



## RYS BICENTENARY REGATTAS

### COWES, ISLE OF WIGHT

June and July 2015

### USEFUL INFORMATION FOR COMPETITORS

#### ORGANISING AUTHORITY:

ROYAL YACHT SQUADRON RACING

THE CASTLE

COWES

ISLE OF WIGHT

PO31 7QT

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FAX: + 44 (0)1983 200253

[www.bic2015.org.uk](http://www.bic2015.org.uk)

[www.rys.org.uk](http://www.rys.org.uk)

## **1 EMERGENCIES**

- 1.1 In emergency yachts are requested to contact SOLENT COASTGUARD on VHF Channel 16, or send a distress signal by VHF or dial 999 on a mobile telephone and ask for 'coastguard'.**
- 1.2 For routine traffic or other information either call Solent Coastguard on VHF Channel 67 or telephone + 44 (0)2392 552100**

## **2 Safe Racing**

- 2.1 The primary focus of the Royal Yacht Squadron (RYS) Bicentenary Regattas is high standard seamanship and sailing in the safest possible manner at all times. The Regattas rely upon self-compliance and self-policing. Accordingly, we recommend that participants bear in mind that the safety of participants and their own and other yachts is their primary consideration during their Regatta.
- 2.2 The Organising Authority recommends sufficient personal flotation devices of the correct buoyancy levels (150N) are carried at all times for all persons on board.
- 2.3 Yachts are requested to have due regard and give way to commercial shipping.

## **3. Navigation within and in the vicinity of Cowes Harbour**

- 3.1 Cowes is a commercial port
- 3.2 Yachts starting from Cowes are requested to keep a good look out for ferries and commercial traffic when starting across the Cowes Harbour fairway as marked on the Admiralty Chart 2793. Rule 9 parts (b) and (d) of the International Collision Regulations shall be complied with at all times as follows:  
*(b) A sailing vessel shall not impede the passage of a vessel which can safely navigate only within a narrow channel or fairway. The latter vessel may use the sound signal prescribed in Colreg Rule 34(d) if in doubt as to the intention of the crossing vessel*

## **4. Additional Information**

### **4.2 Courses**

The Race Committee may set courses that do not permit yachts to sail rhumb-line courses between marks, particularly over the central Solent Bramble Bank.

### **4.3 Yachts retiring**

In order to assist the Race Committee a yacht that retires from a race is requested to notify the Race Committee by calling the RYS on + 44 (0)1983 292191 or text (see 4.8

below) or on VHF Channel 77 before leaving the race area. Yachts are requested not to wear ensigns while racing.

#### 4.4 Caution when sailing near the shore

The Bye-Laws laid down by the 1961 Public Health Act warn navigators of pleasure yachts that they shall not cause or suffer their vessel to be sailed within 800 metres of the shore in a dangerous manner or without due care and attention for persons bathing or using the foreshore. If tacking close inshore yachts are requested to keep a very good lookout, keeping 50 to 100 metres from bathers and avoiding frightening the swimmers. Yachts are asked to remember that although they may be navigating perfectly safely, swimmers may not know anything about sailing and may be worried by the close proximity of racing yachts.

#### 4.5 Identifying the RYS Start Line (see also SI's)

Vertical light beams are installed at the RYS to help identify the starting line transit. The intensity of the light beams intensifies as the transit is approached and at the approximate point of transit, the flagstaff momentarily obscures the lower rear light. These lights are a navigational aid only and do not constitute the starting line, nor will a start be postponed because of any failure of the lighting equipment.

#### 4.6 Actions when a general recall is signaled (see also SI's)

When a general recall is signaled, all yachts in the recalled class are requested to proceed as quickly as possible to the non course side of the line in anticipation of the new warning signal.

#### 4.7 Keeping clear after finishing

Both the RYS and JOG Gurnard finishing lines are in the vicinity of congested areas near the entrance to Cowes Harbour. After finishing, yachts are requested to immediately clear the finishing area, keep clear of all yachts that are racing and keep a very good look out for commercial traffic.

#### 4.8 Text Messaging

Competitors may make their race declaration or announce their retirement by text message using a single on board mobile telephone with a UK number. Mobile telephone numbers for this use must be registered in writing with the race office prior to or during registration. New or replacement mobile telephone numbers may be accepted after this time at the sole discretion of the Organising Authority. The procedure is as follows:-

1. To make a declaration using your registered mobile phone, send a text message within 30 minutes of finishing to 07797 803 955. The message must contain only your finish time, the boat ahead and boat astern in this format:  
1423 GBR1234T GBR23R
2. If you retire from the race, just send RETIRED

3. IMPORTANT: Wait for a response confirming that your declaration or retirement has been received.
4. If you have not received a response within 10 minutes, your declaration or retirement has not been received. You must either send your message again or contact the race office to report your problem.