



MYA

Radio and Free Sailing in the UK

Racing News



Fully Charged Racing

March 2017

The first few months of my tenure as MYA Racing Officer have been both quiet and busy at the same time.

Fortunately, the timing of the MYA AGM meant that on the water activity has been quiet, however behind the scenes there has been plenty of activity, hopefully this short update will advise more on this activity and keep you up to date on the current position.

If you have any questions about any of the items in this update please email me and I will try to answer them.

As this is an update I will list the items with a short explanation below them.

Racing Rules of Sailing 2017-20 (RRS)

The updated RRS came in to place on 1st Jan 2017 and will be current until 31st Dec 2019. Although the fundamentals are the same there are a few updates that will affect the Radio Sailing community, mainly in Appendix E and worth acquainting yourself with.

The full 2017-20 RRS can be downloaded from the World Sailing website:

<http://www.sailing.org/documents/racingrules/>

There are lots of forums and websites that discuss the changes and for the racers it is worth buying an updated version of one of the rules explanation books – *The Rules in Practice 2017-2020* by Bryan Willis is a good example. Personally, I would suggest that each club should have a copy available – great for discussing incidents when they happen and resolving disputes.

Worth noting in the 2017 changes are:

Rule 18.2 (giving mark room)

Rule 18.3 (tacking in the zone – only applies at port roundings now)

Appendix E – E 8 (Identification on Sails)

This change is probably going to affect members and their boats the most, and attempts to clarify the situation relating to sail numbers; G1.3 states that the sail number shall be the last two digits of the boats registration number or the competitors or owners personal sail number.

This has been interpreted by the MYA Race & Regulations Team as bringing back the requirement for a zero in front of numbers between 0 and 9. However, the rule (G1.1 (b)) also allows the use of numbers which were compliant with the rules prior to the revision for domestic racing.

Therefore, for the 2017 season the MYA has decided that the use of sails measured and compliant prior to 2017 will be acceptable with single digit numbers.

In simple terms this means **No Change** for skippers with sails measured and compliant prior to 2017.

For race teams this is covered in the 2017 MYA SSI's and the Sail Identification document, both of which can be downloaded below:

[MYA Standard Sailing Instruction 2017](#)

[MYA Sail Identification](#)

MYA Race Regulations

The 2017 Standard Sailing Instructions (SSI's), Race Regulations for National Championships and Rankings are now updated to incorporate the alterations required by the RRS 2017-20.

2017 MYA SSI's

SSI Download [HERE](#)

These have only a few alterations to include the RRS requirements also revised wording to the certificate presentation at events, this now requires a paper copy of a valid certificate. There have been a few competitors presenting their certificates on electronic devices creating problems for the race teams, for 2017 this will not be accepted, as previously noted there is a clause to overcome revisions to sail identification.

2017 MYA Regulations for National Championships

National Regulations Download [HERE](#)

A few items of housekeeping in this document, worth a read for those entering or involved with MYA National Championships; however, there is **one change of policy** which relates to participation levels – this is clause 8.5 in the document.

For 2017 and onwards this now reads as follows:

8.5 Except for free sailing events, the average National Championship entry over a rolling 3-year period shall be 10 competitors from at least 3 clubs. National Championship status shall be withdrawn for the following year if the 3 year average falls below this requirement; a cancelled National Championship due to problems with the venue shall be ignored in the 3-year average.

There are several intentions behind this clause, but fundamentally this is an attempt to retain the value to being an MYA National Champion and create space and opportunity within the calendar for those classes which are being supported by their skippers. The 3-year average will include the 2016 Nationals, so this year will be year 2 – I currently do not see any class falling below the numbers required but the MYA council are currently discussing the Affiliated Classes and Groups requirements and the figures may be amended if it is felt necessary.

The mechanism for re-introduction to the calendar is also to be discussed, but as we are currently not likely to see any change for 2 years this will be debated further before finalising.

For the skipper, there will be little difference to the events in 2017.

2017 MYA Regulations for Ranking Events

Ranking Regulations Download [HERE](#)

Again, mainly housekeeping to tidy up wording and deal with changes created by the 2017-20 RRS but there are a couple of important items to point out in the Ranking regulations.

There is **now only one set of regulations to cover rankings**, this combines the old ranking points document and the ranking regulations in one document. The ranking points document will be withdrawn.

The qualifying period for International events has been reduced from 30 weeks prior to the start of the event down to 20 weeks. It was felt that with modern communication there was no longer the need to have the 30-week period; an advantage to the MYA and skippers is that it will allow the ranking events held later in the year to be pushed back a little with a lower chance of the events not counting for an event, particularly European events which can occur from May onwards. It is hoped that this will ease some of the issues with weed and fixture congestion in the calendar, allowing classes to extend their sailing season until later in the year.

A small tweak to the number of qualifying events has taken place, this now allows 3 events to score when 4 events are held rather than the previous 2, it was felt this will encourage participation and mean that in all instances more than 50% of qualifying events will count towards an individual's overall score.

MYA Race Packs

National Race Pack [HERE](#)

Ranking Race Pack [HERE](#)

The knowledge base now has the updated race packs for National and Ranking events, these are a comprehensive list of documents that may be required to run a large event, most clubs will already have many of these documents as part of their regular race paperwork and there is no reason not to use this if the race team prefer.

This may be a convenient point to remind those clubs who have kindly offered to host MYA Nationals and Ranking events that the MYA requests a few documents be provided prior to, and after the events, these are designed to help provide a consistent approach, assist future race teams and create an archive of information; the most important of these are listed below:

Pre-event

Notice of Race – needs to be agreed between host club, class captain and MYA Racing Officer
Event Budget– needs to be agreed between host club, class captain and MYA Racing Officer

Post event

Full results – sent to MYA Racing Officer and class captain
Proforma results sheet – sent to MYA Racing Officer
Racing Officers report – sent to MYA Racing Officer
Event Financial Statement- sent to MYA Racing Officer and class captain

On top of this if there is a race report and pictures these will be published on the website.

Health & Safety

A recent incident at a district event highlighted the need to ensure that basic emergency contact details are available for use by the emergency services, this can be via a form at registration or the online entry but it is important that all those who are attending, competitors and officials, give these details at registration. No one wishes to use these, but also no one wants to see a friend in difficulty and have no way of assisting them.

Emergency Contact Form Download [HERE](#)

Finally....

There have been some events already, rankings for the 10R and the 2017 MYA 36" National Championships, congratulations to Chris Harris for becoming the 1st MYA National Champion of 2017, and some great events coming up – IOM Ranking at Castle Semple, Marblehead Rankings at Woking and Lincoln in April along with traveller and district series events for most classes.

If you are a skipper who hasn't yet tried a district, traveller or ranking event why not try one in 2017, they are a great way of having fun and learning more about the skills of radio and free sailing.

The full MYA race calendar can be viewed on the website [HERE](#)

I would like to thank all those who have volunteered to run these events, and who are putting in a great effort and giving up your time to allow all of us to go sailing.

Thank You from the MYA Race Team

Anything that has been raised here and you wish to clarify please give me a call or send an email.

Looking forward to meeting up with you at a lake soon.

Darin

D Ballington
MYA Racing Officer

01283 541188 – between 7.30pm and 9.00pm
mya.ashbyroadeast@gmail.com