

# **Winter Open Series 2026**

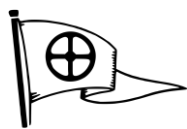
## **Sailing Instructions**

**Sunday Series: 1<sup>st</sup> February – 29<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

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**Changes from 2025:**

- Race dates updated



## 1. Rules

- 1.1. The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing in principal, but the focus is on participation. Any rule infringements are encouraged to be resolved on the water.

## 2. Notices to Competitors

- 2.1. Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located in HSC clubhouse.

## 3. Changes in Sailing Instructions

- 3.1. Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted before 12:00 on Sunday on the clubhouse

## 4. Briefing

- 4.1. There is no planned briefing.

## 5. Signals Made Ashore

- 5.1. Signals made ashore will be displayed on the flagstaff at the clubhouse.
- 5.2. When racing has been postponed ashore, Flag "AP" lowered with one sound signal means the warning signal afloat will be made not less than 45 minutes after AP is lowered.
- 5.3. International Code Flag "U" flown from the clubhouse flagstaff indicates that naval movements are expected. See Paragraph 23. Such movements may include transits of Trident submarines which require significant maneuvering space. Instructions of rescue boats or MOD Police craft must be obeyed, under penalty of disqualification subject to hearing. Note: Flag "U" will not be raised on the Champ other than for its normal meaning under the RRS

## 6. Schedule of Races

- 6.1. Sunday series is planned to run on; February 1, 8, 15, and 22, 2026; and March 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29, 2026
- 6.2. There will be up to two races per Sunday
- 6.3. The first start will be at 13:30

## 7. Racing Area

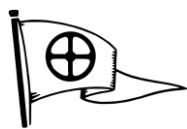
- 7.1. The racing area will be located off Helensburgh Sailing Club.

## 8. Classes

- 8.1. Starting order and Class flags are shown in Table 1 below:

Table 1 - Classes

Class	Starting order	Class flag
Handicap CATs	1	NP1
Handicap Dinghies	2	NP2
Topper One Design (5.3/4.2)/ Optimist/ SailQubes/Slow Handicap	3	NP3



- 8.2. Prior to the first race in a series, the Race Committee may combine or split Classes and/or Starts.

## 9. Courses

- 9.1. The RO will display the course to be sailed will be displayed on a course board on the race committee boat  
9.2. Green letters – Mark rounded to Starboard, Red letters – Mark rounded to Port.  
9.3. When the course displayed is preceded by Letter 'A', all classes shall sail the same course.  
9.4. See attached Appendix 'HSC Course Card 2022'

## 10. Marks

- 10.1. All marks are rounding marks.  
10.2. Mark 'S' is a laid mark and indicated by the RO  
10.3. Rounding marks that are permanent are shown on Appendix 'Dinghy Course Card 2022'  
10.4. On the afternoon of racing the RO will ensure all competitors clearly understand the marks being used for the race.

## 11. The Start

- 11.1. 1st Warning Flag will be raised 13:27  
11.2. Boats will start in the order as shown in 8.1  
11.3. Races will be started using rule 26, but the warning signal will be given 3 minutes before the starting signal i.e. 3-2-1-Go. This changes rule 26.  
11.4. The start/flag sequence is shown on Appendix 'HSC Course Card 2022'  
11.5. The starting line will be between a staff that may be displaying an orange flag or shape on the race committee boat at the starboard end and Mark **S** at the port end.  
11.6. A boat starting later than 3 minutes after the starting signal for the last class to start will be scored Did Not Start (DNS).  
11.7. After a general recall of any class the normal starting sequence shall not be interrupted. The warning signal for the class that has had a general recall shall be raised at the starting signal of the last class to start normally. This changes rule 29.2

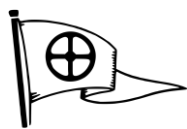
## 12. The Finish

- 12.1. The finishing line will be between a staff that may be displaying an orange flag or shape on a race committee boat and Mark **S** at the port end of the line.

## 13. Time Limit

The time limit will be as follows:

- 13.1. The time limit will be 1 hour after the start time for the class.  
13.2. If by the fixed time limit no boat has finished the race but one or more boats in that class have completed 1 "round", the race shall be deemed to have finished at the end of the completed round without regard to any subsequent event.  
13.3. When the course has been shortened the fixed time limit is changed to 20 mins from the first boat to finish in each class, however this cannot exceed the 1 hour time limit (13.1).  
13.4. In alteration to RRS 35 any boat not finishing within 20 minutes of the first boat in its class to complete the course or shortened course will have the time of the last complete lap sailed as their finish time.



## 14. Penalties

The following amendment applies to rule 44.1 of the RRS:

- 14.1. A boat may take a *One-Turn* (360°) Penalty when she may have broken one or more rules of Part 2 in an incident while racing.

## 15. Protests

- 15.1. This is a friendly series with the focus on participation and any rule infringements are encouraged to be resolved on the water. Formal protests are discouraged
- 15.2. Protests shall be written on forms available from the sailing secretary and delivered within 24 hours of the last boat's finish on the day of racing.
- 15.3. Protests will be heard in approximately the order of receipt as soon as possible after racing has finished for the day.
- 15.4. Rule 66 is changed by adding this sentence: on the last day of racing, a party to the hearing may ask for a reopening no later than 15 minutes after being informed of the decision.

## 16. Scoring

- 16.1. Results will be calculated using the PY Average Laptime Results system.
- 16.2. The number of races to count will be based on the following table:-

Sailed	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
To Count	1	2	2	2	3	4	4	5	5	6	7	7	8	8	9	10	10	11

- 16.3. A DNC will be counted in the results as 'number of starters + 2'

## 17. Safety

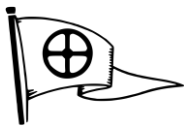
- 17.1. For Dinghies, Rule 40 is changed such that effective personal buoyancy **must be worn by all competitors at all times** while afloat.
- 17.2. No boat will be allowed to compete which, in the view of the Race Committee or an official appointed by them, is not seaworthy or has inadequate buoyancy.
- 17.3. There will be a limit to the weather conditions which racing is allowed, this will be judged by the Race Officer on the racing day.

## 18. Rescue Craft

- 18.1. Rescue craft will be available. Once assistance has been accepted the instructions of the rescue must be obeyed.

## 19. Disclaimer

- 19.1. The Officers of Helensburgh Sailing Club on behalf of themselves and their representatives disclaim any and every responsibility for any loss, injury or inconvenience to dinghies, persons or associated things, howsoever arising, directly or indirectly, ashore or afloat from the use of slip-ways, premises and the handling of attendant vessels or from their rules, policy or ruling during races and related activities.



## 20. Insurance

- 20.1. The safety of a boat and her entire management, including insurance against any risks and responsibility to third parties, shall be the sole responsibility of the owner/ competitor racing the boat who must ensure that the boat and crew are adequate to face the conditions which may arise during the course of the event. Each owner/competitor shall be responsible for ensuring that he/she holds adequate third party insurance to the minimum value of £3,000,000 sterling whilst racing. The establishment of these Sailing Instructions in no way limits or reduces the complete responsibility of the owner/competitor for his/her crew, his/her boat and the management thereof and third party liability ashore or afloat. No responsibility for loss, damage, death or personal injury howsoever caused, will be accepted either by the organizing club or any official connected with the event.

## 21. Narrow Channels Restrictions

- 21.1. Whilst afloat, any dinghy which is unable for reasons of lack of wind or other cause to sail clear of large power driven vessel shall paddle in order to clear and, if racing, shall thereafter report full details to the Race Committee. Competitors are reminded of the Clydeport Operations Limited byelaw which prohibits yachts and other craft from manoeuvring within 100meters of any ferry terminal. Particular regard shall be paid to this when in the vicinity of Clyde marine services operations at Helensburgh pier. The Restricted channel into the Gareloch, off Helensburgh Sailing Club and extending to the southern limit of the King's Harbour, may be closed by the King Harbourmaster for the passage of large naval vessels. International Code Flag "U" raised at HSC will indicate if this is likely. The requirements described above MUST be met, and any instructions received from MOD police in accompanying RIB's or Launches must be promptly obeyed.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

This section does not form part of the Sailing Instructions and is provided for information only:

**The official notice board** will be at Helensburgh Sailing Club and online at the Helensburgh Sailing Club Facebook Page. Any updates to the scheduled racing will be published here by 0930 on the racing day.

**Entries** will be accepted as detailed in The Notice of Race; however the scale of prizes and combination of classes will be established from the number of entries.

**Results** of races will be published on the Club Website as soon as possible after completion of racing.

**The Prize-giving** date and location TBC.