



2026 TOPPER CHALLENGE

Organising Authority is Donaghadee Sailing Club
In association with the Irish Topper Class Association

Saturday 25 July – Sunday 26 July 2026



SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

For the purposes of these Sailing Instructions, for Saturday's racing for the 5.3's and 4.2's, the term fleet shall refer to a group of boats as specified by the OA who shall be designated the same colour streamer. For Sunday's racing a fleet shall refer to a group of boats defined by the OA as either Gold Silver or Bronze who shall be designated a coloured streamer.

1. Rules

- 1.1 The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing 2025-2028 (RRS).
- 1.2 The prescriptions of the Royal Yachting Association and the rules of Topper Class Association of Ireland (ITCA IRL) shall apply.
- 1.3 If there is a conflict between these Sailing Instructions and the Notice of Race, these Sailing Instructions prevail. This changes rule 63.7.
- 1.4 All times are BST.
- 1.5 If there is a conflict between languages the English text will take precedence.
- 1.6 The notation [DP] in a rule in the SI means that the penalty for a breach of that rule may, at the discretion of the protest committee, be less than disqualification.

2. Notices to Competitors and Communication with Competitors

- 2.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the Official Notice Board.

3. Changes to Sailing Instructions

Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted at least one hour before the scheduled start time on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be notified by the race committee before 2100 on the day before it will take effect.

4. Signals made Ashore

Signals made ashore will be displayed on the event notice board
When flag AP is flown ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 30 minutes'. This changes flag AP in the Race Signals.

5. Schedule of Races (copy from NOR 9)

Day/Date	Time	
Friday 24 th July 2026	17.00 – 22.00	Dinghy park open for arrivals
Sat 25 th July 2026	9.00 – 09.45	Registration
	10.00	Competitors Briefing
	11.00	First Warning Signal
Sunday 26 th July 2026	10:30	First Warning Signal
	ASAP after racing	Prize Giving

- 5.1.1 Boats shall display a coloured streamer/ribbon, as supplied by the race office, from her masthead to identify the fleet they are in. This is your designated FLEET colour.
Please return these streamers to the race office after racing on Saturday.
(You will be assigned a new streamer colour on Sunday morning to indicate your medal race fleet.)
- 5.1.2 No warning signal will be made on the last day of the event after 1500 hrs.
- 5.1.3 To alert boats that a race or a sequence of races will begin soon, an orange flag may be displayed with one sound before a warning signal is displayed.

6. **Flags used for warning signals and other signals**

For each flight (aka race), fleet colours shall be indicated on the committee boat.

A loud hailer system shall be in use to ensure everyone is aware of what is happening.

*Note: Please stay close to the committee vessel between races so that you know what is happening.
Please also avoid the start line when other boats are starting.

7. **Racing Area**

The racing area shall be on the water in front of Donaghadee Sailing Club. See Appendix 1.

8. **The Courses**

All races will be sailed on the same course area. Appendix 2 shows the course diagram for each fleet.

8.1 Marks will be of an orange inflatable cylindrical type. A diagram will be available on the event noticeboard

8.2 The target time for the first boat is 12 minutes, but a shorter or longer time (whether or not the course is shortened) will not be grounds for redress. This changes rules 60.1(b) and 62.1(a)

9. **The Starting Line, Black Flag Starts**

9.1 The start line will be between the orange staff on a committee vessel and a yellow spherical mark at the port end.

9.2 Boats whose warning signal has not been made should avoid the starting area during the starting sequence for other fleets.

9.3 A boat starting later than 1 minute after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start (DNS) without a hearing. This changes rules A4 and A5.

9.4 For **Saturday's racing**, the start for each flight (aka race) shall be as follows:

- 2 minutes before a flight start the coloured flags of the two fleets competing shall be displayed and a sound signal made.

- A further sound signal shall be made at 1 minute and the black flag will be displayed.

- At the start of a flight all flags shall be lowered and a sound signal made.

All starts shall be black flag. This changes rule 30.3.

The next flight (race) sequence shall follow the same pattern, as soon as possible after the previous start.

The 4.2's flights shall be first, followed by the 5.3's flights.

9.5 For **Sunday's racing** both 4.2 and 5.3 boats will be split into new fleets; 4.2 Silver and Gold and 5.3 Silver & Gold fleets based on Saturday's results and each fleet will be given a new designated fleet colour before racing.

The fleets will start in the following order

- 4.2 Silver,
- 4.2 Gold,
- 5.3 Silver and
- 5.3 Gold.

An orange flag will be displayed 1 minute before the starting sequence.

The starting sequence shall be as follows:

- 2 minutes before the first start the FLEET flag will be displayed and a sound signal made.

- A further sound signal shall be made at 1 minutes and the black flag will be displayed.

- At the start the colour of the fleet to start shall be removed and a sound signal made. And the colour of the next fleet displayed

All starts shall be black flag. This changes rule 30.3.

The next flight (race) sequence shall follow the same pattern, as soon as possible after the previous start.

The 4.2's flights shall be first, followed by the 5.3's flights.

10. The Finish

- 10.1 The finishing line will be between the mast displaying a blue flag on a finish boat and yellow spherical mark at the port end. (Note This is the same line as the start).
- 10.2 In addition to rule 32, the race committee may also award a finishing score to a boat 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(b) and 62.1(a).
- 10.3 After finishing and clearing the finishing line, boats shall keep clear of the finishing area and of all boats not yet finished.

11. Penalty System

- 11.1 Appendix P shall apply.
- 11.2 Rule P2.3 shall not apply and rule P2.2. is changed to that it will apply to all penalties after the first one.
- 11.3 The Exoneration Penalty and RYA Arbitration procedure of the RYA Rules Disputes Procedure will be available. See the Official Notice Board for details.

12. Outside Help

Rule 41 is changed to allow help from a race committee vessel to recover after a capsize or to return the competitor to the boat.

13. Time Limits

- 13.1 If no boat has passed Mark 1 within 10 minutes of the start the race may be abandoned.
- 13.2 If no boat finishes within 25 minutes, the race may be abandoned.
- 13.3 Abandonment under SI 14.1 or 14.2 will not be grounds for redress. This changes rules 60.1(b) and 62.1(a).

14. [DP] Declarations

A boat that retires before finishing or takes a one-turn penalty or a two-turn penalty under rule 44.2 shall record the details on the Declaration Form before the end of protest time. Declarations may be made near the tally board.

15. Protests and Requests for Redress

- 15.1 Protests forms are available at the race office or near the tally board. Protests and requests for redress shall be delivered to the race office within the time limit.
- 15.2 For each class, the protest time limit is 30 minutes after the last boat has come ashore after the last race of the day. The same time limit applies to protests by the race committee and protest committee about incidents they observe in the racing area and to requests for redress.
- 15.3 A notice 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. This is also the notification required by rules 61.1(b) and 63.2. Hearings may begin without a notice and within protest time when the parties are available.
- 15.4 On the last scheduled day of racing, a request for re-opening a hearing shall be delivered:
- (a) within the protest time limit if the party requesting re-opening was informed of the decision on the previous day.
 - (b) no later than 15 minutes after the party requesting re-opening was informed of the decision on that day.

This changes rule 66.

16.5 Arbitration as a means of settling a protest may be available if both parties agree.

16. Scoring

The event will be scored by Appendix A, low point system..

16.1.1 The first sentence of rule A4.2 is deleted and replaced with:

All other boats, including a boat that did not start, a boat that finishes and thereafter retires or is disqualified, shall be scored points equal to one more than the number of boats entered in their respective flight (race).

16.1.2 A minimum of one race is required to constitute any championship.

16.1.3 All scores to count. (ie there shall be no discards)

16.1.4 Saturday's results shall be used to create 2 fleets for the 4.2's & 5.3's (Gold and Silver) for Sunday's racing. The event results shall be scored on Sunday's races only, except in the event of no racing on Sunday in which case the results shall be based on Saturday's races and the OA shall award prizes accordingly.

17. [DP] Safety

17.1 Competitors shall wear personal flotation devices at least CE50 Newtons or equivalent at all times when afloat except when adjusting clothing. This changes rule 40. Wet suits and dry suits are not adequate personal buoyancy. Flag Y will not be displayed.

17.2 A boat shall comply with an instruction from the organizing authority, the race committee, a patrol boat of the race committee or an equipment inspector that she shall not go afloat, or shall return ashore or shall take some other action. The instruction will not be grounds for requesting redress. This changes rules 60.1(b) and 62.1(a).

17.3 A patrol boat in close attendance to a competitor in difficulty is an obstruction.

17.4 A boat that retires from a race shall notify the Race Committee or the Race Office as soon as possible.

18. [DP] Tallies

18.1 All competitors shall tally out before launching, and tally in after returning ashore.

18.2 A £5 donation to the RNLI for each infringement shall exonerate a competitor for failing to comply with an infringement of this sailing instruction.

19. Inspection

Boats must comply with current class regulations, inspections may take place.

20. [DP] Waste

Trash may be placed aboard support and race committee boats.

23 [DP] Radio Communication

A boat shall neither make radio transmissions while racing nor receive radio communications not available to all boats. This restriction also applies to mobile telephones.

24. [DP] Support Boats

24.1 Support boats (including coach boats) shall comply with Section 11 of the Notice of Race. Unless a boat is in danger, no other vessel associated with a boat or competitor shall enter the racing area from the time of the preparatory signal for the first start until all boats have finished or retired or the race committee signals a postponement, general recall or abandonment.

24.2 Except when helping a boat or competitor in danger, a support boat shall not

(a) communicate with a competitor from the time of the preparatory signal for the first start of a race until the competitor boat has finished or retired or the race committee signals a postponement, general recall or abandonment.

(b) come within 100 metres to leeward of the starting line during starts, within 50 metres of any course mark or of a boat that is racing, or within any other area designated by the race committee.

(c) make excessive wash.

24.3 Support boats shall comply with race committee safety instructions.

25. Prizes

25.1 Prizes shall be awarded to 1st, 2nd & 3rd positions in each fleet.

26. Risk Statement

26.1 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." The organizing authority will not accept any liability or material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the regatta.

26.2 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;

27. Insurance

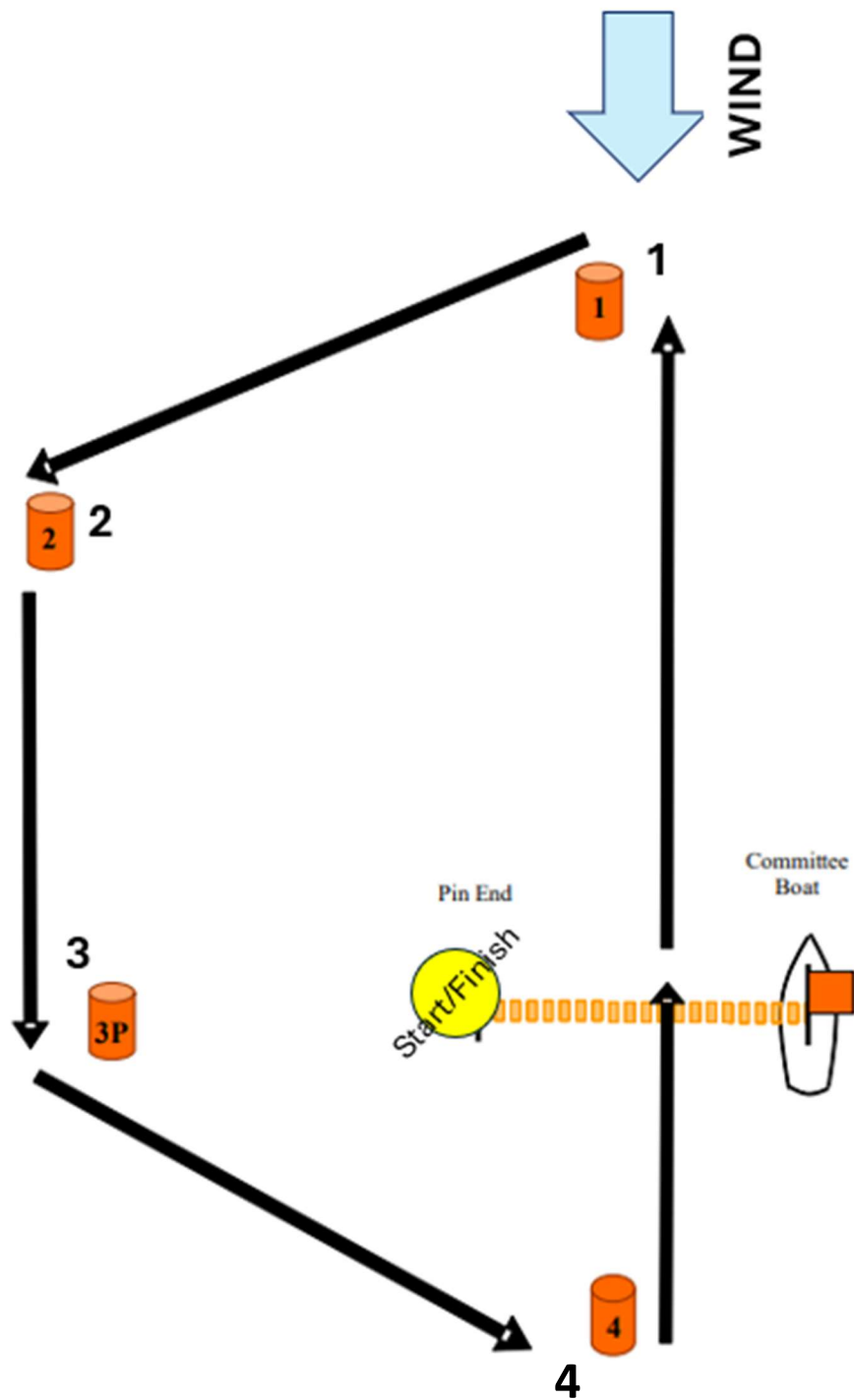
Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £3,000,000 per incident or the equivalent.

Appendix 1



Appendix 2

4.2 m² & 5.3m² Course



Mark order: Start, 1, 2, 3, 4, Finish.

All marks to be passed to port.

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