authority at registration.
- 19.5 Except when participating in rescue operations, all Support Vessels shall stay at least 100m away from any boat racing and outside the race area. During the start sequence, Support Vessels shall be at least 100m to leeward of the starting line and its extensions.
- 19.6 For the purposes of identifying the race area, this shall be determined as any part of the course area bound by racing marks, starting, and finishing lines, and relevant lay lines between race marks extending to 100m from all these points.
- 19.7 Unless requested by the Race Committee, Support Vessels shall not tow boats after leaving the harbour or until the last competitor has finished or retired from the last race of the day and all on-the-water checks by the Technical Committee have been completed.

20. TRASH DISPOSAL

- 20.1 Trash may be placed on official vessels.

21. INSURANCE

See NoR 23.

22. RISK STATEMENT

See NoR 22.

ADDENDUM A – COURSE DIAGRAM

