

BLACKWATER YACHT RACING ASSOCIATION, INC.

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

As amended January 12, 2008

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 guest 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:** The Fleet Captain shall coordinate the appointment of individuals to serve as the Race Committee for each race. The Race Committee will be the sole authority as to the setting of the course, the enforcement of the 3 knot rule, the 2 knot rule, and determinations regarding postponements, abandonment, shortening the course, recalls, and restarts, subject to the BYRA Race Committee Instructions.
 - A. **Race Courses:** The course for each race will be determined and announced 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, in the sole discretion of the Race Committee.

- B. **3- Knot Rule:** No race sequence will be started unless there is consistent wind of at least 3 knots 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.
- C. **22-Knot Rule:** No race sequence will be started if the consistent wind exceeds 22 knots or if gusts exceed 30 knots.
- 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. **3 Hour Rule:** If at least one boat in a class (Spinnaker or Cruising) has not finished a race within 3 hours of the start, the race for that class will be abandoned and rescheduled, if practical.
- H. **Make-Up Races.** In the event that 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 6 series races have been run, the series results will still be based on the best 5 finishes.
 2. If 5 series races have been run, the series results will be based on the best 4 finishes.
 3. If less than 5 series races have been run the series results will be based on the series races actually run.
 4. Scoring for Race Committee service for a shortened series will be based on the best 4 finishes for that boat if 5 or 6 races have been run. If less than 5 series races have been run, Race Committee shall be scored as the average of the best finishes of Race Committee in the series races actually run.

- I. **Starting Rules:** There is no standing "one minute rule" or "around the ends" rule, but these rules may be imposed by the Race Committee.
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
 - - 5 minutes to start: hoist class flag and sound horn
 - - 4 minutes to start: hoist "blue shape" flag (white square on blue flag) and sound horn
 - -1 minute to start: douse blue shape 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. Sunfish races may use an abbreviated starting sequence in the discretion of the Sunfish Race Committee.
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.

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:** 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.
- C. **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.
- D. **Did Not Start:** 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 was present and signed up for a race but did not start (DNS) she will receive a score equal to the total number of boats registered in a series plus one point, or the number of boats in the race plus two, whichever is higher, and that race will count toward series qualification.
- E. **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.
- F. **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. A boat may receive a maximum of 2 RC Race Credits per Series. (See J for regatta race committee scoring.)
- G. **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. When two or more boats are tied based on the addition of scores, the tie shall be broken in favor of the boat which has qualified for the series according to Section 3.H above.
- b. If a tie remains, 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.)
- c. 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:** A boat qualifies if it participated in 5 out of 8 races run, 5 out of 7 races run, 5 out of 6 races run, 4 out of 5 races run, or 3 out of 4 races run.
- I. **Number of trophies awarded:** Up to three trophies will be awarded per class if three boats qualify.
- J. **Championship:** Each fleet will award a club championship. Scoring for the award will be based on participation in 80% of the series and regatta races run during the year up to a maximum of 16. For example, if 20, 21 or 22 races were run, the best 16 would be scored for the championship trophy. If only 15 were run, 12 would count. Race committee service would count with the same score awarded for series scoring. To qualify for the award, a boat must have participated in 80% of the races with the maximum participation requirement of 16 races.

When calculating the fleet championship points, boats serving as Race Committee for a regatta receive the score for each race of the regatta they serve as Race Committee which is the average of the best races sailed in the Spring

and Fall Series.

RC Maximum – For the purpose of scoring RC credit in the Championship a maximum of 5 races may be used. (two Series Race Days (Spring and Fall) or one Series Race Day (2) races and one Regatta (3).

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 the protest 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.