

2009 Oman Hobie 16 Open & National Championships

Prequalification Round for PDO Recreation Club Boat Allocation

& Private Team Event (Practice races)

3rd & 4th September 2009

SPECIAL SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Rules and Management

- 1.1 This event will be governed by the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) 2009-2012 published by ISAF, the Hobie International Class Rules and by the Special Sailing Instructions (SSI) for this event.
- 1.2 The designated Officer of the Day (OOD), a Race Committee, and members of the race committee as appointed by the Sailing Section of the Ras Al Hamra Team Club (RAHBC) will manage the event.
- 1.3 Promotional bibs may be provided for all competitors, if provided the bib shall be worn over the buoyancy aid when racing.

2. Racing Area

The Racing Area will be in close proximity to and generally to the North of PDO Recreation Team Club.

3. Changes to the Special Sailing Instructions and Race Schedules

- 3.1 Any changes to the Special Sailing Instructions (other than the Racing Schedules) will be posted before 08.30 hrs on the day it will effect.
- 3.2 Any change in the first scheduled Starting Time will be posted before 20.00 hrs. on the day before it will take effect

4. The Course and Marks

- 4.1 One Course Area will be used.
- 4.2 A diagram of the courses showing the position of the marks and the starting and finishing lines, the order in which the marks are to be rounded, the side on which each mark is to be left and a description of the marks will be shown on the Notice Board.
- 4.3 The Race Committee may replace a missing mark with any mark or vessel displaying Flag M.

5. Classes

Only open to the Hobie 16 catamarans without spinnakers

Class Flag Black Hobie Logo on white background

6. Prizes

At the sole discretion of the organisers prizes may be awarded. Prize giving will be at 17:00hrs on Friday 4th September 2009 at the PDO Recreation Club, "Boat Club Terrace".

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7. Registration

Registration will be at the boat club bridge between 08:00 & 09:00 hrs 3rd September 2009.

8. Schedule of Races

- 8.1 12 Races are scheduled over the two days
- 8.2 Briefing: A briefing for all teams will take place at 09:00 hrs on the first day only; all other notices shall be posted on the Official Notice Board.
- 8.3 Start Times: The first race each day will not start before 10:15 hrs.
- 8.4 Boat allocation per race will be posted on the Official Notice board no later than at time of registration.
- 8.5 PDO teams and all private teams will have one common start

9. Start Sequence:

The start sequence will be as follows: -

-5	Class Flag up	Sound Signal	Warning signal
-4	Flag P, I, or Black flag up	Sound Signal	Preparatory signal
-1	Preparatory Flag down	Sound Signal	One Minute signal
0	Class Flag down	Sound Signal	Start signal

10. Start Signals

- 10.1 Signals will be made from the Race Committee boat stationed at the starboard end of the line **or** from The Shore Bridge should weather conditions dictate. Changes to Committee Start location and revised Course's will be advised on the official notice board.
- 10.2 The start line will be between a mast of a vessel or a staff on the Race Committee boat, which will be identified by the display of a **Red Flag**, and the Outer Distance Mark (ODM). The Race Committee boat will be stationed at the starboard end of the line and the ODM will be laid at the port end of the line.
- 10.3 An Inner Distance Mark (IDM) may be laid near the Race Committee boat. No part of any boat shall sail in the triangle created by this mark and the extremities of the adjacent committee boat whilst racing. This prohibited area does not rank as an obstruction when approaching the line to start and the IDM shall rank as a starting mark for the purpose of RRS 18.1 (a).
- 10.4 Starting teams must pass inside the ODM & IDM that delineates the length of the start line.

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10.5 A team shall not start later than 4 minutes after the start signal. A team failing to start within this prescribed time limit shall be scored as "Did Not Start" (DNS).

10.6 If in any start there are premature starters, Flag X will be displayed on the Race Committee boat immediately following the start signal and one sound signal will be made. It will be the responsibility of each team to determine whether she has started correctly.

10.7 Flag X will be lowered when all premature starters have returned correctly to the pre-start side of the line or four minutes after start signal, whichever is the earlier.

11. General Recall

A General Recall will be indicated by the display of Flag 1st Substitute and two sound signals. After the removal of Flag 1st Substitute and one sound signal the warning signal will be made one minute later.

12. Shortened Course

The shorten course signal, Flag S, will be flown on an official boat at or near a rounding mark. The finish will be between the nearby mark and the boat displaying this flag.

Leeward Mark finishing: Should a shortened course signal, Flag S be flown on an official boat at or near the leeward mark, the finish shall be between the leeward mark and the official boat from the *direction* of the last mark.

When crossing a shortened course finish line, the onus is on the team to decide whether or not it has completed the shortened course.

13. Finish

The finish line will be between a mast of a vessel or a staff on the Race Committee boat, which will be identified by the display of a *Blue Flag*, and the ODM. If present, the IDM is not mark of the course when finishing.

14. Penalty System

A penalty turn comprising of one tack and one gybe may be completed instead of the specified two tacks and two gybes penalty to comply with RSS 44.1 & 44.2.

15. Time Limit

15.1 The time limit will be 60 minutes for the first team to cross the finishing line after her starting signal.

15.2 Teams failing to finish within 15 minutes of the first team or within the time limit whichever is the greater will be scored a result to reflect her actual position on the water at this particular elapsed time. (This modifies RRS 35)

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16. Damage to Boats

Should a catamaran sustain damage because of poor seamanship of the crew or helm whilst racing or in transit to or from the racing area then for the next race or number of races the offending helm / crew shall transfer their boat allocation rights to cover the withdrawn boat. This will apply until repairs are affected to the satisfaction of the Race Committee.

17. Protests

Any protest or protest procedure shall be carried out as in Part 5 of RRS.

18. Scoring

18.1 The Low Point Scoring System in accordance with RRS Rule A4 shall apply.

18.2 Two classes will be scored separately, the PDO prequalification round entries and private team entries as separate classes. Each team finishing a race and not thereafter retiring or being disqualified in her class will score points as follows: -

Finishing Place	Points
1 st	1
2 nd	2
3 rd 4 th 5 th 6 th Etc	3, 4, 5, 6 etc

18.3 A team in breach of Rule 29.1 (OCS), not starting (DNS), not finishing (DNF), retiring (RTD) will be scored with one more point than the number of teams entered for that particular race. A team that is disqualified (DSQ) will be scored with five more points than the number of teams entered for the Prequalification Round and the Private Boats Event combined. (This modifies RRS Appendix A)

18.4 Discount Rule: When 4 races or more have been completed by each team, a team's score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score, except a DSQ shall not be eligible for discard and is amended to be classified as a Disqualified Not Excludable - DNE. (This modifies RRS A4.2)

18.5 All boat, crew weight and equipment violations may additionally be protested under RRS 2 (Fair Sailing) and will be scored under DNE. Whenever possible, competitors will be warned of potential equipment violations on the beach before racing when observed by other competitors, the jury, or regatta officials.

18.6 In the event of a tie for any final position, the winner will be decided in accordance with Appendix A of the RRS.

18.7 A minimum of three races per team are required to conclude the ranking of teams for selection for the Club boat allocation for the 2009 Hobie 16 Open Championship.

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- 18.8 Should there be an uneven number of races held per group; the accumulative races held over the two days shall be reduced from the last race held to achieve an equal number of races held for each group. The results of these additional races will be disregarded.
- 18.9 Should the minimum number of races not be achieved then the boat allocation for the 2009 Hobie 16 Open Event shall be in order of the "Helm Ranking System" as published (most recent) by the RAHBC Sailing Section PDO Catamaran Sailing Captain for Catamaran Team Racing. The race committee decision is final in this regard.

19. Lifejackets / Buoyancy

Adequate personal buoyancy is to be worn at all times in accordance with RRS 40 except that Flag Y will not be flown. Non-compliance will result in disqualification. Wet suits and trapeze harness are not adequate personal buoyancy unless designed to include a buoyancy aid.

20. Sign on / Sign off

Teams are not required to Sign on or Sign off.

21. Insurance

All competitors must be covered by a minimum of Third Party insurance.

22. Disclaimer

Competitors sail entirely at their own risk. Neither, PDORC, OOD, or RAHBC nor its members, event sponsors, officers, committees or volunteers accept any liability for damage, accident, injury or loss, material or personal, suffered during the course of the Pre-qualification Round, or at any other time. It is the sole responsibility of each competitor to decide whether to start, or continue to race. A detailed disclaimer form shall be signed by every competitor / guardian when registering for the event.