



## 1. Organising Club

'The Big Boat Event' will be run by Gairloch Boat Club representatives and any other persons they may wish to co-opt for the event on Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

## 2. 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.

## 3. 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. Please print and complete all forms in advance and email to [www.spanglefish.com/gairlochboatclub](http://www.spanglefish.com/gairlochboatclub).

## 4. 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.

## 5. Risk Statement

Rule 4 of the 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 inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event, each competitor agrees and acknowledges that:

- 5.1 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;
- 5.2 They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore;
- 5.3 They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions;
- 5.4 Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate;
- 5.5 The provision of a race management team, patrol boats and other officials and volunteers by the event organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities;
- 5.6 The provision of patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances.

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5.7 They are responsible for ensuring that their Yacht is equipped and seaworthy so as to be able to face extremes of weather; that there is a crew sufficient in 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.

### **6. Insurance**

All competing yachts must be covered by third party insurance to the value of at least £2,000,000.

### **7. 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.

### **8. Reservations**

The committee 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.

### **9. Classes and Handicaps**

9.1 Yachts will race as one class using a Clyde Cruising Handicap System, timing and calculating to the nearest whole second.

9.2 Please provide your Handicap if you know it, on the Entry Form or the Principal Race Officer will allocate a handicap following research of similar types of vessel with any element of doubt erring towards less favourable! Any handicap allocation of this nature required by the Principal Race officer will not be a valid reason for protest.

9.3 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 '1' flag. Yachts may choose to fly the Class flag or not without penalty.

### **10. Briefing**

A pre-race briefing will be held at Gairloch Boat Club at 10:00 hrs Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup>. This 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) to the briefing in case it is desired to make amendment or additions, which the committee have the power to make verbally at the briefing.

### **11. 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.

### **12. The Course**

Courses will be notified at the briefing on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup>.

12.1 Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> - It is intended that there will be three races starting at 11:30 hrs. These will run back to back.

12.2 Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> – It is intended that there shall be one race. The start will be at 11.30 hrs.

### **13 Scoring**

All races to count towards a vessels series.

### **14. Starting Procedure**

14.2 Races will be started by using RRS 26 with the warning signal made 5 minutes before the starting signal.

14.3 It is intended that all vessels will start in one class.

14.4 The Starting Line will be either:

Between a staff displaying an orange flag on a committee vessel at the starboard end and a port-end starting mark, or  
Between two starting marks if the committee vessel cannot anchor.

14.5 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.

14.6 A yacht starting later than 10 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes RRS A4 and A5.

14.7 Individual Recalls - RRS 29.1 will not apply. Recall numbers will not be displayed. If a yacht is a premature starter, a single 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 CH 80. The warning signal will be lowered when all premature starters have returned to the prestart 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.

14.8 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.

## **15. The Finish**

15.1 The finishing line will be between a staff displaying a blue flag on a race committee vessel and the nearby finishing mark, or between 2 buoys if the committee vessel is not anchored.

15.2 When a race committee vessel on station at the finish is displaying Flag "D", it is the race committee's intention to start another race as soon as possible.

## **16. 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 mark of the course. Yachts should finish between the committee vessel and such mark. The Race Officer will 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.

## **17. Retirements**

Any yacht retiring from the event prior to or after finishing shall communicate the fact to the Race Officer, as soon as possible. Retirements will be notified using VHF CH 80.

## **18. Protests**

Protests will be lodged in accordance with RRS 61. They shall be delivered in writing to the Race Officer at Gairloch Boat Club 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 noncompeting members of GBC 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.

## **19. 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)

**20. 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 CH80.

**21. 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 CH 80. VHF CH 80 will be used for communication concerning 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.

**22. Prizegiving**

There will be a prize giving on Sunday afternoon from 1500 at The Badachro Inn, Badachro where a BBQ has been organised (payable at the time).

There are 3 visitors moorings in Badachro and a number of other privately owned moorings that may be made available on the day (boats may raft up on the visitors moorings in settled conditions). A local RIB will be on hand to guide boats to a suitable mooring; alternatively boats can anchor in the bay.

Finally, our overarching desire is to make this a challenging but enjoyable event. Gairloch Boat Club wish to acknowledge the help and support in the running of this event by their members, the PRO and his team, Gairloch Harbourmaster (Len Campbell), Donald Lorne at **The Shieling, Gairloch** for hosting Saturday evening's entertainment and Martin and Les Pearson and their team at **The Badachro Inn** for hosting Sunday's prize giving. Have a great time – we hope to see you and your friends next year.