

***BYRA Weekend Sailing Events***  
***Smith Mountain Lake, VA***

***Spring: April – June      Fall: Sept - Nov***

***Organizing Authority: Blackwater Yacht Racing Association (BYRA)***

**NOTICE OF RACE (NOR) AND SAILING INSTRUCTIONS (SI)**

**GENERAL**

The Blackwater Yacht Racing Association (BYRA) Weekend Race Series consists of two seasonal events of eight races each. The races are held on four Saturdays in the Spring and four Saturdays in the Fall with possible makeup Saturdays if fewer than seven races are completed in either series. Generally two races are held each Saturday with boats competing for Spring and Fall Series Honors in three or four classes (see NOR 4.2), and the yearly club championship in each class.

**1 RULES**

- 1.1** The event is governed by the Rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing for 2021-2024* including US Sailing Prescriptions (RRS).
- 1.2** BYRA Wind Rules shall apply:  
 3 MPH Rule: No race will be started unless the consistent wind is at least 3 mph or, in the judgement of the Race Committee in consultation with the Fleet Captain, boats are able to maintain enough headway that a race can be successfully completed.  
 20 MPH (17 knots) Rule: No race will be started if the consistent wind exceeds 20 mph or gusts exceed 25 mph (22 knots).

**2 EQUIPMENT**

- 2.1** In addition to equipment required by Virginia law and the RRS, it is recommended each boat carry:  
 a VHF radio  
 a bucket  
 a compass (a hand-held is acceptable)  
 an anchor and anchor line  
 a knife.
- 2.2** Boats and their equipment may be inspected at any time.

**3 ELIGIBILITY**

- 3.1** The events are open to all Members in Good Standing of BYRA, and non-member guest boats.
- 3.2** All boats competing will be scored, however only boats owned by Members in Good Standing of BYRA will be eligible for seasonal and yearly scoring and trophies.
- 3.3** To participate in the event, a boat must display an identifying sail number, hull number or name. A boat may carry a sail with a different number than it is registered with provided that the race committee has been informed of her sail identification during check in and has approved it. This adjusts RRS 77 and Appendix G 2.

**4 ENTRY**

- 4.1** Entry forms are attached as Appendix A. Signed entry forms must be submitted to the Fleet Captain prior to the first race in which the boat competes.

**5 SCHEDULE**

- 5.1** See Appendix B attached.

## 6 CLASSES AND HANDICAPS

- 6.1** Classes shall be established and races handicapped using the PHRF (Performance Handicap Racing Fleet) handicap system set by the BYRA Handicap Committee based on the performance of boats in the usual local conditions. Boats without BYRA PHRF handicaps will be assigned a provisional PHRF handicap by the BYRA Handicap Committee.
- 6.2** Classes shall generally be assigned as follows however adjustments may be made at the discretion of the Handicap Committee in consultation with the Fleet Captain.

Class Designation	General Description	BYRA 'Spinnaker Rating' Range
Class 1	Boats designed primarily for racing	Up to 199
Class 2	Harbor 20/Alerion 20	220
Class 3	Small cruising boats designed for club racing and cruising carrying spinnakers or not	200 - 300
Class 4	Large cruising boats designed primarily for club racing and cruising carrying spinnakers or not	130 - 200

- 6.3** Should fewer than 3 boats qualify for the events in classes 3 or 4, those classes may be combined for scoring, series honors, and the yearly club championship.

## 7 VENUE/COURSES

- 7.1** Races will be sailed on Smith Mountain Lake, Virginia, in the main body of the lake. The event will be based at Pelican Point Yacht Club (PPYC) at the BYRA clubhouse. The choice of racing area and course type will be subject to wind conditions on the day of racing. The racing area for upwind/downwind/reaching "around the buoys" races will generally be in the Blackwater River off Pelican Point Yacht Club, the Roanoke River or in Bull Run. Distance "Road" courses will generally start and finish in the Blackwater River in the vicinity of PPYC or in Bull Run and will be run around government marks or dropped marks in the Blackwater River/Bull Run/Roanoke River.

## 8 SAILING INSTRUCTIONS (SI)/OFFICIAL NOTICE BOARD

- 8.1** This NOR/SI, any addendums and scores shall always be available on the BYRA website, [www.byrasailing.org](http://www.byrasailing.org) in the Racing Info tab which shall be the Official Notice Board for the events. Email or verbal reminders that the NOR/SI, addendums and scores are on the official notice board shall not be grounds for redress under RRS 62.

## 9 COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS/CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 9.1** Any notices to competitors or change to the NOR/SI will be posted on the official notice board in the Racing Info tab at [www.byrasailing.org](http://www.byrasailing.org) before 11:00 on the day it will take effect. A reminder of the change may be announced at the skipper's meeting or broadcast by VHF radio prior to the first warning signal of the day. Any change to the schedule of races will be posted on the official notice board by 20:00 on the day before it will take effect. A reminder may be emailed to all boats at the email address on their entry form.
- 9.2** A Skipper's meeting may be held each race day at the BYRA clubhouse at PPYC at 12:00 or the skippers meeting may be replaced by communications broadcast on the water via VHF radio. If the skippers' meeting is to be held afloat, notice shall be broadcast to all boats via VHF radio on channel 09 in advance. The meeting may confirm updates to the NOR/SI. This changes RRS 90.2 (c).
- 9.3** The race committee shall communicate oral changes to the SI on the water when boats check in by speaking to the crew as the boat checks in. The skipper of the boat shall acknowledge that he has heard

and understood the oral change and the race committee shall record his/her acknowledgement on the check-in sheet. Oral changes to the NOR/SI so delivered shall not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 62.1.

- 9.4** Failure to receive notices or changes by email, failure to hear or understand information presented at a skipper's meeting or broadcast via VHF radio, failure to carry a VHF radio, or failure to hear or understand such information shall not be grounds for a request for redress. This changes RRS 62.1(a).
- 9.5** On the water, the race committee intends to communicate on VHF radio channel 09. Should channel 09 be in use, the race committee may announce a change of channel.
- 9.6** From the first warning signal until the end of the last race of the day, except in an emergency or to request chase boat services, a boat shall not make voice or data transmissions by radio or mobile telephone and shall not receive voice or data communication by radio or mobile telephone containing information that is not available to all boats.

## **10 CLASS FLAGS**

- 10.1** The Class flag for Class 1 shall be "O" Oscar (red and yellow diagonal).  
The Class flag for Class 2 shall be "J" Juliet (blue and white horizontally striped).  
The Class flag for Class 3 shall be "G" Golf (blue and yellow vertically striped).  
The Class flag for Class 4 shall be "E" Echo (blue over red striped).

## **11 COURSES**

- 11.1** Around the buoys races shall race around inflatable marks on upwind/downwind/reaching courses. The marks to be rounded shall be displayed on the course board in the order they are to be rounded. Marks which do not begin, end or bound a leg may be left to either side. The start/finish line is not an obstruction.
- 11.2** Appendix C lists marks for "road" courses, the side on which they are to be left and order in which they are to be rounded.
- 11.3** No later than the warning signal for a class, the race committee signal vessel shall display the course to be sailed.
- 11.4** The course board will indicate the starting order horizontally by line. The top line shall show the first class or classes to start and the course to be sailed by them. The second line shall be the second class or classes to start and the course to be sailed by them, and so on.
- 11.5** Generally classes 1 & 2 will start together, and classes 3 & 4 will start together however classes may be separated for individual class starts.  
When classes 1 & 2 start together the course board will show flag letter symbols "O" and "J" for the course to be sailed by both classes. The race committee signal boat shall display only flag "O" for the start of both classes.  
When classes 3 & 4 start together the course board will show flag letter symbols "G" and "E" for the course to be sailed by both classes. The race committee signal boat shall display only flag "G" for the start of both classes.  
If classes are separated, for each class starting, their class flag shall be displayed on the course board along with the course to be sailed.
- 11.6** Marks displayed on the course board with a circled letter are to be left to starboard. Marks without circled letters are to be left to port.
- 11.7** If courses are set which require boats to sail through the start/finish line to allow shortening of the course, "S/F" on the course board will designate that on every upwind leg, boats on the designated course shall sail through the start/finish line. "S/F" will be displayed after the course letters immediately before "F" (for Finish) or "2X" or "3X" if used as described below.
- 11.8** If courses are set on the course board which require multiple laps of the designated course, "2X" or

“3X” displayed on the course board immediately in front of “F” (for finish) will designate the number of times boats shall sail the designated course.

## **12 MARKS**

### **12.1** For around the buoys races:

The weather mark shall be an inflatable orange tetrahedron labelled A on the course board.

The leeward mark shall be an inflatable orange tetrahedron labelled C on the course board.

The reaching mark, if used, shall be an inflatable orange cylinder labelled B on the course board.

A weather offset mark, if used, shall be an inflatable orange ball.

A leeward gate, if used, shall be an inflatable orange tetrahedron on one side and an inflatable orange ball on the other side and shall be denoted as C on the course board.

The race committee may post a change to the SI on the official notice board changing the shape and/or color of a mark, and if so, may confirm the change at the skippers' meeting.

Under certain wind conditions, government marks may be substituted for the weather, reaching or leeward marks. In case government marks are substituted they will be identified on the course board by their government mark number and the change may be confirmed via VHF radio.

### **12.2** For road courses:

Government marks listed in Appendix C will be used or inflatable marks may be placed near government marks. If inflatable marks are used, boats shall round the inflatable mark leaving it on the side specified in Appendix C.

### **12.3** To change the next leg of the course, the race committee may move a mark or will lay a new mark (or move the finishing line) and remove the original mark as soon as practicable.

### **12.4** Changes to courses or shortening of courses shall be signalled as described in RRS 32 and 33 and RRS Race Signals.

## **13 SAFETY REGULATIONS**

### **13.1** Boats shall check in with the race committee signal boat in person before the first race of any day by slowly sailing past the committee signal boat from stern to bow on the side opposite the starting line, and announcing their name, sail number, and intention to race with a spinnaker or without a spinnaker.

### **13.2** If a boat intends to change from spinnaker to non-spinnaker or vice versa between races on the same day, they shall check in with the race committee signal boat in person between races.

### **13.3** A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee at the first reasonable opportunity either in person, or by advising the chase boat, or by VHF radio.

### **13.4** Boats requiring assistance from the race committee or chase boat shall contact the race committee by VHF radio giving their sail number and location and the type of assistance required, including a description of illness or injury if medical assistance is required.

## **14 THE START**

### **14.1** Races will be started using RRS 26 with the warning signal made 5 minutes before the starting signal.

### **14.2** The starting line is between a staff displaying an orange flag on the pin end of the line and the Class flag on the committee signal boat.

### **14.3** Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall make every possible effort to avoid the starting area during the starting sequence for other races.

### **14.4** Individual Recall When any part of a boat's hull is on the course side of the starting line at her starting signal and she is identified and the race committee displays the Individual Recall flag X with a single sound signal per RRS 29.1, it will attempt to hail her. Failure to hail her number, failure of her to hear such a hail, or the order in which boats are hailed will not be grounds for a request for redress. This

changes RRS 62.1(a).

- 14.5 General Recall When the race committee signals a General Recall per RRS 29.2 and displays the First Substitute with two sounds, the class or classes recalled will start last, after all other classes have started. This changes RRS 29.2.

**15 THE FINISH**

- 15.1 The finishing line is between the pin end of the finish line and a staff displaying a blue flag on the committee signal boat.
- 15.2 For certain races the PPYC travelift pier may replace the race committee signal boat as the starting line and/or finish line. If so the change will be posted to the official notice board and may be announced at the skippers’ meeting or by VHF radio. Failure to receive, hear or understand such information shall not be grounds for a request for redress. This changes RRS 62.1(a).

**16 PROPULSION**

- 16.1 While racing, a boat may not use her engine after her class preparatory signal except to get clear after grounding or a collision, provided the boat does not gain a significant advantage in the race. This changes RRS 42.3 (h) and RRS 42.3 (i).

**17 TIME LIMITS**

- 17.1 The Mark 1 Time Limit, Race Time Limit (see RRS 35), and the Finishing Window are shown in the table below.

Mark 1 Time Limit	Race Time Limit	Finishing Window
45 minutes	2 hours for around the buoys races, 3 hours for road courses	30 minutes

- 17.2 If no boat has passed the first mark within the Mark 1 Time Limit, the race will be abandoned. The time limit commences at the first starting signal.
- 17.3 If no boat has finished within the Race Time Limit, the race will be abandoned. The time limit commences at the first starting signal.
- 17.4 The Finishing Window is the time for boats to finish after the first boat in their class starts, sails the course and finishes. Boats failing to finish within the Finishing Window, and not subsequently retiring, being penalized or given redress, will be scored Time Limit Expired (TLE) without a hearing. A boat scored TLE shall be scored points for the finishing place one more than the points scored by the last boat that finished within the Finishing Window. This changes RRS 35, A5.1, A5.2 and A10.

**18 PENALTY SYSTEM**

- 18.1 The Scoring Penalty, RRS 44.3, may be used by boats in lieu of the One and Two Turns Penalties. The penalty is 20% of the boat’s elapsed time added to her actual elapsed time prior to calculation of corrected time. The Scoring Penalty shall be available for 30 minutes after the Race Committee returns to the dock for boats unaware they were being protested or when the boat being protested is advised of the protest, whichever is later. This changes RRS 44.1 and RRS 44.3 (c).

**19 HEARING REQUESTS**

- 19.1 Any boat protesting another boat shall notify the race committee as soon as practical after finishing or retiring.
- 19.2 The protest time limit is 60 minutes after the race committee boat has returned to the dock at the end of racing for the day. The race committee shall record the time the race committee boat has returned to the dock and the time the protest was received. This adjusts RRS 61.3.
- 19.3 A protest may be withdrawn by the Protestor at any time prior to the announcement of the Protest

Committee decision.

## 20 SCORING

20.1 See Appendix D attached.

## 21 PRIZES

21.1 Only boats owned by Members in Good Standing of BYRA will be eligible for prizes when competing in the BYRA Weekend Race Series.

21.2 Prizes will be awarded as follows.

- a) Spring and Fall Series trophies and the Yearly class championship prizes will be awarded at the annual banquet.
- b) If classes have been combined the prizes will be awarded to the combined class.
- c) For each class with three or more boats qualifying, prizes will be awarded for first, second and third place finishes.
- d) For classes with fewer than three participants, prizes will be awarded for the boats qualifying.

## 22 INSURANCE

22.1 Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance.

## 23 RISK STATEMENT

23.1 RRS 3 states: ‘The responsibility for a boat’s decision to participate in a race or to continue to race is hers alone.’ By participating in this event each competitor agrees and acknowledges that sailing is a potentially dangerous activity with inherent risks. These risks include strong winds and rough seas, sudden changes in weather, failure of equipment, boat handling errors, poor seamanship by other boats, loss of balance on an unstable platform and fatigue resulting in increased risk of injury. **Inherent in the sport of sailing is the risk of damage or permanent, catastrophic injury or death by drowning, trauma, hypothermia or other causes.**

The race organizers (organizing authority, race committee, protest committee, host club, sponsors, or any other organization or official) will not be responsible for damage to any boat or other property or injury to any competitor, including death, sustained as a result of participation in this event. By participating in this event, each competitor agrees to release the race organizers from any and all liability associated with such competitor’s participation in this event to the fullest extent permitted by law.

## 24 MEDIA

24.1 Competitors give absolute right and permission for any photograph and video footage taken of themselves, their crew and the boat they are sailing during the events to be published in any media.

## 25 CODE OF CONDUCT

25.1 Competitors and support persons shall comply with reasonable requests from Race Officials and conduct themselves in a gracious manner.

25.2 PPYC graciously allows BYRA to use PPYC facilities normally reserved for their private members. Competitors and support persons shall comply with PPYC rules and regulations and reasonable requests from PPYC management.

## 26 FURTHER INFORMATION

26.1 For further information please contact the BYRA Fleet Captain by email or phone as listed on the BYRA website – [www.byrasailing.org](http://www.byrasailing.org)

**Blackwater Yacht Racing Association Weekend Race Series  
Smith Mountain Lake, Union Hall, VA USA**

**NOR/SI APPENDIX A – ENTRY FORM**

<b>Boat Name</b>	
<b>Boat Owner</b>	
<b>Yacht Club</b>	
<b>Sail or Hull Number (specify)</b>	
<b>BYRA Handicap (if known)</b>	
<b>Handicap Modifiers</b> A Genoa LP greater than 155%, -5 seconds/mile B Working Jib 100% or less, +5 seconds/mile C1 Headsail Roller Furling, + 3 seconds/mile C2 Mainsail Roller Furling, + 3 seconds/mile D Non-folding, Fixed Blade Propeller, + 3 seconds/mile E Shoal Draft not defined in PHRF Tables, + 6 seconds/mile F ODR (One Design Racer, no modifiers allowed) G Other (Describe, i.e. rig, keel or rudder modified)	<b>List Modifiers</b>
<b>Class (if known)</b>	
<b>Skipper or Person in Charge</b>	
<b>Mailing Address</b>	
<b>Email</b>	
<b>Cell Phone</b>	
<b>Liability Insurance Declaration</b> <b>Initials:</b>	<b>I declare that the boat being entered in this event is covered by valid liability insurance and will be for the entire period it will participate in any BYRA event.</b>
<b>Rules Acceptance Declaration</b> <b>Initials:</b>	I agree to be bound by <i>The Racing Rules of Sailing for 2021 – 2024</i> including US Prescriptions and all other rules that govern this event. In particular I confirm that I have read the Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions and accept its provisions and agree that my boat will conform to the requirements set out in the Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions throughout the event.  To the fullest extent permitted by law, I hereby waive any rights I may have to sue the race organizers (organizing authority, race committee, protest committee, host club, sponsors, or any other organization or official) involved with the event with respect to personal injury or property damage suffered by myself or my crew as a result of participation in this event and hereby release the race organizers from any liability for such injury or damage.
<b>Signature of Owner, Skipper or Person in Charge</b>	

***Blackwater Yacht Racing Association Weekend Race Series  
Smith Mountain Lake, Union Hall, VA USA***

**NOR/SI APPENDIX B – SCHEDULE OF RACES**

**B 1** Dates of racing:

Date	
04/02/2022	Practice Day
04/09/2022	Spring Races 1 & 2
04/23/2022	Spring Races 3 & 4
05/07/2022	Spring Races 5 & 6
06/04/2022	Spring Races 7 & 8
06/11/2022	Makeup Races if fewer than 7 races have been scored
09/10/2022	Fall Races 1 & 2
09/24/2022	Fall Races 3 & 4
10/15/2022	Fall Races 5 & 6
10/29/2022	Fall Races 7 & 8
11/05/2022	Makeup Races if fewer than 7 races have been scored

- B 2** The scheduled time of the warning signal for the first race each day is 13:00. This time may be adjusted at the skipper’s meeting or on the water by announcement via VHF radio. This changes RRS 90.2 (c).
- B 3** Due to wind and/or course considerations the race committee may not be able to make the first warning signal at 13:00. The first warning signal will be made as soon as practical after the committee boat has been anchored or the race committee shall postpone the race.
- B 4** If a race is not started within two hours of the postponement signal having been displayed, the race shall be abandoned and there will be no further racing that day. The race or races abandoned may be rescheduled for the makeup day. If multiple postponements occur during one day’s races, each postponement shall restart the two hour postponement window.
- B 5** On any scheduled day of racing no warning signal will be made after 16:00.
- B 6** Weather permitting, one additional race per day may be sailed if a race was abandoned in a prior week due to adverse weather or other conditions.
- B 7** To alert boats that a race or sequence of races will begin soon, the “Come within Hail” L flag will be displayed with one long sound at least five minutes before a warning signal is made.



NOR/SI APPENDIX C – ROAD COURSES



**Blackwater Yacht Racing Association Weekend Race Series  
Smith Mountain Lake, Union Hall, VA USA**

**NOR/SI APPENDIX D - SCORING**

- D 1 RRS Appendix A Low Point Scoring System will be used as adjusted below.
- D 2 Race results shall be calculated using the Time-on-Time method with light air time correction factors.
- D 3 **Spring and Fall Race Seasonal Series Scoring**
  - (a) All boats competing in the BYRA Weekend Race Series will be scored.
  - (b) A boat which is qualified to race in the Spring or Fall series shall be registered for that seasonal series when she completes at least one race in that seasonal series.
  - (c) Only boats owned by Members in Good Standing of BYRA are eligible for seasonal and yearly scoring and awards.
  - (d) When scoring boats for seasonal or yearly awards, non-member boats will be dropped from the scores calculated and the remaining member boats will be re-scored for seasonal standing and award purposes.
  - (e) Each season, at least three races shall be completed to constitute a series.
  - (f) If five to eight races have been completed in a seasonal series, a boat shall have been scored in at least four races to be included in the final series results.
  - (g) If fewer than five races have been completed in a seasonal series, a boat shall have been scored in at least three races to be included in the final series results.
  - (h) Each boat finishing a race and not thereafter retiring, being penalized or given redress will be scored as follows:
 

<u>Finishing Place</u>	<u>Points</u>
First	1
Second	2
Third	3
Each place thereafter	Add 1 point

    - 1) Boats that are registered to compete but do not come to the starting area will be recorded DNC and will not be scored.
    - 2) Boats that are registered to compete and are in the starting area but notify the race committee that they are withdrawing before the first warning signal of the race will be recorded as DNC and will not be scored.
    - 3) Other boats that compete in that race, including boats that come to the starting area but do not start (DNS), finish and thereafter retire (DNF), or are disqualified (DSQ) will receive the score for the finishing place one more than the number of boats competing in that class in that race.
    - 4) Boats not finishing within the time limit stated in the sailing instructions shall be scored TLE with points for the finishing place one more than the points scored by the last boat that finished within the finishing window. The race will count towards series qualification.
    - 5) This changes RRS A 2.2, A5.2 and A5.3.
  - (i) When a boat has been scored in five or fewer races in either the Spring or Fall series, the boat's seasonal series score will be the average of her race scores for that seasonal series.
  - (j) When a boat has been scored in six or seven races in a seasonal series, the boat's seasonal series score will be the average of her race scores for that season excluding her worst

score.

(k) When a boat has been scored in eight races in a seasonal series, the boat’s seasonal series score will be the average of her race scores for that season excluding her two worst scores.

(l) This modifies RRS A 2.1

(m) The qualified boat with the lowest seasonal series score is the winner and the others are ranked accordingly.

(n) Prizes will be awarded based on the boat’s seasonal race series score.

(o) Race and series ties will be broken in accordance with RRS Appendix A

**D 4 Race Committee Duty**

a) Boats that run race committee during a seasonal race series instead of racing will be credited with a score for the races not sailed due to race committee duty equal to the average of the four best scores that boat received in the remainder of the race series.

b) A boat must sail in at least 3 races each season to receive race committee credit.

c) A maximum number of race committee credit scores that may be earned per seasonal series shall be equal to the number of races run on the day the boat is assigned race committee duty.

d) If a boat has sailed in only three races, race committee credit will be calculated by taking the average of the scores of the three races sailed plus the number of boats qualified in the class in the seasonal series.

e) Race committee duty scores will be counted towards race completion, qualification and seasonal scores.

f) If unusual circumstances occur which create an unfair situation for the results of a class due to race committee duty, the race committee may appoint a protest committee to consider the issue and grant redress if needed.

**D 5 BYRA Yearly Class Championship Scoring**

To qualify for the award for the yearly BYRA class championship, a boat must be owned by a Member in Good Standing of BYRA and have been scored for at least the number of races from the table below. When a boat has been scored in more than the races to be counted for the yearly class championship, the boat’s worst scores shall be dropped, down to the number of races to be counted.

Class races completed in both seasons	Races to be counted for championship
16	13
15	12
14	11
13	10
12	10
11	9
10	8
9	7
8	6
7	5
6	4

The yearly class championship will be awarded to the qualified boat with the lowest average score in the combined seasonal series.