

Graham Water Sailing Club

“Sociable Saturday” Sailing Instructions 2021

THE START

Do I have to register (“sign on”) to race?

Yes, come along to the Cafe at 13:00 to meet the Race Officer at the table nearest to the waterside doors and “sign on”.

How do I start?

The first race will start at 13:30. You start by crossing the start line – it’s between the orange flag on the committee boat and the buoy with an orange flag. Pass from behind (downwind of) the line and head upwind towards the first mark.

When do I start?

Everyone starts together. There’s a countdown to the start:

- At four minutes before the start there’ll be some repeated hoots and the orange flag will be displayed.
- Then, after each minute there’ll be a hoot and a number board will be displayed, starting with “0”
- This will continue until “3” is displayed, and that’s the start.

In pictures, it looks like this:

Board displayed	Sound	Meaning
	•••••	<i>Orange flag displayed</i>
0	•	<i>Three minutes to the start - “Warning signal”</i>
1	•	<i>Two minutes to the start - “Preparatory signal”</i>
2	•	<i>One minute to the start</i>
3	•	Start

What happens if I start too early?

You have to come back and start properly – if this happens there’ll be an additional hoot and the “X” flag will be displayed until you start correctly.



What happens if I start late?

Don’t worry it’s for fun and the taking part that counts!

THE COURSE & FINISH

The course is shown on the back of this page. Keep going round the course until the “S” flag is displayed on the committee boat – then you finish next time you go through the start/finish line. The race should last about 25-35 minutes. Then there’ll be a second race straight away (“back-to-back”) using the same signals.



WHAT ABOUT ALL THE RACING RULES?

There are some important rules when two boats meet, so that you know whether to “carry on” or to “give way”.

- If you’re on **starboard** (wind blowing onto the right hand side of the boat) you **carry on**
- If you’re on **port** (wind blowing onto the left side of the boat) **give way**. It’s usually best to do this by turning away from the “carry on” boat (push the tiller away from you)
- If you both have the wind blowing onto the same side, both keep clear of each other
- If you’re approaching a mark and with another boat give each other room to get round.

.....if in doubt, slow down and avoid a collision!

“Sociable Saturday” course

