

NECRA Blyth to Sunderland Offshore Race

Sunday 6th September 2020

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Rules

The event will be governed by RRS 2017-2020, the prescriptions of the RYA, the IRPCS, NECRA rules and these Sailing Instructions.

2. Risk Statement

Rule 4 of the ISAF Racing Rules of Sailing states: “The responsibility for a boat’s decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone.” Sailing is by its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore 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, umpires and other officials and volunteers by the 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;
- g) For offshore races: They are responsible for ensuring that their boat is equipped and seaworthy so as to be able to face extremes of weather; that there is a crew in sufficient number, experience and fitness to withstand such weather; and that the safety equipment is properly maintained, stowed and in date and is familiar to the crew;
- h) Their boat is adequately insured, with cover of at least £2 million against third party claims, which must include racing.

The safety of a boat and her entire management, including insurance, shall be the sole responsibility of the owner/person in charge, who must ensure that the boat and crew are adequate to face the conditions that may arise in the course of the race.

3. Disclaimer

Neither these Sailing Instructions nor any inspection of the boat limits or reduces the absolute responsibility of the owner/person in charge for the crew, the boat and her management. Every owner/person in charge warrants the suitability of the boat for the race or races and that the boat contains at least the minimum safety equipment specified by NERR/NECRA. By participating in this event each competitor agrees to release the race organizers from any and all liability associated with their participation in this event to the fullest extent permitted by law.

4. Conditions of Entry

- a) Boats must be registered with NECRA prior to the start of this event.
- b) Each boat shall hold a valid NERR rating certificate.
- c) Boats must be adequately insured.
- d) All yachts shall comply with the ISAF Offshore Special Regulations 2018 – 2019 Cat4 Monohulls. All courses are designated category 4.
- e) The wearing of lifejackets is strongly recommended for all events but is **compulsory** for any race where sails need to be reefed or during the hours of darkness.
- f) ISAF Cat 4. Liferrafts are strongly recommended.
- g) Boats may be inspected before or after racing.

5. Intention to Race

Prior to the event boats should indicate their intention to race on the NECRA website. On the day boats **must** indicate their intention to race by notifying the race station on channel M2. This notification must include the boats class and the number of people on board.

6. Classes

Boats will compete in one of the three classes below:-

Class 1 – boats with a NERR rating of TCF 0.9000 and above.

Class 2 – boats with a NERR rating of TCF below 0.9000

Class 3 - is designated a 'white sail' class. Boats in this class shall not use a spinnaker and their non-spinnaker NERR rating will be used to calculate the results

Boats are required to fly the appropriate numerical pennant from their backstay.

7. Notice to Competitors

Notices to competitors will be posted in the RNYC and on the NECRA website.

8. Changes to Sailing Instructions

Any changes to Sailing Instructions will be posted on the RNYC notice board not later than 90 minutes before the scheduled race.

9. Schedule of Race

Sunday 6 th September	Class	Warning	Start
	All Classes	09:55	10:00

10. Tidal Times

Blyth Tidal times BST

Sunderland Tidal times BST

Sun 6th September				Sun 6th September			
1243	1846			1251	1854		
0.86m	4.59m			0.87m	4.66m		

11. Starting Sequence

Signal	From the water	From the RNYC committee boat
Warning signal (5 minutes to start)	10sec countdown on M2	Class flag and sound
Preparatory signal (4 minutes to start)	10sec countdown on M2	P flag and sound
1 Minute to start	10sec countdown on M2	P flag removed and sound
Start	10sec countdown on M2	Class flag removed and sound

Signals may be supplemented by a countdown on VHF Ch.37/M1.

12. Recalls Signal

Signal	From the water	From the RNYC committee boat
Individual recall	Ch.M2	X flag and 1 sound
General recall	Ch.M2	Class flag and 2 sounds
Postponement	Ch.M2	AP flag and 1 sound

13. Start Line

The start line will be between the main mast of the committee boat and an outer distance mark.

An inner distance mark may be laid close to the committee boat. Competitors shall not pass between it and the committee boat.

If no committee boat is available start line will be in the fairway between the yellow triangles at each side, south of the harbour masters office.

14. Course

RNYC Start Line and then by any course to the finish.

15. Finish line

The finish line is a line between the red can buoy to the south and the end of the north pier at Sunderland harbour entrance.

Competitors should take their own finish time and send it to the NECRA representative.

Text 07976 938064, email honsec@necra.co.uk

Finish times must be notified no later than 2 hours after the time limit or the entrant will be deemed as DNF.

16. Continuous Obstructions

Whilst leaving Blyth and approaching Sunderland all competitors must keep clear of commercial shipping.

17. Time Limit - 1800 Sunday 6th September.

18. Retirement

Boats retiring from the race must inform NECRA representative as soon as it's practical. Text 07976 938064 or e-mail honsec@necra.co.uk

19. Penalties

If a yacht contravenes a rule of part 2 of RRS while racing she may exonerate herself by taking a 720° turns penalty in accordance with RRS44.

20. Protests

Protests must be advised to OOD by VHF Ch.M2 and protest forms handed in to NECRA race office as soon as practical after the finish of the last boat.

21. Radio Communication

A boat shall neither make radio transmissions while racing nor receive communications not available to all boats. This restriction also applies to mobile phones. RNYC "race control" will address all racing yachts as "NECRA fleet."

22. Scoring

Race results will be calculated using boats' NERR ratings as shown in the registered details on the NECRA Website at the time of the event.

NECRA scoring will be as RRS Appendix A using low points.

For the Offshore Series boats will score their best results from half of the races to count, rounded up to the nearest whole number.