



Mannering Park Amateur Sailing Club

Grace Street Mannering Park NSW
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www.manneringparkasc.org.au

Sailing Instructions

Winter Series 2024

THESE SAILING INSTRUCTIONS ARE BASED ON THE SI USED FOR THE 2023-2024 SAILING SEASON. THEY INCLUDE INSTRUCTIONS WHICH APPLY ONLY TO THIS EVENT.

CONTENTS

1	General Conditions
2	Yachts, Catamarans and Dinghy/Monohulls
	Appendix A – Winter Series Courses
	Appendix B – Approximate Location of Fixed Marks

1 GENERAL CONDITIONS

1.1 ABBREVIATIONS:

AS –Australian Sailing,
DC - Duty Crew,
DCO - Duty Committee Officer,
GC - General Committee,
MPASC - Mannering Park Amateur Sailing Club,
OOD – Officer of the Day,
RC – Race Committee,
RRS – Racing Rules of Sailing of the International Sailing Federation
SI – Sailing Instructions,

1.2 ORGANISATION

The Organizing Authority and Conducting Authority for races held at Mannering Park is MPASC.

1.3 RACE COMMITTEE

The RC shall be elected at a General Meeting of MPASC.
The RC shall have the power to co-opt additional members for specific purposes.

1.4 RULES

Races at MPASC shall be governed by the following:

- 2021-2024 Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS),
- The Prescriptions and Special Regulations of Australian Sailing,
- These sailing instructions as amended from time to time.

1.5 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

Notices to competitors will be posted on the official Notice Board in the MPASC clubhouse.

1.6 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

The RC reserves the right to amend these Sailing Instructions.

Any change to the SI or any change to the schedule of races will be posted on the Club Notice Board and on the Club's Website www.manneringparkasc.org.au

1.7 SCHEDULE

A program of 4 weekly races is scheduled to start on Saturday 27th April 2024 and finish on 18th May 2024.

1.8 ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY.

- Races are open to all types of sailing vessels.
- The RC reserves the right not to accept an entry at its discretion.
- All boats shall be on the MPASC Club Register.
- Sailors in boats with an overall length of less than 7 meters must wear a personal flotation device at all times when competing.

- An applicable race fee of \$15 per race or \$40 for the series of 4 races must be paid before competing in the start of any race in the winter series. Payment to be made via the club website Trybooking link under the Registrations tab
- The owners/skippers of all boats must be financial sailing members of MPASC prior to competing in the winter series.
- Any boat identified as being in breach of the above clauses shall be scored as DNE (Disqualified, Not Excludable) which cannot be discarded from a Series. It is the responsibility of the Owner/Skipper to ensure compliance.
- This club races under the Racing Rules of Sailing. Under RRS Rule 77 each boat is required to display an identification number on their sails when racing, otherwise their entry will not be accepted.
- All boats racing shall have a current Cat 7 safety certificate to comply with the AS Racing Rules Special Regulations Part 1 for keel boats Category 7, unless the boat is covered by Special Regulations Part 2 for Off the beach boats. The Club Equipment Auditor(s) can perform the yacht safety equipment audit for keel boats.

1.9 RESPONSIBILITY

- All those taking part in races conducted by the MPASC do so at their own risk and responsibility.
- MPASC and any other organization connected with racing conducted by MPASC, their officials, volunteers, employees, agents and any sponsors, disclaim any and every responsibility for any loss, damage, injury, death or inconvenience that may occur to persons or things, both ashore and on the water, as a consequence of their participation in any way in the races.
- The Club is not responsible for the seaworthiness of any boat whose entry is accepted nor is it responsible for the adequacy of its equipment.
- Attention is drawn to RRS Rule 4 which states, '*The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone*'.

1.10 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

Signals made ashore are displayed from:

- The Flagpole – in the case of flag signals.
- The area directly in front of club house – for the Number sign for the course to be sailed.
- The Clock mounted on the roof of the club - for the countdown timer, and flashing lights for strong wind warning (yellow) and race abandonment (red).

1.11 MARKS

- The permanent marks are yellow, cylinders approximately 100 mm diameter and 1.5 m high. Their approximate locations are shown on the map included in Appendix B.
- The Start and Finish line for yachts is between a fixed mark directly north-east of the club and the flag pole mast at the corner of the club house.

2 YACHTS, CATAMARANS AND DINGHY/MONOHULLS

2.1 START TIME

On the clock - at the drop (removal) of the boat's allocated start time.

The countdown of the clock will start at 60 minutes, at approximately 12.15 pm. The clock will be started on local GPS time if possible, but it is the responsibility of the boat crew to check the start clock when starting.

2.2 COURSES

The courses will be selected by the RC based on the prevailing wind. **The courses are listed in Appendix A.**

The start and finish line for all races will be between the clubhouse mast/flagpole and a fixed mark located in the area north-east of the Club. The starters will use the digital display clock mounted on the roof of the clubhouse.

- Boats will be notified of the course to be sailed by a number displayed in the area in front of the Club house indicating the course number.

- For Clock Starts, the numbers on the clock count down to zero. The race starts when the boat's allocated start time disappears. For example, a boat with a start time of 10 minutes starts when the number on the clock changes from 10 to 9.
- Attention is drawn to RRS Rule 23.1. *'If reasonably possible, a boat not racing shall not interfere with a boat that is racing'*.
- There will be no recall of premature starters but any yacht which starts early will be penalised the amount by which the start was broken plus two minutes.
- A boat which crosses the starting line more than 10 minutes after zero appears on the clock will be recorded as DNS (Did Not Start).

2.3 THE FINISH

The finishing line for all Series races shall be a line between the MPASC clubhouse mast/flagpole and the fixed mark situated approximately 200 metres to the north-east.

2.4 TIME LIMIT

Unless otherwise advised, the time limit for racing on Winter races shall be 3.30 pm. All boats finishing outside the time limit will be recorded as DNF (Did Not Finish).

2.5 BOAT TO SHORE COMMUNICATION

Normal communication between boats and shore will be via radio or mobile phone. The Club operates a VHF Band radio (CH 77). Boats racing are required to carry Marine Band VHF and maintain a listening watch on this channel whilst racing, for safety reasons and race management advice.

The Club also has a phone for use by the Duty Crew. The Club's phone number is 4359 3518

2.6 ABANDONING A RACE

To signify race abandonment the clubhouse and/or committee support boat shall display Code Flag 'N' (chequered blue and white flag) and announce the abandonment over the VHF radio. A red flashing light may also be displayed from the clubhouse.

Club Officials may have more information on weather conditions than the boats intending to race. Club Officials will relay this information to race starters by radio. This does not infer responsibility by the Club for weather forecasts, the accuracy of the forecasts, or a boat's decision, under RRS Rule 4 which states: *'The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone'*.

If a strong wind or storm warning is issued prior to the start of a race an orange flashing light will be displayed beside the clock. The race will be started, however participation in the race is at the boat's discretion (RRS Rule 4).

Wind Strength when Race is Abandoned

The wind strength on the lake at Mannering Park is affected by topography and the Lake Macquarie Weather Station is sheltered by the hills. Nearby the only exposed weather stations are on the east coast at Norah Head and at the mouth of the Hunter River at Newcastle.

To avoid confusion on this matter the Duty Officer will abandon the race, at the start time of the Clock, if at that time the average wind strength (ignoring gusts) is above 25 knots at the Norah Head Weather Station or at the Newcastle Weather Station.

2.7 SCORING IN A WINTER SERIES

- Only those boats that satisfy both Eligibility and Entry requirements will be scored in the race results.
- In a series of more than 4 races one result may be discarded (i.e. lowest points scored), including a DNS or DSQ. In a series of 4 races or less, all races count. The winner of the series will be the boat with the highest total score.

Place	Points	Handicap Penalty
1	8	3 minutes
2	7	2 minutes
3	6	1 minutes
All other finishers	4	Fleet lift of 1 min for all boats (including DNF)
Boats which did not finish	1	

2.8 WINTER SERIES COURSES

The Courses are listed in Appendix A

- An 'S' under the mark number means the mark is rounded with it on the starboard side of the boat. A 'P' under the mark number means the mark is to be rounded with it on the port side of the boat.
- The course number to be sailed will be displayed at the front of the clubhouse for each race.
- In the absence of any number being displayed - Course 1 shall be sailed.

2.9 CALCULATION OF RACE RESULT

- The positions of boats in a race are decided by the order in which they cross the finishing line.
- In light or failing winds when boats may fail to finish within the prescribed time limit, 50% of the starters must finish the race within the time limit to record a result for that race. Two boats starting will constitute a race.
- Any visitor will be given a result but will not affect the position or results of members' boats.

2.10 HANDICAPPING FOR WINTER SERIES

- Each boat will be allocated a handicap based on her performance during the regular season.
- The handicapper may adjust a boat's handicap if its handicap is not aligned to the rest of the fleet.
- Handicaps will be reviewed weekly, or at the handicapper's discretion.

2.11 PENALTIES FOR STARTING EARLY

- Boats which start early will be penalised by the amount of time that they were early over the line, plus two minutes.
- Boats which start early will be recorded by the Timekeeper and notified to the handicapper.

2.12 SAIL WARDROBE

- The Winter Series races are for boats rigged with 'working sails' only.
- Boats may reef main sail in and out or furl / unfurl / change head sail with varying wind conditions during a race.
- The use of spinnakers, gennakers, or screechers is not allowed.

2.13 PROTESTS

The RC wishes to discourage the necessity for protests during social racing. Competitors are invited to enter the event in the right spirit (RRS Rule 2), to be meticulous in observing the rules and to complete a 360 degree turn for breaching any racing rule, or alternatively to retire from the race.

APPENDIX A WINTER SERIES COURSES

The course will be decided by the Starting Official or the race co-ordinator prior to the start of the race.

Abbreviations:

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| 1 – Wyee Bay | 5 - Chain Valley Bay |
| 2 – The Shallows | 6 – The Inlet |
| 3 – Bird Cage | 7 – Black Ned’s |
| 4 – Frying Pan | 8 – Start/Finish |

COURSE 1 - (NE, N, S and SW winds)									<i>Distance</i>
Mark	Start	7	4	2	1	4	7	Finish	
Rounding		P	P	P	P	S	S		13.0km

COURSE 2 - (SE, W and N winds)									
Mark	Start	5	6	4	3	7	Finish		
Rounding		S	S	P	P	S			12.4km

COURSE 3 - Short (NE, NW and S winds)									
Mark	Start	7	2	4	7	Finish			
Rounding		P	S	S	S				7.8km

COURSE 4 - Short (SE and N winds)									
Mark	Start	7	1	2	7	Finish			
Rounding		P	S	S	S				8.4km

P = Pass the buoy to port

S = Pass the buoy to starboard

APPENDIX B

APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF FIXED MARKS

