

Catapult Open

Organised by Bassenthwaite Sailing Club and the Catapult Class Association

2nd – 4th May 2026

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

1. RULES

- i. Racing will be governed by the rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS).
- ii. RRS 40.1 applies at all times whilst afloat.

2. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted before 0930 on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 2000 on the day before it will take effect.

3. COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

- i. Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located in the clubhouse foyer.
- ii. The race office is located in the clubhouse.
- iii. While racing, except in an emergency, a boat shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats.

4. CODE OF CONDUCT

- i. Competitors and support persons shall comply with reasonable requests from race officials.
- ii. Competitors and support persons shall place advertising (where provided by the organizing authority) with care, seamanship, in accordance with any instructions for its use and without interfering with its functionality.

5. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- i. Signals made ashore will be displayed on the flagpole next to the clubhouse.
- ii. When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than thirty minutes' in Race Signals AP.

6. SCHEDULE OF RACES

- i. There will be a briefing on Saturday 2nd May at 13:30hrs.
- ii. The warning signal for Race 1 will not be sounded before 14:24hrs on Saturday 2nd May.
- iii. Races 2 – 6 will follow.
- iv. No warning signal will be sounded before 11:24hrs on Sunday 3rd May and Monday the 4th May.
- v. To alert boats that a race or sequence of races will begin soon, an orange flag may be displayed on the Committee Boat at least one minute before a warning signal is made.
- vi. On the last scheduled day of racing, no warning signal will be made after 14.00 hrs.

7. CLASS FLAG

The class flag is:

- i). Catapult: Catapult Class Flag

8. RACING AREA

The racing area is Bassenthwaite Lake.

9. COURSES

- i. The course to be sailed will be indicated on the course board attached to the gunwale of the Committee Boat no later than the warning signal for the first start of a sequence of races.
- ii. The marks of the course, the order in which they are to be rounded, their required side and the number of laps will be shown on the course board.
- iii. The numbers of marks to be rounded to port will be indicated on a red background and the numbers to be rounded to starboard will be indicated on a green background. The number of laps will be indicated on a black background.
- iv. The letters, 'Y Z' on a black background indicate that the start/finish line is part of the course, and that boats shall sail through the start/finish line on each lap.

10. MARKS

The marks of the course will be the Club Marks, which are indicated with approximate positions, in the diagram at Appendix 'A'. A lead boat will be provided subject to availability.

11. AREAS THAT ARE OBSTRUCTIONS

There are no obstructions in the sailing area. However, the lake is part of the Lake District National Park and is a significant wildlife habitat. Competitors are asked to keep clear of the reed banks on the right of the main slipway and not to land on the lakeshore other than on the sailing club slipways.

12. STARTING

- i. Races will be started as follows. This changes RRS26.
- ii. The Warning Signal (Class flag) for each fleet will be made six minutes before the start of that fleet.
- iii. The preparatory signal will be displayed three minutes before the first fleet to start and remain in place until the end of the starting sequence.
- iv. The start of each fleet will be signalled by the removal of the appropriate Warning Signal (class flag). The preparatory signal will be removed with the final warning signal in the sequence.
- v. The warning signals and starting order will be:
- vi. Catapult: Catapult Class Flag
- vii. Flying Fifteen: Naval Numeral 6
- viii. Handicap Asymmetric: International Code Numeral 5
- ix. Handicap Asymmetric: International Code Numeral 7
- x. GP14: International Code Flag A
- xi. Mirror/Topper/Tera and Slow Handicap: International Code Numeral 6
- xii. Races will be started from the Committee Boat stationed at the starboard end of the start/finish gate.
- xiii. Starting signals will be displayed from the mast of the Committee Boat.
- xiv. The start/finish line will be formed by bringing the mast of the Committee Boat into line with an outer limit mark, displaying an orange flag.
- xv. An inner limit mark displaying a white flag will be laid and boats passing between it and the Committee Boat at any time will be liable to disqualification, at the discretion of the Race Committee.

13. RECALLS

- i. Individual recalls will be signalled by promptly displaying Code Flag "X" in accordance with RRS 29.1 and Race Signals.
- ii. A General Recall will be signalled by displaying the First Substitute flag accompanied by two sounds in accordance with RRS 29.2 and Race Signals.
- iii. In the case of a General Recall the start of the recalled fleet shall move to the end of the starting order. This changes Rule 29.2 and Race Signals, and the following provisions apply.

- iv. The First Substitute will be removed without a sound signal before the start of the next fleet in the start order and the meaning of the First Substitute in Race Signals is then changed to mean, "This fleet will start after the last fleet in the start order. The Warning signal for the recalled fleet will be made three minutes after the Warning Signal for the last fleet in the starting order is displayed".
- v. The new start for the recalled class will be signalled by removal of the Class Flag six minutes after it has been displayed.
- vi. The starts of any succeeding recalled fleets (if any) shall follow, unless they are further recalled, in which case they shall return to the end of the start order, as above.
- vii. The race committee may for any reason postpone a start or starts in accordance with RRS 27.3 and Race Signals.
- viii. The Preparatory signal will be finally removed at the start of the final fleet.

14. PENALTY SYSTEM

The Scoring Penalty, RRS 44.3, will not apply. RRS 44.1 is changed so that the Two-Turns Penalty is replaced by the One-Turn Penalty for the Catapult class only.

15. FINISHING

The finishing line will be either:

- i. Between the mast of the Committee Boat displaying a blue flag and the outer limit mark of the start/finish line displaying an orange flag.
- ii. Between the mast of the Committee Boat displaying a blue flag and the mark next to which it is stationed.
- iii. Between the black pole on the lakeshore and Mark '0'.

16. TIME LIMITS & TARGET TIMES

- i. The target time for each race will be approximately 30-40 minutes.
- ii. Boats failing to finish within 30 minutes after the first boat sails the course and finishes will be scored DNF. This changes RRS 35 A4 and A5.
- iii. A tail-end boat that has lost contact with the body of the fleet may be informed on the water, towards the end of the race, that she need not complete that lap, but may return to the starting area for the start of the next back-to-back race. An appropriate finishing position will be recorded by the Race Committee. Failure to take advantage of this provision may result in any following back-to-back race being started before that competitor has returned to the starting area. This shall not be the basis for a redress request under Rule 61.4(b)(1). This alters Rule 35.

17. HEARING REQUESTS

- i. The protest time limit is 30 minutes after the last boat finishes the last race of the day or the race committee signals no more racing today, whichever is later. The time will be posted on the official notice board.
- ii. Hearing request forms are available from the race office at the clubhouse.
- iii. Notices will be posted no later than 30 minutes after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Hearings will be held in the protest room, located at the clubhouse beginning at the time posted.

18. SCORING

- i. Two races are required to be completed to constitute a series.
- ii. When fewer than 4 races have been completed, a boat's series score is the total of her race scores.
- iii. When from 4 to 6 races have been completed, a boat's series score is the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.

19. REPLACEMENT CREW

No substitution of helmsman will be permitted, and substitution of crew will not be allowed without the prior approval of the Race Committee.

20. EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules, notice of race and sailing instructions.

21. TRASH DISPOSAL

Trash may be placed aboard official vessels.

22. PRIZES

Trophies will be awarded to the winner of the Championship. Prizes will be awarded to the winner, and other prizes may be awarded at the discretion of the organisers.

23. RISK STATEMENT

Rule 3 of the Racing Rules of Sailing states "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone". Sailing is by its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event, each competitor agrees and acknowledges that:

- a. They are aware of the inherent element of risk involved in the sport and accept responsibility for the exposure of themselves, their crew and their boat to such inherent risk whilst taking part in the event;
- b. They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore;
- c. They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions;
- d. Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to sail;
- e. The provision of a race management team, patrol boats and other officials and volunteers by the event organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities;
- f. The provision of patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances;
- g. It is their responsibility to familiarise themselves with any risks specific to this venue or this event drawn to their attention and any rules and information produced for the venue or event and to attend any safety briefing held for the event;

24. INSURANCE

Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £3million per incident or the equivalent.

Appendix A

