

Hamble Valley Regatta 2026 **Saturday 29th August** **Sailing Instructions – Dinghy Races**

1. Rules: Races will be sailed under the Racing Rules of Sailing, the Notice of Race, the RYA Prescriptions, any other Class Rules which apply and these Sailing Instructions.

2. Notices to Competitors: Notices to competitors will be posted on the Regatta website www.theregatta.org

3. Changes to Sailing Instructions: Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted before 18.00 on Friday 28th August 2026.

4. Signals made Ashore: Signals made ashore will be displayed at the Warsash Sailing Club.

5. Schedule of Races and Flags: The regatta will comprise the following races:

Race	Class	Warning signal	Flag	Flag
1	Handicap dinghies PY 700 – 1079	10.55	A	
2	Laser ILCA 7	11.00	L	
3	Handicap dinghies PY 1080 – 1156	11.05	B	
4	Handicap dinghies PY 1157 – 1259	11.10	C	
5	Foxers	11.15	E	
6	Handicap dinghies PY 1260 – 1460	11.20	D	
7	Optimist dinghies	11.25	F	

6. Handicaps: Handicaps will be allocated using the Portsmouth Yardstick (PY) Scheme.

7. Racing Area: The races will take place in the River Hamble and Southampton Water

8. The Courses: The dinghy race course card will be available on the Regatta Website. The course number for each class will be displayed on the Committee Boat no later than the warning signal.

9. The Start: The start will be near the Crableck Beacon. The start line will be between the staff displaying an orange flag on the Committee Boat and through a dan buoy displaying an orange flag. Races will be started in accordance with RRS 26, this provides a 5-4-1-Go sequence.

After the first warning signal is displayed, competitors in later races are requested to stay well clear of the starting line until their warning signal is displayed. The Warning Signal for each class will normally be made at the same time as the Starting Signal of the preceding class. Individual recall numbers will not be shown. Boats declared OCS which do not return to the start may receive a time penalty at the discretion of the Race Officer.

10. The Finish: The finish is on the Warsash Sailing Club line. This is marked by the transit of two posts with yellow triangular top marks located, on, and behind the race box on Warsash Sailing Club (Shore House) pontoon. The line stretches across the main channel from Shore House pontoon to pile number B6 on the outer pontoon on the Hamble side of the river. Boats must finish in the main channel.
Or an imaginary line across the whole of the River formed by a staff displaying flag 'S' on the Committee Boat or support boat and a pile whose number will be displayed.

11. Sail Numbers. Boats not prominently displaying sail numbers at the finish will be excluded from results. Changes of sail numbers after entries close is not permitted.

12. Time Limit: The time limit is 3 hours after a boats start time. Boats that have not finished before that time will be scored DNF. This changes RRS35.

13. Sailing an Incorrect Course. A boat that is observed by the race team to sail the wrong course will be scored NSC.

14. Retirements: A boat that retires must notify either the Committee Boat or a Regatta Support Boat by hail or the Sailing Secretary by mobile phone (07519 636919) before the time limit. Boats that do not indicate that they have retired will be scored DNC.

15. Protests: Protests may be handed to the Race Committee within 1 hour of completing the race accompanied by a fee of £10 (non returnable if the protest is deemed frivolous).

16. Results: Provisional results will be posted as soon as possible on the Warsash Sailing Club website (www.warsashsc.org.uk). Final results will be posted on the Regatta website after the Regatta

17. Prizes: The prize giving will be held on Saturday 29th August at Warsash Sailing Club at 1630 and prize winners will be notified by email and text message. Prizes will be awarded to the first three boats in each class, provided sufficient boats enter.

18. Official Boats: Regatta Support Boats will be identified by a yellow flag with the words “Regatta Support Boat” in red.

19. Safety Regulations: All participants must wear adequate personal buoyancy at all times when afloat. All competitor boats should carry a floating tow-line 8m in length. Participants are reminded that large yachts and motor vessels will be using the River during the races and due consideration must be given to them. There are also many other River users such as swimmers, canoeists and paddle-boarders likely to be about. Any boat infringing the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREGS) or local bye-laws in respect of other River users may be disqualified.
www.hants.gov.uk/thingstodo/riverhamble/waterways/byelaws

20. Disclaimer of Liability: Competitors participate in the Regatta entirely at their own risk. See RRS 3, Decision to Race. The organising authority will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the Regatta.

21. Insurance: Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £3,000,000 per event or the equivalent.