



## Sailing Instructions

### Neyland Yacht Club Spring & Summer Evening Dinghy Series

April thru September 2026

**These sailing instructions cover dinghy racing at Neyland Yacht Club for the Dinghy Series.**

#### 1. Rules

Racing will be governed by the ISAF Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) 2025-2028, the prescriptions of the RYA, class rules where appropriate except where changed by these sailing instructions.

#### 2. Conditions of Entry.

##### 2.1. Eligibility.

This series is open to all sailors who hold membership of Neyland Yacht Club. There are no restrictions on what class of boat can be used.

All helms and crews must be registered to race before going onto the water, a registration form can be downloaded at [www.neylandyachtclub.co.uk/](http://www.neylandyachtclub.co.uk/). Paper copies will be available in the starters cabin before each race.

##### 2.2. Safety.

- a) The safety of the boat is the sole responsibility of the owner/competitor. This includes having adequate insurance.
- b) The decision to launch/start or continue in a race is the owner/competitor's and the race organisers accept no responsibility for loss/injury or damage.
- c) The race officer has the authority to cancel/postpone/delay any planned race at any time.
- d) Nothing done by the organisers can reduce the responsibility of the boat nor will it make the organisers responsible for any loss, damage, death, or

personal injury, however it may have occurred, as a result of the boat competing in the racing. The organisers encompass everyone helping to run the series, and includes the organising authority, the starting deck, the race officer and the safety crew.

- e) The provision of safety boats does not relieve the boat of her responsibilities.
- f) If you appear in trouble at any time then the race officer may ask the safety crew to find out if you are OK, if you continue to appear in trouble then the race officer can ask the safety crew to advise you to come ashore.
- g) Personal buoyancy shall be worn by all competitors whilst afloat.
- h) Each boat is required to hold adequate insurance and in particular hold insurance against third party claims in the sum of at least £3,000,000
- i) If no crew are available to man the safety boat, then the competitors will be asked to volunteer to provide cover, if there are no volunteers then a competitor's name will be drawn at random to ensure there is always safety cover. If a competitor is providing safety cover, they will be awarded their average points for the series for that race.

### **2.3. Personal Buoyancy.**

All competitors must wear adequate personal buoyancy whenever they are on the water, failure to comply with this rule will result in your disqualification from the race.

### **2.4. Classes.**

This series will use the RYA Portsmouth Yardstick as its rating system. This will be the most recent list that the RYA release (PN List 2025 Ver.2 24/02/2025).

1. Division 1 will consist of all boats up to and including PY1200
2. Division 2 will consist of all boats PY1201 and above
3. Junior fleet - if there are enough junior members racing then there will be a junior fleet, this will consist of any boat in which all sailors are under 18 years of age at the time of the last race of the series.

If 5 or more identical boats enter and take part in the series, a separate class result will be extracted from the overall series results to encourage class racing, the winner **may** qualify for a separate prize.

The PY at which divisions are split may be adjusted during the series at Race Officer's discretion.

## **3. Communications with Competitors.**

### **3.1. Class Signals.**

- Div 1 - Numeral pennant 1
- Div 2 - Numeral pennant 2

- Junior Fleet – Numeral pennant 3

#### 4. Schedule of Races, Courses and Starts.

##### 4.1. Races.

The 20 races for each series are scheduled to take place every Tuesday evening starting 14<sup>th</sup> April for 10 weeks for the Spring Series, starting 30<sup>th</sup> June for 10 weeks for the Summer Series. There will be 2 races each Tuesday approximately 30 - 45 min each. Start time will be 1855 hrs, the race officer reserves the right to start all divisions together or run separate starts, dependant on the numbers that are racing.

##### 4.2. Courses.

Courses will be decided on a race-by-race basis and could include club marks or navigational marks (such as Yellow Can/DB4/Neyland Spit). The course will be displayed by the starters cabin before the race.

##### 4.3. Starts.

Starts may vary between starting off the club or boat starts depending on the wind direction/tide, all flags and sound signals will be from Neyland Yacht Club

##### 4.4. Starting Signals.

Signals will be given in accordance with **RRS 26** at the following intervals

- Warning signal (**class pennant plus one sound**) 5 minutes
- Preparatory signal (**prep flag plus one sound**) 4 minutes
- One minute (**prep flag removed plus one sound**) 1 minute
- Starting signal (**class pennant removed plus one sound**) **GO**

Times shall be taken from the visual signal; the absence of the sound signal shall be disregarded.

##### 4.5. Recalls.

If any part of a boats hull or equipment is on the course side of the starting line when the starting signal is made, a sound signal will be given and the code flag X will be flown until all such boats have returned to the pre-start side of the line, or for 2 minutes, whichever is the earlier. **Boats recalled but failing to return correctly will be disqualified.**

#### 5. Finishing.

##### 5.1. Shortened Course.

A shortened course will be signalled using International Code Flag S. This signal may be made before the leading boat has rounded the last mark of a lap. You will be made aware of the signal by 2 sound signals when the flag is being hoisted.

## **5.2. Retirements.**

If a competitor wishes to retire then they must let the race committee know at the earliest opportunity. This can either be done by asking the safety crew to radio in your name, boat and sail number or by going to the starters cabin once you are ashore if there is no safety boat near to you when you decide to go in.

## **6. Penalty Turns.**

- If a boat hits a mark of the course, then it can exonerate itself by completing a 360-degree penalty turn, this must consist of 1 tack, 1 gybe.
- If a boat hits another competitor, it can exonerate itself by completing a 720-degree penalty turn, this must consist of 2 tacks and 2 gybes.

## **7. Protests.**

- If a competitor wishes to protest another competitor, then they must make the other party aware by hailing the other party on the water.
- Once ashore the protest must be lodged with the race officials within an hour. Protests are to be accompanied by a **£5.00** fee. (refunded if the protest is upheld).
- The parties to the protest will be notified of the time and the place of the hearing.
- Failure on the part of any party to the protest, or representative, to attend the hearing may justify the protest committee in deciding the protest as it thinks fit without a full hearing.

## **8. Scoring System.**

The low point system shall apply, amended as follows:

- A boat that does not finish or, having finished later retires (DNF or RET) will score points equal to the number of starters in the race plus 1.
- A boat that is disqualified (DSQ) will score points equal to the number of starters in the race plus 3.
- A boat that comes to the racing area but fails to start (DNS) will score points equal to the number of starters on that day plus 1.
- A boat that does not come to the racing area (DNC) will score points equal to the number of entrants in the series plus 2.

The following number of discards will be applied to the overall series results:

After 4 races -1 discard

After 7 races - 2 discards

After 10 races - 3 discards

After 14 races - 4 discards

After 17 races - 5 discards

After 20 races – 6 discards