

St GEORGE SAILING CLUB

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

2025-2026

:: All Classes

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Authority

Board of Directors. This document has been prepared approved in accordance with the Club Constitution and Sailing By-Laws.

Record of Amendment

Revision	Date	Change Summary
<i>Revision 01</i>	<i>June 2025</i>	<i>Initial Document</i>

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(a).

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.

1. RULES

- 1.1 All races conducted by St George Sailing Club ('Club') will be governed by the 'rules' as defined by the 2025-2028 World Sailing Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), the Prescriptions and Special Regulations (Part 2) of Australian Sailing (AS), the Constitution, Sailing By-Laws (SBL), Policy Documents and Manuals of the Club, the rules of the relevant Class Associations except as any of these are changed by the Sailing Instructions or Notice of Race.
- 1.2 Clauses 12.2, 12.3 or 12.4 of the Australian 13ft Skiff Association Class Rules defining the age eligibility for a skipper or crew will not apply in any Point Score or Non-Point Score (NPS) races held by the Club. If, however, two males are sailing together, one must not be older than 26 years of age at the commencement of the current sailing season.
- 1.3 [NP] [DP] All competitors shall sign on, including all crew contact details, before the first warning signal each race day, but no earlier than 1200 hours, and sign off no later than the end of the protest time limit. The sign on/sign off sheet will be located at www.stgeorgesailing.com.au/signon
- 1.4 All sailboards registered with the club sailboard division whilst racing, must display a symbol "T" minimum 200mm x 200mm x 50mm in a contrasting colour to the sail and affixed on both sides of the clew.

2. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

Notices to Competitors will be posted on the Official Notice Board located on the club sailing website at www.stgeorgesailing.com.au/noticeboard/

3. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 3.1 Any change to the sailing instructions made ashore will be posted 2 hours before the scheduled start time on the day it will take effect.
- 3.2 Any change to the Program of Events will be posted by 1800hrs on the day before it will take effect.
- 3.3 Any further changes to the sailing instructions will be communicated to all competitors either in writing, electronically or verbally at a briefing held no later than 1300hrs on the day it will take effect at a nominated location.

4. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 4.1 Signals made ashore will be on the flag-mast located on the south-western corner of St George Sailing Club, Sans Souci NSW.
- 4.2 When Flag AP is displayed ashore '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 15 minutes' in Race Signals AP.

5. SCHEDULE OF RACES

- 5.1 The race program for all classes is available from the Club's website. (www.stgeorgesailing.com.au)
- 5.2 Club races for 16ft & 13ft skiffs may be suspended if they conflict with Australian or NSW 16ft Association fixtures.
- 5.3 Any scheduled race that is postponed or abandoned, may be re-sailed at the discretion of the Sailing Committee.
- 5.4 The **Warning Signals** for all class divisions will not be before the times shown in the table below.
Note: Please check Daylight Savings Dates as gazetted by the NSW State Government.

	MG14	Sailboard	Skate	13ft Skiff	16ft Skiff
Warning Signal Scratch Starts	14:10	14:10	14:15	14:15	14:25

- 5.5 All scheduled handicap races will start at 1400hrs for all classes
- 5.6 The warning signal for all classes will be 1255hrs for racing on Anzac Day.

6. CLASS FLAGS

6.1 The Class Flags for each division will be as below:

- 16ft Skiff – white flag with 16ft skiff emblem in black
- 13ft Skiff – White flag with 13ft skiff emblem in red
- MG14 - white flag with letter 'MG' superimposed in red
- Sailboard - white flag with black windsurfer emblem.
- Skate - white flag with green Skate class emblem

7. RACING AREA

The racing area will be on the waters of Georges River east of Captain Cook Bridge & Botany Bay.

8. COURSES

8.1 Courses for all classes are as described on the club website.

8.2 No later than the warning signal, the race committee boat will display the appropriate course on the starboard side of the committee boat.

8.3 Fixed courses will be signaled using the ordinal direction (N, NE, E, etc) followed by an "S" indicating short course or an "L" indicating long course as described in the class courses.

8.4 Compass bearing courses will be signaled using the letters "CB" followed by a numerical digit indicating the number of laps to be sailed around the windward mark as described in the class courses. The race committee may also display the bearing to the first mark.

8.5 Courses for special events, such as Botany Bay Championship may be determined at the discretion of the Commodore or his representative and separate sailing instructions may be issued for these events.

9. MARKS

9.1 All rounding marks of the course will be yellow inflatable buoys.

9.2 The port end starting mark will be an orange inflatable buoy.

9.3 The finish mark will be an inflatable blue buoy or a blue float stick displaying a blue flag.

9.4 The change of course mark as provided in SI 12 will be an inflatable red buoy.

9.5 For compass bearing courses only: mark 2 shall be a gate. If the entire gate is not in place, the remaining single mark shall be rounded to port.

10. OBSTRUCTIONS

10.1 The area of water inside all moorings and the shoreline is designated as prohibited water, except for Blue and club mooring buoys which can be ignored.

10.2 All boats shall sail to the seaward side of Commons Reef Pile and Pelican Pile at all times. Failure to do so will result in disqualification from that race. This amends RRS 61.1 (b). Location is referred to on the course sheets.

10.3 [NP] [DP] Any official media boat shall be treated as an obstruction. Any report received from an official media boat captain of any boat failing to keep clear while racing may result in being scored DSQ without a hearing.

11. THE START**11.1 Scratch start**

11.1.1 A minimum of three (3) boats starting is required to constitute a race for each class, except for the 13ft Skiff.

11.1.2 Races will be started using RRS 26. The warning signal for each succeeding class shall be made with the starting signal of the preceding class.

11.1.3 The sailboard starting signal is amended for the first race of the day for their division. This amends RRS 26:

Minutes before start signal	Visual Signal	Sound Signal	Means
4	Class Flag	One	Warning Signal
3	P, I, Z, Z with I,U, or black flag	One	Preparatory Signal
0	Class Flag removed	One long	Starting Signal

- 11.1.4 The starting line will be between a mast on the race committee boat at the starboard end displaying an orange flag and the start mark at the port end.
- 11.1.5 A starting clearance mark may be set to leeward of the race committee boat. No boat shall attempt to pass between the starting limit mark and the race committee boat at any time. When starting, boats shall leave the starting clearance mark to starboard.
- 11.1.6 If any part of a boats hull is on the course side of the starting line at her starting signal and she is identified, the race committee will attempt to hail her sailing number. Failure to hail her number, failure to hear such a hail, or the order in which boats are hailed will not be grounds for a redress for request. This changes RRS 62.1(a).
- 11.1.7 A boat starting later than ten (10) minutes after her starting signal will be scored DNS without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.1 and A5.2.
- 11.1.8 No boat already racing shall re-cross the start line on subsequent laps of their race or cross the finish line unless attempting to finish. Any boats that are witnessed by the race committee to infringe these instructions may be scored DSQ without a hearing.
- 11.1.9 **Scratch Start Recalls**
Any class that has been signaled as a general recall will re-start at the race officer's discretion without impacting on any other class's scheduled start time.

11.2 Handicap start

- 11.2.1 Races will be started using the following procedure: Alters RRS 26.

Time	Code Flag	Signal
Five (5) minutes before the start	Warning	Class Flag displayed - 1 sound
Four (4) minutes before the start	Preparatory	Code Flag P displayed - 1 sound
One (1) minute before the start	1 Minute	Code Flag P removed – 1 sound Handicap Board (25) displayed
Start	Start	Class Flag removed – 1 sound Handicap Board (25) removed Handicap Board (24) displayed followed by each successive board at 1 minute intervals Sound signals may be made to draw attention to each Handicap Board

- 11.2.2 A minimum of three (3) boats starting is required to constitute a race for each class except for the 13ft skiff class.
- 11.2.3 A boat starting in a Handicap start race later than ten (10) minutes after the final starting signal will be scored DNS. This changes RRS A5.1 and A5.2.
- 11.2.4 A boats starting signal shall be the removal of the handicap board displaying their handicap.
- 11.2.5 **Handicap Start Recalls**
If in the opinion of the Race Officer a boat is attempting to start at her correct start signal and is on the course side before her handicap board is displayed, code flag X will be displayed with one sound signal. The flag shall be displayed until all boats have sailed completely to the pre-start side of the starting line or one of its extensions or 30 seconds whichever occurs first. A boat will have 4 minutes after the raising of flag X to comply with this rule. It is the responsibility of each boat to ensure they have started correctly. This changes RRS 29.1.
- 11.3.1 **Wind Strength**
Races will not start in less than an average of Four (4) knots of wind established over the entire course area. This lower limit may be higher if there is a strong tidal influence on the racing area.
- 11.3.2 Average wind strength will be determined over a ten (10) minute period.
- 11.3.3 Wind will be measured from drifting committee boats.

12 CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

To change the next leg of the course, the race committee will lay a new mark (or move the finishing line) and remove the original mark as soon as practicable. When in a subsequent change a new mark is replaced, it will be replaced by an original mark.

13 THE FINISH

13.1 For fixed courses, the finish line will be between the clubhouse building displaying a blue flag or shape and the finish mark set to the South.

For compass bearing courses, or when a fixed course indicates to finish at the committee boat the finish line will be between the race committee boat displaying a blue flag and the finish mark set opposite the starting line.

14 PENALTY SYSTEM

For all classes, RRS 44.1 is changed so that the Two-Turns Penalty is replaced by the One-Turn Penalty.

15 [NP] TIME LIMIT AND UNCOMPLETED RACES

15.1 The race time limit will be three (3) hours from the last starting signal.

15.2 The finishing window for boats to finish after the first boat sails the course and finishes is 45 minutes. Boats failing to finish within the finishing window, and not subsequently retiring, penalized or given redress, will be scored Did Not Finish (DNF). This changes RRS 35, A5.1, A5.2 and A10.

15.3 Any scheduled race which is postponed may be re-sailed at a later date at the discretion of the Commodore (or their delegate), Vice Commodore or Race Secretary.

16 PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

16.1 For all classes, the protest time limit is sixty (60) minutes after the last boat finishes the last race of the day or if the race committee signals no more racing today, whichever is later. The time limit will be posted on the official notice board. Protest forms are available at the club reception.

16.2 Notices will be posted after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Hearings will be held at a time, date, and location specified in the notice.

16.3 Appendix T – Arbitration, will apply.

17 SCORING

17.1 The Low point scoring system will apply – RRS Appendix A including A5.3.

17.2 Discards - A boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding a number of her worst scores, defined as 25% of the total number of races completed in the series, rounded down to the nearest whole number, ie:

Races Completed	Number of races discarded
0-3	0
4-7	1
8-11	2
12-15	3
16-19	4
20-23	5
24-27	6
28-31	7
32+	8

17.3 CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

17.3.1 Scheduled Club Championship races are published on the individual class calendars located online.

17.3.2 Four (4) races are required to be completed to constitute a series.

17.3.3 To be eligible for the Club Championship, a boat must have started, or attempted to start, in 60% (in total) of all Club Point score races held for its Class.

17.3.4 A boat must compete with the registered skipper for at least 75% of scheduled race days of the series

17.3.5 If a boat competes in either the State or National Championships for its Class, the boat must nominate St George Sailing as the Club it is representing as an additional requirement to be eligible for the Club Championship. This does not apply to any boat whilst under charter to a third party.

- 17.3.6 In the event that a boat fails to qualify for the Club Championship, a placing gained in any Club Championship race shall count in so far as the calculation of points awarded for all other boats registered to sail with the Club in that race.
- 17.4 Season Point Score**
- 17.4.1 A minimum of ten (10) races will be scheduled for the Annual Point Score.
- 17.4.2 Points will be awarded on the basis of Handicap results
- 17.4.3 Four (4) races are required to be completed to constitute a series.
- 17.4.4 Handicap start races will not form part of the Annual Point score series
- 17.5 1st & 2nd Half Season Point Scores**
- 17.5.1 Points are awarded on the basis of handicap results.
- 17.5.2 Races on or prior to 31st December will be assigned to the 1st Half Pointscore. Races after 31st December to be assigned to the 2nd Half Pointscore
- 17.5.3 Four (4) races are required to be completed to constitute a series.
- 17.5.4 Handicap start races will not form part of the 1st & 2nd Half point score series
- 17.6 Crews Trophy**
- 17.6.1 Points are awarded based on handicap results of Club Championship races.
- 17.6.2 Four (4) races are required to be completed to constitute a series.
- 17.7 Class Knockout Series**
- 17.7.1 Classes may elect to conduct a knockout series
- 17.7.2 Heats may be sailed in conjunction with any point score races.
- 17.7.3 Matches will be decided on the basis of Handicap results.
- 17.7.4 Round 1 matches will be determined by the random draw of all boats that have registered with the club for the season.
- 17.7.5 Subsequent matches will be between the individual winners of the previous round matches.
- 17.7.6 The winner of the Knockout Series will be the winner of the last 'match'.
- 17.7.7 The Sailing Committee may join two or more matches together into a single 'match' to enable the series to be completed and a single winner declared.
- 17.8 Casual entries**
- 17.8.1 Boats who fail to correctly enter by 1st October 2025 will be deemed to be a Casual Entry for the purposes of scoring and the provision of any prize money awarded until such time the registration is verified by the Race Secretary.
- 17.8.2 Until verification by the Race Secretary, all casual entries will be scored as a placegetter in a race but will not be scored in any club point scores or championships. The points scored by any eligible boat in the race will be adjusted accordingly to account for any casual entry that is not scored. Alters RRS A2.
- 17.9 Average Points**
- 17.9.1 Any boat 'Representing the Club' at any interclub events sanctioned by the relevant class within the state of NSW will be given average points for any Club Point Score races conducted on those days during the sailing season.
- 17.9.2 'Representing the Club' means that the boat must start in the Association event on the day of the Club Point Score race, except in the case of the National Championship. The boat need not to have finished in the event.
- 17.9.3 Any registered boat from a club affiliated class (other than 16ft skiffs) unable to sail due to the skipper or crew being seconded to a 16ft or 13ft Skiff on the day of the race will be eligible for average points for a maximum of three occasions in any one season.
- 17.9.4 The boat seeking average points in accordance with SI 17.9.3 must make the request in writing to the sailing office one hour prior to the start of the race in which the boat was unable to sail.
- 17.9.5 If a boat seeks average points on more than three occasions for the reasons of SI 17.9.3 a written request by that boat shall be made to the Sailing Committee for approval. The written request must include reasons as to why this request has been made more than 3 times in the one season.

- 17.9.6 Any registered boat from a club affiliated class unable to sail due to the skipper or crew being seconded to assist on a Race Committee boat on the day of the race will be eligible for average points for a maximum of three occasions in any one season.
- 17.9.7 A boat shall be deemed to have sailed in a 'Point Score' race if it was eligible for average points in accordance with SI 17.9.1, SI 17.9.3, SI 17.9.5 or SI 17.9.6
- 17.10 Allocation of Average Points**
The average points are to be allocated as the average of points for all races, apart from the final race, of that series
- 18 RETIREMENT FROM A RACE**
A boat that retires from a race shall notify a race support boat before leaving the race area. If this is not possible, the boat must notify the race committee as soon as possible on return to shore via sms, phone, radio or face to face communication.
- 19 [DP] REPLACEMENT OF SKIPPER, CREW OR EQUIPMENT**
- 19.1 Any change of skipper and/or crew to that which is nominated on the Registration Form, must be notified in writing or via SMS message to the Race Secretary at least one (1) hour prior to the advertised commencement of the race unless the change has been previously notified in writing or verbally at a Sailing Committee meeting. Failure to comply with this rule may result in the boat concerned being deemed a Scratch boat for the purposes of handicapping. Crew change notification is only applicable for 16ft skiffs.
- 19.2 Where a sail is replaced with one having a different sail insignia or number to that nominated on the Boat Registration Form this change must be notified in writing to the Sailing Office at least one (1) hour prior to the commencement of the race.
- 19.2 All other items of equipment excluding the hull may be replaced without prior consent. All replacement equipment must comply with relevant class measurement rules.
- 20 EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS**
A boat may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules, AS Special Regulations Part 2 and these sailing instructions.
- 21 [DP] RADIO COMMUNICATION**
From the first warning signal until the end of the last race of the day, except in an emergency, a boat shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats.
- 22 PRIZES**
- 22.1 Prizes will be awarded to the winner for each of the Club's Point Scores. Further prizes may be awarded at the discretion of the Sailing Committee.
- 22.2 Perpetual Trophies will be awarded in accordance with Club tradition.
- 22.3 Any trophy for a race that is postponed or abandoned and not re-sailed may be re-allocated at the discretion of the Sailing Committee.
- 23 DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY**
- 23.1 Competitors participate in all races entirely at their own risk. Attention is drawn to Fundamental Rule 4 of the RRS which states: 'The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone'.
- 23.2 The Club, its officers and servants, will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after racing, nor for the seaworthiness of a boat whose entry is accepted or the sufficiency or adequacy of its equipment or for damage which might result from competing in Club events.
- 23.3 The person who signs and lodges the boats entry form warrants the Club that he/she will draw to attention of any person onboard SI 24 - RISK WARNING.
- 23.4 The person who signs and lodges the entry boats entry form acknowledges receipt of SI 24 RISK WARNING and releases the Club from any claim or liability whatsoever for any harm or personal injury suffered, by him/her or any person claiming through him/her in any event conducted by the Club.

24 RISK WARNING

24.1 This RISK WARNING is issued jointly by the Club and NSW Roads & Maritime, pursuant to the Civil Liability Act 2002 to all persons wishing to participate in the sailing activities conducted by St George Sailing Club.

24.2 Participants are warned that, regardless of the precautions, which might be taken by reasonable and experienced persons, sailing can be a dangerous pursuit and participants are exposed to significant risk of property damage, physical harm and possibly death.

24.3 As an indication, these risks may include, but are not limited to:

- a) The extremes of weather and sea conditions.
- b) The potential that control of vessels may be lost, resulting in collision with objects and other vessels.
- c) The sudden movement of the vessel at any time and the possibility that participants may fall or be thrown overboard, resulting in drowning.
- d) The possibility that participants may be injured by equipment on the vessel.
- e) The absence of immediate medical care and the likelihood that significant delays may occur before medical care is available.
- f) Exposure to the elements for extended periods.

24.4 The Club and NSW Roads & Maritime also warn participants that regardless of their best intentions, they may be unable to render assistance to participants who are in distress. Participants are warned to consider the above risks and all other risks before deciding to participate in any sailing event with the Club.

25 SAFETY REGULATIONS**Note:**

Sailors are reminded that activity contrary to Maritime Legislation, Exemption Order Conditions or failure to report on-water incidents may result in the cancellation of the Clubs Exemption Order

25.1 Incident and Accident Reporting

25.1.1 It is a requirement of the Club's Exemption Order that all on water incidents resulting in damage worth more than 10% of the vessels value or otherwise described in must be reported to the Roads and Maritime Services (RMS).

Note:

If owners do not report the incident and simply claim repair costs on insurance, they may find that the insurance companies may not accept the claim. Insurers regularly ask the RMS for the results of any inquiry into the incidents.

25.1.2 Reports can be made directly to the RMS (Forms are available on the RMS Website, the club must also be provided with a copy as part of our own incident and risk management requirements.)

25.1.3 If a protest is heard following a reportable incident, and a result is given by the club judge, this should be forwarded to the RMS and in most cases will satisfy the reporting requirements for all parties. Otherwise a formal report should be made to the RMS and the club.

25.1.4 Note that none of the requirements in this section remove or alter the reporting requirements as prescribed in the relevant NSW Maritime Legislation.

25.1.5 [NP] [DP] All competitors shall sign on, including all crew contact details, before the first warning signal each race day, but not earlier than 1200 hours, and sign off no later than the end of the protest time limit. The sign on/sign off sheet will be located at www.stgeorgesailing.com.au/signon

25.1.6 (DP)(NP) The penalty for a sign on/sign off infraction as defined in SI 25.1.5 may be DPI assigned by the club judge or a reduction in daily available prize money for eligible skiffs.

26 INSURANCE

All boats shall have a minimum of AUD \$10 million public liability insurance covering the use of the boat while racing.

APPENDIX A**1 Handicap System System**

- 1.1 The handicap system adopted at the commencement of a sailing season shall not be altered during that season.
- 1.2 Registered boats will be assigned a handicap at the commencement of the first race of the sailing season. The handicap will be based on the corrected handicap from the results of the last Point Score race from the previous season (where applicable) or after consultation with the class association delegate and/or club handicapper.
- 1.2 The Sailing Secretary and/or handicappers reserves the right to adjust a boat/s handicap at any time in consultation with the class delegate and/or class handicapper. This will not be cause for Redress. Alters RRS 62.
- 1.4 A time correction factor (TCF) system may be used for handicaps
- 1.5 For races that are handicap starts, each boat's TCF will be rounded to a whole number.

2 Non-Point Score races

- 2.1 Handicap adjustments made after a non-pointscore race do not carry forward to a subsequent Point Score race.
- 2.2 In a Non-Point Score race, boats will be handicapped according to the adjusted handicaps after the previous Point Score race.
- 2.3 If there are two (2) or more Non-Point Score races in succession, a boat's handicap will be adjusted based on the performance of the previous non-pointscore race.
- 2.4 If a Non-Point Score race is held at the commencement of the sailing season and is not preceded by a point score race, boats will be handicapped at the discretion of the Sailing Secretary and class handicapper.

3 Revision

- 3.1 A skipper may seek revision of his/her handicap. He/she shall make an application in writing to the Race Secretary who shall then consult with the class delegate & club handicappers for consideration.
- 3.2 Any decision to revise the handicap will not be effective until at least eight (8) days after lodgment of the application.
- 3.3 Any revisions of handicap will be advised by the Sailing Secretary at the next scheduled sailing meeting and placed on the official notice board.

4 Change of skipper or crew

In the event of a change of skipper or crew the handicappers may amend that boats handicap, except that no boat shall receive a handicap benefit more than its last adjusted handicap with its regular skipper.

5 New skippers and boats

- 5.1 Skippers, boat or hulls new to the Club shall start on a handicap giving no benefit over any other boat. Performances of that boat over the first 3 races finished will be used to assign a handicap.
- 5.2 All boats and or skippers new to the Club that perform in excess of their handicap shall be liable to a penalty at the discretion of the Race Secretary and class handicapper during their first twelve (12) Point Score races.
- 5.3 When a boat or hull new to the Club is bought and its skipper has a Club handicap, that boat will be handicapped at the average of the scr boat's handicap and the skipper's previous handicap.

6 Hull changing hands

When a hull changes hands within the Club its handicap will be revised by averaging the boat's existing handicap and the new skipper's handicap.

7 Temporary Replacement of Hull

No temporary replacement hulls will be permitted.