

Victory Class Standard Sailing Instructions 2026

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS (SIs)

APPENDIX A

When a Gate Start is to be used, these instructions will supersede any conflicting requirements of the Standard Sailing Instructions.

1. Responsibilities

The Gate boat helmsman takes the role and responsibilities of the OOD/Race Committee where referenced in World Sailing RRS

2. VHF

The VHF channel used for this procedure is Channel 15. The Gate boat helm may designate an alternative channel. It is the Gate Boat helm's responsibility to ensure all competitors are aware of any alternative channel before the warning signal is made.

3. Communication of Start/Finish Line and Courses

- a) Information about the course, starting mark and finish line shall be communicated in accordance with RRS Rule 27.1, preferably by VHF or by word of mouth.
- b) Notwithstanding a) a boat may obtain course and starting mark information by any means before or after her starting signal. This does not break RRS Rule 41.
- c) It is the responsibility of each boat to ensure she has obtained course and start information from the Gate Boat in a timely manner

4. Starting Marks, Courses and Finishing line.

- a) Starting Mark: The OOD shall start the race from the designated Port Limit Mark.
- b) Course: The OOD may either:
 - I. Define a sequence of marks, with required sides, to form the course to be sailed. All such marks used shall only be those shown on the current Class course chartlet or the SCRA list of Solent marks.

5. Gate Boat identification

The Gate Boat shall be identified by the following:

- a) By towing a floating marker buoy or fender one boat length astern. The Gate Boat shall always tow a marker.
- b) And by either:
 - I. Word of mouth or via VHF prior to the 5 minute gun
 - II. By the display of Flag F from the backstay.

6. Towed Marker

This forms an extension of and is considered part of the Gate Boat throughout the starting procedure until the gate is closed.

7. Starting Signals

Flag signals will not be made by the Gate Boat. Sound signals only will be made. Times are to be taken from the sound signals. The following timing sequence shall be used.

Warning Signal 5 minutes before the start

Preparatory Signal 4 minutes before the start

One-minute Signal 1 minute before the start

Starting Signal See 7a) below

- a) The Starting Signal shall be made 1 minute after the one minute signal OR as the Gate Boat clears the Port limit mark such that a boat can start between her and the buoy **WHICHEVER IS THE LATER**. No boat shall start before the Starting Signal. This varies RRS 26

8. Start Procedure

Just before the start time the Gate Boat will commence a PORT tack close-hauled course leaving the Port Limit Mark to PORT and make the Starting Signal in accordance with SI Appendix A 7a). It will continue on this course until gate closes as defined in SI Appendix A 11. All other boats will cross the start line between the Limit Mark and the Gate Boat on STARBOARD tack.

9. Start Line

The Start Line opens at the starting signal between the Port Limit Mark and the Gate Boat and closes in accordance with SI Appendix A 11.

10. Gate Boat Rights

- a) The Gate Boat has absolute right of way over all other competitors after the Preparatory signal until the gate is closed in accordance with SI Appendix A 11.
- b) Other boats shall not interfere with the Gate Boat or prevent her executing the starting procedure. This includes deliberately sailing to interfere with the Gate Boat's wind.
- c) If the Gate Boat believes she has suffered interference she shall PROTEST. If she believes the fairness of the start is compromised she shall act in accordance with SI Appendix A 13 and RRS 32.

11. Gate Closure

The Gate Boat shall close the gate:

- a) After 2 minutes

OR

- b) Once she judges that all boats have started

OR

- c) Once she judges all boats will be able to cross the Start Line by MAINTAINING a close-hauled starboard course without the need to bear away.

OR

- d) Once further boats will clearly not be able to reach the Start Line within the fixed time limit in SI Appendix A 11a.

The Gate Boat shall close the Gate by making 1 long sound Signal. The Gate Boat may continue on port or tack onto Starboard as she wishes. The towed marker may be recovered.

12. Premature & Late Starters

- a) A boat that has not started by crossing the Start Line by the time limit in SI Appendix A 11a may only start properly by crossing the Start Line within 3 boat lengths of the Port Limit mark.
- b) A boat that has not complied with SI Appendix A 7a and has started prematurely may restart only by rounding the Port limit mark and crossing the line on Starboard tack. RRS 21.1 applies.

13. Shortening or Abandoning after the start – RRS 32 is varied as follows

- a) All RRS 32.0 flag signals are optional. The corresponding sound signal shall be made, and replaces the flag signals defined in this rule if a flag is not flown. Information on abandonment or shortened course shall be broadcast by the Gate Boat via VHF radio.

- b) RRS 32.2(a) does not apply – the Gate Boat may not shorten the course at a rounding mark
- c) Failure to observe a shorten course or abandonment signal made in accordance with SI Appendix A 13 and RRS 32.0 shall not be grounds for redress.
- d) For Saturday races only, no new round should normally be started after 16:00. In the event of time approaching 16:00 and the lead boat having one full round or more to do to complete the course, the Gate Boat shall make the decision whether to shorten the course (at the Haslar Signal Station – Naomi House & Jacksplace finish line) or to continue racing for another round. No sound signals or flag signals are required. The Gate Boat shall broadcast its decision via VHF radio in either case. In the absence of a gate boat decision the race shall continue. The Gate Boat may shorten course prior to or after 16:00 for any other reason. Failure to receive any VHF broadcast shall not be grounds for redress.

14. Finishing Line

- a) For races taking place outside Portsmouth Harbour, this will normally be the Haslar Signal Station Line between the mast at the Signal Station and “Naomi House & Jacksplace”.
- b) For racing inside Portsmouth Harbour, boats shall proceed from the last mark of the course and pass or round B4 to port, leave the rest of the B trot buoys to port and finish between the most southerly of these (B1) and post 13.
- c) In exceptional circumstances the Gate Boat may define a different finish line prior to the start. This shall be between two clearly identifiable points. Direction of Finish shall be as per RRS Definitions.
- d) All boats shall record their time of passing through the finish line together with the number of the boat ahead and astern at the end of each round as well as when finishing. This information must be passed to the OOD within 1 hour of finishing.

15. Results

Results shall be compiled by the OOD and must INCLUDE A LIST OF STARTERS. A copy must be given or emailed to the Results Secretary or his/her representative within 24 hours of finishing.