



## **Technical Note No.5a**

### **Sailing Regattas — Dragon Force 65 (DF's)**

#### **1. Overview**

This 'Technical Note' is to be viewed only as a guide to current practices adopted for 'Club' yacht racing at Southchurch Park Lake. It is in no way intended as a comprehensive guide to yacht racing rules as defined by the Model Yachting Association racing rules.

#### **2. Objective**

- 2.1. To establish 'restricted class' racing at club level.
- 2.2. To ensure that all boats comply with a standard specification, with the intention of ensuring close racing.
- 2.3. The primary intention is to ensure that yacht racing at Club level is safe, avoiding damage to other boats and enable members with limited experience to enjoy the experience of yacht racing.
- 2.4. With the aim of '*continuous improvement*' members are encouraged to study the formal sailing rules which are available from the MYA website at: [mya-uk.org.uk](http://mya-uk.org.uk). The better we all understand the 'rules' the safer will be our sailing and the more enjoyment we will all gain from our time at the lake.

#### **3. Construction Rules**

- 3.1. All yachts must comply with the Dragon Force 65 Restricted Class Rules which are available from the class association web site <https://df65racing.co.uk/df65-rules/>, except as detailed below.
- 3.2. Only modifications specifically stated in the restricted class rules are permitted, with the addition of 3.3 & 3.4 below.
- 3.3. The use of the manufacturer's short keel is permitted.
- 3.4. The sail winch may be replaced with any winch which fits into the original mounting position without modification. Any replacement winch shall not give a significant speed or torque advantage. The use of a sail arm servo is not permitted.
- 3.5. NOTE: The use of a short keel or non manufacturer's winch will render the yacht ineligible for inter-club or MYA sanctioned events.

#### **4. Basic 'Rules of the Road'**

- 4.1. Ten basic rules:



- Do not barge in at the start.
  - A boat on port tack must keep clear of a boat on starboard tack. (see diagram on the right)
  - Windward boat must keep clear leeward boat.
  - The boat astern must keep clear of a boat ahead.
  - Keep clear while tacking or gybing.
  - When gaining right of way or when changing course, give other boats time to keep clear.
  - Give room to all 'inside' boats to round the mark. (*An 'inside' boat within four boat lengths of a mark is said to be 'in the zone' and as such is entitled to room at the mark.*)
  - Give room to a boat avoiding an obstruction, this includes the bank!
  - If you violated a rule take a penalty (*360° turn*) and don't wait to be called. If you gain an advantage over the boat you infringe, you must continue taking 360° turns until you are behind that boat.
  - It's better to give way and avoid a collision or take a penalty than to protest.
- 4.2. Yachts crossing the starting line before the start bell shall keep clear of all yachts and return to behind the start line and begin the race again. If you violate this rule, take your penalty — do not wait to be called.
- 4.3. Yachts failing to round a buoy correctly or touching a buoy shall make a full 360° turn as soon as it's safe to do so (*not around the buoy*) and keeping clear of other yachts before continuing round the course. If you violate this rule, take the penalty; do not wait to be called.



## 5. Regattas:

- 5.1. Please remember, we do not have 'exclusive' use of the lake. At all times members must have due regard for other users of the lake, both Club members and members of the public.
- 5.2. Formal "competitive" sailing regattas are sailed in accordance with the Club Programme of Events; these are usually scheduled on a bi-monthly basis on the third Sunday of each month.
- 5.3. Other 'fun' sailing days are arranged on an ad hoc basis; avoiding days on which there are scheduled 'Scale and Fast Electric' events.
- 5.4. The course and the number of laps for each race shall be decided by the race officer for each race. This may vary from race to race depending on the prevailing conditions.

- 5.5. At the Race Officer's discretion it may be necessary to divide boats into separate fleets.
- 5.6. A 'Handicap' system will be used to allow less experienced competitors the opportunity to win heats. Anyone winning three races in a day or the overall regatta will lose their handicap for the rest of the series.
- 5.7. The length of the 'Handicap course is to be set by the race officer at each event according to the conditions & is subject to change at any point during the day.

## **6. Scoring**

- 6.1. Formal '*competitive*' regattas will, wherever possible, comprise a minimum of five races. One race score will be 'discarded' for every four races in the day.
- 6.2. The scores of competitors who are unable to complete four races in any regatta will be discarded.
- 6.3. The best four regatta scores for each competitor from each series of six will be used to establish the end of series positions.
- 6.4. Points are awarded to each competitor for each race on the basis of one point for the first to finish; thereafter one additional point is awarded to each consecutive boat to cross the line. The aim is to achieve the lowest number of points.
- 6.5. Competitors who are unable to compete in three regattas in any series of six will be considered as 'un-placed' in the end of series positions.