



**ROYAL SOLENT YACHT CLUB  
YARMOUTH, I.W.**

**Application for Permit to wear the Blue Ensign**

**Please refer to the conditions governing the issue of yacht permits overleaf.**

I (name in block letters) .....

of (address in block letters) .....

.....

being a British subject have the honour to request that application may be made to the Admiralty for a Permit for the Yacht (Name of Yacht) .....

British Ship and I have extracted the following particulars from the Certificate of Registry:-

Official Number .....

Registered Net Tonnage .....

Length .....

Breadth .....

Rig or Motive Power .....

Port of Registry .....

The Certificate of Registry is attached for examination by you.

I undertake:-

- (i) to return the Permit for cancellation
  - (a) if the Admiralty recall it at any time,
  - (b) when I cease to be a member of the Club,
  - (c) when the Yacht ceases to belong solely to me.
- (ii) Not to use the Yacht for any commercial purpose whatsoever.

I understand that the Permit will authorise me to use the Ensign only on board the yacht named therein and on board any boat belonging to her which can conveniently be hoisted on board, and the Ensign may be worn only while the Permit is carried on board the yacht. I enclose remittance of £30.00.

To the Secretary of the ..... Yacht Club.\*

Signature .....

\* If a boat is owned conjointly and the owners are not all Members of the Royal Solent Yacht Club, a permit may be issued to the said Member but the blue ensign may only be worn when the said Member is on board and in control of the boat.

Office use only

I have seen the Certificate of Registry and checked the particulars of the yacht given (above).

Signature .....

Countersigned .....

Member of the Committee

Date ..... 20.....

# CONDITIONS GOVERNING THE ISSUE OF YACHT PERMITS TO MEMBERS OF ENTITLED YACHT CLUBS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE CHANNEL ISLANDS

By section 4 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1995, it is an offence to hoist on board any ship or boat belonging to any British subject certain colours, flags and pendants without a Permit from His Majesty the King or from the Secretary of State for Defence. The maximum penalty is one thousand pounds for each offence. Among the prohibited flags are the Union Flag, the White Ensign, the Blue Ensign (plain or defaced) and the Red Ensign with any defacement. The prohibition applies to any ship or boat belonging to any British subject wherever it may be, and so extends not only to tidal waters but equally to rivers, lakes and inland waters generally.

*Yachts may not wear the special Ensigns prohibited above except:*

- a. under a Warrant issued to the yacht owner by the Secretary of State for Defense prior to 1 April 1985 and in accordance with the Conditions stated thereon or
- b. under a Permit issued to a yacht owner by a Yacht Club from 1 April 1985 onwards and in accordance with the conditions set out below.

## Conditions

1. **Permit.** The Yacht must be issued with a Permit by a Yacht Club pursuant to the granting of a Warrant to that Club by the Secretary of State for Defence.
2. **Registration and Measurement.**
  - a. Registration. The Yacht must be a ship registered under either:
    - (1) Part 1 of the Register of British Ships or
    - (2) Part III of the Register of British Ships (Small Ships Register)
  - b. Measurement. The Yacht must measure not less than:
    - (1) 2 tons gross if registered under a(1) above.
    - (2) 7 metres in length overall if registered under a(2) above.
3. **Membership of Designated Yacht Club.** The owner or owners of the Yacht must have current membership of one of the Yacht Clubs in the United Kingdom or Channel Islands to which a Warrant has been issued and which is designated in the Navy list.
4. **Nationality.** The owner or owners must be British citizens.
5. **Use of Yacht.**
  - a. The special Ensign may be worn on a Yacht used exclusively for private and personal purposes of the Yachtsman to whom the Permit is issued.
  - b. The Yacht must not be used for any professional, business or commercial purposes. A Yacht whose name incorporates a name, product or trademark used for business or commercial purposes is not eligible for a Permit.
  - c. A Yacht which is never used for cruising, e.g. a houseboat, is ineligible for a Permit.
6. **Limited Companies.** A Yacht which is the property of a Limited Company may be eligible for a Permit provided the provisions of Condition 5 are compiled with, and the user is a British subject and a member of a designated Yacht Club.

7. **Presence of Holder of Permit.** Except under the provisions of Condition 6, a Permit does not confer any authority while the Yacht is being sailed by anyone other than the owner in person, thus a special Ensign may not be worn unless the owner or user (see Condition 6) of the Yacht is on board, or in effective control of her when she is in harbour or at anchor near the shore, and the Club's burgee, is flown at the main masthead, or other suitable position. The Permit must always be carried on board when a special Ensign is worn.

8. **Separate Authorization from each Club.** If the owner or user belongs to more than one of the designated Clubs, he must have on board the Permit authorizing the particular Ensign which is being worn.

*Note – A member of a privileged club who shares a yacht with joint owner's ineligible to belong to that club because of restrictive membership qualifications may exceptionally apply for a permit. All applications under this exception must be supported by written confirmation that the other owners are ineligible for membership of the yacht club concerned. A Permit issued in these circumstances is valid only when the joint owner in whose name the Permit is issued is on board, or in effective control of the yacht when in harbour or at anchor near the shore.*

9. **Charter or Loan of Yacht for which Permit Issued.** It is expressly forbidden for the person borrowing or chartering the aforesaid yacht to wear the privilege ensign for which a permit has been previously issued by the owner's club.
10. **Return of Permit.** When a Yacht is sold, there is a change of ownership, or the owner ceases to be a member of the Club, the Permit must at once be surrendered to the Secretary of the Club who shall forthwith cancel it.
11. **Alterations to Permits.** No alterations are to be made to Permits. If the name of the Yacht is changed, or alterations are made which affect the register, the Permit is to be withdrawn by the Secretary of the Club. A new Permit may be issued providing the provisions of these Conditions are otherwise satisfied.
12. **Permits Lost or Stolen.** In the event of a Permit being lost or stolen, the member must forward to the Secretary of the Club a report on the circumstances of the loss and the steps taken to recover from it. The Secretary of the Club may, at his/her discretion, issue a fresh Permit.
13. **Tenders.** The special Ensign may be worn by any boat which belongs to the Yacht and can conveniently be hoisted on board her.
14. **Foreign Cruises.** When cruising in foreign waters a Yacht for which a Permit to wear a special Ensign has been issued should take care to avoid any action which might result in complications with a Foreign Power.
15. A Permit for a Yacht to wear a special Ensign becomes invalid if the provisions of the above Conditions are not met.
16. **Etiquette.** Permit holders may wish to comply with the custom, when in harbour, of hoisting the Ensign at 0800 (15 February to 31 October) otherwise at 0900 and lowering the Ensign at local sunset (or 2100 local time if earlier).