

2007
Raritan Yacht Club
General Sailing Instructions

Please note that the following rules are new or have significant changes: 2.2; 2.5-2.7; 5.2-5.4; 7.3; 8.3; 9.1; 14.2-14.4.

1. Rules

1. The Raritan Yacht Club races will be governed, in ascending order of precedence by: 1) the International Sailing Federation's 2005-2008 Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS); 2) any prescriptions by US Sailing; 3) PHRF or one-design class rules (as appropriate); 4) these Sailing Instructions, and 5) the Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions for each race or series.

1.1 PHRF crew limits are waived for Weds. Night Series and Holiday Series.

2. ELIGIBILITY & ENTRY

2.1 The Raritan Yacht Club races are open to yachts sailing under PHRF and to Race Committee (RC) approved one-design classes. Eligible yachts may be entered by contacting the RC.

2.2 RC-approved one-design classes may race in accordance with their class association rules if a minimum of five (5) competitors have registered with the RC as a one-design fleet at least 48 hours before the first race of the series or regatta.

2.3 All yachts entering a PHRF division must have a valid 2007 PHRF-Mid Atlantic rating certificate on file with the RYC office or they will not be scored. It is strongly encouraged that the owner and skipper of each racing yacht be a member of US Sailing.

2.4 All RYC club members will be billed for their racing activity. All non-members are welcome as guests and will be responsible for their applicable entry fee, payable to the RC prior to the start.

2.5 A yacht will qualify for a series score only if it finishes more than 50% of the races in that series.

2.6 Scores from races sailed in a one-design class will not count for the club championship.

2.7 Divisions are defined as:

 “A” Division (spinnakers allowed unless otherwise specified in the Notice of Race). “A”

 Division may be subdivided into two divisions as follows:

 A-1: yachts with PHRF ratings less than or equal to 103

 A-2: yachts with PHRF ratings above 103

 “B” Division (spinnakers not allowed).

3. NOTICE TO COMPETITORS

3.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the official RYC Race Notice Board on the lower deck of the clubhouse.

4. CHANGES IN SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

4.1 Any change in the sailing instructions will be posted on the official notice board prior to two (2) hours before the scheduled start time of a race.

5. SIGNALS

5.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed at the cupola.

5.2 The division starting will be signaled by a division flag of the same color as the corresponding division pennant described in 5.3 below. For races where A-1 and A-2 sail together, the combined A Division shall be signaled using both white and blue division flags.

5.3. All yachts, except RC approved one-design classes, must fly a colored division pennant from the yacht's backstay. The pennant shall be a minimum of eight (8) inches high and ten (10) inches long. The pennant and division flag colors for each division are as follows:

Division A-1: White **Division A-2:** Blue **Division B:** Green

In races where A-1 and A-2 sail together as a single A division, yachts may fly either a white or a blue pennant.

5.4. When "AP" Answering Pennant is flown from the staff of the cupola, the start is postponed at the dock. Before lowering the "AP" the time of the new warning signal may be posted on the Notice Board and Broadcast on VHF Channel 80.

6. COURSES

6.1 Courses will be signaled using letters signifying the marks. A RED letter indicates that the mark shall be left to PORT, a GREEN or BLACK letter indicates the mark is to be left to STARBOARD.

6.2 The mark letters, and descriptions can be found in the 2007 RYC Race Book. Competitors are encouraged to verify the accuracy of this information. Neither the RC nor RYC assumes any responsibility for the accuracy of this data. The accuracy of the information shall not be grounds for redress. This modifies RRS 62.1(a).

6.3 When signaling the course, the last mark posted shall be the finish. When the last mark posted is "RYC," the finish will be at the cupola as described in 9 below.

7. MARKS

7.1 The letter "M" designates a mobile mark set by the RC. Mark "M" may be used as a turning or finishing mark. If used as a turning mark, the magnetic course and approximate distance to the mark will be displayed by the RC.

7.2 Government mark 42 shall be passed on the channel side.

7.3 The RC may set an inflatable mark next to (within 100 yards of) a government mark in which case the inflatable mark becomes the turning mark and it is prohibited to sail on the channel side of the government mark. The rated distance of the course need not be adjusted.

7.4 All Skippers are responsible for reading the "Notice to Mariners" in case of changes to the location or characteristics of the marks.

7.5 The pin end of a starting line may be either a government mark or an orange or yellow inflatable.

8. THE START

8.1 Races will be started in accordance with RRS 26 with the warning signal given 5 minutes before the starting signal.

8.2 The RYC mooring area shall be defined as a continuing obstruction. The boundary of the mooring field is defined as "the perimeter that encloses the mooring field by connecting adjacent outermost moorings or the outermost part of a boat on such a mooring."

8.3 The starting line will be between a staff on the committee boat displaying an orange flag and the course side of the nearest mark.

8.4 A yacht starting later than 10 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start. This modifies RRS A4.1.

9. THE FINISH

9.1 The finish line for cupola finishes will be between the course side and west of the mid-point (40d 30.17m N, 74d 15.57m W) between government mark "60" and the mast of the cupola. The finishing line for all bay finishes will be between a staff on the committee boat displaying an orange flag and the course side of the nearest mark.

9.2 There is no time limit for auxiliary races. However, the RC may not be on-station after 1800 hours for weekend races or 2100 hours for Wednesday night races. Any yacht finishing without the RC on-station shall take its own elapsed time and report it to the RC as soon as possible. All yachts that retire shall notify the RC as soon as practicable before leaving the racing area

10. PROTESTS

10.1 Written protests shall be filed with the Protest Committee (PC) or RC no later than 2 hours after the last yacht finishes. If the PC or RC is not available, protests shall be delivered to the RYC bar and be dated, signed and time stamped by the bartender. This modifies RRS 61.3. Protest forms are available at the RYC bar.

10.2 Protest hearings will be scheduled by the PC in the order received. Protest hearings will be heard at RYC, and if practicable, on the same date submitted.

10.3 An arbitration meeting will be held prior to the protest hearing for all cases involving violations of RRS Part 2. After a protest form is delivered, one designated representative of each

yacht will appear before one or more Arbiters. Each representative shall be permitted no more than 5 minutes of testimony. Testimony from witnesses is not permitted. After hearing the testimony of each representative, the arbiter(s) shall reach one of the following conclusions:

A. There was no breach of a rule. If the representatives agree, the protest is withdrawn and cannot be reopened. If any representative disagrees, the matter is referred to the PC for a hearing.

B. There was a breach of a rule by one or more of the yachts involved that did not include injury or serious damage. The representative of each offending yacht has the option of: 1) accepting a 40% alternative penalty (using the general approach of RRS 44.3(c)) or; 2) submitting the matter to the PC for a hearing. If the penalty is accepted, the matter cannot be reopened or made the subject of redress by the yachts that were party to the arbitration.

C. The matter should go to the PC for a hearing. This conclusion is mandatory in cases where the designated parties of the yachts involved disagree as to whether there was injury or serious damage resulting from the incident.

10.4 The PC and Arbiters will be assigned by the RC Chairman.

11. SCORING

11.1 RRS Appendix A2 is modified so that each yacht's series score will be the sum of her race scores. As a further modification, there will be no throwouts unless so stated in the Notice of Race for a specific series.

11.2 For purposes of assigning penalty points, the number of starters will be the maximum number of starters for any race that day.

12. RADIO COMMUNICATION

12.1 All yachts racing shall carry a VHF radio capable of transmitting and receiving on VHF Channels 80 and 16, and all yachts shall monitor VHF Channel 80.

12.2 Prior to the warning signal for each division, the RC may announce by radio on VHF Channel 80 the course to be sailed.

12.3 Individual recalls will be signaled in accordance with RRS 29.2. As a courtesy, the RC will attempt to hail yachts on VHF Channel 80. The failure of any yacht to hear the hail, the hail of some but not all OCS yachts, the untimely hail of some or all OCS yachts, or failure to hail any or all yachts shall not be grounds for redress. This modifies Rule 62.1

13. PRIZES

13.1 A first place trophy will be awarded to a division with three (3) starters. A second place trophy shall be awarded to a division with five (5) starters or more. A third place trophy shall be awarded to a division with (7) starters.

14. SAFETY

14.1 All yachts shall carry the safety equipment required by applicable national, state, and local rules/regulations.

14.2 All yachts shall comply with the applicable international, national, state, and local navigation rules, and shall stay clear of commercial traffic in marked channels.

14.3 A section of the Ward Point Bend deep water channel is off limits for racing yachts. This section is limited on the northwestern end by a line between mark "60" and the mid-point between mark "60" and the RYC cupola. The restricted section of the channel is limited on the eastern end by a line between marks "R46" and "G47."

14.4 Suspected violations of any part of 14.1 to 14.3 may result in protests by another competitor or by the RC in accordance with RRS 60, with a possible penalty of disqualification from the race, disqualification for all races sailed on the day of the infraction, or other disciplinary action consistent with the seriousness of the infraction. Repeated violations of 14.3 will result in automatic disqualification from the race and/or the series and may result in a ban from future racing.

15. DISPOSAL OF WASTE OR TRASH

16. Yachts shall not discharge trash over the side. Suspected violation of this provision may result in protest by another competitor, or by the RC in accordance with RRS 60, with a possible penalty of disqualification from the race, disqualification from all races sailed on the day of the infraction, or other disciplinary action consistent with the seriousness of the infraction.

16. RESPONSIBILITY

16.1 The RYC, the RC, and/or their representatives assume no responsibility for accidents and/or injuries to persons suffered in any way or from any cause in any way related to the race or series.

16.2 The responsibility of the RC is to provide a start and to record positions and elapsed times at the finish. The decision to start, continue, or retire from a race is the sole responsibility of each competitor.