



IRISH FIREBALL ASSOCIATION
2023 Fireball Open Championship
23rd April 2023 at DunLaoire Motor Yacht Club

Sailing Instructions

1 The Rules

- 1.1 The Championship will be governed by the Rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) 2021 - 2024, the prescriptions of the Irish Sailing Association and the current International Fireball Class Rules, except as any of these are changed by these Sailing Instructions.
- 1.2 This championship will be designated as a Category C Event.

2 Notices to Competitors

Notices to competitors will be posted on the Official Notice Board, which is located in the DunLaoire Motor Yacht Club [DMYC] Clubhouse in the entrance hall. Changes to the Sailing Instructions and/or Notices to competitors will be posted on the Official Notice Board before 09:30 hrs on the day the change will take effect, except any change to the schedule of races will be posted not later than 21:00 hrs on the day before it will take effect. In the event of a conflict between the Notice of Race and these Sailing Instructions, these sailing instructions shall take precedence.

3 Signals made ashore

- 3.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed on the Club Flagpole.
- 3.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 70 minutes' in the Race Signal "AP".

4 Schedule of races

- 4.1 Up to 6 races may be sailed, with one race constituting the event.
- 4.2 The Regatta Briefing will take place at approximately 10:00, before going afloat.
- 4.3 The scheduled time for the Warning Signal for the first race shall be 10:55.
- 4.4 Subsequent races will be started as soon as possible after the completion of the preceding race.

5 Safety

- 5.1 Competing boats shall remain within the vicinity of the Committee Boat after each race and should not proceed back to the shore base without first informing a Race Committee Boat.
- 5.2 A Personal Floatation Device [PFD] shall be worn by each person onboard all boats. A PFD of a least 50N buoyancy is recommended.
- 5.3 Any boat wishing to retire and go ashore shall advise a Race Committee Boat before doing so.

6 Class Flag:

The Class Flag will be International Code Flag Numeral 1.

7 Race Area:

The Race Area will be west of the harbour piers in the vicinity of Seapoint, or other area as advised by the Race Committee, either by way of a notice displayed on the Official Notice Board or from Committee Boats located in the original race course area.

8 The Course

See **Appendix** for a description of the courses. A flag identifying the course to be sailed for each race will be flown from the Race Committee Boat in accordance with RRS 27.1.

9 Marks

Marks are intended to be of the inflatable type and will be described at the briefing.

10 The Start

- 10.1 Races will be started in accordance with RRS 26.
- 10.2 The Starting Line will be between a red and white striped pole on the Race Committee Boat and a candy-striped Outer Distance Mark (ODM) at the port-end. An Inner Limit Mark may be laid approximately on the Starting Line, and if so, boats shall not enter the triangle formed by this buoy and the bow and stern of the Race Committee Boat. A boat starting later than 10 minutes after her Starting Signal will be scored "Did Not Start". This changes RRS 63.1, A4 and A5.

11 Change of the next leg of the Course

- 11.1 To make a significant change (> 20 degrees) to the next leg of the course, the Race Committee will move the original mark to a new position. The change will be signaled before the leading boat has begun the leg, although the mark may not yet be in the new position. Any mark to be rounded after rounding the moved mark may be relocated without further signaling to maintain the course configuration.
- 11.2 Except at a gate, boats shall pass between the Race Committee Boat signalling the change of the next leg and the nearby mark, leaving the mark to port and the Race Committee Boat to starboard. This changes RRS 28.1.

12 Shortening the course

If the race is to be shortened at the Start/Finish line, Flag F shall be displayed with repetitive sounds at a Mark on the Course. Having rounded this mark boats shall proceed directly to the Finish Line. This is in addition to RRS 32.2

13 The Finish

13.1 The Finish Line will be between a red and white striped pole on the Race Committee Boat and the ODM which may be in a different position to the start. In the event of a shortened race being finished at a turning mark (rule 32) from a rib or similar committee boat, the line shall be between a vertical staff, or similar, on the boat and the course mark.

13.2 Except when finishing, boats shall not cross the Finish Line in either direction when a Blue Flag is displayed on the Race Committee Boat. Boats doing so shall be disqualified without a protest hearing. This changes RRS 63.1 and A 5

14 Time limit

The Time Limit for races will be 45 minutes. Boats failing to finish within 5 minutes after the first boat sails the course and finishes will be scored "Did Not Finish". After the first boat has finished, the Race Committee may offer a finishing position to the boat that is still racing and in last 3 placed boats. The finishing position offered to a boat will be the number of boats ahead of it (both finished and still racing) plus 1. The Race Committee is not obliged to make such an offer. A boat that accepts the place offered will immediately cease to race and the Race Committee may repeat this process with the next boat. The offer may be made via rescue or support boat personnel. This amends the definition of the word "Finish" and this changes RRS 28, 35 and A4.

15 Retirements

A boat which retires from a race shall make every effort to inform any one of the following: the Race Committee Boat, a Mark Boat, or a Safety Boat. On returning ashore, the Race Office must be informed.

16 Protests

16.1 Protest Forms are available at the Race Office. Protests shall be delivered there within the Protest Time Limit.

16.2 The Protest Time Limit is 1.5 hours after the last boat finishes the last race of each day. This changes RRS 61.3 and RRS 62.2.

16.3 Boats intending to protest shall, where possible, inform the Committee Boat after finishing the race in which the incident occurred.

16.4 Protest Arbitration will be available, and details will be available at Registration.

17 Alternative penalties

RRS 44.3 (yellow flag scoring penalty) shall not apply.

18 Rule 42 – Propulsion

The following rules alter RRS 42.

- 18.1 If the average wind speed is above 12 knots, the race committee may display flag Q with the warning signal to signal that pumping, rocking and ooching are allowed after the starting signal.
- 18.2 After the starting signal, if the average wind speed is above 12 knots, the race committee may display flag Q with repetitive sounds at any rounding mark to signal that pumping, rocking and ooching are allowed. This rule applies to a boat after she has passed the mark.
- 18.3 If the race committee has acted under 18.1 or 18.2 above, and the average wind speed becomes less than 12 knots, the race committee may display flag R with repetitive sounds at any rounding mark to signal that RRS 42 applies. This rule applies to a boat after she has passed the mark.

19 Scoring

- 19.1 The Low Point Scoring System Appendix A4 will apply.
- 19.2 RRS Appendix A5.3 will apply to this Fireball Championships.
- 19.3 A minimum of one race constitutes the event.
- 19.4 Discards to be applied based on races sailed
 - 1 - 3 races completed - no discard
 - 4 - 6 races completed - 1 discard

20. Prizes

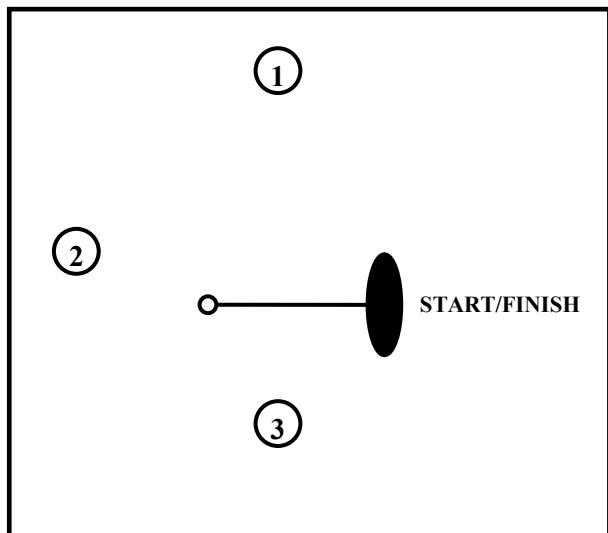
Prizes will be awarded to the winners of the event as designated by the Fireball Class Association. Perpetual prizes remain the property of the Irish Fireball Association and must not leave the island of Ireland.

21. Disclaimer

Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. See Rule 4, Decision to Race. The DMYC, including its officers, employees and agents, the race management team, the supporting boats and anyone helping to run the event shall not be liable for any loss, damage, death or personal injury however caused to the owner / competitor or crew as a result of their taking part in the event.

Appendix - COURSES

COURSE 1



Olympic Triangle

Code Flag "O"

All marks to be rounded to port in the following order.

START-1- 2- 3 -1 -3 -1 -2 -3 -FINISH.

COURSE 2

Windward-Leeward

Code Flag "W"

All marks to be rounded to port except Gate mark 2a, which shall be rounded to starboard.

START-1- W – Gate -1 – W - Gate – FINISH

