



SKYE SAILING CLUB  
SCIO

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## SKYE SAILING CLUB MIDSUMMER IN THE MINCH 2017 – SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

### Organising Club

Midsummer in the Minch will be run by Skye Sailing Club representatives and any other persons they may wish to co-opt.

### Rules

The event will be governed by the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) 2017-2020 as prescribed by the RYA using the Clyde Yacht Clubs Association Handicap Rules.

### Entries

For a yacht to take part a completed and signed entry form must first be accepted by the organiser and the entry fee paid. The cut off time for entries is 90 minutes before the start. Each boat will complete an entry form and provide emergency contact details ashore while racing. Please print and complete all forms in advance and email to info@skyesailingclub.com. An additional fee will apply to entries made within 24 hours of the start.

In making an entry you accept that, if required to do so, you will display any event specific sponsorship labels (hull stickers or flags) for the duration of the event. By entering you also allow images of the entered vessel and crew to be used in promotional material and news articles (online and print). Any competing individual that does not wish to appear in such images should advise the organiser 5 days prior to the event and exclude themselves from any group or prize-giving images at the time they are taken.

### Responsibility

The safety, preparation, management and insurance of any yacht is the sole responsibility of the owner and/or skipper racing the yacht. This responsibility includes the decision to start or continue in any race. The issuing of these instructions in no way reduces the skipper's responsibility for the yacht and its crew. The organisers accept no liability or responsibility whatsoever in respect of any loss or damage, or any personal injury however caused during a yacht's participation in this event as per RRS4.

### Inspection

A yacht may be inspected at any time. If she fails to comply with the conditions, her entry may be rejected or she may be liable to disqualification or other penalty.

### Reservations

The Race Officer reserves the right to cancel, combine, divide or amend the classes if it thinks fit and can make any alterations to the programme and sailing instructions it considers necessary.

### Classes and Handicaps

Monohull yachts will race as one class using CYCA handicaps, timing and calculating to the nearest whole second. If the number of entries justifies, the committee may split the competing yachts into more classes according to handicap, details of which will be notified at the pre-race briefing. A minimum of six yachts will be required to form any additional class.

The Class flag for the purpose of starting the single class event shall be the 'T' (Tango) flag. Yachts may choose to fly the Class flag or not without penalty.

### **Briefing**

A pre-race briefing will be held on the Portree Pierhead 90 minutes before the race start which should be attended by at least one representative from each yacht. Failure to attend shall not be a cause for disqualification but any request for redress arising from such failure will not be heard. Representatives should bring this copy of the sailing instructions (and their completed crew list/entry form if not already submitted) to the briefing in case it is desired to make amendment or additions, which the Race Officer has the power to make verbally at the briefing. Any amendments will be posted on the pierhead notice board at this time.

### **Sail Numbers and Identification**

Any number on the mainsail, easily identifiable from the Official Boats, and this is the number to be shown on the entry form. Sail numbers on all headsails and spinnakers shall be the same as those on the mainsail, unless previously authorised by the Race Officer.

### **The Course**

The course will be announced via VHF Channel 6 20 minutes and 10 minutes before the start.

The course list from which the choice will be made is:

#### **Course A:**

Portree Start; Black Rock buoy to port; Flodigarry to starboard; Sgeir Eirin to starboard; Rona to port; Raasay to starboard; Longa (Gairloch) to starboard; Finish. Approximately 53 NM.

#### **Course B:**

Portree Start; Black Rock buoy to port; Flodigarry to starboard; Sgeir Eirin to starboard; Rona to port; Raasay to starboard; Finish. Approximately 48 NM.

#### **Course C:**

Portree Start; Black Rock buoy to port; Raasay to port; Longa (Gairloch) to starboard; Finish. Approximately 40 NM.

#### **Course D:**

Portree Start; Black Rock buoy to port; Raasay to port; Longa (Gairloch) to port; Finish. Approximately 36 NM.

#### **Course E**

Portree Start; Black Rock buoy to port; Flodigarry to starboard; Sgeir Eirin to starboard; Longa (Gairloch) to starboard; Finish. Approximately 37 NM.

#### **Course F**

Portree Start; Black Rock buoy to port; Eilean Tigh to starboard; Rona to port; Raasay to starboard; Longa (Gairloch) to starboard; Finish. Approximately 31 NM.

#### **Course G**

Portree Start; Black Rock buoy to port; Eilean Tigh to starboard; Rona to port; Raasay to starboard; Longa (Gairloch) to port; Finish. Approximately 28 NM.



## Starting Procedure

RRS 26 will apply.

The start will be at 1400 Friday 23 June 2017 from Portree Harbour.

If the Race Manager is left shorthanded, flag signals may not be shown, however, in this case a countdown and signal clarification will be given over the VHF radio.

In the event of adverse tide or weather conditions, the start area may move along the course beyond some marks of the course, if this is necessary, those marks will no longer form part of the course.

## Late Starting

A yacht must not paddle, nor motor, after her preparatory signal. A yacht arriving late in the starting area may remain under power after her preparatory signal under Rule 42.3(h) provided that, after stopping her engine, she takes a Two-Turns Penalty in accordance with Rule 44.2 on the pre-start side of the starting line or its extensions. Such a yacht shall keep clear of all other boats until she has completed her turns and has started.

## Individual Recalls

RRS 29.1 will not apply. Recall numbers will not be displayed. If a yacht is a premature starter, a suitable sound signal will be made, as soon as possible after her starting signal, and the class warning signal will be lowered to the "dip". A recall announcement may not be made over the VHF. The warning signal will be lowered when all premature starters have returned to the pre-start side of the line, or 4 minutes after the start concerned, whichever is the earlier. The responsibility of returning rests with the helmsman of the yacht concerned and any yacht starting prematurely and not so returning will be disqualified.

You are reminded that if the Race Manager is left shorthanded, flag signals will not be shown. In this case a sound signal will be given initially to signify early starters have been noted, clarification of boat(s) recalled will be given over the VHF radio (Ch.06) 4 minutes after the starting signal if they have not already restarted correctly.

## General Recalls

RRS 29.2 will not apply. When there is either a number of unidentified premature starters, or an error in starting procedure, the Race Officer will make a general recall signal (two sound signals), and display "first substitute" meaning the class is recalled for a new start. A fresh class warning signal will be made one minute after the First Substitute is lowered (one sound signal). Any subsequent starts are accordingly postponed.

## Shortening Course

Course may be shortened by the Race Officer showing Flag S (accompanied by two sound signals which may be periodically repeated) from a committee vessel stopped off any suitable headland, island, rock, navigational mark or orange inflatable mark laid for the purpose.



Yachts should finish between the committee vessel and such mark. The Race Officer shall endeavour to inform all yachts by VHF if course is shortened but cannot be held responsible for any yacht not hearing or receiving any Shortened Course message.

If there is no Committee Vessel available, course shortening will be done by radio and mobile phone text message and yachts will be asked to take their own time and that of the yacht in front and behind (where practical) when they pass a given transit or mark.

The course may be shortened by the use of gates given by latitude and longitude, the committee boat (when available) being positioned using GPS for such finishes.

### **Finishing**

It is planned to have a Committee Vessel on station in the vicinity of the Gairloch stone pier. The finish will be between the Committee Vessel which will fly a club pennant over the T (Tango) flag and an adjacent pink buoy. If said vessel is not on station yachts should take their time when the Gairloch pier head light bears 000° (N). Due to the restricted speed or availability of committee vessels, etc. competitors are advised that it is in their own interests, to note their finishing times as accurately as possible and to relate these to the time by GPS at the earliest opportunity. Should it be necessary to use such a timing, competitors will be asked to submit it in writing to the Race Officer as soon as possible, certified correct by two members of the crew. A log book entry made at the time will be preferred. Failure of a mark or committee boat to be on station or to display her signal will not be grounds for redress.

It would also be prudent to note the time marks or landmarks are passed during the passage. Please call the Race Control on VHF Channel 10 approximately 15 minutes prior to finishing to warn those on board the Committee Vessel, who may be napping, that you are arriving!

### **Hazards**

The Highland Council have published a list of potential hazards in Loch Gairloch which skippers should be aware of: [http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/1/business\\_and\\_trade/102/harbours/2](http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/1/business_and_trade/102/harbours/2)

### **Declaration**

Any vessel crossing the finish line will be automatically deemed to have completed the course and will be declared finished. If you know that you did not complete the course correctly or have to declare yourself retired for any reason, please notify the Race Officer by hailing as you pass the Committee Vessel.

### **Retirements**

Any yacht retiring from the event prior to or after finishing shall communicate the fact to the Race Committee, as soon as possible. Retirements can be by text on 07961 434998 if necessary.

### **Handicaps**

CYCA handicaps will be used for calculation of corrected times to the nearest whole second. Please provide your CYCA handicap on the Entry Form or the Race Manager will guess at one following research of similar vessel types. There will be no redress or amendment to handicaps not provided by an entry. Discussion/redress regarding handicaps allocated by the Race Manager when not provided by an entry will not be a valid reason for protest.

### **Protests**

Protests will be lodged in accordance with RRS 61. They shall be delivered in writing to the Race Officer up to one hour after the last boat finishes. In all cases those protested against shall be

informed by the boat protesting. Protests shall be heard by a committee of at least three non-competing members of SSC including at least one Officer (whether competing or not). The protest meeting will be held at the first mutually convenient opportunity after the finish of the race which may not be on the day the event finishes.

### **Abandoned Race**

In the event of severe weather forcing either the abandonment or the retirement of all yachts that started, the Race Officer shall have the power to either a) Change the course for a subsequent day or b) Abandon the remainder of the race and calculate the overall results on the basis of the legs so far completed. The race shall not be extended except with the express agreement of every competing yacht.

### **Alterations to These Instructions**

The Race Officer may make alterations at any time, being not less than 15 minutes before the start of the race affected, by hoisting Flag L and making two sound signals. Upon observing this signal, yachts will listen for new instructions on VHF Channel 06 and acknowledge with their clear receipt and understanding in turn as requested. Should there be a failure in this procedure, yachts should approach the committee vessel to receive the instruction orally.

### **Radio Communications**

Fixed VHF radios must be fitted and working and able to communicate with the Coastguard Services via Channel 16 as well as the Race Organiser on Channel 06.

VHF Channel 06 will be used for communication concerning the race and may be used by competitors for general inter-yacht purposes during the race. Watch should be kept on this channel and on Channel 16.

Please also monitor your VHF for half an hour prior to the start for any changes to the Sailing Instructions.

### **Propulsion**

All competitors shall observe the International Regulations for the Prevention of Collision at Sea 1972 and be particularly mindful of large vessels and 'Range Traffic' traversing The Minch.

An engine shall be used when appropriate to avoid collision, or in a grave emergency. Full details of any incident shall be given to the Race Officer who, after a hearing, may impose a penalty. If the Race Committee or other yacht taking part observes a yacht obstructing the passage of a power driven vessel, it may proceed against the yacht under Rule 60.2.

All boats must have a working engine and carry enough fuel to reach a place of refuge from any point on the route sailed. Any yacht needing to be towed at any time before or immediately after the event may be liable to disqualification or other penalty.

### **Safety**

Navigation lights must be working and used from official sunset until official sunrise. Any boat observed failing in this regard will be disqualified. This does not in any way affect the need to use lights at any time visibility is limited by weather as judged by the skipper.

Lifejackets must be worn on deck while navigation lights are on and the organiser advises each crew member on deck at night to carry a waterproof torch on a lanyard, particularly if their lifejacket is not fitted with an automatic light when inflated/in the water.

The owner or skipper is the sole person responsible for their yacht and its crew's safety. They must satisfy themselves that the vessel is sea-worthy and has the necessary flares, safety/lifelines and survival equipment on board to fulfill this responsibility throughout the event.

### **Insurance**

All competing yachts must be covered by third party insurance to the value of at least £3,000,000.

### **Prizes and a Blether**

There will be a prize giving gathering on Friday evening at The Old Inn, Gairloch (just a short stroll up from the pontoon). The Old Inn has its own micro-brewery and to welcome you ashore there is a free pint of their craft ale for every crew member on your boat (vouchers will be provided once ashore). Food will be available and it is hoped there will be live music in the bar during the evening... if you have an instrument and wish to play as well, waterproof it and bring it along!

## **The Old Inn**



### **Finally**

Our overarching desire is to make this a challenging but enjoyable event and to broaden the appeal of keelboat passage events in the West Highlands.

Skye Sailing Club wish to acknowledge the help and support in the running of this event by Stornoway Coastguard officers, Gairloch Harbourmaster (Len Campbell), the officers of Gairloch Sailing Club and Sharon and her team at The Old Inn, Gairloch, for hosting Friday's prize giving.

**This event will act as a feeder to the Gairloch Regatta taking place on Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th June. To enter the regatta, please contact Gairloch directly via their website.**



This event's results will be included in the West Highland Offshore Series – any competing yacht automatically qualifies for entry... no additional fee. Full details available via [www.skyesailingclub.com](http://www.skyesailingclub.com)

# MIDSUM



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## SKYE SAILING CLUB MIDSUMMER IN THE MINCH 2017 – ENTRY

### PLEASE USE BLOCK LETTERS

Yacht Name	Skipper
Sail Number	Type of Yacht
Email	Telephone (Day)
Hull Colour	Mobile (during race event)
Inflatable Colour (If Carried)	Yacht Club (RRS 75.1)
CYCA Handicap	MMSI Number

Entry is by Donation at a minimum suggested level – you may give more. Tick:  £ \_\_\_\_\_  
 £30\* Standard Entry  £25\* if paid before 01/06/17  £25\* Skye Sailing Club Members

**PLEASE TICK THE BOX AND HELP US RECLAIM THE TAX WITH GIFT AID**

I am a UK taxpayer. Please treat all donations I make in the future or have made to Skye Sailing Club for the past four years as Gift Aid donations until I notify you otherwise. I understand that I must have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in each tax year, that is at least equal to the tax that Charities & Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) I donate to will reclaim on my gifts. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify and that Skye Sailing Club will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give.

My Address:

Enclosed Cheque payable to Skye Sailing Club or payment direct into Skye Sailing Club Bank Acc.  
Direct pay £35\* to: Sortcode 832619. Account 00298562. Please Ref: Your boat name prefixed with MM.

Crew Name	Shore based emergency contact number
1 skipper	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	

I certify that all details given above are correct and that there has been no material alteration to my boat since details were last submitted to CYCA for my current handicap. I agree to be bound by The Racing Rules of Sailing and by all other rules that govern this event, including the Conditions of Entry, and to be available for inspection at the race officers request. I undertake to ensure that every member of the crew shall read and abide by all the above mentioned regulations and instructions. I have, or shall effect before racing, appropriate Insurance Cover for Third Party & Passenger Liabilities for an amount of at least £2,000,000. I fully understand that the organisers of the event can never be held responsible for what might happen to participating crews or boats. In submitting this form I agree to you holding its contents on the Skye Sailing Club database which will not be sold on to any third party.

Signature of Owner/Skipper ..... Date .....

Please send completed form to Skye Sailing Club – info@skyesailingclub.com and pay by direct bank transfer if at all possible. The Club will acknowledge receipt by email.