

Notice of Race

West Oxfordshire Sailing Club

Topper Open Meeting

Saturday 17th August 2024

The organising authority is West Oxfordshire Sailing Club.

The water at WOSC is a flooded gravel pit some 1000 m long by 300 m wide providing close racing enlivened by notoriously shifty winds.

The club is located just outside Witney near to Stanton Harcourt. The club premises with free parking can be found at the end of an access road off the B4449 Stanton Harcourt to Hardwick Road near Hardwick in Oxfordshire.

Address:- Stanton Harcourt Road, Stanton Harcourt, WITNEY, OX29 5AD

Camping at WOSC will be permitted with access to the clubhouse with wc's including disabled, showers, changing facilities and kitchen. Available on a first come first served basis, booked at time of registration.

There is also a nearby campsite at Hardwick Parks, Downs Road, Standlake, Witney, OX29 7PZ, which you would need to book separately.

1. Rules

- 1.1. Racing will be governed by The Racing Rules of Sailing 2021-2024 (except as modified in the Sailing Instructions), the Sailing Instructions and this NOR. In the event of conflict the Sailing Instructions shall prevail.
- 1.2. The WOSC Safety Regulations, Appendix SR of this notice of race shall apply.
- 1.3. The OA may stop a boat launching, or require it to return ashore, if they consider that the boat, its equipment and/or helm are not adequate for the likely conditions.
- 1.4. World Sailing Appendix T will not apply.
- 1.5. The World Sailing Equipment Rules of Sailing shall apply.
- 1.6. Rights to use Names & Likeness: Competitors automatically grant to the organising authority without payment the right in perpetuity to make, use and show any motion pictures, still pictures and live, taped or filmed television of or relating to the event.

2. Eligibility and Entry

- 2.1. The event is open to International Topper Class boats, both 5.3 and 4.2 rig, that comply with the class association rules on the date of the event.
- 2.2. All competitors shall be deemed temporary members of West Oxfordshire Sailing Club and must comply with the rules defined by The Club.
- 2.3. Registration is available on-line at <https://www.wosc.org.uk/event-5678856>, or in person on the day at WOSC from 10am.
- 2.4. The boat number and helm shall be confirmed at registration.
- 2.5. There will be a briefing in front of the Clubhouse at 10:30 on Saturday 17th August 2024
- 2.6. Entries are only accepted when the entry form has been fully completed and payment in full has been made.
- 2.7. Entry fees should be made by bank transfer quoting surname and boat number as reference – see entry form.
- 2.8. Entry fees: £15 per boat including lunch and afternoon tea on the Saturday.
- 2.9. There will be a maximum of 4 races.
- 2.10. First Warning Signal **Not Before** 10:55 on Saturday 17th August 2024
No Warning signal **Later than** 15:45 Saturday 17th August 2024

2.11. The intention is to sail 4 races, two races back to back before a lunch break and then 2 races back to back after lunch.

2.12. Race times are subject to change and any variation will be posted on the Official Notice Board.

2.13. Additional races may be sailed either in advance or arrears in order to complete the event programme if weather or other reasons dictate. If an additional race is planned, IC Flag F shall be displayed before the finish of the last scheduled race of the day.

3. Venue

3.1. The venue is West Oxfordshire Sailing Club, Stanton Hardcourt, Oxfordshire, OX29 5AG

4. Courses

4.1. Courses will be defined in the Sailing Instructions

5. Sailing Instructions

5.1. The sailing instructions will be available at registration. They are also available to download (at <https://www.wosc.org.uk/resources/Documents/RaceDocs/Race%20Meeting%20SI/WOSC%20Open%20meeting%20SI.pdf>) from the club website (www.wosc.org.uk).

6. Scoring System

6.1. The rules of racing RRS Appendix A will apply.

6.2. At least 1 race is required to be completed to constitute a series.

6.3. When fewer than four races are completed the boat's score will be the total of her race scores.

6.4. When four races are completed the boat's score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worse score.

7. Local Rules

7.1. All competitors agree to be bound by the Rules and Bye-Laws of West Oxfordshire Sailing Club.

8. Facilities

8.1. Competitors and their families shall be deemed to be members of West Oxfordshire Sailing Club for the duration of the event.

8.2. Camping and campervans are allowed on site by prior arrangement only.

8.3. Dogs are allowed on site but must be kept on a lead and under control and are not allowed in the clubhouse or decking.

8.4. Hot food, snacks and refreshments will be available in the bar and galley throughout the day. WOSC is over 4 miles from any shops or cafés.

9. Disclaimer of Liability

9.1. Competitors are entirely responsible for their own and their boats safety, whether afloat or ashore and nothing, whether in the Notice of Race or Sailing Instructions or anywhere else reduces this responsibility.

9.2. Nothing done by the organisers can reduce the responsibility of the owners and, or competitors, nor will it make the organisers responsible for any loss, damage, death or personal injury, however it may have occurred, as a result of the boat taking part in the racing. The organisers encompass everyone helping to run the race and the Association as the co-organising authority, the race committee, the race officer, patrol boats, beach masters, and shore crews.

9.3. The provision of safety boats does not relieve the boat of her responsibilities. By launching, a boat and its crew are presumed to be fit and competent for the prevailing conditions.

10. Insurance

10.1. Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party insurance with a minimum cover of at least £3,000,000 per event (or the equivalent in any other currency).

11. Trophies

11.1. Trophies Prizes will be awarded at the discretion of the organising authority (West Oxfordshire Sailing Club) and shall be a minimum of 1st, 2nd, 3rd place overall and 1st, 2nd 4.2 rig.

12. Risk Statement

12.1. 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 participate
- (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 vessel 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 in any rules and information produced for the venue or event and to attend any safety briefing held for the event.

13. Inspection and Measurement

13.1. Boats, equipment and sails may be weighed, measured or inspected for class rules compliance prior to, during or after racing.

13.2. Inspections may be carried out by Technical Committee (Rule 92) or their appointed representative/s

14. Use of Personal Data

14.1. The organising authority will hold and use our personal data for the purpose of the event and the application of the rules. Further information can be found at www.itca-gbr.co.uk

Further Information

All events will be conducted in accordance with the RYA Racing Charter.

NOTICE OF RACE - APPENDIX SR

Personal buoyancy shall be worn at all times by any person in or on any type of craft racing or otherwise. Competitors failing to comply with this rule may be subject to disqualification without a hearing. Self-inflating buoyancy aids are not permitted. Wetsuits and drysuits DO NOT constitute personal buoyancy. Flag Y will not be flown. This amends rule 40 of the Racing Rules of Sailing.

NOTICE TO ALL VISITORS - Invasive Species Procedure.

Before launching, all competitors are required to ensure that – your boat has been 'Checked, Cleaned and Dried' for a minimum of two days prior to arriving at WOSC.

<http://www.nonnativespecies.org/checkcleandry/index.cfm>

This includes:

CHECK your equipment and clothing for live organisms – particularly in areas that are damp or hard to inspect.

CLEAN and wash equipment, footwear and clothing thoroughly. If you do come across any organisms, leave them at the water body where you found them.

DRY all equipment and clothing – some species can live for many days in moist conditions. Make sure you don't transfer water elsewhere.

All enquiries to Rachel Hemingway Tel 07946 170 851

Email: toppers@wosc.org.uk

Web Site www.wosc.org.uk