

SEASON NOTICE OF RACE

and

GENERAL SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Introduction

A. The yacht clubs and sailing associations of Mass Bay Sailing Association (MBSA) plan to sponsor races and regattas, and they invite you to participate.

B. The yacht clubs and sailing associations are the *Organizing Authority* (OA) of their respective *Events* (races, regattas and/or series). The OA shall have the authority to set the conditions of the *Event(s)* and to modify these General Sailing Instructions (GSI).

2. General

A. Each boat owner is responsible for the safety of his or her boat, crew and guests. By entering an *Event* or participating therein, each boat owner warrants and represents for the benefit of his or her crew and guests, the *organizing authorit(y)(ies)*, club(s), participants and spectators of the *Event* that:

(1) His or her boat is seaworthy including, but not limited to, the soundness of the hull, spars, rigging, sails and all gear and equipment.

(2) His or her crew is experienced and in good physical condition to safely and properly participate in the *Event*.

B. Each boat owner and crew member acknowledges that he or she participates in an *Event* at his or her own risk, and warrants and represents that he or she will comply with all applicable rules and regulations of the *OA* and any applicable state and federal laws. Each boat owner and crew member agrees to grant *OA* a waiver of any loss or liability arising from participation by the boat owner and/or crew member(s) in any *Event*.

C. Each skipper is responsible for the conduct of his or her crew during any *Event*. Conduct deemed by the *OA* or host club as unbecoming a yachtsman may result in action under RRS 69.

3. Rules

A. The *Event(s)* will be governed by The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), the ISAF Special Regulations Governing Offshore and Oceanic Equipment and Preparation (SRGOOE) including the prescriptions of US SAILING, the current Mass Bay Sailing Association Year Book (including, but not limited to, the Schedule of *Events*), PHRF-NE Policy, Procedures and Bylaws, MBSA Standard Rounding Marks and MBSA Standard Courses), these General Sailing Instructions and Event Sailing Instructions (EIS), except as any of these are changed by the Event Sailing Instructions (ESI) for each *Event*. Unless otherwise specified in the ESI:

(1) Each *Event* will be SRGOOE Category 5.^(1.)

(2) Each *Event* will be Advertising Category C.

1. Event organizers should refer to IFSA Special Regulations Governing Offshore and Oceanic Equipment and Preparation (SRGOOE) Appendix H and J. to designate the appropriate SRGOOE category to be included in Event Sailing Instructions.

B Except when starting, rounding or passing marks, or finishing, when a race is scheduled to continue after sunset, the International Regulations for the Prevention of Collision at Sea (IRPCAS) will replace the Rules of Part II of the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) one hour after the start of the first class.

C. All competing boats shall have auxiliary power and a VHF transceiver.

D. Boats racing in classes designated as *cruising* (non-spinnaker) will be subject to the following additional regulations:

(1) Boats shall declare up to three headsails that will be flown fully attached to the headstay and of windward genoa design.

(2) Except for cutter-rigged boats, only one headsail may be flown at one time unless in the process of a sail change involving that sail.

(3) Cutter-rigged boats may fly staysail and genoa but only one of each at the same time. The staysail will not count as a declared headsail.

(4) Yawls, ketches and schooners may only race using mizzen sail, mizzen staysail, mainsail and one headsail at any one time, unless cutter-rigged.

(5) Cat-rigged boats shall not fly any sail in the foretriangle.

4. Entries

A Eligible boats may be entered for each *Event* by completing registration with the OA Entry Forms can be found at the back of the MBSA Year Book or OA's may have on line entry forms and procedures. The entry fee is payable to the *Event* OA and must be paid in order to be scored. The entry deadline shall be specified the Event Sailing Instructions (ESI). No refunds will be made if an entry is withdrawn after the entry deadline specified in the ESI.

B Ratings to be used shall be Performance Handicap Racing Fleet (PHRF-NE) or as specified in the ESI.

C Each boat entering an *Event* shall provide the OA with a valid copy of the appropriate rating certificate.

5. Notices to Competitors

The procedure for notices to competitors shall be specified in the ESI.

6. Changes in Sailing Instructions

Unless otherwise specified in the ESI, any change to the sailing instructions will be posted before 0800 on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 1800 on the day before it will take effect.

7. Signals Made Ashore

The location for Signals Made Ashore, if any, shall be specified in the ESI.

A. When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 60 minutes' in the race signal AP.

B. The meaning for any additional Signals Made Ashore shall be specified in the ESI.

8. Schedule of Races

- A. The schedule of Races shall be specified in the ESI.
- B. Unless otherwise specified in the ESI, no warning signal will be made after 1600 on the last day of an *Event*.

9. Class Flags

Each boat shall display, from her backstay or a stern staff, the class flag for the class in which she is competing, as specified in the ESI, commencing with, or prior to, her warning signal until she finishes.

10. Racing Area and Check-In

A The racing area shall be specified by the ESI.

- B. Boats shall check in with the Race Committee Signal Boat before their first start each day. Boats that fail to check in may be scored DNS for that race (changes RRS 63.1 and A5).

11. The Course

A. Courses will either be taken from MSBA Standard Courses, from MSBA Standard Rounding Marks, List A, B or C or composed of a list of marks issued by the Event organizers.

- B. Course signals will be displayed prior to or with the Preparatory Signal (changes RRS 27.1).

C. Courses taken from MSBA Standard Rounding Marks, List A, B, or C will be designated by letters or numbers displayed by the committee boat, either in a rack or by code flags. Marks shall be rounded, and the finishing mark passed, in the order displayed, reading from top to bottom.

(1) The finishing line shall be at the last posted mark, or, to provide for simultaneous rounding of a nearby mark and finishing by separate classes, the finishing line may be set slightly (approximately 100 yards) beyond the windward or leeward mark as applicable. If a separate finishing mark is set, the nearby windward or leeward mark is not a mark of the course for the final leg.

(2) Code Flag "T" indicates that the posted course is to be sailed twice. The starting mark is not included unless it is also a posted mark of the course.

(3) When a portable windward mark is used, the approximate compass bearing and distance from the starting mark will be displayed.

(4) When code flags are used, 1st Substitute duplicates the first flag in the hoist, 2nd Substitute duplicates the second flag and 3rd Substitute duplicates the third flag in the hoist

(5) If, from the rhumb line to a mark, the rhumb line course to the next mark lies to starboard, the mark shall be left to starboard; otherwise (including reciprocal headings) the mark shall be left to port. These rhumb lines shall be drawn to include any relevant restricted area marks that have a required side.

D. The MBSA Standard Courses (including diagrams and footnotes) show the courses, including the approximate angles between legs, the order in which marks are to be passed, and the side on which each mark is to be left. The approximate compass bearing and approximate distance from the Starting Mark to Mark 1 will be displayed from the race committee signal boat.

(1) To provide for simultaneous rounding of the leeward mark and starting by separate classes, the starting mark may be set slightly (approximately 100 yards) to leeward of the leeward mark.

(2) *Offset Mark:* An offset mark may be in place for the first rounding of Mark 1. The offset mark will be the same color as Mark 1. Boats shall pass Mark 1 to port and then pass the offset mark to port. For subsequent roundings of Mark 1, the offset mark is not a mark of the course.

(3) To provide for simultaneous rounding of a nearby mark and finishing by separate classes, the finishing mark may be set slightly (approximately 100 yards) beyond the windward or leeward mark as applicable. If such a separate finishing mark is set, the nearby windward or leeward mark is not a mark of the course for the final leg.

12. Marks

Marks will either be:

- A. As identified in the MBSA Standard Rounding Marks List A, B, C, from a list specified in the EIS or
- B. As identified in the ESI (as when inflatable marks are used with MSBA Standard Courses).

13. Areas that are Obstructions

Unless otherwise specified in the ESI, the Passing or Boundary Marks (Restricted Areas) contained in MBSA Standard Rounding Mark Lists A, B & C are hereby incorporated by reference and apply during all races.

14. The Start

- A. Unless otherwise specified in the ESI, races will be started using RRS 26.
- B. The starting line will be between a staff from which an orange or yellow flag or shape is displayed on the race committee boat and a nearby Mark.
- C. Each boat shall keep clear of the “Starting Area” and first leg of the course for the period commencing at the preparatory signal for the first class to start and ending with her own preparatory signal.
- D. The “Starting Area” is defined as a box whose top extends one-half the length of the starting line past either end of the starting line and whose sides are one half of the length of the starting **line behind the starting line.**

15. Recalls

Any procedures for recalling boats (either individually or generally) other than, or in addition to, RRS 29 shall be specified in the ESI.

16. Change of Course After the Start

- A. For races using MBSA Standard Rounding Mark Lists A, B or C (Government Marks), a change of course after the start will be signaled before the leading boat has begun the leg. The Race Committee will display the approximate compass bearing to the new mark and the letter or number identifying the new mark. The mark at which the change of course is being signaled shall be rounded in accordance with SI 11.C. (3), as if the course had **NOT** been changed.
- B. For Races using MSBA Standard Courses, changing the next leg of the course shall be in accordance with RRS 33

17. The Finish

- A. The finishing line will be between a staff from which an orange or yellow flag or shape is displayed on a race committee boat and the nearby mark.
- B. Each boat is also responsible for taking her own time and, if possible, the names or sail numbers of the boats immediately ahead and astern. This information shall be provided to the race committee upon request.
- C. If the race committee intends to start another race on the same day, it will display the Second Substitute (with no sound) while boats are finishing.

18. Retiring

In the event of an emergency or if a boat withdraws either the boat or associated support boat shall notify the race committee as soon as practicable.

19. Penalty System

The Scoring Penalty, RRS 44.3, will apply.

20. Time Limit

- A. Any Time Limit(s) shall be specified in the ESI, stated as a number of hours and minutes after the actual starting time of each class.
- B. Any Finishing Window(s) shall be specified in the ESI stated as number of minutes after the first boat in each class *finishes*.
- C. If a Finishing Window applies, boats failing to finish within the finishing window or within the time limit, whichever is later, will be scored Did Not Finish (changes RRS 35).

21. Protests

- A. Protests may be written on forms available at the OA and shall be delivered there within one (1) hour after the race committee finish boat, for the race in which the protesting boat competed, docks.
- B. Protests will be heard in approximately the order of receipt as soon as possible.
- C. Protest notices will be posted, in accordance with the Notice to Competitors provisions in the ESI, within 30 minutes after the protest time limit to inform competitors where and when there is a hearing in which they are parties to a hearing or named as witnesses. This constitutes the notice required by RRS 63.2
- D. On the last day of the regatta a request for reopening a hearing shall be delivered (Changes RRS 62.2 and RRS 66)
 - (1) within the protest time limit if the party requesting reopening was informed of the decision on the previous day.

(2) no later than 30 minutes after the party requesting reopening was informed of the decision on that day.

22. Scoring

A. Unless changed in ESI:

(1) No race scores will be discarded.

(2) One race is required to constitute a series.

(3) Series score ties are in accordance with RRS A8.1. When a tie still remains, it will be broken in favor of the yacht with the lowest total corrected time for all races. For a yacht scored BFD, DGM, DNC, DNF, DNS, OCS, RAF, SCP, TLE (Time Limit Expired), or DSQ her corrected time in that race shall be the corrected time of the yacht finishing last in that class plus one minute (changes RRS A8.2).

B. Race scores will be based on corrected time, using MBSA Class Splits.

C. When MBSA Standard Courses are used, the posted distance, adjusted for starting marks beyond the leeward mark, wing marks and finish lines beyond the windward or leeward marks, if any, will be official for scoring purposes.

D. When MSBA Standard Rounding Marks, List A, B or C are used, the distance as measured from the mark positions, adjusted for starting marks beyond the leeward mark, finish lines beyond the windward or leeward marks, if any, and fixed obstructions such as islands and passing and boundary marks, if any, will be official for scoring purposes. If an obstruction may be passed on more than one side the shorter distance shall be used.

E. Each OA will inform all *Event* entrants of the race results within two weeks. Failure to do so may cause the elimination of the *Event* as a qualifying *Event* for any fleet standings.

23. Support Boats

Team leaders, coaches and other support personnel, who are not part of the boat's crew, shall not be in the racing area from the time of the preparatory signal for the first class to start until all boats have finished or the race committee signals a postponement, general recall or abandonment. The penalty for failing to comply with this requirement may be the disqualification of all boats associated with the support personnel who do so.

24. Prizes

Prizes shall be as specified by the ESI.

25. Disclaimer of Liability

Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. See RRS 4, Decision to Race. The OA 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.

