



# MIDDLE HARBOUR 16ft SKIFF CLUB

## SAILING INSTRUCTIONS - SEASON 2016/17

Under the Authority of the NSW 16ft Skiff Association and Yachting NSW Inc.

### 1 Rules

The Middle Harbour (MH) 16ft Skiff Club racing series and interclub regattas will be governed by the current Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) as amended, the prescriptions and special regulations of Yachting Australia (YA), including Part 2 – Off the Beach Boats, the rules of the Australian & NSW 16ft Skiff Associations only where they do not conflict with the RRS, and YA Prescriptions and Special Regulations, except as any of these are altered by the Sailing Instructions (SI).

### 2 Notices to Competitors

**2.1** Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located inside the southern entry to the boatshed.

**2.2** A briefing for competitors, race officials and support crews may be held one and half hours before the start of the race or the 1<sup>st</sup> race of the day.

### 3 Changes in Sailing Instructions

**3.1** Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted before 1230 hrs on the day it will take effect, on the official notice board.

**3.2** Any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 2000 hrs on the day before it will take effect, considering the impact on participation and point scores.

### 4 Signals Made Ashore

**4.1** Signals made ashore will be displayed on the club's flagpole, located on the north eastern corner of the upper deck or, from the committee boat anchored in front of the club house when the flagpole cannot be accessed.

**4.2** When the AP is displayed ashore, the warning signal will be made not less than 60 minutes after AP is lowered. This amends Race Signal 'AP'.

### 5 Schedule of Races

**5.1** Races are scheduled as per the racing calendar published on the MH 16ft Skiff Club website [www.middleharbourskiffs.com.au](http://www.middleharbourskiffs.com.au) and displayed on the official notice board.

**5.2** The racing calendar includes:

**5.2.1** Point Score Series, the Club Championship and Crew's Trophy.

**5.2.2** Sprint Races, which includes 4 races per scheduled race day, unless otherwise indicated on the committee boat at the finish line.

**5.3** No warning Signal will be made after 1600 hrs, except for sprint races, where no warning signal will be made after 1645 hrs.

## **6 The Racing Area and Courses**

**6.1** All races shall be sailed as a windward-leeward course.

**6.2** The race area and 'set' course maps, is as per MH 16ft Skiff Club courses published on the MH 16ft Skiff Club website [www.middleharbourskiffs.com.au](http://www.middleharbourskiffs.com.au) and displayed on the official notice board. The course maps include the number of legs to be sailed and the side on which each mark is to be left.

**6.3** Diagram in Addendum A shows the alternative compass bearing course.

**6.4** In accordance with RRS 27.1, no later than the warning signal, a board indicating, which 'set' course will be sailed or the approximate compass bearing of the windward mark, will be displayed on the committee boat. For a compass bearing course, a numeral flag will also be displayed, indicating the number of laps to be sailed.

**6.5** Courses will be determined by the Race Officer of the day, with a 'set' course being the course of 1<sup>st</sup> preference. A compass bearing course will only be considered when the wind conditions are unfavourable for fair racing on any of the 'set' courses. Compass bearing course will be set within the race area of the 'set' courses.

## **7 Class Flag**

**7.1** 16 ft Skiffs - The class flag shall be code flag U (red and white quartered square) with the number "16" superimposed.

**7.2** 13 ft Skiffs and 29ers - The class flag is the 13 ft skiff logo (speeding red '13') displayed on a white background. The 29er class flag is the 29er logo (black) displayed on a white background.

## **8 Marks**

**8.1** The rounding Marks are large yellow conical inflatables with MH16'SC printed in black, except where indicated on the course maps.

**8.2** The committee and support boats will be identified by flying the MH6 ft Skiff Club burgee.

**8.3** The change of course mark is a large yellow, cylindrical inflatable with a black band. Refer SI 11.1

## **9 The Start**

**9.1** All races will be started using RRS 26 with the warning signal made 5 minutes before the starting signal, except for sprint races, where the warning signal will be made 3 minutes before the starting signal.

**9.2** For handicap starts, races will start as follows, this changes RRS26. At one minute before the start, the preparatory flag shall be replaced by the electronic numeral board displaying the numeral 1 minute greater than the highest handicap for the day. As the electronic numeral changes to the highest handicap of the day the class flag is removed signaling the first start. Numerals will count down in minutes and seconds to zero. A Skiff's start will be when their handicap time is displayed with: 00 seconds remaining. Handicaps will be displayed on the official notice board on the scheduled race day.

### 9.3 Start sequences

Signal	Flag and Sound	Minutes before starting signal	Changes for sprint series. Refer SI 9.2	Changes for all handicap starts. Refer SI 9.3
<b>Warning</b>	Class flag; 1 sound	5	3	5
<b>Preparatory</b>	P, I, Z, Z with I, or black flag; 1 sound	4	2	4
<b>One-minute</b>	Preparatory flag removed; 1 long sound	1	1	1 - Electronic Timer displays highest handicap +1 minute and begins countdown to zero
<b>Starting</b>	Class flag removed; 1 sound	0	0	0 - Electronic Timer continues countdown to zero

**9.4** The starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the committee boat at the starboard end and the mark displaying an orange flag on the port end.

**9.5** A skiff seen in the vicinity of the starting line after the warning signal will be counted as a starter even if it does not actually start. This amends RRS Appendix A4.

**9.6** A skiff not seen in the vicinity of the start line after the warning signal and attempting to start later than 10 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start (DNS). This amends RRS Appendix A4.

**9.7** The warning signal for each succeeding class shall be made with or after the starting signal of the preceding class.

**9.8** Skiffs whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area during the start sequence for other races.

## 10 Individual Recall

**10.1** In addition to RRS 29.1, at the first windward mark after the start, a committee boat may display an OCS board advising a boat that they have scored OCS. A sound signal may be used to draw attention to the board.

## **11 Change of Course after the Start**

**11.1** A change of course after the start will be signaled in accordance with RRS 33 before the leading boat has begun the leg, although the new mark may not then be in position. Any mark to be rounded after rounding the new mark may be relocated to maintain the original course configuration. When in a subsequent change of course a new mark is replaced, it will be replaced with a mark of the characteristics of the original mark.

**11.2** A starter may shorten the course in accordance with YA RRS 32 where paragraph (c) is altered to read 'because it is assessed by the Race Officer that the majority of the fleet will not finish within the time limit'.

## **12 The Finish**

**12.1** The finishing line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the committee boat at the starboard end and the mark displaying an orange flag on the port end.

**12.2** The committee boat on the finish line will display a blue flag.

**12.3** Code Flag C over L displayed on the committee boat on the finish line indicates sail checking will take place. Refer SI 19.2.

## **13 Time Limit**

**13.1 Club Championship, Crew's Trophy and Point Score races.** Skiffs failing to finish within the time limit will be scored Did Not Finish (DNF). This changes RRS 35 and Appendix A4.

**13.1.1 One race scheduled for the day:** The time limit will be 3 hours from the last starting signal OR 45 minutes after the first skiffs finishing time, whichever is the shorter total time.

**13.1.2 Two races scheduled for the day:** The time limit will be 1.5 hours from the last starting signal OR 25 minutes after the first skiffs finishing time, whichever is the shorter total time.

## **13.2 Sprint races**

The time limit will be 5 minutes after the first skiff's finishing time. Skiffs failing to finish within the time limit will be scored Did Not Finish (DNF). This changes RRS 35 and Appendix A4.

## **14 Safety Regulations**

**14.1** A skiff that retires from a race must **notify** the Race Officer of the day as soon as possible, either on course OR by contacting the Race Officer as soon as possible.

**14.2** Specific Regulation R1, Personal Buoyancy, shall comply with such that 'all crew members shall wear, whilst afloat, a personal flotation device'. This changes RRS 40.1.

## **15 Protests**

**15.1** Sub-paragraph (2) of RRS Rule 61.1(a) is deleted (i.e. "if the hull length of the protesting boat is less than 6 metres, she need not display the red flag ;"). Thus a skiff wishing to protest against another skiff for an incident in the racing area SHALL conspicuously display a red flag at the first reasonable opportunity and continue to display it until she is no longer racing.

**15.2** Protests shall be written on forms available from the Sailing Secretary or their representative and returned completed to a member of the Race Committee within 60 minutes after the time of the last skiff's finish time. Amends RRS 61.3.

**15.3** Protests will be heard in approximately the order of receipt as soon as possible.

**15.4** As required by RRS 63.2 protest notices will be posted on the official notice board within 30 minutes of the protest time limit to inform competitors where and when there is a hearing in which they are parties to a hearing or named as witnesses. The posting of such notice is notification to all parties for the purpose of RRS 63.2.

**15.5** For the purposes of RRS 64.3(b), the qualified authority is the MH16ft Skiff Club official measurer.

## **16 Scoring**

**16.1** The results and scoring is overseen by the Race Committee.

### **16.2 Club Championship Series**

**16.2.1** The Low Point scoring system, rule A4.1, will apply for the Club Championship series. A minimum of seven (7) races are scheduled for each series, of which five (5) races shall be completed to constitute a series.

**16.2.2** If 6 or 7 races are completed the one (1) worst result in the series will be discounted and the remaining results tallied. If only 5 races are completed then all scores will count towards the result. The skiff with the lowest point score for the overall season, wins. In the event of a tie, a count back will occur in accordance with Appendix A8

### **16.3 Point Score Series**

**16.3.1** The Low Point scoring system, rule A4.1, will apply for the Point Score. The overall Point Score is comprised of two half series. A minimum of nine (9) races are scheduled for each half series, of which six (6) races shall be completed to constitute a series.

**16.3.2** If 6 to 9 races are completed in a series then the one (1) worst result in the series will be discounted and the remaining results tallied. If only 5 races are completed in a series then all scores will count towards the result. The skiff with the lowest point score for a series, wins that series. The skiff with the lowest point score, for each half season (1st half and 2nd half) and the overall season, wins the overall Point Score Series. In the event of a tie, a count back will occur in accordance with Appendix A8.

### **16.4 Crew's Trophy Series**

**16.4.1** The Low Point scoring system, rule A4.1, will apply for the Crew's Trophy series. A minimum of ten (10) races are scheduled for the series, of which seven (7) races shall be completed to constitute a series.

**16.4.2** If 7 to 10 races are completed in the series then the one (1) worst result in the series will be discounted and the remaining results tallied. If only 6 races are completed in the series then all scores will count towards the result. The skiffs with the lowest point score for the series, wins. In the event of a tie, a count back will occur in accordance with Appendix A8.

## **16.5 Sprint Series**

**16.5.1** The Low Point scoring system, rule A4.1, will apply for the Sprint series. A minimum of sixteen (16) races are scheduled for each series, of which twelve (12) races shall be completed to constitute a series.

**16.5.2** When 16 races have been completed, the two (2) worst sprint race results will be discounted and the remaining results tallied. When only 15 races have been completed, the worst (1) sprint race result will be discounted and the remaining results tallied. The skiffs with the lowest point score, for each half season (1st half and 2nd half) and the overall season, wins. In the event of a tie, a count back will occur in accordance with Appendix A8.

**16.5.3** Target time for the leading skiff shall be 15 minutes for sprint races

**16.5.4** Maximum points for a sprints race shall be 7 points. All skiffs that start a sprints race and are positioned after 7<sup>th</sup> place shall all receive 7 points, including 7<sup>th</sup> place.

## **17 Prizes**

**17.1** Eligibility for prize money includes:

**17.1.1** 70% of point score races must be attended to be eligible for a Club Championship result.

**17.1.2** 70% of sailing meetings each season must be attended by a representative from each skiff. Failure to attend 70% of the sailing meetings will result in the loss of 30% of a skiff's eligible prize money.

**17.1.3** If a skiff does not achieve both the above 70% criteria they will not receive prize money – this will be enforced.

**17.2** Attendance at a sanctioned NSW Association event on a race day will be counted as a club race attendance.

**17.3** Winners and place getters for that day's racing will be acknowledged at the completion of the day's racing. Trophies and prize money will be awarded at a presentation night as specified on the sailing calendar, after completion of the season.

## **18 Registration**

**18.1** A skiff shall be currently registered with the NSW 16ft Skiff Association and shall hold a current measurement certificate and able to be produced on demand.

**18.2** A skiff shall be currently registered with the MH 16ft Skiff Club.

**18.3** All crew shall be sailing members of the MH 16ft Skiff Club.

**18.4** A guest cannot sail more than three (3) races (other than social races) without making a bona fide application for sailing membership.

**18.5** All sailors shall be current YA Members

**18.6** All skiffs must have all club registration, state registration, YA membership, shed rent and race sponsorship documents and payments all completed by close of business on the first day of club racing. If a skiff has not completed the required documents and payments by this date

they will be scored DNS for all races until all payments and documents have been completed. They will continue to be scored DNS until all paperwork and payments have been lodged.

**18.7** A replacement skipper shall be nominated on a change of skipper form, given to the Race Officer of the day at least one hour prior to the scheduled race start time.

**18.8** If replacement crew is selected from the junior sailing division, the junior crew shall be nominated on a change of crew form and given to the Race Officer of the day at least one hour prior to the scheduled race start time. A junior replacement crew will attract a 2 minute addition to the skipper's handicap for that race only.

**18.9** All 16ft skiffs must sail under the ensign registered with the 16ft Skiff Association. A 16ft skiff cannot sail more than three (3) races without a registered ensign on the mail sail. Any request for exception to this rule must be put in writing to the Race Committee at least one hour prior to the scheduled race time. A change in ensign can be made by submitting a change of colours form to the Race Officer of the Day at least one hour prior to the scheduled race start time.

## **19 Measurement**

**19.1** All skiffs and their equipment must be checked, measured and weighed, for compliance with the class rules, by the club measurers, and recorded in the book provided for that purpose. Skiffs may be selected for checking after any race. Selected skiffs will be notified immediately after finishing any race by a committee boat. Any selected skiff shall not leave the immediate area and shall then comply with any instructions issued by a Race or Measurement Officer. Failure to adhere to this SI may result in disqualification without a hearing, amends RRS 63.1 and Appendix A5.

**19.2** Sail checking and verification may take place at the finish of each race. Whilst the committee boat on the finish line is displaying Code Flag C over L all finished skiffs shall proceed to the sail checking boat and area to have their sails checked.

**19.3** The sail checking boat will be a committee boat also displaying Code flag C over L and will be positioned in an immediate area beyond the finishing line.

**19.4** For permission to sail a skiff that does not comply with the current class rules for club racing, an application must be made to the Commodore in writing and put to a vote of the sailors at a sailing meeting or at the briefing on race day. Refer SI 2.2.

## **20 Disclaimer**

**20.1** All those taking part in the Middle Harbour 16ft Skiff Club racing do so at their own risk and responsibility. Attention is drawn to RRS 4 (decision to race).

**20.2** Middle Harbour 16 ft Skiff Club, their servants and agents and all parties involved with the organization of the racing disclaim any and every responsibility whatsoever for loss, damage, injury, death or inconvenience that might occur to person and or goods, both ashore and at sea as a consequence of participation in the races covered by these Sailing Instructions.

## **21 Race and Protest Committee**

**21.1** The Race Committee of the MH 16ft Skiff Club constitutes the Commodore, Secretary and Race Officers.

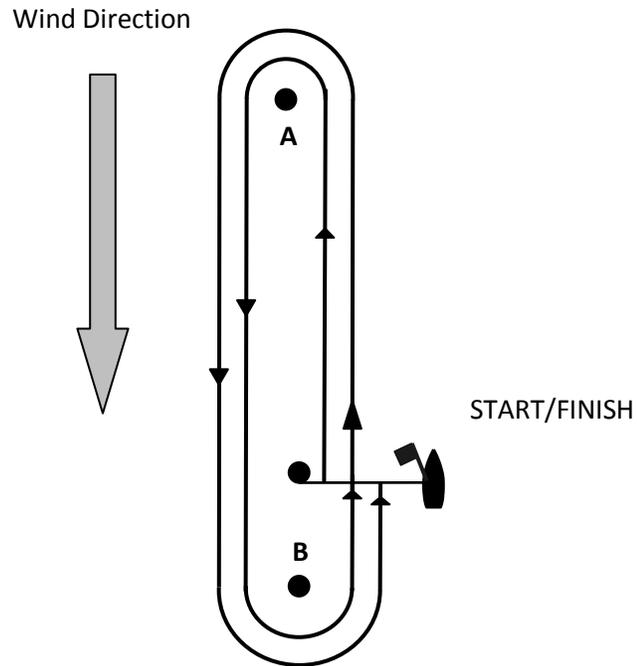
**21.2** The Protest Committee is elected at the Annual General Sailing meeting of the MH 16ft Skiff Club. In the event a protest involves a member of the Protest Committee, an alternate member will be nominated for that protest hearing.

**22 SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS - for Racing in the sound.**

**22.1** NSW Roads and Maritime Services have published a regulation which places an “exclusion zone” around Manly ferries whilst they are under way. The exclusion zone extends 200 metres forward of the bow of the ferry and 60 metres from each side and the stern. No sailing vessel is to enter this zone whilst the ferry is underway.

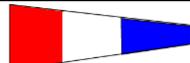
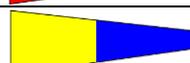
If a formal complaint is received from either Sydney Ferries or NSW Roads and Maritime Services about a skiff interfering with the passage of a Manly ferry, the skiff will be disqualified from the race by the Race Committee without a hearing. This amends RRS 63.1.

## ADDENDUM A - Windward-Leeward Compass Bearing Course



**Start – A – B – A – B – Finish**

For a compass bearing course, the approximate compass bearing of the windward mark, will be displayed on the committee boat with a numeral pennant, indicating the number of laps (times around windward and leeward marks) to be sailed as follows: e.g. in the diagram the numeral pennant 2 would be displayed on the committee boat.

Numeral Pennant	Pennant Number	Number of laps
	Pennant 1	1
	Pennant 2	2
	Pennant 3	3
	Pennant 4	4
	Pennant 5	5