



# ROCK CREEK RACING ASSOCIATION SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

## 2025 WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERIES

April 23 – October 1, 2025

### 1. Rules

- a. The Series will be governed by the “rules” as defined in *The 2021-2024 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 23 through May 28	6 races
2 - Early Summer Series  *Joint with NPSA RCRA Side and RC	June 4 through July 9	6 races
3 - Late Summer Series  *Joint with NPSA NPSA Side RC	July 16 through Aug 20	6 races
4 – Fall Series	Aug 27 through Oct 1	6 races

\* See Separate SI's for this series

**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" (0.5nm 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. Standard Courses are posted on the RCRA website and will be used for all Series. 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". The RC boat shall be positioned on the starboard end of the starting line.
- 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 – "Spinnaker"	1830	1 horn + white flag up
Preparatory	1831	horn + prep flag up
One-minute Warning	1834	1 long horn + prep down
"Spinnaker" Start Warning – "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
"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 RC boat shall be positioned on the starboard end of the finish line. 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 the hull 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.
- d. **At the discretion of the Race Committee, the last remaining boat to finish the race may be contacted and given the option to "Retire" and receive a score of last place (corrected).**

**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 - Individual Series**

- a. For the individual series scoring, the Low-Point Scoring system in RRS Appendix A4 will apply unless modified herein or in the Special Racing Instructions for the event.
- b. Ties will be broken in accordance with RRS Rule A8.
- c. Rule A9 shall apply and modified as follows:
  - ...a boat that came to the starting area but did not *start*, did not *finish* or retired shall be scored as DNF and will receive points for the finishing place one more than the number of boats that finished the race. A boat that did not come to the starting area shall be scored as DNC, and shall be scored points for the finishing place two more than the number of boats that finished the race. A boat that is scored as DSQ, shall be scored points for the finishing place one more than the number of boats entered in the series.
- d. One race must be completed to constitute a series. One throw-out will be allowed when 6 races are sailed in a series.
- e. A score of DSQ will not be used as a throw out when computing the series score.
- f. A boat serving as race committee, shall receive the average of their other races in that series as their score for that race.

**19. Scoring - Season**

- a. For the Season scoring, the High Point scoring system will be used.
- b. Highpoint score is determined by the following formula:

$$\frac{\text{Total boats beat} + \text{Total number of races sailed}}{\text{Maximum possible boats to beat} + \text{Total races held in the season}}$$

- c. In order to qualify for highpoint, a boat shall meet the following criteria:
  - i. Sail in a minimum of one-half the total races held in the season
  - ii. Sail in at least one RCRA weekend regatta

- d. **Separate High Point award will be provided for the Spinnaker and Non-Spinnaker Fleets.**

## **20. 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.

## **21. 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.

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

- a. **For Non-spin class only**, RRS 55.1, last sentence, is modified as follows: However, only one mainsail and, except when changing, only one headsail shall be carried set at a time.

## **23. 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.

## **24. 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.

## **25. 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.

## **Contacts:**

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