

LSC Fast Cruise Series Sailing Instructions



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- 1. Boat Details:** All boats participating in the Fast Cruise series must have an LSC Club Handicap.
- 2. Handicaps:** An LSC Club Handicap may be obtained by filling in the application form available at <http://littleshipclub.co.uk/fastcruises> and emailing it to hc@littleshipclub.co.uk. You should allow 5 working days for receipt of your handicap. As noted on the handicap application form, all boats are handicapped either with or without a spinnaker/cruising 'chute (as selected upon application) and this then applies for the whole season (1 October to 30 September). Only boats handicapped to use a spinnaker/cruising 'chute may do so in LSC events. Starting progressive handicaps will be determined by the Handicap Committee, thereafter these self-adjust.
- 3. Entry:** Boats participating in each Fast Cruise event need to enter via the LSC website. The entry fee is £5 per person per day and this will be collected during registration. The series will consist of 6 (six) Fast Cruise events with one or more races on each day.
- 4. Communications:** All communications will be made on VHF CH77 unless otherwise notified in the course instructions. Participants should keep a listening watch at all times during the Fast Cruise. Failure to hear an announcement will not be grounds for any redress. The control yacht may be different each month and the call sign of the control yacht will be given on the Club website when the course is published.
- 5. Safety:** All participants are reminded that the Solent is an area of large ship movements. Particular attention is drawn to the Thorn Channel Moving Prohibited Zone, details of which are available at:
http://www.southamptonvts.co.uk/admin/content/files/PDF_Downloads/Soton%20Byelaws.pdf.
The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a Fast Cruise or to continue in a Fast Cruise is her skipper's alone. Also see the Club's disclaimer:
http://littleshipclub.co.uk/files/images/LSC_Disclaimer.pdf.
- 6. Course:** The course (or courses, if more than one is held on the same day) will be published on the Club website by lunch time on the preceding Friday. Failure to follow the correct course for your boat's handicap will not be cause for redress. At the sole discretion of the organisers, courses may be sent by SMS text to competitors on the preceding Friday and/or announced on VHF CH77 at approximately 09:30 on Saturday morning if VHF traffic permits. Any changes to the published course, including shortening the course, will be announced on VHF CH77. Depending on the number of boats there may be 2 courses, a short course and a long course. The elapsed time of those boats sailing the shorter course will be multiplied by the ratio of the rhumb line lengths of each course.
- 7. When Boats Meet:** The International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (as amended) will apply when Fast Cruising. The Racing Rules of Sailing are not applicable. In the event of a collision or other close-quarters event that requires one boat to retire, all boats involved must retire.

NOTE: Although we will be using the IRPCS the Club believes that yacht insurers /charter companies define a Fast Cruise as a "club race" for insurance purposes. By entering the event (as with all LSC Activities) you are deemed to have accepted the Club's standard disclaimer and you thereby acknowledge your responsibility to have adequate and suitable insurance in place, including third party liability cover for a minimum of £2 million, which covers racing.

8. **Start Line:** The start line will be announced with the course on the website by the preceding Friday lunchtime and by VHF CH77 (or another channel if set out in the course instructions) on Saturday morning (where VHF traffic allows). The start time will be normally be at 11:00hrs unless previously notified. Any change to this will be published on the website, and by VHF where possible. Yachts are allowed to start up to 10 minutes after the published start time. Please log your exact time of reaching the start line. This is when any part of your hull or equipment in its normal position crosses the start line. No boat shall cross the start line prior to the official start time. However, calculation of a boat's elapsed time will commence from **no later than 10 minutes** after the official start time even if the boat crosses the start line later. Any boat that crosses the start line before the advertised time must return to the correct side, keeping clear of all other boats, and start correctly or shall be disqualified. You must use the time from your GPS for all timing purposes. Engines must be turned off or in neutral at least 1 minute before the boat crosses the start line and not used again until the finish line has been crossed or the yacht retires from the Fast Cruise.
9. **Sailing the course:** A boat shall start, leave each buoy on the required side in the correct order and finish, so that a string representing her track after starting and until finishing would, when drawn taut, pass each mark on the required side. If a mark is passed on the wrong side a boat shall correct the error before continuing, failing which it will be disqualified.
10. **Finish:** A boat will finish when any part of her hull or equipment crosses the finishing line. Please log your exact time of crossing the finish line using the GPS clock. Times recorded by other methods such as mobile phone, wrist watches etc will not be accepted. If the finish line is a single buoy, the line shall extend by the distance and in the direction specified in the course instructions. After finishing please text your times taken from your GPS within 10 minutes of your finish to the mobile number specified on the course instructions in the format **"boat name"; "race no"; "course sailed (l/s)"; "start time (24hr clock)"; "finish time (24hr clock)"**. To provide a further check, you must add (if known) the name of the boat in front and the boat astern at the finish, whether they are on the long or short course. For example: **Saucy Sal; FC3; sc; 11.01.27; 14.02.37; Swift, Slowcoach.** Unless you send your times and details to the organisers in the required format and within the time stipulated in the race instructions you will be classed as DNF (Did Not Finish).
11. **Scoring:** Two scoring systems will be used. Scoring will be based on corrected time.
- The principal system will be elapsed time multiplied by LSC Club Handicap. When two courses are used a "course corrected elapsed time", which will be the elapsed time of those boats sailing the shorter course multiplied by the ratio of the rhumb line lengths of each course, will be used to determine combined results.
 - The corrected time for all boats, irrespective of the course sailed, will be used to determine finishing order. The 3 best results will count. In the event of some Fast Cruises being cancelled then the number of Fast Cruises to count will be:

No of Fast cruises	No of Results to count
7 or more	50% of number of races (rounded down)
3, 4, 5 or 6	3
2	2
1	1

In the event of a tie then the best 4 results will count, then the best 6 results. Points will be awarded as follows 1st = 1 point, 2nd = 2 points, and 3rd = 3 points etc. Boats that do not finish will score = the number of boats that finish plus 1 point.

- To encourage first time entrants, charterers, and less experienced fast cruisers and to accommodate boats that fall outside the parameters of the Club Handicap System, there will also be a prize for the boat that finishes 1st using the progressive handicap system as used in previous years. The rules for discards and number of cruises sailed are as in 12.b above.

- d. The prize giving will take place at the dinner of the final Fast Cruise in March. Prizes will be awarded to the first boat on LSC Handicap and the first boat on Progressive Handicap. Prizes may also be awarded to other participants at the sole discretion of the organizers. An LSC Trophy will also be awarded at the annual Laying Up Supper & Prize Giving in November for the first boat overall on LSC Club Handicap (as in 11.a above).
 - e. If two courses are used, yachts with a LSC Handicap of **1.079** or lower will sail in the short course fleet and **1.080** or higher will sail in the long course fleet.
 - f. **Scoring when sailing in more than one boat:**
 - i. Only Club Members who skipper a yacht may combine results from more than one boat.
 - ii. If a Club Member charts different yachts to take part on different Fast Cruise events then the finishing place(s) with each yacht will be combined to calculate the position overall.
 - iii. If a boat owner uses his/her own yacht for some of the Fast Cruises and is part of the crew on another yacht (either chartered or owned by another club Member) in other Fast Cruises then they may opt to combine their finishing positions in all yachts to determine their position overall. The results obtained may only be attributed to one yacht. For example, if the owner of yacht X crews for another club Member on yacht Y the finishing position can be contributed to either yacht X or yacht Y, not both yachts.
 - g. If the results are combined from more than one boat this will only be applied to the LSC Handicap finishing positions. It cannot be applied to the Progressive handicap finishing positions as there is no obvious way to progress the handicap on different yachts.
12. **Use of Engines:** As stated in 8 above, engines must be turned off or in neutral at least 1 minute before the boat crosses the start line and not used again until the finish line has been crossed or the yacht retires from the Fast Cruise. However, if a yacht is in danger of a collision, or would impede the passage of a vessel constrained by draft, restricted in its ability to manoeuvre, a fishing vessel, or is entering the MPZ the engine may be used to avoid the danger if sail alone cannot do so. No advantage towards the next buoy or on the course overall may be gained by using the engine otherwise the yacht must retire.
13. **Other:** Please ensure that the skipper's mobile number has been provided to the Coordinators in advance.

Enjoy your day, and we'll see you on the water!