

Noble Marine RS 200 National Championships 2026
Saturday 15th to Thursday 20th August 2026
Hosted by the Royal Torbay Yacht Club

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

ORGANISING AUTHORITY

This event will be organised by the Royal Torbay Yacht Club (RTYC) in conjunction with the RS Class Association.

The notation '[NP]' in a rule of the sailing instructions (SIs) means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1.

The notation [DP] in a rule of the SIs means that the penalty for a breach of that rule may, at the discretion of the protest committee, be less than disqualification.

1. RULES

- 1.1. The event is governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing*.
- 1.2. Racing rules Race Signals AP, 32, 33, 34, 35, 44.2(c), 60.1, 60.1(a), 60.3(b), 61.4(b), 61.2(a), A2 A5.1 and A5.2 will be changed. The changes appear, in full, in the notice of race or in these sailing instructions.

2. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1. Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted before 0900 on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the start time of the first race will be posted by 2000 on the day before it will take effect.

3. COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

- 3.1. Notices to competitors will be posted on the Official Online Notice Board (ONB) accessible on the Racing Rules of Sailing App for mobile devices and also via Noble Marine UK RS 200 National Championships 2026 | Royal Torbay Yacht Club or direct to RRS ONB site here.
- 3.2. A competitor's WhatsApp group will be used, providing notifications and Race Committee communications whilst ashore. Failure to receive WhatsApp messages shall not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 61.1(a).
- 3.3. The WhatsApp Link is:



<https://chat.whatsapp.com/J9AV1RBWLyYD5w0x0IRv04> and QR Code

4. CODE OF CONDUCT

- 4.1. [DP] Competitors and support persons shall comply with reasonable requests from race officials.

5. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 5.1. Signals made ashore will be displayed on the flagpole at the inshore end of Haldon Pier.
5.2. When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with not less than 60 minutes in Race Signals AP. This changes race signals AP.
5.3. [DP] From Sunday 16th August to Thursday 20th August boats shall not leave the harbour until Flag D is displayed with one sound signal. The warning signal will not be displayed before the scheduled time or less than 60 minutes after flag D is displayed.

6. SCHEDULE OF RACES

- 6.1. See NoR 9 for schedule.
6.2. To alert boats that a race or sequence of races will begin soon, the orange starting line flag will be displayed with one sound signal at least five minutes before a warning signal is made.
6.3. An additional race(s) may be run on any day at the discretion of the Race Committee. To indicate this intention the committee boat will display flag F at the start of the last scheduled race that day.

7. CLASS FLAGS

- 7.1. The Class flags will be RS 200 Class Flag or Numeral Pennant 2

8. RACING AREA

- 8.1. See NoR 12.

9. COURSES

- 9.1. Courses to be sailed will be Windward/Leeward. The diagrams in Addendum A show the courses, the order in which marks are to be passed and the side on which each mark is to be passed.
9.2. When conditions allow, the race committee will use a gate start. If so, flag G will be flown from the committee boat and Clause 12.2.1 to 12.2.15 of these SIs will apply. This adds to RRS 26.
9.3. No later than the warning signal, the main RC vessel will display on a board the course to be sailed and the approximate bearing and distance to the first mark.

10. MARKS

- 10.1. Marks will be Orange inflatables.
10.2. The change mark for Mark 1 will be a Black inflatable.
10.3. When a gate mark is used, if one or other of the gate marks is missing, the remaining mark shall be left to port. This changes RRS 34.
10.4. The start marks will be a Race Committee vessel with a mast displaying an Orange Flag and a second Committee vessel with a mast and Orange flag or a white danbuoy displaying an Orange flag.
10.5. The finish marks will be a Race Committee vessel with a mast displaying a Blue flag and a danbuoy/RC vessel displaying a Blue flag.
10.6. The Race Committee may choose to use a gate start. If so, flag G will be flown from the Committee Boat and Addendum A Course L applies. This changes RRS 26.

11. OBSTRUCTIONS

11.1. The following is an obstruction –

A yellow buoy with associated trailing buoys serving as a wave monitor located at approximately 050°433N 003°517W.



12. THE START

Depending on conditions the Race Committee may use either a Gate Start or Line Start

12.1. Line Starts:

- 12.1.1. The starting line will be between the mast on the main Race Committee vessel displaying an Orange flag and a RC vessel displaying an Orange flag or a danbuoy displaying an Orange flag.
- 12.1.2. A boat that does not start within 4 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.1 and A5.2.

12.2. Gate starts:

- 12.2.1. The race committee vessel will be in the starting area, which will be to leeward of the course.
- 12.2.2. The race committee vessel and gate boat will display flag G. The race committee may choose to use a guard boat; when used, the guard boat will display flag U. Starting signals as detailed in RRS 26 will be made from the race committee vessel.
- 12.2.3. The time that the gate boat will be in motion along the port tack course after the starting signal will be exactly 4 minutes unless otherwise displayed on the race committee vessel before the warning signal.
- 12.2.4. The race committee will nominate the pathfinder and a reserve pathfinder (the boat that would become pathfinder if the pathfinder is unable to race) for the first race of the event. Thereafter, the pathfinder will be the boat placed tenth in the preceding race, unless she has been the pathfinder previously in the event or is unable to race in which case the pathfinder will be the boat placed eleventh in the preceding race, and so on. The sail numbers of the pathfinder and reserve pathfinder for the first race of each day will be posted on the official notice board. The sail number of the pathfinder will be displayed on the race committee vessel at least ten minutes before the warning signal for each race.
- 12.2.5. The pathfinder shall report to the gate boat as soon as possible after her number is displayed on the race committee vessel and before the preparatory signal and follow the race officer's instructions. A pathfinder that fails to report may be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.1 and A5.2.
- 12.2.6. The port end limit mark will be laid at the leeward end of the gate run.
- 12.2.7. The starting line for boats other than the pathfinder will be between the port end limit mark and the centre of the stern of the gate boat.
- 12.2.8. Approximately 10 seconds before the starting signal the pathfinder shall commence a close-hauled course on port tack from the port end limit mark. She will be followed by the gate boat. When used, the guard boat shall keep station off the starboard beam of the pathfinder until the pathfinder is released.

- 12.2.9. The start line is not open until the starting signal. Boats other than the pathfinder shall start by crossing the starting line on starboard tack after the starting signal and before the gate closes.
- 12.2.10. The pathfinder shall maintain her close-hauled course for at least one minute and for as long as the race officer considers necessary to achieve a steady course and speed for the gate boat. Pathfinder is released by a hail from the gate boat, after which she may continue on port tack or tack on to starboard. After releasing the pathfinder, the gate boat will maintain its course and speed. At the end of the 4 minute gate run or another period of time displayed on the race committee vessel the gate boat will stop and drift for one minute. At the end of this period flag G will be removed with one sound signal to indicate the closing of the gate.
- 12.2.11. A boat that has not started when the gate is closed will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.1 and A5.2.
- 12.2.12. A boat that has not already started correctly and that is on the course side of the gate boat while the gate is open shall not cross the starting line from the course side.
- 12.2.13. After the preparatory signal, a boat which interferes with the pathfinder, the gate boat or the guard boat will be disqualified without a hearing, even if the race is restarted, re-sailed, or rescheduled. This changes RRS 36 and RRS A5.1 and A5.2.
- 12.2.14. After the preparatory signal, a boat which threatens the unobstructed sailing of the pathfinder, or which tries to pass between the pathfinder and the gate boat or guard boat, or which causes another boat to interfere in these ways, will be disqualified without a hearing, even if the race is restarted, re-sailed, or rescheduled. This changes RRS 36, RRS A5.1 and A5.2.
- 12.2.15. A boat that cannot otherwise avoid touching a starting mark may hail a right-of-way boat for room and shall retire.

13. CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE AND SHORTENED COURSE

- 13.1. To change the next leg of the course the RC will either lay a new mark (or move the gate or the finishing line) and remove the original marks as soon as practicable.
- 13.2. When Mark 1 is moved the original Mark 1a will be repositioned, where practicable.
- 13.3. When in a subsequent change a new mark is replaced, it will be replaced by an original mark.
- 13.4. The RC may move a mark up to approximately 100m without signalling the change. This changes RRS 33. If a new mark is laid, the change will be signalled.
- 13.5. To shorten the course when the race committee vessel is on station (its position shown on the course diagram), the race committee vessel may display flag S. Boats must then leave the preceding mark to port and sail across the finishing line shown on the course diagram. Boats shall not finish in accordance with this rule until they have completed the same number of rounds as the leading boat. This adds to RRS 32.2.

14. THE FINISH

- 14.1. The finishing line will be between a staff displaying a blue flag on the Race Committee vessel at the starboard end and the course side of the port-end RC finishing vessel or mark.

15. PENALTY SYSTEM

- 15.1. See NoR 14.

16. TIME LIMITS

- 16.1. The time limit for a race is 75 minutes.
- 16.2. The target time for each race is 50 minutes. Failure to meet the target time shall not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 61.1(a)
- 16.3. Boats failing to finish within a 20-minute finishing window after the first boat in her class sails the course and finishes will be scored Did Not Finish without a hearing. This changes RRS 35, A5.1 and A5.2
- 16.4. In addition to RRS 32, the race committee may also award a finishing score to a boat that is still racing by displaying to her from a committee vessel (which may be in motion) flag W with one sound signal. A boat so notified is no longer required to sail the course, shall stop racing and shall return to the starting area, or return ashore if there is no more racing. A finishing score under this sailing instruction will be the score she would have received had she sailed the course and finished within any time limit, without gaining or losing any place. However, when two or more boats that are overlapped are notified, they will be scored as if they were tied. The decision by the race committee to use this procedure or not to use it shall not be grounds for requesting redress. This changes rules 60.1(a) and 61.4(b).

17. HEARING REQUESTS

- 17.1. The protest time limit 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 the later. This changes RRS 60.3(b) and 61.2(a).
- 17.2. Hearing Request forms are available at the race office.
- 17.3. Notices will be posted no later than 30 minutes after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses.
- 17.4. Hearings will be held in the protest room located in the Royal Torbay Yacht Club, beginning at the time posted.
- 17.5. Appendix T (Arbitration) applies.
- 17.6. Rules in the Sailing Instructions marked [NP] shall not be grounds for a protest by a boat. This changes RRS 60.1.

18. SCORING

As per NoR 15.

19. SAFETY REGULATIONS [DP] [NP]

- 19.1. The tally control point to check-out and check-in will be located at the top of the slipway on Haldon Pier.
- 19.2. All helms and crews shall individually check-out before racing by personally advising Tally control of their sail number.
- 19.3. All helms and crews shall also individually check-in immediately on returning to shore after racing, but no later than the protest time limit, by personally advising Tally control of their sail number.
- 19.4. A boat that retires from a race shall notify a RC boat as soon as soon as possible or the race office immediately after returning to the harbour.
- 19.5. 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 instructions of the safety ribs supervising this process.
- 19.6. [DP] The race committee may protest a boat for a breach of these safety regulations

20. REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT

- 20.1. [DP] [NP] Substitution of competitors is not allowed without prior written approval of the race committee.

21. EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

- 21.1. [NP] A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules, notice of race and sailing instructions.

22. SUPPLIED BOATS

Does not apply.

23. OFFICIAL VESSELS

- 23.1. The main Race Committee vessel is identified by blue spray dodgers with white letters 'RTYC'.
- 23.2. Mark Layers will display Yellow Flags with the letter M.
- 23.3. Safety boats will display Yellow Flags.
- 23.4. The Photography boat will display a White Flag.

24. [DP] [NP] SUPPORT TEAMS

- 24.1. As per NoR 16.

25. TRASH DISPOSAL

- 25.1. Trash may be placed aboard official or support person vessels.

26. BERTHING

- 26.1. [DP] [NP] Boats shall be kept in their assigned area on the Haldon Pier.

27. HAUL-OUT RESTRICTIONS

Does not apply.

28. DIVING EQUIPMENT AND PLASTIC POOLS

Does not apply.

29. PRIZES

- 29.1. As per NoR 24.

30. RISK STATEMENT

- 30.1. As per NoR 22.

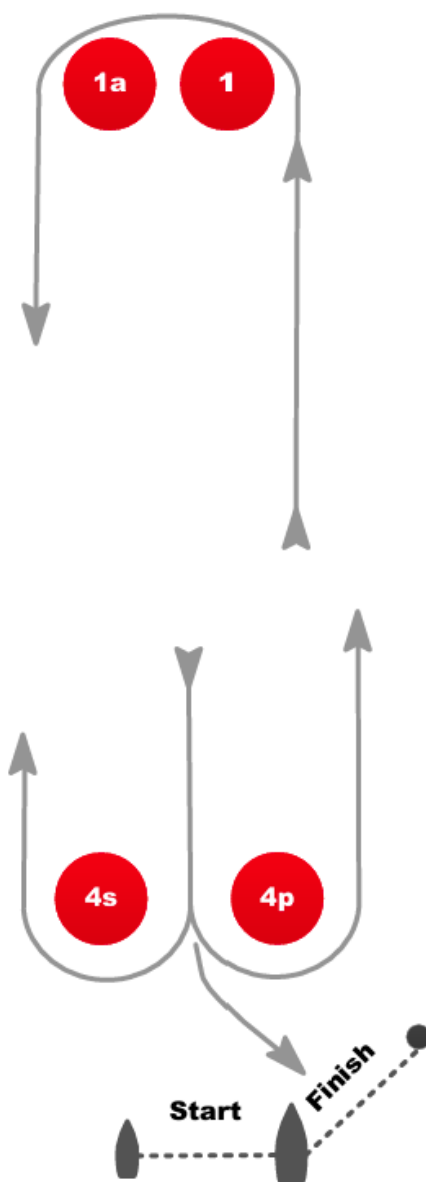
31. INSURANCE

- 31.1. As per NoR 23

ADDENDUM A – Courses

Line Start

LRA	COURSE: WINDWARD / LEEWARD with spreader mark and reaching finish
Signal	Mark Rounding Order
LRA2	Start – 1 – 1a – 4s/4p – 1 – 1a – 4p – Finish
LRA3	Start – 1 – 1a – 4s/4p – 1 – 1a – 4s/4p – 1 – 1a – 4p – Finish
LRA4	Start – 1 – 1a – 4s/4p – 1 – 1a – 4s/4p – 1 – 1a – 4s/4p – 1 – 1a – 4p – Finish



Gate Start

L	COURSE: WINDWARD/LEEWARD with reaching finish
Signal	Mark Rounding Order
L2	Start - 1 - 1a - 4s/4p - 1 - 1a - 4p - Finish
L3	Start - 1 - 1a - 4s/4p - 1 - 1a - 4s/4p - 1 - 1a - 4p - Finish
L4	Start - 1 - 1a - 4s/4p - 1 - 1a - 4s/4p - 1 - 1a - 4s/4p - 1 - 1a - 4p - Finish