

2026 STARLING MATCH GIRLS RACING

CHAMPIONSHIP 25 to 26 April 2026

The Organising Authority is the RAYC in conjunction with the SCA

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

1 RULES

- 1.1 The event is governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing* (RRS).
- 1.2 RRS Appendix C shall apply.
- 1.3 The *Rules for the Handling of Boats* (Attachment 3) shall apply and shall also apply to any practice sailing.
- 1.4 RRS Rule C8.5 and C10 are changed by the *Rules for the Starling Match Racing Championship* when a competitor is unable to race. See NoR 1.5.
- 1.5 RRS C3.1 Starting Signals and C4.2 are changed so that the attention signal will be made at 6 minutes before the first start, warning signal will be made at 4 minutes before the start and the preparatory signal will be made at 3 minutes before the start. See SI 9.

2 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

Notices to competitors will be posted on the Notice Board

3 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 3.1** Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted prior to 0900 on the day it will take effect.
- 3.2** Any change to the sailing instructions made afloat will be signalled by the display of 3rd Substitute flag with three sound signals. These changes may be communicated to competitors by an umpire.

4 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 4.1** Signals made ashore will be displayed from the RAYC flagpole.
- 4.2** When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 30 minutes' in the race signal AP.
- 4.3** When flag AP over flag D is displayed ashore, boats shall not go afloat.

5 SUPPLIED EQUIPMENT

- 5.1** The event will be sailed in Starling Class boats. Boats and sails will be supplied by the organising authority. Except as permitted in SI 10, any variation between boats shall not be grounds for redress.
- 5.2** Boats will be allocated by the race committee. The race committee may require boats to be exchanged in the knock-out stages.
- 5.3** The organising authority may use a substitute boat or equipment when it is satisfied that the original boat or equipment is damaged such that repairs in the time available are not practical.
- 5.4** Competitors will be provided with numerical flags which must be displayed on the forestay of her/his allocated boat.
- 5.5** Boats will be identified by a letter (A – F) displayed on the sail. Each boat is provided with port (blue) and starboard (yellow) entry flags attached to the side stays. Competitors shall display only the flag relating to their entry end.
- 5.6** Red protest flags will be supplied by the organising authority.

6 SCHEDULE OF RACES

The event format and schedule of races is set out in SI Attachment 1.

7 RACING AREA

The Race Area will be on the waters adjacent to the RAYC.

8 COURSE AND MARKS

- 8.1 The course will be windward/leeward, finishing downwind. An offset top mark may be laid to compensate for tidal effects.
- 8.2 When an offset mark is to be rounded, it will be signalled by the flying of code flag E.
- 8.3 Course direction will be indicated by either a green flag (starboard roundings) or a red flag (port roundings).
- 8.4 The diagrams in SI Attachment 2 show the courses and describe the marks.

9 STARTS

- 9.1 The starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the race committee boat at the starboard end and the course side of the port-end starting mark.
- 9.2 RRS C3.1 is changed to read:

The signals for starting a match shall be as follows. Times shall be taken from the visual signals; the failure of a sound signal shall be disregarded. If more than one match will be sailed, the starting signal for one match shall be the warning signal for the next match.

| Time in minutes | Visual Signal | Sound Signal | Means |
|-----------------|--|--------------|-----------------------------|
| 6 | Flag F displayed* | One | Attention signal |
| 5 | Flag F removed | | |
| 4 | Numeral pennant displayed** | One | Warning signal |
| 3 | Flag P displayed | One | Preparatory signal |
| 2 | Blue or yellow flag or both displayed*** | One*** | End of pre-start entry time |
| 1 | Flag P removed | One long | |
| 0 | Warning signal removed | One | Starting signal |

* Flag F is displayed at the start of a session. Thereafter each match will commence as soon as possible after the start of the previous match, with the start sequence beginning with the match's numeral pennant.

** Within a flight, warning signal numeral pennant 1 means Match 1, numeral pennant 2 means Match 2, and numeral pennant 3 means Match 3.

*** These signals shall be made only if one or both boats fail to comply with C4.2 as changed in SI 9.3. The flag(s) shall be displayed until the umpires have signalled a penalty or for one minute, whichever is earlier.

- 9.3 Within the one-minute period following a boat's preparatory signal, her hull shall cross and clear the starting line, the first time from the course side to the pre-start side. This changes RRS Rule C4.2.

- 9.4 The flight number being sailed will be displayed on the race committee boat at or before the first warning signal as a numeral on a board.
- 9.5 Each flight will be started as soon as practicable after the previous flight. A flight may be started before all matches in the previous flight are finished.
- 9.6 When a match cannot start at its intended time, the competitors in the following race will be advised that their race will be brought forward. Competitors will be advised verbally by an umpire.
- 9.7 When a match is cancelled due to the withdrawal of a competitor from the competition, the match will be awarded as a win to their opponent. Starting signals for such races will not be made.
- 9.8 In a knock-out series, in each pair, the competitor ranked higher in Stage 1 will have starboard end entry in the first match. Competitors will alternate assigned ends in subsequent matches. Competitors will remain in the same boat throughout each knock out stage.
- 9.9 In a knock-out series, when a winner of a particular series has been determined, further matches between those competitors will not be sailed. Subsequent matches shall be brought forward to eliminate blank starts. Competitors in subsequent matches will be so advised verbally by an umpire.
- 9.10 Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area during the starting sequence for other races.

10 BREAKDOWN AND TIME FOR REPAIRS

- 10.1 Before the warning signal of a match or within two minutes of finishing, whichever is later, a competitor may draw the attention of an umpire to signal breakdown or damage to the boat, her sails, or injury to the competitor and request a delay to the next start. She shall proceed as soon as possible to close to leeward of the race committee boat and remain there, unless otherwise directed.
- 10.2 With the assistance of the race committee, competitors shall make an attempt to carry out minor repairs where this is practical. The time allowed for repairs shall be at the discretion of the race committee.
- 10.3 A race may be postponed because of breakdown or damage to the boat, her sails, or injury to the competitor and rescheduled to another time at the discretion of the race committee.
- 10.4 After the warning signal of a match, it will not be postponed or abandoned due to breakdown unless the breakdown signal was displayed as required by SI 10.1.
- 10.5 Except when RRS 62.1(b) applies, failure to effect repairs in the time allowed, or breakdowns after the warning signal shall not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 62.

11 ABANDONMENT

RRS 32 is deleted and replaced with: "After the starting signal the race committee may abandon any match for any reason, after consulting with the match umpires when practical. Such abandonment shall only apply to the match adjacent to where the signal is displayed."

12 CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

RRS 33 shall not apply. Mark W and Mark O may be moved at any time, provided no boat is on a leg towards the mark. The course direction will not be changed more than 20 degrees during a match.

13 THE FINISH

The finishing line will be between a staff displaying the Starling Class flag on the race committee boat at the starboard end and the course side of the port-end finishing mark.

14 TIME LIMITS

14.1 The time limit for the first boat to sail the course and finish will be 25 minutes.

14.2 A boat that fails to finish within 5 minutes after her opponent has completed the course and finished will be scored DNF. This changes RRS 35 and A5.

15 PROTESTS

15.1 RRS C6.1(a) is changed to read:

(a) under a rule of Part 2, except rule 14, by clearly displaying a red flag immediately after an incident in which she was involved;

15.2 RRS C6.4(a) is changed to read:

(a) A boat protesting under rule C6.1(a) shall remove the red flag before or as soon as possible after the umpires' signal.

15.3 RRS C6.5(a) is changed to read:

(a) After the red flag is displayed, the umpires shall decide whether to penalize any boat. They shall signal their decision in compliance with rule C5.1, C5.2 or C5.3. However,

(1) if the umpires decide to penalize a boat, and as a result that boat will have more than two outstanding penalties, the umpires shall signal her disqualification under rule C5.4;

(2) when the umpires penalize a boat under rule C8.2 and in the same incident there is a red flag from a boat, the umpires may disregard the red flag.

16 SAFETY REGULATIONS

16.1 Check-out and check-in ashore:

- a) Competitors shall individually check-out before racing by personally signing the check-out sheets.
- b) Competitors shall individually check-in immediately on returning to shore after racing by personally signing the check-in sheets.

16.2 A boat retiring from racing shall notify the race committee or an umpire as soon as possible.

17 SUPPORT BOATS

17.1 Except when requested to participate in rescue operations, team leaders, coaches, and other support persons shall stay outside areas where boats are racing and are restricted to a 5-knot speed limit, from the time of the preparatory signal for the first start of a sequence of starts until all boats have finished or the race committee signals a postponement or abandonment of all races. The areas the boats are racing in is defined as the area inside the course and within 50 metres of any mark, lay line, starting line, finishing line or any area where any boat that is racing is sailing or may sail.

17.2 All support person vessels shall always have an engine safety cut out switch (kill cord) attached to the driver while the engine is running, unless prior written exemption has been provided by the organising authority.

18 RISK STATEMENT

RRS 3 states: 'The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue to race is hers alone.' By participating in this event each competitor agrees and acknowledges that sailing is a potentially dangerous activity with inherent risks. These risks include strong winds and rough seas, sudden changes in weather, failure of equipment, boat handling errors, poor seamanship by other boats, loss of balance on an unstable platform and fatigue resulting in increased risk of injury. **Inherent in the sport of sailing is the risk of permanent, catastrophic injury or death by drowning, trauma, hypothermia or other causes.**

ATTACHMENT 1

EVENT FORMAT AND RACE SCHEDULE

1 EVENT FORMAT

The event will consist of match racing, with the following stages:

Stage 1: Round-robins

Stage 2: Semi-finals

Stage 3: Petite final and final

2 STAGE 1

- 2.1** All competitors will sail one or two round robins. Each competitor sails against each other competitor once in each round. The scores from separate rounds will be combined.
- 2.2** If a second round-robin is attempted but cannot be completed, RRS C10.4 shall apply.
- 2.3** A preliminary draw for Stage 1 is set out in Table 1 below.
- 2.4** The four highest scoring competitors in Stage 1 shall qualify for the semi-finals.

3 STAGE 2

- 3.1** The competitor finishing first in Stage 1 is designated place 1 in the draw and shall select a semi-final opponent (designated place 4 in the draw) when requested by the race committee to do so. The remaining two competitors shall race each other (with the competitor placed higher in Stage 1 designated place 2 and the other designated place 3 in the draw).
- 3.2** The first semi-final competitors in each series to score at least two points will race each other in the final series to decide first and second places. The remaining competitors will race each other in the petite final series to decide third and fourth places.



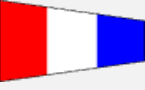
4 STAGE 3

- 4.1** In the petite final series, the first competitor to score at least two points shall be awarded third place. The other competitor shall be awarded fourth place.
- 4.2** In the final series, the first competitor to score at least three points shall be awarded first place. The other competitor shall be awarded second place.
- 4.3** A draw for Stage 2 and Stage 3 is set out in Table 2 below.

5 CURTAILMENT

In the event of the semi-final series, petite final series or final series being curtailed due to weather conditions, placings shall be based on races already sailed or if this is not possible then as specified in RRS C11.2

Table 1 – Stage 1 Round-Robin Draw

| Stage 1 - Round-Robin 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|--|------|-----------------|------|--|------|-----------------|------|--|------|-----------------|------|
| Flight | Match 1  | | | | Match 2  | | | | Match 3  | | | |
| | Port Entry | | Stbd Entry | | Port Entry | | Stbd Entry | | Port Entry | | Stbd Entry | |
| | Region | Boat | Region | Boat | Region | Boat | Region | Boat | Region | Boat | Region | Boat |
| 1 | (10) Canterbury | A | (5) BOP | B | (9) Upper Sth | C | (8) Wellington | D | (1) Wild 1 | E | (4) Waikato | F |
| 2 | (5) BOP | B | (3) Auckland | A | (9) Upper Sth | C | (7) Taranaki | D | (1) Wild 1 | E | (12) Wild 2 | F |
| 3 | (11) South | B | (3) Auckland | A | (2) Nth Harbour | C | (7) Taranaki | D | (6) East | E | (12) Wild 2 | F |
| 4 | (11) South | B | (4) Waikato | A | (10) Canterbury | D | (2) Nth Harbour | C | (8) Wellington | F | (6) East | E |
| 5 | (9) Upper Sth | B | (4) Waikato | A | (1) Wild 1 | C | (10) Canterbury | D | (8) Wellington | F | (5) BOP | E |
| 6 | (9) Upper Sth | B | (12) Wild 2 | A | (1) Wild 1 | C | (3) Auckland | D | (7) Taranaki | F | (5) BOP | E |
| 7 | (2) Nth Harbour | B | (12) Wild 2 | A | (3) Auckland | D | (6) East | C | (7) Taranaki | F | (11) South | E |
| 8 | (8) Wellington | A | (2) Nth Harbour | B | (4) Waikato | D | (6) East | C | (10) Canterbury | F | (11) South | E |
| 9 | (1) Wild 1 | B | (8) Wellington | A | (5) BOP | C | (4) Waikato | D | (10) Canterbury | F | (9) Upper Sth | E |
| 10 | (1) Wild 1 | B | (7) Taranaki | A | (5) BOP | C | (12) Wild 2 | D | (3) Auckland | F | (9) Upper Sth | E |
| 11 | (7) Taranaki | A | (6) East | B | (12) Wild 2 | D | (11) South | C | (3) Auckland | F | (2) Nth Harbour | E |
| 12 | (10) Canterbury | A | (6) East | B | (11) South | C | (1) Wild 1 | D | (2) Nth Harbour | E | (5) BOP | F |
| 13 | (4) Waikato | B | (10) Canterbury | A | (9) Upper Sth | C | (1) Wild 1 | D | (6) East | E | (5) BOP | F |
| 14 | (4) Waikato | B | (8) Wellington | A | (9) Upper Sth | C | (2) Nth Harbour | D | (6) East | E | (11) South | F |
| 15 | (12) Wild 2 | B | (8) Wellington | A | (6) East | C | (2) Nth Harbour | D | (5) BOP | E | (11) South | F |
| 16 | (12) Wild 2 | B | (7) Taranaki | A | (10) Canterbury | C | (3) Auckland | D | (5) BOP | E | (1) Wild 1 | F |
| 17 | (8) Wellington | B | (7) Taranaki | A | (3) Auckland | D | (4) Waikato | C | (6) East | E | (1) Wild 1 | F |
| 18 | (8) Wellington | B | (10) Canterbury | A | (2) Nth Harbour | D | (4) Waikato | C | (6) East | E | (9) Upper Sth | F |
| 19 | (12) Wild 2 | B | (10) Canterbury | A | (2) Nth Harbour | D | (1) Wild 1 | C | (11) South | E | (9) Upper Sth | F |
| 20 | (12) Wild 2 | B | (3) Auckland | A | (4) Waikato | D | (7) Taranaki | C | (11) South | E | (2) Nth Harbour | F |
| 21 | (7) Taranaki | B | (3) Auckland | A | (4) Waikato | D | (12) Wild 2 | C | (8) Wellington | F | (11) South | E |
| 22 | (7) Taranaki | B | (10) Canterbury | A | (5) BOP | D | (9) Upper Sth | C | (3) Auckland | E | (8) Wellington | F |



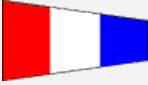




| Stage 1 - Round-Robin 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---|------|-----------------|------|---|------|-----------------|------|---|------|-----------------|------|
| Flight | Match 1  | | | | Match 2  | | | | Match 3  | | | |
| | Port Entry | | Stbd Entry | | Port Entry | | Stbd Entry | | Port Entry | | Stbd Entry | |
| | Region | Boat | Region | Boat | Region | Boat | Region | Boat | Region | Boat | Region | Boat |
| 1 | (5) BOP | A | (10) Canterbury | B | (8) Wellington | C | (9) Upper Sth | D | (4) Waikato | E | (1) Wild 1 | F |
| 2 | (3) Auckland | B | (5) BOP | A | (7) Taranaki | C | (9) Upper Sth | D | (12) Wild 2 | E | (1) Wild 1 | F |
| 3 | (3) Auckland | B | (11) South | A | (7) Taranaki | C | (2) Nth Harbour | D | (12) Wild 2 | E | (6) East | F |
| 4 | (4) Waikato | B | (11) South | A | (2) Nth Harbour | D | (10) Canterbury | C | (6) East | F | (8) Wellington | E |
| 5 | (4) Waikato | B | (9) Upper Sth | A | (10) Canterbury | C | (1) Wild 1 | D | (5) BOP | F | (8) Wellington | E |
| 6 | (12) Wild 2 | B | (9) Upper Sth | A | (3) Auckland | C | (1) Wild 1 | D | (5) BOP | F | (7) Taranaki | E |
| 7 | (12) Wild 2 | B | (2) Nth Harbour | A | (6) East | D | (3) Auckland | C | (11) South | F | (7) Taranaki | E |
| 8 | (2) Nth Harbour | A | (8) Wellington | B | (6) East | D | (4) Waikato | C | (11) South | F | (10) Canterbury | E |
| 9 | (8) Wellington | B | (1) Wild 1 | A | (4) Waikato | C | (5) BOP | D | (9) Upper Sth | F | (10) Canterbury | E |
| 10 | (7) Taranaki | B | (1) Wild 1 | A | (12) Wild 2 | C | (5) BOP | D | (9) Upper Sth | F | (3) Auckland | E |
| 11 | (6) East | A | (7) Taranaki | B | (11) South | D | (12) Wild 2 | C | (2) Nth Harbour | F | (3) Auckland | E |
| 12 | (6) East | A | (10) Canterbury | B | (1) Wild 1 | C | (11) South | D | (5) BOP | E | (2) Nth Harbour | F |
| 13 | (10) Canterbury | B | (4) Waikato | A | (1) Wild 1 | C | (9) Upper Sth | D | (5) BOP | E | (6) East | F |
| 14 | (8) Wellington | B | (4) Waikato | A | (2) Nth Harbour | C | (9) Upper Sth | D | (11) South | E | (6) East | F |
| 15 | (8) Wellington | B | (12) Wild 2 | A | (2) Nth Harbour | C | (6) East | D | (11) South | E | (5) BOP | F |
| 16 | (7) Taranaki | B | (12) Wild 2 | A | (3) Auckland | C | (10) Canterbury | D | (1) Wild 1 | E | (5) BOP | F |
| 17 | (7) Taranaki | B | (8) Wellington | A | (4) Waikato | D | (3) Auckland | C | (1) Wild 1 | E | (6) East | F |
| 18 | (10) Canterbury | B | (8) Wellington | A | (4) Waikato | D | (2) Nth Harbour | C | (9) Upper Sth | E | (6) East | F |
| 19 | (10) Canterbury | B | (12) Wild 2 | A | (1) Wild 1 | D | (2) Nth Harbour | C | (9) Upper Sth | E | (11) South | F |
| 20 | (3) Auckland | B | (12) Wild 2 | A | (7) Taranaki | D | (4) Waikato | C | (2) Nth Harbour | E | (11) South | F |
| 21 | (3) Auckland | B | (7) Taranaki | A | (12) Wild 2 | D | (4) Waikato | C | (11) South | F | (8) Wellington | E |
| 22 | (10) Canterbury | B | (7) Taranaki | A | (9) Upper Sth | D | (5) BOP | C | (8) Wellington | E | (3) Auckland | F |

Table 2 – Draw for Knock-out Stages

| Semi-Final Series | | | | | | | | | |
|---|------------|------|------------|------|---|------------|------|------------|------|
| Match 1 - Gold Semi-Final | | | | | Match 2 - Silver Semi-Final | | | | |
|  | | | | |  | | | | |
| Race | Port Entry | | Stbd Entry | | Race | Port Entry | | Stbd Entry | |
| | Region | Boat | Region | Boat | | Region | Boat | Region | Boat |
| 1 | Place 4 | B | Place 1 | A | 4 | Place 3 | D | Place 2 | C |
| 2 | Place 1 | B | Place 4 | A | 5 | Place 2 | D | Place 3 | C |
| 3* | Place 4 | A | Place 1 | B | 6* | Place 3 | C | Place 2 | D |

| Final Series | | | | | Petite Final Series | | | | |
|---|------------|------|------------|------|---|------------|------|------------|------|
|  | | | | |  | | | | |
| Race | Port Entry | | Stbd Entry | | Race | Port Entry | | Stbd Entry | |
| | Region | Boat | Region | Boat | | Region | Boat | Region | Boat |
| 7 | SSFW | B | GSFW | A | 12 | SSFL | D | GSFL | C |
| 8 | GSFW | A | SSFW | B | 13 | GSFL | D | SSFL | C |
| 9 | SSFW | A | GSFW | B | 14* | SSFL | C | GSFL | D |
| 10* | GSFW | B | SSFW | A | | | | | |
| 11* | SSFW | A | GSFW | B | | | | | |

Where:

Place n is the competitor placed nth in Stage 1 (but see SI Attachment 1 clause 3.2 above)

GSFW is the winner of the Gold Semi-Final

GSFL is the loser of the Gold Semi-Final

SSFW is the winner of the Silver Semi-Final

SSFL is the loser of the Silver Semi-Final

* denotes a race that will only be sailed if required to decide a series

ATTACHMENT 2 COURSE AND MARKS

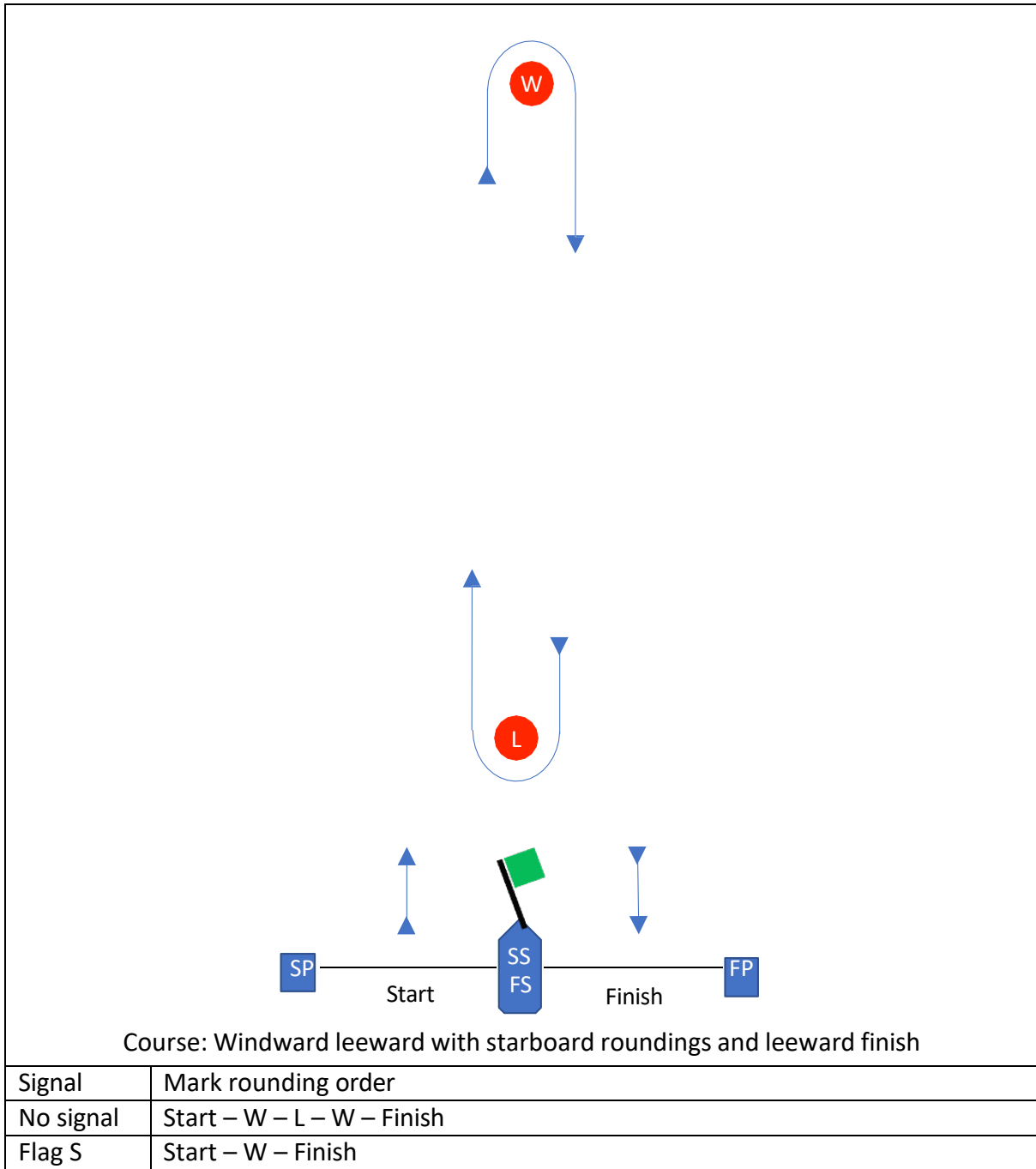


Figure 1 – Windward leeward with starboard rounding (Green) (Flag E not flown)

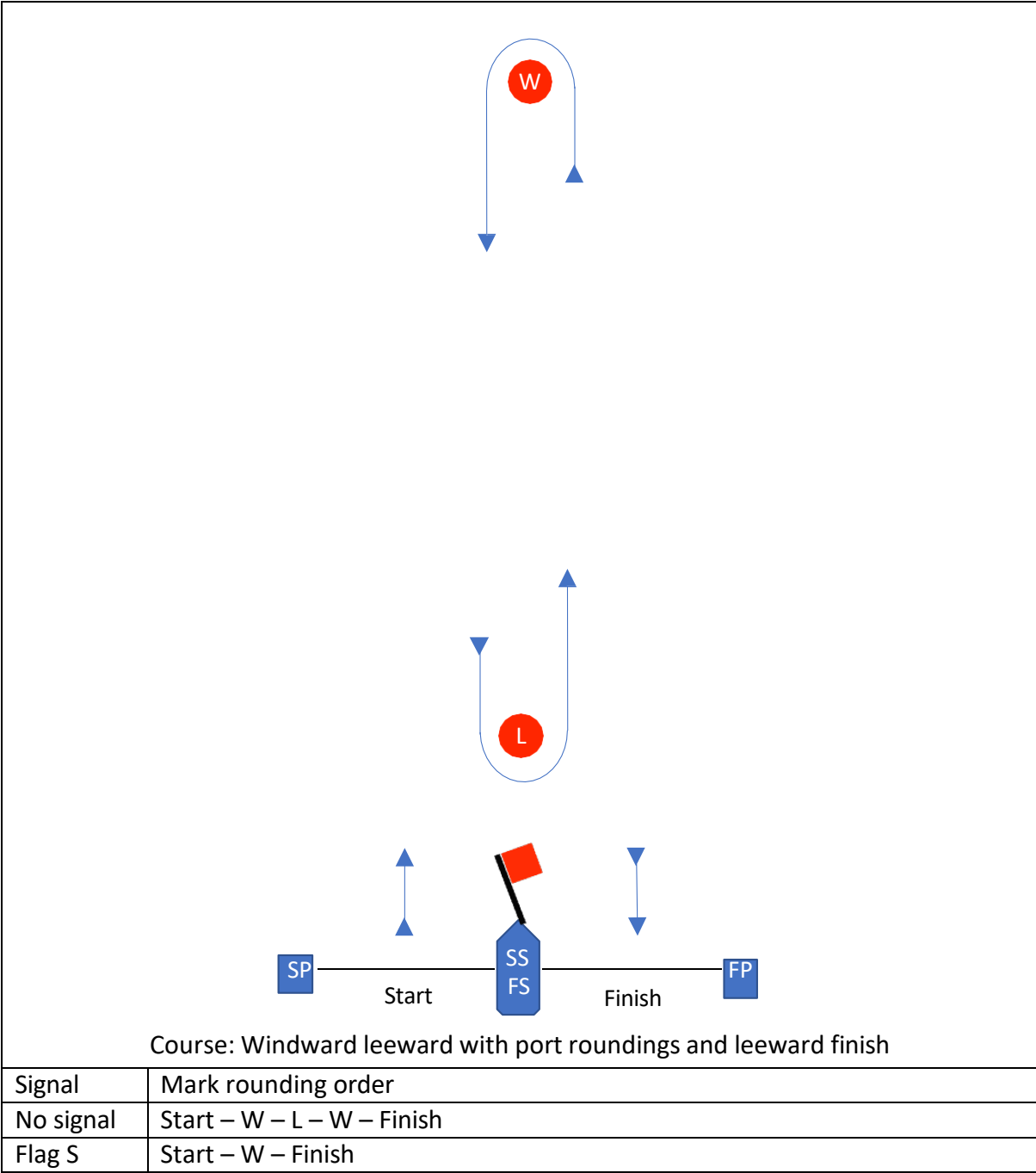


Figure 2 – Windward leeward with port rounding (Red) (Flag E not flown)

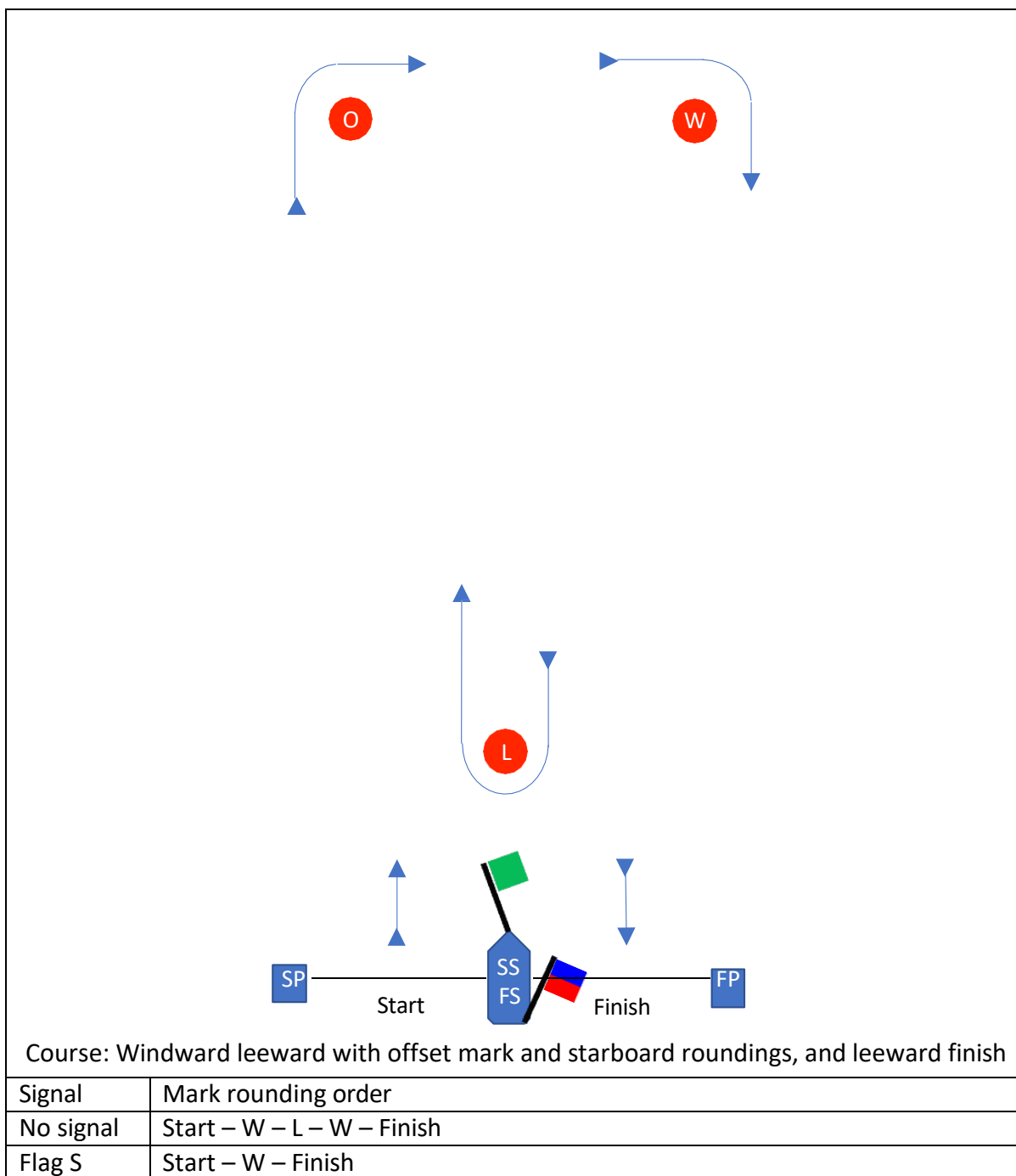


Figure 3 – Offset with starboard roundings (indicated by Flag E and Green)

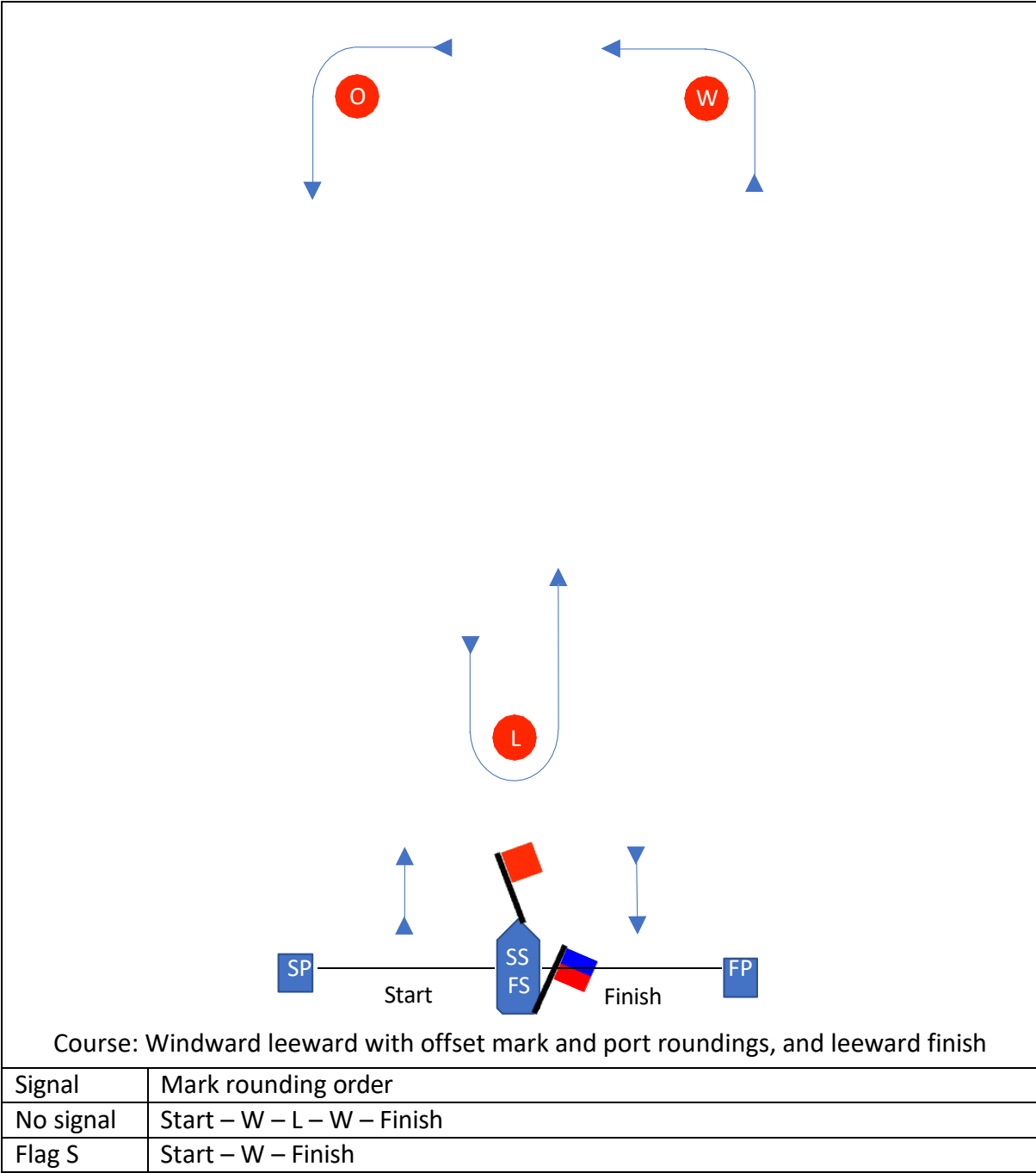








Figure 4 – Offset with port roundings (indicated by Flag E and Red)

| Mark | Description |
|---|------------------------|
|  | Yellow triangular buoy |
|  | Orange round buoy |
|  | Yellow triangular buoy |
|  | White round buoy |
|  | Race Committee vessel |
|  | Green cylinder buoy |

ATTACHMENT 3

RULES FOR HANDLING OF BOATS

1 GENERAL

While all reasonable steps are taken to equalise the boats, variations in performance will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 62.

2 PROHIBITED ITEMS AND ACTIONS

Except in an emergency or to prevent damage or injury, or when directed by the race committee or an umpire, the following are prohibited:

- addition, removal or alteration of the equipment supplied;
- the use of any equipment for a purpose other than that intended or specifically permitted;
- sailing the boat in a manner that it is likely to result in damage;
- using a boat without prior permission, without having paid the required damage deposit or while 'AP' is displayed ashore;
- perforating sails, even to attach tell tales;
- radio transmission (including using mobile telephones), except to report damage or in response to a request from the race committee;
- adjusting or altering the tension of standing rigging;
- use of electronic instruments other than a watch or timer;
- marking directly on the hull or deck with permanent ink; and
- use of any tape that leaves a residue (including duct tape).

3 PERMITTED ITEMS AND ACTIONS

3.1 It is permitted to take on board the following equipment:

- adhesive tape;
- line (elastic or otherwise) of 4 mm diameter or less;
- marking pens;
- tell tale material; and
- watch or timer.

3.2 It is permitted to use the items in 3.1 to:

- attach tell tales;
- prevent equipment being damaged or falling overboard;
- mark control settings; and
- make minor repairs and permitted adjustments.

3.3 Changing the number of mainsheet purchases is permitted.

4 MANDATORY ITEMS AND ACTIONS

- 4.1** If a competitor finds any damage (whether or not it was caused whilst the competitor was on the boat), the competitor must advise the race committee or an umpire at the first available opportunity. Reports shall include any evidence of matters which could cause damage or disadvantage to the boat in future matches.
- 4.2** At the start of each racing day or after a postponement ashore, the competitor scheduled to sail a boat in the first race is responsible for rigging that boat and obtaining the beach master's approval to launch. It is the competitor's responsibility to check for damage or wear and to report this to the beach master.