

**European Sharpie Championship**  
**26th–31st July 2015**  
**Brancaster Staithe Sailing Club**  
**SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

**1 Rules**

- 1.1 The Championship will be governed by the ISAF Racing Rules of Sailing 2013-2016(RRS), the Prescriptions of the Royal Yachting Association, the Rules of the Sharpie Class Association (except as any of these Rules are changed by these Sailing Instructions) and these Sailing Instructions. In the event of any dispute over interpretation these Sailing Instructions will prevail.
- 1.2 The Championship is designated as Category A.

**2 Entries and Measurement**

- 2.1 The Race Office will be open for registration on Saturday 25th July between noon and 17:00 and on Sunday 26th between 09:30 and 11:00.
- 2.2 Eligible boats may be entered by completing the designated Entry Form provided by the Brancaster Staithe Sailing Club (BSSC). To be eligible the boat must have a valid Class Certificate from the Owner's National Sailing Authority
- 2.3 All boats entered must be covered by third party liability insurance for a minimum of £2,000,000.
- 2.4 The helm of each boat must sign a declaration accepting the conditions set out in the Notice of Race and on the Entry Form.
- 2.5 Boats must be submitted for measurement, which may include weighing, as requested by the official measurer of the British Sharpie Owners Association, or his representative, at any time during the Championships. This may include scrutiny of boats on the water or coming ashore after racing. Any boat adjudged not to conform to the Class Rules will be excluded from the Championship. The decision of the measurer will be considered to be final. No protest relating to measurement will be allowed unless it can be shown that alterations have been made after the boat has been allowed to enter by the Measurer.
- 2.6 Sail numbers and national designation must be the same as those shown on the class certificate unless a written application for change has been approved by the Race Officer. Approval will not be given for more than one boat to carry the same number and national designation.

- 2.7 No change of helm will be permitted. Any request for change of crew must be submitted to the Race Officer for approval, in writing, at least 2 hours before the start of the race(s) to which the change applies. Requests for a change of crew considered to be for tactical reasons will be rejected.
- 2.8 Attention is drawn to the disclaimers included in the Notice of Race, on the Entry Form and as may be posted on the Championship Notice Board.

### 3 Notice to Competitors

- 3.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the Championship Notice Board situated in the BSSC Clubhouse.

### 4 Changes to the Sailing Instructions

- 4.1 Changes to the sailing instructions will be posted on the Championship Notice Board no later than 1½ hours before the scheduled or postponed start of the first race of the day to which the change applies.
- 4.2 Flag L will be flown on the Clubhouse flag pole to signify a change to these Sailing Instructions

### 5 Schedule of Races

- 5.1 The Schedule of racing is two races on each day Sunday to Thursday:

Day	First Start	Second Start
Sunday 26th July	13:30	to follow
Monday 27th July	14:45	
Tuesday 28th July	16:00	
Wednesday 29th July	17:00	
Thursday 30th July	17:45	
Friday 31st July	Reserve Day	

- 5.2 Race start times may be brought forward at the discretion of the Race Officer.
- 5.3 A race that has been postponed or abandoned may be sailed on another day at the discretion of the Race Officer.

### 6 Class Flag

- 6.1 The class flag will be the Sharpie 12SqM Class Flag

### 7 Racing Area

- 7.1 Races will take place in Brancaster Bay unless the Race Officer deems conditions to be unsafe, in which case, racing may take place in Brancaster Harbour. It is each competitor's individual responsibility to reach the start in time. Safety boats may offer to provide tows, but a competitor's failure to reach the start in time after anticipating or accepting a tow is the competitor's own responsibility.

### 8 Courses

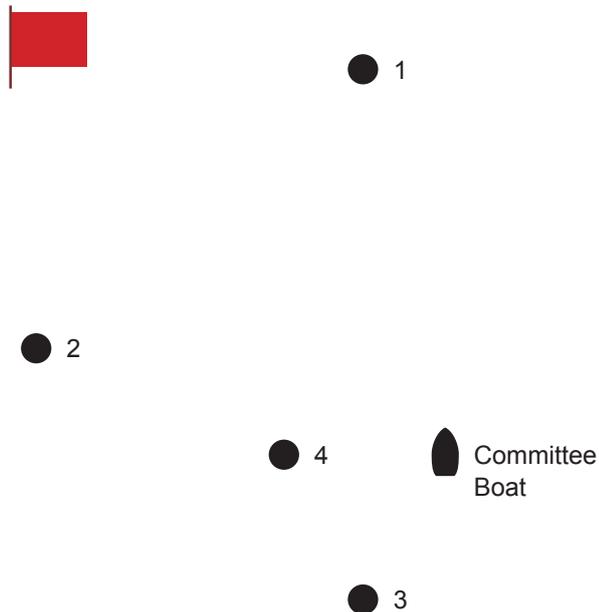
- 8.1 One of the following triangular courses will be sailed if racing takes place at sea.
- 8.2 The type of course (red, green) will be given by coloured flags displayed on the Committee boat and the number of Laps (one lap is defined as Mark 1,2,3, gate,1,3,Finish) will be indicated by a Numeral board.

Start (between the mast of the committee boat and mark 4)

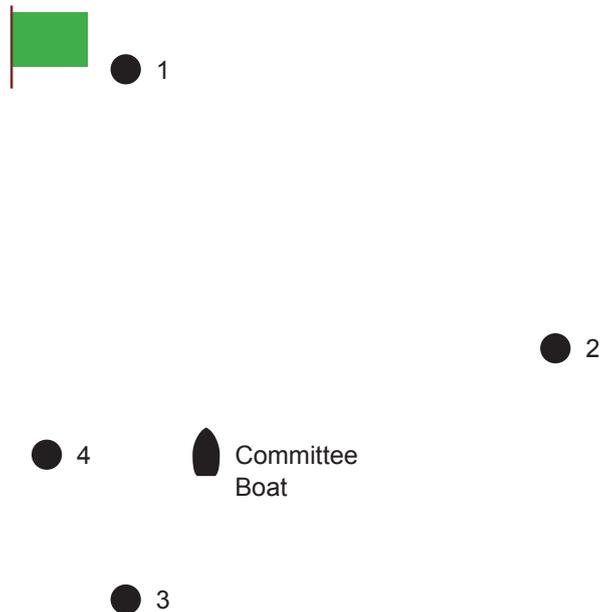
Each Lap: 1, 2, 3, gate (between committee boat and 4), 1, 3.

Finish (between the mast of the committee boat and mark 4)

#### RED COURSE



#### GREEN COURSE



8.3 If racing takes place in the harbour, the normal BSSC club marks will be used (See map below). The following apply to racing in the harbour;

8.3.1 Stone Bank Buoy (see map below) is a navigation mark and must be passed to the north side whilst racing and, in the interests of safety, should be passed to the north side at all times.

8.3.2 Harbour courses will be described by letter boards, displayed on one side of the committee boat, showing the initial letter of each mark (on a red background if the mark is to be rounded to port or a green background if the mark is to be rounded to starboard), together with a numeral to indicate the number of laps to be sailed.

8.4 The Race Officer may shorten the course in accordance with RRS 32 by displaying International Code Flag “S” and making two sound signals. The finishing line will be between a boat flying flag “S” and an adjacent mark of the course.

## 9 Marks

9.1 For races sailed in Brancaster Bay, marks 1, 2 & 3 will be large yellow inflatable buoys. Mark 4 will be a yellow inflatable spar buoy

9.2 For races sailed in the harbour the marks will be yellow can buoys. If necessary a Mark X may be used which will be a yellow inflatable spar buoy.

## 10 The Start

10.1 Competitors are requested to pass within 50m of the port side of the committee boat on arrival to the starting area to allow them to be counted as intending to start.

10.2 Races will be started in accordance with RRS 26 with the warning signal 5 minutes before the starting signal, except as amended by 10.5 and 10.6 below.

- 10.3 For sea courses, the starting line will be between the mast of the committee boat and Mark 4.
- 10.4 For harbour courses, the start will be between the mast of the committee boat and the adjacent harbour mark.
- 10.5 RRS 30.1 (Round-the-end rule) will apply to the first start of any race. International Code Flag “I” will be used as the preparatory signal.
- 10.6 RRS 30.3 (Black Flag Rule) will apply to any restart of a race following a general recall. A black flag will be used as the preparatory signal. The Black Flag Rule will not be applied to a restart after a Postponement that results from an error in the starting procedure during the first start of the race.
- 10.7 Any boat that is On Course Side (“OCS”) under the Round the End rule and does not return around the end of the starting line, or is OCS under the Black Flag rule, will be Disqualified. Any such boats will be hailed, if possible, near the number 1 buoy and should retire immediately.
- 10.8 A boat starting later than 10 minutes after her start will be scored DNS.

## **11 Change of course after the start**

- 11.1 The course may be altered at any mark by displaying International Code Flag “C” on a boat near to the preceding mark together with repeated sound signals. The position of the other course marks may be changed to re-establish a proper triangular course without further signals.

## **12 The Finish**

- 12.1 If racing in Brancaster Bay, the finish will be between the mast of the boat displaying a Blue Flag and Mark 4 unless shortened in accordance with Sailing Instruction 8.4 above.
- 12.2 If racing in the harbour, the finish will be between the mast of the boat displaying a Blue Flag and the last mark of the course, unless shortened in accordance with Sailing Instruction 8.4 above.

## **13 Time Limit**

- 13.1 The target time for each race is 45 minutes. Failure to meet the target time will not be grounds for redress.
- 13.2 Boats failing to finish within 20 minutes after the first boat will be scored as DNF (varies RRS 35) without a hearing. The Blue Flag as set out in 12 above will be lowered with one sound signal when the time limit has expired. If the race is shortened as per Sailing Instructions 8.4 the “S” flag will be lowered instead of the blue flag.
- 13.3 There will be a time limit of 1½ hours from the Starting Signal for the leading boat to complete the course.

## **14 Protests**

- 14.1 Protests shall be written on forms available from the Championship Office and delivered there within 60 minutes after coming ashore.
- 14.2 Protest notices will be posted as soon as possible, to inform competitors where and when there is a hearing in which they are parties or named as witnesses.
- 14.3 Decisions of the protest committee will be final as provided in RRS 70.5 (b).

## 15 Scoring

15.1 RRS – Appendix A – Low Point System – will be used for scoring amended as follows:-

First	1 Point
Second	2 Points ... etc.
Did Not Start (DNS)	Number of Starters for the Series Plus 3.
Retired/Did not Finish (RTD DNF)	Number of Finishers for the Race Plus 3
Disqualified (DSQ BFD)	Number of Finishers for the Race Plus 5

15.2 The Championship will consist of 10 races. If less than 5 races are completed the Championship will not be awarded (but prizes for individual races will be awarded).

15.3 When fewer than 5 races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores

15.4 When from 5 to 8 races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.

15.5 When 9 or more races have been completed a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her two worst scores.

## 16 Safety

16.1 The race office will be open for two hours before and two hours after the last race each day.

16.2 All competitors must "sign on" before leaving the harbour for each day's racing, confirming the name of both the helm and crew.

16.3 All competitors must "sign off" within 60 minutes of coming ashore. Any competitor who has retired should also "sign off" as RETIRED and signify from which race or races they have retired.

16.4 Failure to "sign on" will result in the competitor being scored as "Did Not Start" for any races sailed that day.

16.5 Failure to "sign off" will result in the competitor being scored as "Did Not Finish" for that race.

16.6 "Sign on" and "sign off" sheets will be posted at the Championship Office.

16.7 Competitors must wear lifejackets or other adequate personal buoyancy at all times between the warning signal and finishing a race. Wet suits and dry suits are not adequate buoyancy (varies RRS 40). It is strongly recommended that this requirement is followed at all times when afloat.

## 17 Communication and Support Boats

17.1 From the warning signal until finishing a race:

- all communication to or from competitors by radio, mobile phone or any other means, is prohibited;
- No competitor's support boat may approach within 50m of any competitor other than to render assistance to a competitor in difficulty.

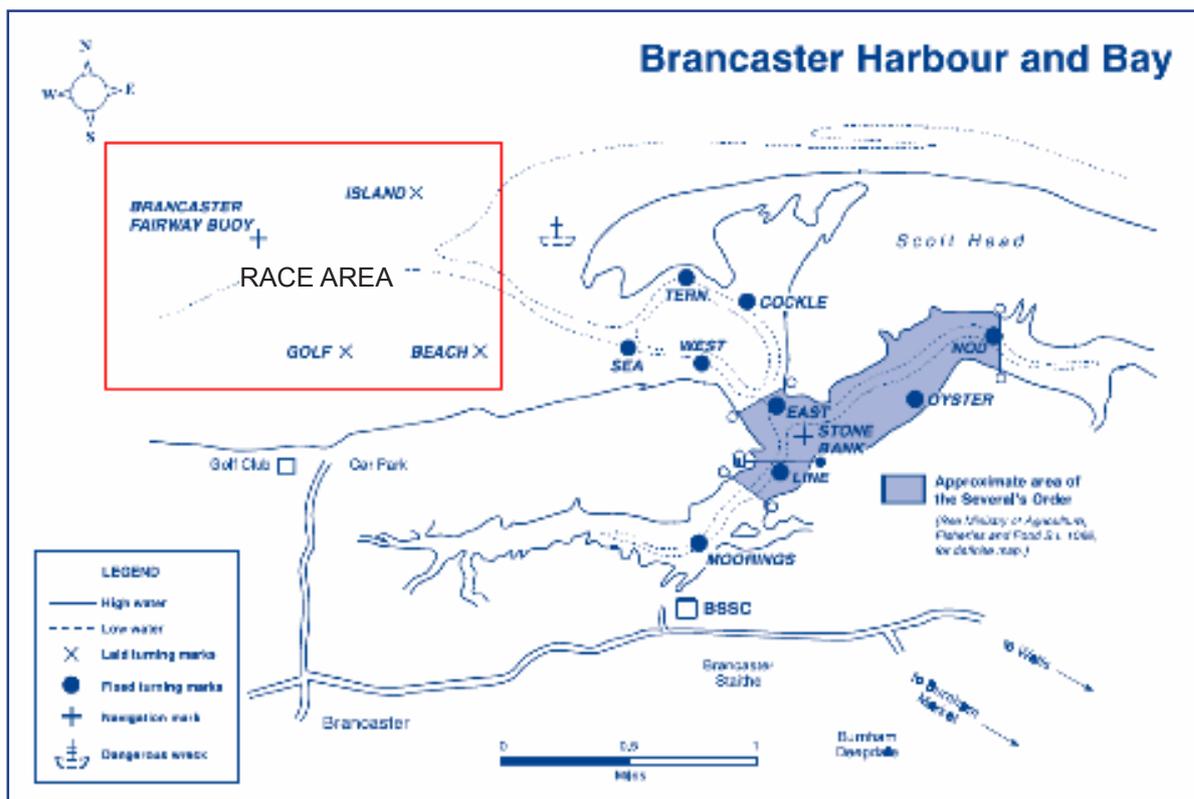
## 18 General Safety Points

18.1 Dinghies do not have right of way over Fishing Vessels and should avoid impeding them as they are restricted to the channels.

- 18.2 From the Staithe to the Starting area will take AT LEAST 40 minutes. It is recommended that competitors keep to the channel via Cockle to avoid shallows in the middle of the Harbour.
- 18.3 Safety boats may be available for towing out each day, but competitors must be ready to go afloat as soon as possible and should not rely on a tow to reach the starting area.
- 18.4 If necessary, crews will be rescued and boats left.
- 18.5 Instructions from Safety Boat crews must be obeyed for the safety of all.
- 18.6 Keep well clear of the Wreck off the Island especially when the ebb tide is flowing strongly to the East at the end of racing.

# BRANCASTER HARBOUR AND BAY

This page does not constitute part of the sailing instructions



**Sailing to Race Area:**  Sailing to the Race Area can take half to three quarters of an hour. It is each competitor's responsibility to leave the hard at the BSSC leaving sufficient time to reach the Race Area.

**Wreck Warning:** Lying to the west of Scott Head Island, marked by a beacon. Do not sail within 200 metres of the Beacon.

**Local Interests:** Entrants are requested to respect that the Staithe is a working harbour and covered by specific regulations for the protection of local fishermen's oyster, mussel and other commercial interests. Entrants are asked to comply with these regulations by not landing, walking on, removing or otherwise disturbing shellfish and generally respecting the channels running eastwards from the Staithe area.

**Accidents in the Harbour:** In the event of an accident with a moored or unaccompanied craft please report the incident to the Championship Office at the first available opportunity. The Office will then liaise with the Harbour Master.