

Bass Week Sailing Instructions 2026

1. RULES

- 1.1. Racing will be governed by the rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS).
- 1.2. The Event Programme will apply insofar as it shows the schedule and starting times of races (SI 6.1, 6.2, and 12.1).
- 1.3. RRS 40.1 applies at all times whilst afloat.

2. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1. Any changes to the Sailing Instructions, or to the Sailing Programme, will be posted on the Official Notice Board, located in the clubhouse foyer, at least one hour prior to the race or races concerned.

3. COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

- 3.1. Notices to competitors will be posted on the official noticeboard located in the clubhouse foyer.
- 3.2. The race office is located in the clubhouse.
- 3.3. While racing, except in an emergency, a boat shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats.

4. CODE OF CONDUCT

- 4.1. Competitors and support persons shall comply with reasonable requests from race officials.
- 4.2. Competitors and support persons shall place advertising (where provided by the organizing authority) with care, seamanship, in accordance with any instructions for its use and without interfering with its functionality.

5. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 5.1. Signals made ashore will be displayed on the flagpole next to the clubhouse.
- 5.2. When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than thirty minutes' in the race signal AP.

6. SCHEDULE OF RACES

- 6.1. The schedule of races will be as shown in the Event Programme for the regatta.
- 6.2. The scheduled time of the start of the first race each day is shown in the Event Programme for the regatta.
- 6.3. On the last scheduled day of racing, no warning signal will be made after 13.00.

7. CLASS FLAGS

Class	Flag
Fast Handicap	IC Numeral 7
Flying Fifteen	Naval Numeral 6
RS 200	IC Flag R
Medium Handicap	IC Flag J
ILCA 7	ILCA 7 Class Flag
Solo	IC Numeral 1
ILCA 6 & ILCA4	ILCA 6 Class Flag
Enterprise (Second Weekend Only)	IC Flag E
Slow Handicap	IC Flag H
Mirror, Topper, Tera & RS Feva XL	IC Numeral 6

8. RACING AREA

8.1. The racing area is Bassenthwaite Lake.

9. THE COURSES

- 9.1.** The course to be sailed will be indicated on the official course board attached to the gunwale of the Committee Boat, no later than the warning signal for the first start of a sequence of races.
- 9.2.** The *marks* of the course, the order in which they are to be rounded, their required side and the number of laps will be shown on the official course board.
- 9.3.** The numbers of *marks* to be rounded to port will be indicated on a red background and the numbers to be rounded to starboard will be indicated on a green background. The number of laps will be indicated on a black background.
- 9.4.** Separate courses for different fleets may be indicated on the upper and lower sections of the official course board. The lower section of the course board will be for the following classes: Solo, ILCA 6&4, Enterprise, Slow Handicap, Mirror/Topper/Tera/RS Feva XL. The upper section will be for all other classes.
- 9.5.** A black square on the official course board shall be taken to mean the word, 'then'.
- 9.6.** An additional course board may be positioned on the shore, located on the jetty near the club slipway to provide guidance for competitors going afloat. This is offered to assist competitors but does not replace the official course which is displayed on the Race Committee Boat and its display shall not be used as the basis for a request for redress under RRS 62.1(a).

10. MARKS

- 10.1.** Course Marks are the Club Marks which are indicated with approximate positions on the map attached as Appendix A.
- 10.2.** The Starting Mark will be a mark displaying an Orange flag.
- 10.3.** The Finishing *Mark* will be Mark 0 (a yellow buoy), or in the case of a Committee Boat finish, a nearby rounding mark.

11. AREAS THAT ARE OBSTRUCTIONS

- 11.1.** There are no obstructions in the sailing area. However, the lake is part of the Lake District National Park and is a significant wildlife habitat. Competitors are asked to keep clear of the reed banks on the right of the main slipway and not to land on the lakeshore other than on the sailing club slipways.

12. THE START

- 12.1.** Starting times will be as indicated in the Event Programme.
- 12.2.** Races will be started as follows. This changes RRS 26.
- 12.2.1. The Warning Signal (Class flag) for each fleet will be made four minutes before the start of that fleet.
- 12.2.2. The preparatory signal will be displayed two minutes before the first fleet to start and remain in place until the end of the starting sequence.
- 12.2.3. The *start* of each fleet will be signalled by the removal of the appropriate Warning Signal (class flag). The preparatory signal will be removed with the final warning signal in the sequence.

12.3. Fleets will start in the following order:

Fast Handicap
Flying Fifteen
RS200
Medium Handicap
ILCA 7
Solo
Enterprise (Second Weekend Only)
ILCA 6 & 4
Slow Handicap
Mirror, Topper, Tera & RS Feva XL

- 12.4. The starting line will be between a mast on the Committee Boat at the starboard end of the line, and the port end starting mark. Starting signals will be displayed from the Committee Boat.
- 12.5. An inner limit mark displaying a white flag will be laid approximately on the starting line and boats passing between it and the Committee Boat at any time will be liable to disqualification without a hearing. This changes RRS 63.1.
- 12.6. The Preparatory signal will be the “I” flag and RRS 30.1 “round the ends” and will be in force at all normal starts. In the case of a general recall start the race committee reserves the right to use an alternative Preparatory Signal (“U” or “Black Flag”). No other sound signal will be made to indicate the beginning of the last minute before each start. This changes RRS 30.1.
- 12.7. Optimist dinghies shall start with the Mirror, Topper, Tera & RS Feva XL class.

13. RECALLS

- 13.1. Individual recalls will be signalled by promptly displaying Code Flag “X” in accordance with RRS 29.1 and Race Signals. Boats on the course side shall sail across an extension to the pre-start side, before starting (“round the ends”).
- 13.2. A General Recall will be signalled by displaying the First Substitute flag accompanied by two sounds in accordance with RRS 29.2 and Race Signals.
- 13.3. In the case of a General Recall the *start* of the recalled fleet shall move to the end of the starting order. This changes *Rule 29.2* and Race Signals, and the following provisions apply.
- 13.4. The First Substitute will be removed without a sound signal before the start of the next fleet in the start order and the meaning of the First Substitute in Race Signals is then changed to mean,
“This fleet will start after the last fleet in the start order. The Warning signal for the recalled fleet will be made two minutes after the Warning Signal for the last fleet in the starting order is displayed”.
- 13.5. The new *start* for the recalled class will be signalled by removal of the Class Flag four minutes after it has been displayed.
- 13.6. The starts of any succeeding recalled fleets (if any) shall follow, unless they are further recalled, in which case they shall return to the end of the start order, as above.
- 13.7. The race committee may for any reason postpone a start or starts in accordance with RRS 27.3 and Race Signals. In which case the start will be signalled in accordance with SI 12.2, (with the exception that the Preparatory signal may be in accordance with SI 12.6 for a recalled fleet or fleets).
- 13.8. The Preparatory signal will be finally removed at the start of the final fleet.

14. INTERFERENCE WITH BOATS RACING

- 14.1. Boats that have not started or are not about to start shall not interfere with boats that have started or are about to start.
- 14.2. Boats whose Warning Signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area during the starting sequence for other races.

14.3. Boats breaching these requirements may be liable to a discretionary penalty (DP) without a hearing.

15. CHANGING THE COURSE

15.1. Marks may be moved before or during a race whilst boats are on that leg of the course at the discretion of the Race Committee. This shall not be grounds for redress. This changes rule 63.1.

15.2. The Race Committee will attempt to indicate the direction of the changed mark at or before the previous mark, either using the procedure in RRS 33 or verbally to all boats involved. This adds to RRS 33.

16. FINISHING

16.1. The fixed finishing line will be between the black pole on the lake shore and the Finishing Mark (Mark '0').

16.2. After they finish boats shall cross the finishing line completely. This changes RRS 28.1. In order to avoid obstructing the finishing line, boats that finish at the fixed line from the north shall then leave Mark South to port; boats that finish from the south shall then leave Mark North to starboard. Failure to do so may result in a discretionary penalty (DP) without a hearing. This changes RRS 63.1.

16.3. If the course is shortened, in accordance with RRS 32.2, flag 'S' will be displayed from the club flagpole accompanied by two sounds.

16.4. If the course is shortened on the water the finishing line shall be between the mast of the Finish Boat displaying flag "S", and a nearby rounding mark, in accordance with RRS 32.2(a).

16.5. If the course is shortened for specific fleets, the Class Flags (warning signal flags) for those fleets to be shortened will also be displayed. If the course is to be shortened for all fleets, no Class Flags will be displayed.

16.6. Boats crossing the finishing line in a group so that their relative placing cannot be determined will be presumed to have tied and their scores will be calculated in accordance with RRS A7. This adds to RRS A3.

16.7. Optimist dinghies will be finished under yellow code flag Q. This will be carried out as per 16.3 and 16.4 above and only pertains to this specific class of boat. All other classes shall ignore finishing signals where the yellow code flag Q is flown.

17. TIME LIMIT

17.1. Boats failing to finish within 30 minutes after the first boat in their fleet sails the course and finishes in that race may be scored Did Not Finish (DNF) without a hearing. This changes RRS 35, 63.1, A4 and A5.

18. SCORING

18.1. Each special race or series are events in themselves and will be scored individually or as a series.

18.2. In series racing, once 3 races or more have been sailed, a boat's worst score will be discarded.

18.3. Optimist dinghies are scored as a one design fleet excluding all other dinghies. They are not eligible for Mirror, Topper, Tera & Feva XL class prizes.

19. PURSUIT RACING

19.1. There will be a specific briefing approximately 1 hour before the start of each pursuit race.

19.2. Pursuit race start times will be posted on the club notice board.

19.3. If any boats are on the course side of the starting line at their starting signal the race committee will promptly display Flag X with one extra sound signal as required by RRS 29.1. The flag will be displayed until all such boats are completely on the pre-start side of the starting line or one of its extensions and have complied with RRS 30.1, or the start of the following fleet, or two minutes, whichever is earlier (this changes RRS 29.1).

19.4. If a General Recall is signalled (First Substitute flag displayed accompanied by two sounds) boats of all Classes will be recalled and the complete starting sequence will begin again.

- 19.5. The finish line will be a moving line between flag staffs mounted on two power boats.
- 19.6. The flag staff on the boat at the starboard end of the line will display a green flag over a blue flag. The flag staff on the boat at the port end of the line will display a red flag over a blue flag.
- 19.7. Prior to the end of the race the moving line will be positioned just ahead of the leading boat.
- 19.8. Warning sound signals will be made at 5 minutes and at 1 minute before the end of the race.
- 19.9. At the end of the race the power boat at each end of the finish line will drop an orange inflatable mark.
- 19.10. The finish line will then move back through the fleet, following the rhumb line between the marks of the course.
- 19.11. All boats must pass through the moving finish line to finish.
- 19.12. When all finishing positions have been recorded the orange inflatable marks will be lifted accompanied by one long continuous sound signal.
- 19.13. After passing through the moving finish line, all boats shall continue to sail the course until they reach and pass between the orange inflatable marks, or until the marks are removed. Failure to do so may result in being scored DNF without a hearing. This changes RRS 63.1.

20. PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

- 20.1. Protest Forms are available from the Race Office, located in the clubhouse. Protests and Requests for Redress, or reopening shall be delivered there within the appropriate time limit.
- 20.2. The protest time limit is 30 minutes after the last boat finishes the last race of the day, or the Race Committee signals no more racing today.
- 20.3. Notices will be posted not later than 60 minutes after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Hearings will be held in the race office located beside the flagpole.
- 20.4. Notices of protests by the race committee, technical committee or protest committee will be posted to inform boats under RRS 61.1(b).
- 20.5. On the last scheduled day of racing a request for redress based on a protest committee decision shall be delivered (a) within the protest time limit if the requesting *party* was informed if the decision on the previous day; (b) no later than 30 minutes after the decision was posted. RRS 66.
- 20.6. Breaches of sailing instructions 3.3, 12.5, 14, 16.2, 19.11, 19.13, 21, and 22, will not be grounds for a protest by a boat. This changes RRS 60.1(a).
- 20.7. Breaches of sailing instructions 3.3, 19.13, 21, and 22, may only be protested by the Race Committee. Penalties for these breaches may be less than disqualification if the protest committee so decides.

21. SAFETY

- 21.1.** All sailors must wear a Personal Flotation Device of at least CE50 Newtons, or equivalent, at all times when afloat. International Code Flag Y will not be flown.
- 21.2.** RRS41.a is changed as follows for U18 crew of the Mirror, Topper, Tera, RS Feva XL class only.
- i) Rescue craft are permitted to return U18 crew to their boat if separated.
 - ii) Rescue craft are permitted to assist in the righting of a boat whose mast has become stuck preventing righting of the boat by the crew independently.

22. MEASUREMENT

- 22.1.** All boats racing must hold a valid Class Measurement Certificate subject to inspection by the Sailing Committee upon request.
- 22.2.** A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules and sailing instructions.
- 22.3.** All boats must be sailed in a configuration recognised by the appropriate Class Association and for which a valid Portsmouth Handicap Number is available.

23. OFFICIAL BOATS

- 23.1.** Only official motorboats will be allowed on Bassenthwaite Lake during the event.

24. TRASH DISPOSAL

- 24.1.** Trash may be placed aboard official boats.

25. PRIZES

- 25.1.** Prizes will be awarded as outlined in the official programme. Attempts may be made to inform competitors of the time and location of prize giving's with announcements over the public address system.

26. RISK STATEMENT

26.1. Rule 3 of the Racing Rules of Sailing states “The responsibility for a boat’s decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone”. Sailing is by its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event, each competitor agrees and acknowledges that:

- i) They are aware of the inherent element of risk involved in the sport and accept responsibility for the exposure of themselves, their crew and their boat to such inherent risk whilst taking part in the event;
- ii) They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore;
- iii) They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions;
- iv) Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to sail:
- v) The provision of a race management team, patrol boats and other officials and volunteers by the event organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities:
- vi) The provision of patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances.

27. Insurance

27.1. Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £3million per incident or the equivalent.