



Nairn Sailing Club – Yacht and Keelboat Racing Policy

Revised Apr 2021

1. Introduction

Nairn Sailing Club has a long history of club racing stretching back as long as the club. The racing calendar contains a variety of races as outlined in section 6. At the end of the season championship trophy will be awarded as per section 5.

2. Objective

2.1. Objective

The Objective of this document is to ensure racing within Nairn Sailing Club is inclusive, fair, enjoyable and safe for all participants.

How we will do this-

- Fair – Everyone competes on a level playing field, handicaps are correctly applied.
- Enjoyable – Race formats are mixed to allow variety and all boat types a chance to compete.
- Safe – Racing is carried out in suitable tide and weather conditions. Course is set in suitable water depths for all participants.

2.2. Remit

This document sets out to state the rules and guidance for racing of Yachts and Keelboats within Nairn Sailing club organised events. The rules and guidance here stated are applicable to club members and visitors in the case of open events. All boat owners' helms and crew should familiarise themselves with this document. Any questions should be addressed to the vice commodore.

3. To Take part

3.1. Eligibility

Races are open to all club members exclusively, except for open races as stated by the deed of the cup see section 6.

3.2. Fees

For the 2021 season no race levy will be charged, this will be reviewed at the end of season.

3.3. Safety

The following list is applicable to club races, additional equipment should be considered for longer passages.

- Life Jackets or appropriately rated buoyancy aid to be worn by all crew onboard
- VHF radio
- Fire extinguisher
- Manual bilge pump or bailing bucket
- Minimum of 1 suitable anchor & warp

- First aid kit
- Marine type compass,
- 15m/ 50 feet minimum heaving line
- Flares kept in a suitable waterproof container
- Softwood tapered plugs for each hull orifice

Please remember that the safety of the craft and her crew is the sole inescapable duty of the Skipper who should do his/her best to ensure that the yacht is well found, thoroughly seaworthy and manned by a crew who are fit to face the conditions. The Skipper should ensure that all safety equipment is properly maintained and stowed and that the crew know where it is and how to use it.

3.4. Rules

The Rules of Racing 2020-2024 will apply. Disputes will be addressed in a timely and proper manner by those responsible; parties involved will use established tools for achieving a fair resolution. Any disputes will be dealt with as per guidance supplied by RYA.

3.5. Insurance

Third Party minimum insurance of £3,000,000 is required for vessels to participate in any club activities.

3.6. What is expected of you?

Courtesy and respect to other competitors, officials and other water users, both afloat and ashore.

Compliance with rules; taking a penalty when required by the rules.

Use of provided tools to resolve any disputes.

Adherence to these rules and guidance notes

4. Handicap

4.1. CYCA

The main handicap system used will be CYCA, this system is widely recognised and used. Handicap will be applied to **all** boats. Handicap can be applied for via CYCA Website via this [Form](#). This is recommended to keep a fair and level playing field.

Any boat without individual handicap will be awarded handicap based on CYCA database of same or similar boats considering LWP, displacement and boat type. Application and certification is preferred for club and member to ensure system is fair for all. Handicaps adjusted from database by owner will not be accepted, if you have an adjustment make the application.

Any member requiring assistance with handicap, handicap application or in dispute please contact the Vice Commodore.

4.2. Funcap

The Funcap system will apply to each race, boats racing in last race will be measured against their CYCA handicap. A percentage of the difference will be added to the next race handicap. This system allows all boats to compete for the Challenge championships throughout the season.

5. Championship

The point's series that runs throughout the season works as follows:

1st Place = 1 point

2nd Place = 2 points

3rd Place = 3 points and so on.

If you start but don't finish (DNF) total number of points for boats racing, e.g. 9 boats start, 8 finish, 9 points to the non-finisher. Boats that do not start (DNS) total number of points + 5 e.g. 9 boats start, 9 points + 5 = 14 points to a DNS.

At the end of the season hopefully nine or ten races will have been sailed, two discards will be allowed, removing the 2 highest points scored over the season, when all points are totalled the person with the lowest score will become the club champion.

All races, **except The Harvey Salver, Junior Helm and the Wilson Pursuit**, will count towards the club championship. This will be scored on the CYCA and the Challenge system will run in conjunction. Trophies will be awarded for 1st places only on both systems this year.

6. Events

- **Night race series:** this will be a points challenge using scratch CYCA numbers open to Dinghy and yachts the winner of the series will receive the Vice Commodore bottles one for top Dinghy and one for top Yacht.
- **Craig Cup:** Donated by Bill Craig, one of the club's founder members.
- **Maxwell Trophy:** Donated by Alistair Maxwell, one of the club's founder members; Now used as junior helm trophy.
- **Buchan Cup:** Donated by Buchan Main, a former commodore and long-standing member.
- **Harvey Salver:** Donated by John Harvey when he left the club to move to Fort William.
- **Taylor Tankard:** Donated by Owen Taylor, former member.
- **Wilson Pursuit** (pursuit race): Donated by Hugh Wilson, one of the founder members and the first Commodore.
- **Lowson Trophy:** Donated by Betty Lowson, in memory of her late husband; Betty formerly served as Club Secretary.
- **Sweetheart Trophy:** Donated by Pam Moore in memory of her daughter, Nancy Duke, who was tragically killed in an accident in London. Nancy's ashes were scattered in the Moray Firth off Nairn to be near Sundancer, the dolphin she had adopted.
- **Windermere Rose Bowl:** Donated by club member, Ken Killham.
- **Nairn Quaich:** Donated by club member, Ken Killham, to be awarded to the best Windermere member sailing at Nairn.
- **Tony Thame Trophy:** Donated by Pam Thame in memory of her late husband Tony – a stalwart member of our club.
- **Pelorus Trophy:** Donated by Tor Torklinson, a Norwegian who set up business in Nairn building and repairing boats.

- **Open Trophy** (open race): Donated by Buchan Main for the club's regatta weekend, to be given to the best non-Nairn boat taking part.
- **Nan MacLean Trophy:** Donated by Nan MacLean's sister. Nan used to holiday in Nairn and loved to sit and watch the yachts sailing. On her death, she instructed her sister to organise her ashes to be scattered on the Firth, and in memory of her sister she had the trophy commissioned and donated to the club.
- **Novice Helm Trophy:** Donated by Fred Woodcock for the Novice Helm race.

7. Starting, Time Keeping and Results

Races will be run using the racing rules for sailing 2020-2024 any deviation from these rules will be highlighted in the pre-race email and at the race briefing.

Key points:

- Starting will be conducted on VHF channel 77 in a 5-4-1-0 format a 10 second count down for each key point will be given
- Finishing will be taken by each yacht; this is a trust system. This must be recorded as HH:MM:SS, if no SS is provided it will be rounded up, for example a time of 20:23:?? will be awarded 20:24:00. This should be recorded using a GPS.
- Results will be posted as soon as possible after the race.
- Race briefing will held 1hr prior to race start on the 2nd pontoon.

8. Dispute

Club racing is aimed to be fun, inclusive and fair. Please understand the rules but be aware that not everyone will know them. Above all leave it out on the water, the pontoon, bar is not the place. If an issue can't be resolved, the racing rules for sailing will be applied.

9. Race Formats

9.1. Race Types

- Pursuit Race - boat start time is staggered based on CYCA handicap and adjusted for race length. The slowest boat starts first and at the end of a defined time boat position on water is to be recorded.
- Timed race - all boats start together, elapsed time is to be recorded to complete fixed course, results will be corrected for CYCA handicap.
- Average Lap - fixed number of laps to be sailed, each lap is to be timed, average time is to be submitted and corrected for CYCA handicap.

9.2. Courses

Courses are to be in 3 formats:

- Olympic Triangle - 3 legs, start to Winward, with side leg sailed in Triangle-Sausage format and tailored to race length. Suggested 1NM mark separation.
- Navigational marks - Longer format races using navigational marks.
- Winward-Leeward marks - Shorter sausage format, placement approximately 1NM.

Club marks are permanently installed and will be used where possible, additional temporary marks will be deployed if required to suit wind direction.