



RULES OF THE WATER WAGS

(In force as of 15 February 2016)

THE WATER WAGS

RULES

1. **Title and Object**

The Club shall be called “The Water Wags”. Its object shall be the promotion of amateur seamanship and racing in safe and useful boats which are similar and where the contest shall be one of skill.

2. **Committee and Officers**

- (a) The affairs of the Club shall be managed by a Committee composed of the following officers: a President, Vice Presidents, a Class Captain, an Honorary Secretary and an Honorary Treasurer and five ordinary members. The Committee shall be elected each year at the annual general meeting from amongst the Members and shall remain in office until the next annual general meeting, Should any vacancy occur between annual general meetings, the Committee shall have power to co-opt another Member of the Club.
- (b) The longest serving ordinary member of the retiring Committee (or, where there is more than one, one of them chosen by lot) shall be ineligible for re-election for one year. Each ballot paper for the five ordinary members of the Committee not containing votes for exactly five candidates shall be invalid.
- (c) Three shall form a quorum at meetings of the Committee.
- (d) The Committee shall be the committee of management of all affairs of the Club, including the measuring of boats and sails, the allocation of racing numbers to boats, the drawing-up of the programme and sailing instructions, the control of all races and cruises, the appointment of protest committees and the distribution of funds. The Committee shall have power to make bye-laws (not in contravention of these Rules), which shall have the effect of rules until the next general meeting: no such bye-law, however, shall come into force until at least four days after notice thereof has been sent to each Member.
- (e) Should any case arise under these Rules, or which may not be covered by these Rules, the matter shall be referred to the Committee, whose decision thereon shall be final, subject, however, to an appeal to a general meeting convened in accordance with Rule 5.

3. **Burgee**

The Club burgee shall be red with a white horizontal bar across the centre. Each Class Captain may fly a swallow-tailed Club burgee.

4. **Election of Members**

- (a) The election of Members shall be in the hands of the Committee. Candidates for membership shall be proposed by one Member and seconded by another – his or her name, address and occupation being given in writing to the Honorary Secretary, which will be returned should the candidate not be admitted.
- (b) Candidates shall be balloted for either at a Committee meeting, or by the Honorary Secretary sending their names, addresses and occupations, together with the names of their proposers and seconders, upon a ballot paper to each member of the Committee, who shall return it

under cover, within three days, to the Honorary Secretary. Should any member of the Committee be uncertain as to the advisability of electing the candidate, he may ask the Honorary Secretary to call a Committee meeting to discuss the election, and a ballot shall be taken at the meeting.

- (c) A candidate shall not be elected unless he receives at least three affirmative votes, or should he receive two negative votes.
- (d) The Committee shall have power at any time to elect as honorary Members such persons as they may consider desirable, and shall determine the period of their honorary membership.

5. **General meetings**

- (a) The annual general meeting shall take place not later than the third week in March each year.
- (b) At any time the Honorary Secretary shall, if so requested by the Committee or by a requisition signed by at least eight Members, summon a special general meeting, by a notice to the Members describing the object of such meeting.
- (c) Ten days notice shall be given of every general meeting.
- (d) Eight Members shall form a quorum at a general meeting.

6. **Subscription and Entrance Fees**

- (a) The annual subscription for each Member shall be such sum as the Committee shall from time to time determine. Subscriptions become due on 1st April of each year. If a subscription is unpaid on 1 June, the Committee may remove the defaulter's name from the list of Members. Half of the current subscription shall be payable by Members joining after the 1st July.
- (b) A Member who has not paid a subscription for the current year shall not have the right to take part in any debate or proceeding or start his or her boat in any race or cruise, or vote at any meeting of the Club.
- (c) There shall be an entry fee per boat for the season's racing, payable before the first race, the amount to be determined by the Committee.
- (d) A sailing club attached to a university, college or school may be permitted to enter boats owned by such club for the season's racing on payment of a commutation fee, the amount to be determined by the Committee, such fee to be paid before such boat takes part in any race. members of any such Club shall rank as Members while taking part in races.

7. **Amendment of Rules**

- (a) These Rules may be amended at an annual general meeting or at a general meeting specially convened for the purpose provided in either case notice of the proposed amendment is contained in the notice convening the meeting.
- (b) A majority of votes in the proportion of two to one of those attending such meeting shall be required to carry any alteration of, or addition to the Rules.

8. **Expulsion of a Member**

A Member may be expelled by ballot, at a special general meeting called for that purpose, and the majority for such expulsion shall at least be in the proportion of two to one of those attending such meeting.

9. **Sailing Regulations**

- (a) All racing shall be governed by the Racing Rules of the International Sailing Federation for the time being in force except where specially varied by these Rules, or any bye-laws or sailing instructions as may be made from time to time by the Committee.
- (b) No race shall take place unless at least 3 boats start.

10. **Races**

- (a) Unless the Committee by special invitation permits otherwise, only boats belonging to Members shall compete in races.
- (b) It is one of the fundamental principles of the Club that boats in each class shall be similar in every respect and it shall be in the power of the Committee to disqualify any boat, that, in their opinion, is trying to gain an unfair advantage by infringing the above principle.
- (c) Except in races advertised to be sailed single-handed, each boat when racing shall carry two persons (who must be amateurs), unless prior notice is given to the Club Captain or, in his or her absence, another officer of the Club of any race or races in which it is desired to sail with three hands. Upon such notice being given, the three hands must be carried in the races named.
- (d) Unless the Committee by special invitation permits otherwise, boats shall be steered by Members only.

11. **Boat Gear, etc.**

- (a) Each boat shall carry, when racing, all her platforms, flooring and thwarts all fixed in their proper positions, a bailer and a pair of oars not less than 8 feet long, with spurs or rowlocks for same.
- (b) Every person shall wear a personal flotation device, with an appropriate CE mark of approval, when taking part in a Club race.
- (c) Each boat shall carry not less than 500 lbs. of buoyancy in the form of airbags, polystyrene or equivalent.

12. **Racing Flag and Number**

- (a) Each boat may have a racing flag of the usual type. Alternatively each boat owner may have a distinguishing flag, which shall not be less than six inches square, the design and colour of which has been previously approved of by the Committee.
- (b) Each Boat shall carry its racing number (as allocated by the Committee) on its sails in accordance with the Sail plan and specification adopted in accordance with Rule 16.

13. **Rule of Measurement**

- (a) Every owner is required, before he or she competes in a race, to take out certificates of measurement, both for his or her boat, sails and spars.
- (b) Seven clear days' notice must be given to the Honorary Secretary by an owner requiring a certificate of measurement.
- (c) The Committee, or measurers appointed by them, shall satisfy themselves before issuing a certificate that the boat has been built strictly in accordance with the design and specification, both as to shape of boat, size of timbers, planking, spars, etc. and for this purpose they shall have power either themselves to inspect the boat during construction, or to appoint a representative to do so on their behalf.
- (d) A certificate of measurement will cease to remain valid should the boat be at any time altered or the centreplate altered, moved or changed.
- (e) The Committee or measurers may at any time inspect and measure any boat and her spars, sails and gear.

14. **Restriction as to use of spinnaker**

- (a) The Spinnaker Boom must be stepped on the Mast, and shall not be attached to any part of the boat forward of the Mast.
- (b) The Spinnaker shall not be sheeted to leeward of the Luff Rope of Foresail, nor carried at all as a Balloon Jib.

15. **Description of Water Wag**

- (a) The Club boats which shall be known by the distinctive name "Water Wags" are one-design, open, centreboard boats of the following dimensions:

Length overall	14 feet 3 inches
Beam.....	5 feet 3 inches

- (b) Working sail area, divided into lugsail (loose along foot) and foresail, 117 square feet. Area of Spinnaker 58 square feet.
- (c) No forestay allowed and, save where the Committee permits, the foresail must be set upon all occasions.
- (d) Boats to be precisely similar in design and construction, to be supplied by the builder or builders appointed from time to time by the Committee, and to be built strictly in accordance with these Rules and the drawings and specification from time to time approved by the Members of the Club in general meeting.
- (e) Builders to issue a certificate (in the form as attached to specification) that the boats are built strictly in accordance with design and specification.
- (f) No boat to be built without payment to the Club by the builder of such fee as may from time to time be specified by the Committee for the use of the drawings and specification
- (g) No boat to be built without being measured from time to time during the course of construction as directed by the Committee.

16. **Sails**

- (a) Sails to be supplied by the sail-maker or sail-makers appointed from time to time by the Committee, in accordance with the sail plans and specification from time to time approved by the Members of the Club in general meeting.
- (b) No sails to be used unless they have been measured by one or more of the sail measurers appointed by the Committee.

17. **Definitions and Interpretation.**

- (a) In these Rules, unless the context otherwise requires:

“**Club**” means the club known as ‘The Water Wags’ which is governed by these Rules;

“**Committee**” means the committee of management of the Club elected in accordance with Rule 2 above; and

“**Member**” means a member of the Club.

- (b) In these Rules the singular shall include the plural and vice versa and reference to any gender shall include all genders. Headings are for convenience and shall be ignored in construing these Rules.

Club Trophies

JUBILEE COMMEMORATION CUP

*Presented June, 1897, by the then President,
T.B. Middleton, Esq.*

CONDITIONS

The holder of the Cup to be the owner of the Water Wag that shall obtain the greatest number of marks in the races given by the Club (irrespective of handicaps, if any).

The holder to be ascertained as follows¹: -

Each First to count as three, each Second as two, and each Third as One.

In the event of a tie in the number of Marks, the winner of the greatest number of actual First to hold the Cup; and in the event of a tie of actual Firsts, the greatest number of Seconds, and so on to Thirds.

The holder of the Cup to return it to the Honorary Secretary each August to have it engraved with the Season's Record, and presented to whoever may be entitled to hold it.

When any race is started on handicap, marks shall be awarded to the three boats completing the Course in the shortest nett times.

THE COMMEMORATION TROPHY

*(In memory of J.S. Burke, Herbert Findlater and Frank Marrant,
members of the Water Wags, who gave their lives in the Great War, 1914-1918).*

Three races will be sailed each season for this trophy, which will be held for the following year by the Owner who secures the highest marks in those races on the basis of 3 marks for a First, 2 for a Second and 1 for a Third. Provided that an Owner who wins any two of such races shall be declared the winner.

HELMSMEN'S PRIZES

Two prizes in each Class will be awarded each year to the 2 Helmsmen who are most successful in Club Races. Marks to be awarded on the basis of 6 for a First, 4 for a Second, 3 for a Third, 2 for a Fourth and 1 for a Finish.

THE COQUETTE CUP

(Presented by late G.H. Jones, Esq. 1932)

1. The Cup shall be held for one year by the Owner of the Water Wag, which each season scores the greatest number of marks in all races (except Starred Races) sailed within six miles of Dun Laoghaire in which only boats of the Water Wag Class compete.

¹ At the 116th Annual general meeting held on 8 March 2004 the following resolution was passed:

“That for the 2004 season and subsequent seasons the scoring system for the Jubilee Cup and the Cora Cup be the Low Point System as specified in Appendix 8 to the Racing Rules of Sailing for 2001 to 2004 as published by the International Sailing Federation with such modifications thereto as the Committee may from time to time decide.”

2. Marks shall be awarded as follows: -
 - (a) The First boat shall be awarded 5 marks; Second Boat 4 marks; Third Boat 3 Marks; Fourth Boat 2 marks; any Finisher 1 mark.
 - (b) In the case of Races on Handicap Start, marks will be awarded according to the nett time occupied in race.
 - (c) Boats that are disqualified following a protest shall not receive any marks.
3. In the event of a tie in the number of marks, the winner of the greatest number of First shall hold the Cup, and in the event of a tie of First, the greatest number of Seconds and so on to Thirds.
4. The names of the Most Successful Boat and Owner for each year to be engraved on the Cup or Pedestal by such Owner,
5. The Cup is presented to the Committee of the Water Wags, who undertake to be responsible for its custody. All damage, however, done to the Cup shall be repaired at the cost of the holder, and, if the Cup be lost, it must be replaced by him or her.
6. The holder of the Cup to return it to the Honorary Secretary of the Water Wags not later than 15 September in each year.
7. The decision of the Committee of the Water Wags to be final in regard to all matters connected with the carrying out of these conditions.

THE GEORGE AURTHUR NEWSOM MEMORIAL CUP

A Perpetual Challenge Cup presented to the Water Wags in the year 1934 by Mrs A.L. Tomlinson, in memory of her brother, George Arthur Newsom, who was, for over 40 years, an active member and generous supporter of the Water Wags. He acted as Honorary Secretary and Treasurer from 1901 to 1912 and again from 1915 to 1919. He was elected Vice-President in 1923 and held that office till 1932, when he was elected President. He was re-elected President for the year 1933 and took a keen interest in the Club up to the date of his death.

CONDITIONS

1. The Cup shall be the property of the Water Wags
2. Three races shall be sailed each season for this Cup. The Owner winning any two of those races, or failing that, scoring most marks in those races, will be entitled to hold the Cup until 31st day of August in the following year, when he or she shall return it to the Honorary Secretary.
3. The cup shall be engraved with the names of each holder and of his or her boat, and the year, at the expense of such holder.
4. Marks will be awarded as follows: First Place, 5; Second Place, 4; Third Place, 3; Fourth Place, 2; all other Finishers, 1 Mark.
5. In the event of two or more Owners scoring equal marks in the three races for this Cup, it shall be awarded to the Owner of whichever of those boats beats the other or others in a sail-off.

THE WIGHAM TROPHY (formerly the President's Bowl).

Presented by the late Professor J.T Wicham. M.D in 1949. Tied for by G.H. Jones, "Coquette", and R.K.C. Pilkington, "Mollie", in 1953, and re-presented by them in 1954 under the present title and subject to the following conditions: -

1. Three races to be sailed each season for five season.
2. The Trophy to be won out by the Helmsman who wins the greatest number of Races in the same boat during the period of five seasons. In the event of a tie, to be decided under conditions to be prescribed by the Committee.
3. The Helmsman who wins the Trophy outright shall present another similar Trophy (or, alternatively, may re-present the original Trophy), which shall also be called the Wigham Trophy, and shall be raced for under conditions similar to these.
4. Races to be sailed on a handicap given at the start. The handicap to be fixed on the day of the race by an impartial Member of the Club or other person appointed by the Committee.
5. First boat to finish in each race to hold the Trophy for 4 of the following 12 months.
6. Winner of each race to have his name, name of his or her boat and date engraved on the Trophy at his or her own expense.
7. A boat winning a race for the Trophy shall not rank as the winner of a Special Prize.

THE JACQUELINE CUP

(Presented by the late F.J. Henry, Esq. 1947)

CONDITIONS

1. The Cup shall be the property of the Water Wags.
2. The Cup to be held for one year by the winner of the Single-handed Race for Water Wags.
3. The Cup shall be won by the same Helmsman in the same boat in three successive years before becoming his property.
4. The holder of the Cup shall be responsible to THE WATER WAGS for all damage done to it, and shall replace it if lost.

HENRY TROPHY

(Presented in 1971 by Adrian and George Henry, in memory of their father, R.F.J. (Jack) Henry).

To be awarded for the first race of the Season and also for races held on a Bank Holiday.

Marks to be awarded as follows: 5 Bonus Marks to be awarded to each starter in addition to Finishing Marks of 5, 4, 3, 2, for the first 4 places and 1 mark for a finish.

MIDDLETON HOWITZER

(Presented by Mrs Gildea Evans, daughter of the late T.B.Middleton, Esq, for his Annual Competition in The Water Wags, 1970)

The Trophy to be perpetual. Awarded to the most successful boat, on a marks basis, in the Royal Irish Yacht Club, Royal St. George Yacht Club, National Yacht Club and Dun Laoghaire Motor Yacht Club Regattas.

Marks to be awarded as follows: 1st – 6 marks, 2nd – 4 marks, 3rd – 3 marks, 4th – 2 marks, finish – 1 mark.

The Howitzer to be kept in the custody of the R.I.Y.C but with the proviso that it may be given into the custody of The Water Wag Club for presentation at the Annual Prizegiving, but to be returned to the R.I.Y.C. within 72 hours of the Prize-giving.

“MOLLIE” BOWL

Awarded on the result of one race during the season.

“BUCKINGHAM” CUP

To be competed for in a series of 3 races during the season, the winner being the boat with the highest aggregate. Marks awarded as follows: 1st – 5 marks, 2nd – 4 marks, 3rd – 3 marks, 4th – 2 marks, finish – 1 mark.

“CORA” CUP

Presented by Dr. A.F. Delaney. Awarded to the best overall boat in the Second Division. Best 14 races to count. Marks awarded as follows: 1st – 5 marks, 2nd – 4 marks, 3rd – 3 marks, 4th – 2 marks, finish – 1 mark².

100TH ANNIVERSARY TROPHY

Awarded on the result of one race during the season, for 5 years. The boat winning the trophy in the 5th year to win it outright, and present a new trophy (105th Anniversary) or re-present the existing one.

G.H.JONES CUP

Awarded on the result of one race during the season.

HILPOLTSTEINER TANKARD

Presented by A.J. Hilpoltsteiner. Awarded on the result of one race during the season.

SHANNON ONE DESIGN TROPHY

Presented by the Shannon One Design Association in 1987. Awarded on the result of one race during the season.

MADRAS TROPHY

Presented by the Royal Madras Yacht Club 1987. Awarded on the result of one race during the season.

“MAUREEN” VASE

Presented by Miss P’ McGloughlin and Miss S. McGloughlin. Awarded for a Ladies Race.

² See footnote 6 above.

MELDON CUP

Presented by Mr A.P. Meldon. Awarded on the result of one race during the season.

J.H. STEPHENS TROPHY

Presented by Dr. J.H. Stephens. Awarded on the result of one race during the season.

W.R.MCFERRAN CUP

To be competed for in a series of 3 races during the season, the winner being the boat with the highest aggregate. Marks awarded as follows: 1st – 5 marks, 2nd – 4 marks, 3rd – 3 marks, 4th – 2 marks, Finish – 1 mark.

“PANSY” TROPHY

Presented by Dr. A.F. Delaney. Awarded to the winning helmsman in a Ballot race.

“NORA PILKINGTON TROPHY”

Presented by Mrs Nora Pilkington. To be awarded to the winner of a crews race.³

³ See minutes of committee meeting 22 March 1993. (Described as “70th Anniversary Cup”).