

BLACKWATER YACHT RACING ASSOCIATION, INC.  
SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

October, 2020

1. Rules: All BYRA events are governed by the current Racing Rules of Sailing established by the United States Sailing Association, unless stated differently in this document, and the Bylaws, Sailing Instructions, "Fundamentals of Sailboat Racing", and Race Committee Instructions promulgated by BYRA.
2. Registration: No boat shall participate in any BYRA event which is not registered with the BYRA Race Committee for that event and which does not acknowledge and accept the rules set out in paragraph 1 above.
  - A. Series Eligibility: For a boat to be qualified for the Spring or Fall Series competition, the owner of the designated boat must be a member in good standing of BYRA. To be a "member in good standing", the dues for the series must be paid. A Boat will not be scored for a series race if the dues for the owner have not been paid. Boats are entered in the series and may be changed only under extreme circumstances approved by the Board of Directors. The composition of the crew and designation of "Skipper" are not restricted, except that a boat must start and finish with the same persons who started on board at the finish of the race. The signup sheet for the first race that a boat signs up for in a series will determine which fleet it is eligible to qualify for in a series, and any subsequent crossover to another fleet will not be scored for series qualification.
  - B. Regatta Competition: To be qualified for an open regatta or special event competition, the owner of the boat must be a member in good standing of BYRA, or a guest of a BYRA member. The guest skipper must register and accept all rules and authority referred to herein, and the st skipper must sign the waiver of liability and hold harmless agreement provided by BYRA.
  - C. Sail Numbers: To be qualified to race in a series or regatta a boat must display sail numbers.
3. Conduct of Races: It is the sole responsibility of each yacht to decide whether or not to start or continue the race. The organizers and race committee bear no responsibility for accidents, damage, or injuries from any cause during the race or related activities
  - The Fleet Captain shall coordinate the appointment of individuals to serve as the Race Committee for each race. The Race Committee will set the course marks, maintain accurate race timing and manage the races in accordance with the US Sailing Racing Rules and the BYRA Race Committee Instructions including but not limited to the following: the enforcement of the minimum and maximum wind rules, and determinations regarding postponements, abandonment, shortening the course, recalls, and restarts.

- Race Courses: The course for each race will be posted on the course board by the Race Committee before the race. The course may be selected from one of the posted set of courses, or the course may be an original course.
- A. 3 MPH Rule: No race sequence will be started unless there is consistent wind of at least 3 MPH or, in the judgment of the race committee in consultation with the Fleet Captain, boats are able to maintain enough headway that a race could be successfully completed.
  - B. 20 MPH (17 knots) Rule: No race sequence will be started if the consistent wind exceeds 20 MPH or if gusts exceed 25 MPH (22 knots).
  - C. Race Begins: A boat is racing from her preparatory signal until she finishes and clears the finishing line and marks, or retires, or until the Race Committee signals a general recall, postponement, or abandonment. Race Committee cannot change the race course after hoisting the class flag except under paragraph G below.
  - D. Postponement: Postponement of a race is signaled by two sounds from the horn and the display of the "postponement" flag. If the race sequence is not started within two hours of the original scheduled time for the starting sequence announced at the Skippers Meeting, then the race shall be "abandoned". When the scheduled race is abandoned, all subsequent races for that day are likewise abandoned.
  - E. Abandonment: Abandonment will be indicated to the fleet by three sounds from the horn, and the display of the "abandonment" flag, and the race will be rescheduled to a makeup day.
  - F. Shortened Course: A shortened course will be indicated by two sounds from the horn and the display of the "shortened course" flag. The boats will be notified before the leading boat reaches the last turning mark in the shortened course, if possible.
  - G. Course Change: The Race Committee may change a leg of the course that begins at a rounding mark by changing the position of the next mark or the finishing line and signaling all boats before they begin the leg. (a) If the new direction of the leg will be changed, the signal shall be the display of flag C with repetitive sounds and a green triangular board for a change to starboard or a red rectangular board for a change to port. (b) If the length of the leg will be changed, the signal shall be the display of flag C with repetitive sounds and a “-“ if the length will be decreased or a “+” if it will be increased.
  - H. 3 Hour Rule: If at least one boat in a class has not finished a race within 3 hours of the start, the race for that class will be abandoned and rescheduled, if practical.
  - I. Make-Up Races. The scheduled Make-Up Races will be held on the scheduled date if less than seven races have been run and scored during the first four series race dates (usually two races per date). In the event

all scheduled series races cannot be completed because of adverse conditions (not enough air, too much air, thunderstorms, etc.) resulting in abandoned races which cannot be made up on the dates scheduled, then the series will be determined as follows:

1. If 5 to 8 Series races have been run the scoring will be based on the minimum participation requirement of 4 races adjusted for throw-outs as defined in Section 6, Scoring and Awards, Paragraph H.
2. If only 4 Series races have been run the minimum qualifier is 3 races and results will be based on the average of the 3 or 4 finishes. No throw-outs.

- J. Starting Rules: There is no standing "one minute rule" or "around the ends" rule, but these rules may be imposed by the Race Committee.
- K. Radio Communication: A boat shall neither make radio transmissions while racing nor receive radio communications not available to all boats. This restriction also applies to mobile telephones. BYRA allows exception in case of an emergency or to request chase boat services. Frequency is normally Channel 9.

L. Use of Engine

1. A boat may not use her engine after her class preparatory signal.
2. To get clear after grounding a boat may use an engine or any other method provided the boat does not gain significant advantage in the race.

4. Starting Sequence: An approximate time for beginning the starting sequence will be announced at the Skippers' Meeting or from the Committee Boat when two or more races are scheduled for the same day. The "one minute rule" for starting is not in effect unless specifically announced by the Race Committee prior to the start of the sequence.

A. The starting sequence for each race shall be as follows:

- - Prior to sequence: fly the "come within hail" flag
- - One minute prior to sequence: douse "come within hail" flag and sound horn
- Race Committee signals the course to be sailed on the "course boards" which may be mounted on both sides of the committee boat by the fleet whose class flag is being flown.
- - 5 minutes to start: hoist class flag and sound horn.
- - 4 minutes to start: hoist "P" flag (white square on blue flag) and sound horn
- -1 minute to start: douse "P" flag and sound horn
- "Start:" douse class flag and sound horn

- B. The restart sequence following a general recall shall begin as soon as practical after the signal for the general recall and the restart sequence shall be five minutes beginning with the blue flag up and horn.

- C. The starting line is considered an obstruction for all competitors after

rounding the windward A mark on the first leg only. Boats that do not comply will be disqualified for that race.

5. Recall:

A. General Recall: When more boats are over early than the Race Committee can specifically identify, there shall be a general recall by:

1. 2 sounds from the signal device
2. displaying the general recall flag
3. The restart sequence shall be the 5 minute sequence beginning with the blue flag and horn, unless there is another fleet scheduled to start following the recalled fleet, in which event the recalled fleet shall start last, subject to directions of the race committee.

B. Individual Recall: If one or more boats are identified by the Race Committee to be "over early", the Race Committee shall fly the individual recall flag "X", and attempt to hail the subject boats. It is the sole responsibility of each boat to determine if they were over early. A boat that is over early does not officially start the race unless the boat properly restarts. The Individual Recall Flag will be lowered when all boats "over early" have cleared themselves. The Individual Recall Flag must be lowered one minute before any later starting signal.

6. Scoring and Awards:

A. Handicaps: Races are handicapped according to a modified "PHRF" standard established by the BYRA Handicap Committee. Based on their corrected times, the boats are awarded the number of points equal to their finishing position (first place – 1 point, second place – 2 points, etc.)

B. Registered Yacht:

1. A boat which is qualified to race in a series shall be registered for the series when she starts and finishes at least one race in the series.
2. A boat shall be registered for the regatta when the registration form and entry fee are received by the club representative.

B. Did Not Finish:

1. Boats that started, but Did Not Finish (DNF) will receive the score equal to the total number of boats in the race plus one.
2. Boats that started but were disqualified (DSQ) will receive the score equal to the total number of boats in the race plus one.

C. Did Not Start:

1. **For Series Scoring** boats that were not in attendance on race

day will receive no points for that race and the race will not count toward series qualification. If a boat is registered and checked in on the water but withdraws she will notify the race committee and receive a DNS score for that race. The DNS score will be equal to the number of boats registered in the race plus one point. That race will count toward series qualification.

2. **For Regatta Scoring**, if a boat is registered but does not start in a race she will receive a DNS for that race and receive a score equal to the number of boats registered for the regatta in her fleet plus one.
- D. Regatta/Series Scoring: Boats competing in an open regatta (Michelob Cup, etc.) but not in a series will be scored in the regatta only and not in the series scoring. Example: Boat A (a guest) is not competing in the Fall Series, but is competing in the Michelob Cup. Boat B (a BYRA member) is competing in both. Boat A finishes 2nd and Boat B finishes 3rd in the first race of the Michelob Cup, which is also the 6th race of the BYRA Fall Series. Boat A is scored 2nd in that race for the Michelob Cup and Boat B is scored 3rd in that race for the Michelob Cup, but Boat B is scored 2nd in that race for race six of the Fall Series.
- E. Race Committee Score: Boats serving as Race Committee for a series race receive the score for that race which is the average of the best four (4) scored races for that boat for that series. If a boat has sailed in only three (3) races, the Race Committee Credit Score is calculated by adding the finish of the three (3) races plus the total number of boats qualified in the respective fleet in the series divided by four (4). A boat may receive a maximum of 2 RC Race Credits per Series. (See J for regatta race committee scoring.)
- F. Ties:
1. Tie Based on Time: If two boats finish a race with exactly the same corrected time, the points for the place for which the two boats tied and for the place immediately below, shall be added together and divided equally. If two boats are exactly tied on corrected time they will each receive the score for the two subject positions, divided by 2 (Example: two boats tied for third;  $3+4=7$  divided by 2 = 3.5).
  2. Tie Based on Scores:
    - a. The tie shall be broken in favor of the boat with the highest places: (Example: Boat A - 1, 2, 2, 4, 5 = 14; Boat B - 1, 2, 3, 3, 5 = 14; Boat A wins because Boat A has higher finishes than Boat B.)
    - b. If a tie remains, the last race sailed by the tied boats shall be utilized for the purpose

of resolving the tie. (Example: Boat A - 2, 3, 1 = 6; Boat B - 1, 2, 3 = 6, Boat A wins because of higher finish in last race)

H. Qualification for trophies:

1. A boat qualifies for a series if it participated in 4 of the races run.
2. If only 4 races are run, a boat must participate in 3 of the 4 races run.
3. Boats will be ranked by the average of finishes after deletion of eligible throw-out races.
4. For Series scoring boats will receive one throw-out for every two races participated in beyond the 4 race minimum requirement.

I. Number of trophies awarded per fleet: Three trophies for each fleet if there are three qualifying boats in the fleet.

J. Combining Fleets 3 and 4: If less than three boats in Fleets 3 or 4 qualify for the series, the Fleets will be combined for scoring and for placement in that series.

K. Championship: Each fleet will award a club champion. Scoring for the award will be based on participation in the series races run during the year up to a maximum of 16 counted. Race Committee Service races will be included even if RC credit is not earned as per Section 6F. The following table defines the number of races to be counted. Race committee service would count with the same score awarded for series scoring. To qualify for the award, a boat must have participated in the minimum number of races as defined in the table below.

Number of Races the Fleet Completed for the Year    Number of Races to Count for the  
Championship

20 or more	16
19	15
18, 17	14
16	13
15	12
14	11
13, 12	10
11	9
10	8
9	7
8	6

7. Protests:

- A. Protest Procedure: When one boat elects to protest the conduct of another boat, the protesting boat shall:
  - 1. Hail "PROTEST" to the other boat, and
  - 2. Conspicuously fly red flag, and
  - 3. Report the protest to the Race Committee as soon as practicable, but not later than 10 minutes after finishing the subject race, and
  - 4. File the appropriate written protest with the Race Committee of the subject race within sixty minutes after the committee boat returns to the dock following the end of the races for that day.
- B. Exoneration: A protested boat or a boat which has violated a rule may exonerate itself by accepting and performing the penalty set out in The Racing Rules of Sailing, except a boat which violates a rule which disables another boat, or causes injury to an individual on another boat causing that boat to withdraw, must also withdraw from that race.
- C. Scoring Penalty: In lieu of the 720 degree Turns Penalty described in the Racing Rules of Sailing, a boat may elect to take a 20% scoring penalty by displaying a penalty flag. This penalty will be available for 30 minutes after the Race Committee returns to the dock for those skippers who were not aware of the protest. The 20% shall be calculated by adding 20% of her elapsed time to her finish time.
- D. Protest hearing: The BYRA official shall assemble a protest committee made up of three BYRA members who are "disinterested" in the protest. The protest committee shall follow the protocol for protests set out in part 5, and appendix M of The Racing Rules of Sailing.
- E. Request for Redress: Requests for redress shall be treated and handled as a protest.
- F. A protest may be withdrawn by the party who filed the protest at any time prior to the announcement of the Protest Committee decision.