



Ras Al Hamra Boat Club Muscat Oman

Omantel 2011 RAHBC Oman Open Hobie 16 Sailing Championship

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 the Open Championship and with particular respect to IHCA Rules 12.3 & 17.2.
- 1.2 The designated Officer of the Day (OOD), the Sailing Section of the Ras al Hamra Boat Club (RAHBC) and their appointed members 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 at all times when racing.

2. Racing Area

The Racing Area will be in close proximity to and generally to the North of Ras Al Hamra Recreation 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.



SPECIAL SAILING INSTRUCTIONS – continued –

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 catamaran without spinnaker

6. Prizes

Trophies or prizes will be awarded for the following teams:

- Oman Open Hobie 16 Champion
- Oman Open Hobie second and third place
- Oman Open Most Improved Team
- Oman Open Best All Omani Team

At the sole discretion of the organisers they may award additional prizes. Prize giving will be at 1700hrs on Friday 23rd September on the Golf Club Patio.

7. Registration

Registration will be open from 09:30 to 10:15hrs on 22nd September 2011

8. Schedule of Races

- 8.1 Nine Races are planned. Five Races are scheduled for Thursday 22nd and four Races for Friday 23rd September 2011. A minimum of three races are required to be completed to qualify the Open Championship and award prizes.
- 8.2 Briefing: A briefing for all teams will take place at 10:30 hrs on both days of the championship; all other notices shall be posted on the Official Notice Board.
- 8.3 Start Times: The first race will not start before 11:00am on each day.



SPECIAL SAILING INSTRUCTIONS – continued –

9. Start Sequence:

The start sequence will be as follows: -

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

NOTE: *Flag L will be displayed on the Finish Line to indicate that the races are back-to-back. If Flag L is not flying than all teams are required to return to shore after finishing.*

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 boats must pass inside the ODM & IDM that delineates the length of the start line.
- 10.5 **A boat shall not start later than 4 minutes after the start signal. A boat 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 yacht to determine whether she has started correctly.



SPECIAL SAILING INSTRUCTIONS – continued –

- 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 official boat.

If a course is shortened at a gate, an official boat near the gate will display Flag S and boats shall finish by sailing through the gate from the direction of the previous mark. The finishing line will be between the gate marks. This changes race signal S.

When crossing a shortened course finish line, the onus is on the boat 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. **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 1 hour for the first team to cross the finishing line after her starting signal.
- 15.2 Boats failing to finish within 15 minutes of the first boat 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)



SPECIAL SAILING INSTRUCTIONS – continued –

16. Damage to Boats – Applicable to RAHRC Teams using RAHBC Boats

Should a catamaran sustain damage 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 Each boat finishing a race and not thereafter retiring or being disqualified will score points as follows:

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

18.3 A boat in breach of Rule 29.1 (OCS), not starting (DNS), not finishing (DNF) or retiring (RTD) will be scored with one more point than the number of boats entered for the Open Championship. Boats that are disqualified (DSQ) or a disqualified non excludable (DNE) will be scored with five more points than the number of boats entered for the Open Championship.

18.4 If four or more races are completed then one race may be discarded, including a DSQ but not a DNE.

18.5 All boat, crew weight and equipment violations may additionally be protested under RRS 2 (Fair Sailing) and will be scored under DNE – Disqualified Not Excludable. Whenever possible, competitors will be warned of potential equipment violations on the beach before racing when observed by other competitors, the jury, or championship 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.



SPECIAL SAILING INSTRUCTIONS – continued –

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 a disqualification not excludable, DNE. 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 off.

21. Insurance

All competitors must be covered by a minimum of Third Party liability insurance which shall cover competitive racing and recreational sailing.

22. Disclaimer

Competitors sail entirely at their own risk. Neither, RAHRC, RAHBC, or the OOD, 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 Open Championship, 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.