



**THE RONSTAN
49th INTERNATIONAL FIREBALL
AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS
27th December 2014 to 3rd January 2015
*Sailing Instructions***

**The Host Club and Organising Authority:
Gosford Sailing Club
28 Masons Parade, Gosford NSW 2250
In conjunction with
the International Fireball Association of Australia**



The Organising Authority is the Gosford Sailing Club Ltd.

1 RULES

- 1.1 The Championship will be governed by the rules as defined in the 2013 – 2016 Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) of the International Sailing Federation (ISAF).
- 1.2 The rules of the International Fireball Association will apply, including FCR 25, propulsion.
- 1.3 The Prescriptions and Special Regulations of Yachting Australia (YA) Part 2 shall apply.
- 1.4 If there is conflict between any of the rules or regulations, other than the RRS, these Sailing Instructions will prevail.

2 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

- 2.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the Official Notice Board which is located in the down stairs foyer of the Gosford Sailing Club.

3 CHANGES IN SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 3.1 Any change to the Sailing Instructions will be posted not less than one (1) hour prior to the first race of that day, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 1800 hours on the day before it will take effect.

4 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 4.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed at the Gosford Sailing Club flagpole located on the south western side of the Club House.
- 4.2 When flag "AP" is displayed ashore, 1 minute is replaced with not less than forty (40) minutes in the race signal "AP".

5 SCHEDULE OF RACING

- 5.1 The Australian Championships will consist of Ten (10) races scheduled over five (5) days of racing
- 5.2 The events are scheduled for:

Date	Day	Time	Event
27 th December 2014	Saturday	0900 – 1100	Registration
		1000 - 1230	Measurement & Inspection
28 th December 2014	Sunday	1230	Practice race Briefing
		1355	Practice race warning signal
29 th December 2014	Monday	1230	Competitors meeting
		1355	Race 1 warning Signal
			Race 2 ASAP after race 1
30 th December 2014	Tuesday	1325	Race 3 warning Signal
			Race 4 ASAP after race 3
31 th December 2014	Wednesday	1355	Race 5 warning Signal
			Race 6 ASAP after race 5
			NYE Party @ GSC
1st January	New Year's Day		LAY DAY
2 nd January	Friday	1355	Race 7 warning Signal
			Race 8 ASAP after race 7
3 rd January	Saturday	1155	Race 9 warning Signal
			Race 10 ASAP after race 9
		1615	Last Warning Signal
		ASAP After Racing	Presentation dinner

- 5.3 The Race Committee may alter the schedule and number of races sailed at any time but will only advance the Championship by not more than one (1) race per day
- 5.4 After a long postponement and when more than one race will be held on the day, to alert boats that a race will begin soon, The "AP" flag will be displayed with one sound Signal for at least four minutes before a warning signal is displayed.

- 5.5 At the end of racing each day, the Race Committee will fly "AP over A".
- 5.6 No warning signal will be made after 1615hrs on Saturday 3rd January.

6 CLASS FLAGS

- 6.1 The Class Flag will be the Fireball Class insignia on a blue background.

7 RACING AREA

- 7.1 The racing area will be Brisbane Waters approximately 1-2 nm south of Gosford Sailing Club.
- 7.2 Competitors are advised that the water north of the cardinal mark at Point Frederick is extremely shallow.
- 7.3 **Attachment 1** shows the location of the racing area.

8 THE COURSES

- 8.1 The diagram in **Attachment 2** show the course, including the legs and the order in which marks are to be passed. The Table in Attachment 2 describes the course configuration.
- 8.2 A Red flag displayed from the Start Boat means all marks shall be left to Port.
- 8.3 A Green flag displayed from the Start Boat means all marks shall be left to Starboard.
- 8.4 The course to be sailed shall be indicated by a numeral pennant displayed no later than the Warning Signal.
- 8.5 No later than the Warning Signal, the Race Committee Vessel may display the approximate compass bearing of the first leg.

9 MARKS

- 9.1 Marks 1, 2 & 3 shall be orange cylinders.
- 9.2 New Mark (Change Course) shall be an Orange cylinder with a black band.
- 9.3 The start/Finish mark will be a stick buoy with an Orange flag.

10 AREAS THAT ARE OBSTRUCTION

- 10.1 While racing, the area between any registered moorings and the adjacent shoreline shall be considered PROHIBITED WATER, and therefore an obstruction.

11 THE START

- 11.1 Races will be started by using rule 26 with the warning signal made five (5) minutes before the starting signal.
- 11.2 The start line will be between a staff displaying an Blue flag on the Race Committee Vessel at the starboard end and the mark with an orange flag at the port end.
- 11.3 A crowding mark may be laid adjacent to the Committee Boat. When laid, boats approaching the line to start shall leave the crowding mark on the same required side as the Committee Boat
- 11.4 A boat shall not start later than ten (10) minutes after her starting signal.

12 CHANGE OF COURSE AFTER THE START

- 12.1 To change the next leg of the course, the race committee will lay a new mark (or move the finishing line) and remove the original mark as soon as practicable. When in a subsequent change a new mark is replaced, it will be replaced by an original mark and will be signalled in accordance with RRS 33.

- 12.2 The course may be shortened after the start in accordance with RRS 32. A committee boat may display the shortened course signal at the leeward end of the course.

13 THE FINISH

- 13.1 The Finishing Line will be between the signal mast displaying a blue on station flag on the Race Committee Vessel at the starboard end and the Finish Mark a buoy with an Orange flag at the port end.

14 TIME LIMIT

- 14.1 The time limit for the race will be 100 minutes.
- 14.2 Boats failing to finish within the time limit will be scored Did Not Finish without a hearing. This changes rules 35, A4 and A5

15 ARBITRATION

- 15.1 An arbitration hearing may be conducted for all protests lodged in accordance with RRS 61 and SI 16, which allege an infringement of a rule of Part 2 or Part 4 or Rule 31. Such hearings will be held subsequent to the protest being lodged and prior to the protest hearing.
- 15.2 The arbitrator will decide the time and place of the arbitration hearing and such advice may be given verbally. One representative of each boat shall attend the arbitration hearing. The arbitrator shall decide the manner in which testimony is given.
- 15.3 After taking testimony at the arbitration hearing the arbitrator shall make one of the following conclusions:
- a. The protest does not comply with Rule 61 and the protestor may withdraw the protest.
 - b. The matter shall proceed to a protest hearing. This may be because the rules other than Part 2 or Part 4 or Rule 31 are involved or may be involved, or because the evidence is too complex or divergent to reach a reasonable and timely conclusion, or due to the apparent severity of the alleged infringement, or for any other reason as decided by the arbitrator.
 - c. No rule was broken and the protestor may withdraw the protest.
 - d. A rule was broken by one or more of the boats involved, the infringing boat(s) may accept scoring points equal to a finishing place mid-way between the boat's actual finish and a disqualification, and if so accepted the protestor shall withdraw the protest. Half points shall be disregarded and the points of other boats shall not be adjusted. If not accepted the protest shall proceed to a hearing of the Jury. This changes RRS 63.1.
- 15.4 An arbitration hearing shall not be re-opened. No conclusion of an arbitrator shall be subject to appeal or be grounds for redress.
- 15.5 Should the protest proceed to a protest hearing then the arbitrator may be a member of the Protest Committee. Any evidence given by an arbitrator during a protest hearing shall be given only in the presence of the parties to the hearing.

16 PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

- 16.1 Rule 60.2 is amended in that the Race Officer or their nominated representative shall represent the Race Committee.
- 16.2 Protest forms are available at the race office. Protests are to be delivered there within the protest time limit.
- 16.3 The protest time limit is 60 minutes after the last boat has finished the last race of the day. The same time limit applies to protests by the race committee and protest committee about incidents they observe in the racing area, and to requests for redress. This changes rules 61.3 and 62.2.

- 16.4 Notices shall be posted within 15 minutes of the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses, the order of hearings and the time of the first hearing.
- 16.5 Notices of protest by the race committee or protest committee will be posted to inform boats under rule 61.1 (b).
- 16.6 Breaches of Instructions 18, 23, 24 and 25 shall not be grounds for protest by a boat. This changes rule 60.1 (a).
- 16.7 The Protest Committee may make any determination in respect of penalties for a breach of a rule other than in Part 2.
- 16.8 On the last day of the Championship a request for reopening of a hearing shall be delivered: within the protest time limit if the party requesting reopening was informed of the decision on the previous day; or no later than 30 minutes after the party requesting the reopening was informed of the decision on that day. This changes Rule 66.

17 SCORING

- 17.1 The Low points score system as described in appendix A, A4.1 RRS 2013 -2016
- 17.2 Ten (10) races are scheduled of which Four (4) completed races are required to constitute the Championship.
- 17.3 If Five (5) races or less are sailed and completed, then a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores.
- 17.4 When Six (6), Seven (7), or Eight (8) races are sailed and completed then a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score. This amends RRS Appendix A2.
- 17.5 When Nine (9) or more races are sailed and completed then a boats series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her two (2) worst scores. This amends RRS Appendix A2.

18 SAFETY REGULATIONS

- 18.1 **Sign-on and Sign-off.** The requirements of this instruction are specified for the safety of competitors. Failure to comply may lead to a boat being recorded as Did Not Finish without a hearing to disqualification. This changes rule 63.1 & A5.
 - a) Before leaving the beach each skipper shall sign-on. The sign on/off desk will be located outside the GSC sailing office.
 - b) Each skipper shall sign off within the protest time limit and all are encouraged to sign off promptly.
 - c) Boats failing to sign on before leaving shore may be scored DNS without a hearing for the first race for which they should have signed on. Boats failing to sign off before the end of protest time may be scored DNF for the last race for which they should have signed off.
- 18.2 A boat that retires shall notify the Race Committee as soon as practicable and sign

19 REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT

- 19.1 Substitution of competitors will not be allowed without prior written approval of the race committee.
- 19.2 Substitution of damaged or lost equipment will not be allowed unless specified in the Fireball Class Rule or authorized by the Race committee. Requests for substitution shall be made to the committee at least ninety (90) minutes before the start of the days racing. In all circumstances the replacement crew shall meet the eligibility requirements of the series

20 EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

- 20.1 A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules and sailing instructions. On the water, a boat can be instructed by a race committee member to proceed immediately to a designated area for inspection

21 ADVERTISING

- 21.1 Boats shall display advertising if supplied by the organizing authority.

22 OFFICIAL BOATS

- 22.1 Official boats may fly a GSC burgee.

23 SUPPORT VESSELS

- 23.1 Team leaders, coaches, other support personnel and support boats shall stay outside areas where boats are racing from the time of the first warning signal of the day until racing has been concluded for the day. Specific coach and support boat instructions will be stated in the Sailing Instructions.
- 23.2 Support boats must be registered with the Organising Authority and shall be marked with identifying numeral flags issued by the Organising Authority.
- 23.3 Competitors shall have no communication with, and boats shall not be tied to, coach or support boats from the first Warning Signal (or any other time the Organising Authority considers appropriate) of the day until racing has been concluded for the day. Between races, coach and support boats shall not approach, communicate with or transfer provisions or equipment to or from their supported boats unless in a medical emergency threatening the health of the crew or an emergency threatening the flotation of the boat.

24 RUBBISH DISPOSAL

- 24.1 Boats shall not dispose of any litter such as plastic bags, cans, bottles, etc. into the water. Rubbish may be placed on the Race Committee boats between races. Boats infringing may be disqualified.

25 RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

- 25.1 Except in an emergency, a boat shall neither make radio transmission while racing nor receive radio communication not available to all boats. This prohibition includes use of mobile phones.

26 PRIZES

- 26.1 Prizes given are listed in the Notice of Race
- 26.2 Other prizes may be awarded at the discretion of the organising Authority.

27 DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

- 27.1 Competitors participate in the Regatta entirely at their own risk. See rule 4, Decision to Race. The Organising Authority will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the Regatta. Attention is drawn to clauses 16 of the Notice of Race.

28 INSURANCE

- 28.1 Each boat is required to hold adequate insurance and in particular to hold insurance against third party claims in the sum of at least AUD\$5,000,000 (or the equivalent in another currency).

29 RIGHTS TO USE NAME AND LIKENESS

- 29.1 In participating in this Event, a competitor automatically grants to the Organising Authority and the sponsors of this Event, the right in perpetuity to make, use and show, from time to time and at their discretion, any motion pictures, still pictures and live, taped or film television and other reproductions of him/her during the period of the competition for the Event in which the competitor participates and in all material related to the said Event without compensation.

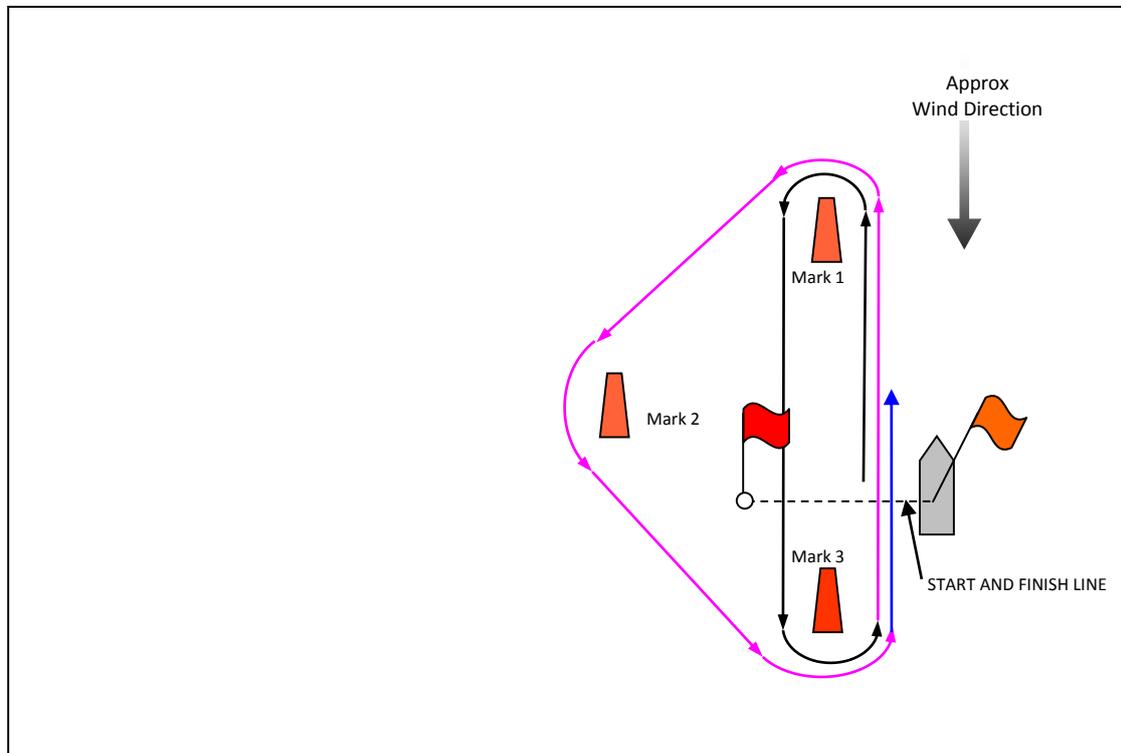
Attachment 1: Course Area



Attachment 2: Courses

The indicative course layout is shown below. The diagram is approximate only, is not to scale, and does not override any other Instructions.

Port Course shown



Course Description

Course Signal	Course Configuration	Approx. Internal Angles
Numeral pennant 1	START – 1 – 3 – 1 – 2 – 3 – 1 – 3 – 1 – 2 – 3 – FINISH	All = 60°
Numeral pennant 2	START – 1 – 3 – 1 – 2 – 3 – 1 – 3 – 1 – 2 – 3 – FINISH	1=70° 2=50° 3=60°

