

47th Pandora Welsh Open Sailing Instructions

The Welsh Open (Open Event) will also run-in conjunction with the SCYC 1st August Series. If the number of competitors eligible for each event differs the two series will be scored separately for the relevant competitors. To be eligible for the 1ST August series competitors must have paid the SCYC race entry fees. To be eligible for the Welsh Open competitors must have paid the Welsh Open entry fee.

The Event will run from Sunday 2nd August to Friday the 7th August 2026 and the Principal Race Officer (PRO) will be Mike Crompton.

1 RULES

1.1 The Championships will be governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS 2025-2028)*.

1.2 The following Sailing instructions are to be used in conjunction with the SCYC standard Sailing Booklet season 2026 rules.

6 Communication with competitors (replaces Sailing Booklet rule 6)

Notices to competitors will be posted on the Official Notice Board located on the middle deck of SCYC. Race management information will be relayed to competitors on VHF channel 69. Social media (WhatsApp) may also be used.

The PRO, if possible, will communicate OCS boats on the VHF, failure to do so will not be grounds for request for redress.

7 Schedule of races (replaces Sailing Booklet rule 7)

Sunday	14:15	1 Race Round the cans
Monday	12:00	2 shorter races (Back-to-Back)
Tuesday	12:00	2 shorter races (Back-to-Back)
Wednesday	12:00	1 Long Race
Thursday	12:00	2 shorter races (Back-to-Back)
Friday	12:00	2 shorter races (Back-to-Back)

9 Courses (Replaces Sailing Booklet Rule 9)

The type of start for a particular day will be determined by the Principal Race Officer (PRO) and will displayed on a board outside the bridge not less than 1 hour before the scheduled start time. All Marks will be rounded to port unless stated otherwise. Course Types: -

- 1) Committee Boat (CB) Start. (For further details see appendix A)
- 2) Club Bridge start.
- 3) Gate or Rabbit Start. (For further details see appendix B)

20 SCORING (Replaces Sailing Booklet Rule 20)

20.1 The Low Points system of RRS Appendix A4 will apply

20.2 Series ties will be decided using Appendix A8

20.3

(a) A minimum of 3 races is required for the event to be completed.

(b) When 3 races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores.

(c) When 4 to 8 races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.

(d) When 9 or more races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her 2 worst scores.

23 HANDICAPS (Replaces Sailing Booklet Rule 23)

23.1 Handicaps will **NOT** apply for this event.

24 Prizes (Replaces Sailing Booklet Rule 24 for Welsh Open Only)

24.1 Prizes will be awarded on a daily basis, when more than one race occurs in a day, the races sailed that day may form a mini-series that will determine who is awarded the prizes for the day.

Daily prizes awarded as follows

Gold Fleet: 1st, 2nd and 3rd

Silver Fleet 1st and 2nd

Overall prizes awarded as follows

Gold Fleet: 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th

Appendix A. Supplementary information for Committee Boat Starts

RSS will apply. The Committee boat (CB) for the event will be the X34 "Xpletive", she will display a large orange Flag when being used as a starting boat and a Large Blue flag when being used as a Finishing Boat. Marks used for these races will either be Club Marks as identified in the Sailing Booklet, or cylindrical inflatable marks referenced as follows: -

Mark 1 (Windward mark Large Orange) positioned approx. (0.5nm–0.7nm) upwind of CB,

Mark 2s/2p (Leeward Gate Marks Large Blue) positioned near CB

Starting Mark (Orange Cylindrical)

Finishing Mark (Dan Buoy)

The course type for a particular day will be displayed on the CB and broadcast on VFH. The Windward/Leeward course configuration is shown on the attached diagram with scheduled number of laps being displayed on the CB, Inflatable marks will be used as outer start/finish marks.

When finishing at a Club Mark the Finishing Line will be between the Mark and the CB mast. If the finishing mark is ODMY and the CB is not on station the finish will be conducted from the bridge. If the PRO wishes to shorten a Windward/Leeward course after the Leeward gate (The preferred option) the F Flag will be displayed by the CB with the S Flag. The marks boats may also display the F flag near the Leeward gate. In this case competitors should sail (Mark 2p – Finish) as if the final lap had been completed.

Appendix B. Supplementary information for Gate or Rabbit Starts

For Gate Starts the start will be controlled by a boat nominated by the Class Captain as the pathfinder (normally the boat finishing 3rd in the previous race). Communications between the pathfinder the rest of the fleet will take place on VHF 69. The course will be determined by the Class Captain and will also be communicated on VHF 69 and on WhatsApp. Once the starting mark and course have been communicated. The Class Captain will hand over to the pathfinder, who when in position will signal to the rest of the fleet to "**gather for the start**". The fleet will now position themselves on the starboard side of the mark, with the pathfinder positioned on the port side of the mark. Once the pathfinder is satisfied with the position of the fleet it shall signal "**starting approach**" at which time it will start towing a small fender (approx. one boat length behind it) the fender shall be deemed as a mark of the course. The pathfinder will now sail towards the starting mark on the port tack passing it to PORT. Once past the starting mark the pathfinder will signal "**Gate Open**" starting the race, and will continue to sail on the port tack hard to the wind for 60 Seconds, after which time it shall signal "**Gate Closed**" and tack onto starboard, completing the start. While the gate is open the rest of the fleet will start by sailing between the starting mark and the fender. The fleet **MUST** keep clear of the pathfinder until she has completed her tack onto starboard. Any boats to windward of the pathfinder once it has tacked onto starboard, can only start the race by passing the starting mark to starboard. Competitors will "Start Racing" once invited to "**gather for the start**". The pathfinder may signal "**Start Aborted**" at anytime up to the start of the race if it considers conditions have changed sufficiently as to compromise the fairness of the start.