

# ROCK CREEK RACING ASSOCIATION SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

## 2018 WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERIES

April 25 – October 17, 2018

Updated 4/21/18



### 1. Rules

- a. The Series will be governed by the “rules” as defined in *The 2017-2020 Racing Rules of Sailing* (RRS), US Sailing prescriptions, and the rules of PHRF of the Chesapeake except as any of these are altered by these Sailing Instructions or any amendments thereto. All boats shall be in compliance with *PHRF of the Chesapeake, Category 5P Special Regulations*.
- b. RRS 63.7 is replaced by: “If there is a conflict between a *rule* in the Notice of Race and a *rule* in the Sailing Instructions, the rule in the Sailing Instructions and any amendments shall take precedence.”

### 2. Eligibility and Entry

- a. Rock Creek Racing Association members in good standing may enter all of the Wednesday Night Races. Members of other sailing clubs may be invited to enter also.
- b. The Member entering the boat must be a regular, active participant on the boat for the series and is responsible for the actions of the boat and crew while participating in the event.

### 3. Notices to Competitors

- a. Notices concerning the Notice of Race and the Sailing Instructions will be posted on the RCRA web page and possibly on the Bulletin Board located at Oak Harbor Marina.
- b. Changes to the Sailing Instructions will be posted at least 24 hours before they take effect.

### 4. Signals Made Ashore and Communications

- a. There will be no signals made ashore.
- b. In the event of adverse weather conditions, monitor VHF channel 71 for possible race delay or cancellation by the Race Committee or Racing Chair.
- c. When severe conditions are forecast, every attempt will be made to notify participants as early as possible once a decision to cancel has been made. This notification may be in the form of an email message delivered via the RCRA group list.

**5. Schedule**

- a. The event will consist of four series.
- b. The Schedule is as follows:

<b>Series</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Notes</b>
1 - Spring Series	April 25 <sup>th</sup> through May 30 <sup>st</sup>	6 races
2 - Early Summer Series	June 6 <sup>th</sup> through July 18 <sup>th</sup>	6 races
3 - Late Summer Series	July 25 <sup>th</sup> through Aug 29 <sup>th</sup>	6 races
4 – Fall Series	Sept 5 <sup>th</sup> through Oct 10 <sup>th</sup>	6 races

**6. Class Flags**

- a. Class Flags must be flown on the back stay.
  - i. PHRF Spinnaker “A” – White
  - ii. PHRF Non-Spin – Blue

**7. Rendezvous**

- a. Rendezvous will be at RCRA mark “A” (.5nm North of White Rocks) at 1815 hours.
- b. First warning will be at 1830 hours unless race is postponed.
- c. Time may be moved up for the last races of the season to avoid starts after sunset.

**8. Courses**

- a. 2018 Standard Courses are posted on the RCRA website. Any updates or changes to the standard courses will also be posted on the website.
- b. Courses start at RCRA “A” and finish at RCRA “B” unless shortened or otherwise indicated by the Race Committee in charge of the race.
- c. A race committee may create their own course using RCRA designated marks.
- d. Course(s) will indicated on the course board and displayed prominently on the committee boat.

**9. The Start**

- a. Races will be started by using rule 26 with the following addition: “An attention signal (flag L) will be displayed on the race committee signal boat when the committee boat is on station. Flag L will be removed with multiple sounds approximately one minute before the first warning signal.” This changes rule 27.1.
- b. The starting line will be between a yellow flag on the committee boat and RCRA mark “A”.
- c. Once a warning signal has been given, any fleets not “starting” must stay clear of the starting area.
- d. No races will be started after 1910.

**10. Signals**

Class	Time	Signal
Rendezvous	1815 (not timed)	"L" Flag up
Attention	1829 (not timed)	"L" Flag down, multiple horns
Warning – PHRF "Spinnaker"	1830	1 horn + white flag up
Preparatory	1831	horn + prep flag up
One-minute Warning	1834	1 long horn + prep down
PHRF "Spinnaker" Start Warning – PHRF non-spin	1835	1 horn + white down + blue flag up
Preparatory	1836	horn + prep flag up
One-minute Warning	1839	1 long horn + prep down
PHRF "non-spin" Start	1840	1 horn + blue down

Note: The last race of season start time is 1620 (see Calendar)

**11. Individual Recall**

- a. Will be in accordance with RRS 29.1. The Race committee *may* call sail numbers of the boats recorded OCS on VHF channel 71. Failure to receive the transmission will not relieve a boat of the responsibility of starting properly, and is not grounds for redress. This changes RRS 62.1(a).

**12. General Recall**

- a. Will be in accordance with RRS 29.2 except the last sentence is deleted and replaced by: "The starting order and timing of subsequent starts will proceed as if there had been no General Recall. The recalled fleet will be restarted after the last fleet in the scheduled starting order. If more than one fleet has been recalled, they will restart in the order they were recalled." This changes RRS 29.2.

**13. Postponed/Abandoned Races**

- a. Before the starting signal will be in accordance with RRS 27.3.
- b. After the starting signal (i.e. In the event of extreme weather conditions), the Race Committee may signal abandonment of the race by hoisting Code flag "N" followed by three horn sounds.

**14. The Finish**

- a. The finish line is between the yellow flag on the RC boat and the last designated mark of the course. The US Sailing definition of "Finish" requires the boat to cross the finish line in the direction of the course from the previous mark. A boat has finished once any part of the boat in normal position crosses the finish line.

**15. Penalty System**

- a. For any RRS Part 2 infraction, Rules 44.1 and 44.2 apply.
- b. There shall be no scoring penalties, therefore Rule 44.3 does not apply.

**16. Time Limits**

- a. There shall be a time limit of 2 hours from the start of a race and RRS 35 applies. If no boats have finished within the time limit, the race shall be abandoned and the race committee shall signal with three horns.
- b. After 2 hours from the last start, the race committee may abandon station and any boats still finishing must record and report their finish time or be recorded as DNF.

- c. The race committee can, at its discretion, abandon a race at any time by signaling with 3 sounds of the horn but only if no boats have finished the race.

#### **17. Protests and Redress**

- a. A boat protesting another, must notify the Race Committee when finishing.
- b. All Protests and Redress requests must be filed in writing and submitted to the Race Committee within 24 hours of the incident.
- c. Protest Hearings will be held at a mutually agreeable time and location within two weeks of the incident.
- d. Protests shall conform to Part 5 of the RRS.

#### **18. Scoring**

- a. The Low-Point Scoring system in RRS Appendix A4 will apply unless modified in the Special Racing Instruction for the event. Rule A9 will also apply. Ties will be broken in accordance with RRS Rule A8.
- b. One race must be completed to constitute a series. One throw-out will be allowed when 6 races are sailed in a series.
- c. A score of DSQ will not be used as a throw out when computing the series score.
- d. A boat serving as race committee, shall receive the average of their other races in that series as their score for that race.

#### **19. Safety**

- a. RRS 40 is replaced by: "It shall be the individual responsibility of each competitor to wear adequate personal buoyancy when conditions warrant." All safety equipment required by U.S. Coast Guard Regulations and Class rules must be carried on board.
- b. A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee as soon as possible.
- c. Racing boats must stay well clear of commercial shipping traffic at all times. Any boat that interferes with the operation of a commercial vessel for any reason, at the discretion of the race committee, may be DSQ'd.

#### **20. Classes**

- a. A minimum of 3 boats per handicap division or class shall be registered for the division or class to be scored separately. If less than 3 boats are registered in a handicap division or class, that division or class may be eliminated and/or combined with another division.
- b. Classes may be started together in a Fleet, but scored separately. Handicap divisions may be divided and/or starts combined if the number of entries and/or ratings indicates that this would improve race management.
- c. Class flags are required and shall be displayed while racing on the backstay.
- d. The following classes are anticipated at this time: PHRF Spinnaker, PHRF non-spin.

#### **21. Headsails (non-spin class)**

- a. **For Non-spin class only**, RRS 50.1, last sentence, is modified as follows: However, only one mainsail and, except when changing, only one headsail shall be carried set at a time.

#### **22. Prizes**

- a. There will be one award for 3-4 boats, two awards for 5-6 boats and three for seven or more boats in a class for a given series.
- b. Prizes will be awarded at the RCRA Awards Banquet.

**23. Disclaimer of Liability**

- a. Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. See RRS 4, Decision to Race. The organizing 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.

**24. Insurance**

- a. Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of \$300,000 per event or the equivalent.
- b. Proof of insurance may be requested by the race committee at any time.

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