

VALLEJO YACHT CLUB

2011 General Sailing Instructions

Updated April 2011

1. Rules

1.1. The 2009-2012 rules of the USSA apply unless amended hereby for all races

2. Eligibility

2.1. All Yachts belonging to or chartered to a VYC member are eligible. All eligible Yachts must have a VYC member aboard during races. The club member shall be considered the sponsor for members of the crew who are not members of VYC. Guest boats may race at the discretion of the Race Committee.

3. Entry

3.1. A competitor must complete and file a Vallejo Yacht Club, 2010 Yacht Racing Entry Form with the Fleet Captain Sail prior to competing. A Yacht will not be scored without an entry form on file. Yachts shall be deemed to be competing with spinnaker and 155% maximum genoa, unless otherwise declared. Vallejo Yacht Club PHRF ratings shall be assigned by a Rating Committee appointed by the Fleet Captain Sail based upon the information declared on the Entry Form.

3.2. A "Season Entry Fee" will be charged. Late season entries will be prorated for the remaining races. No forms will be accepted without payment.

3.3. Each yacht shall be assigned to one (1) of three (3) classes:

- Fleet A SPINNAKER
- Fleet B NON-SPINNAKER < 149
- Fleet C NON-SPINNAKER, PHRF > 150

3.4. A yacht starting a Series in an assigned Fleet must complete the Series in the same Fleet.

3.5. All requests for rating changes shall be submitted in writing, along with evidence to support the request, to the Fleet Captain Sail for consideration by the Rating Committee.

3.6. Rating changes will be posted, along with the effective date, at least one (1) week prior to the effective date. Rating changes shall not be retroactive.

3.7. Scores for a boat that races in both fleets during different series may not be combined for scoring in the Season Championships.

4. Allowances

4.1. Time allowances may be assigned to yachts which declare one (1) or more of the following: no spinnaker, inboard engine without a folding/feathering propeller, no headsails greater than 125%, and/or roller

furling jib with tack attached to drum and drum entirely above deck. No time allowances will be assigned for yachts that hold PHRF ratings based on no spinnaker and/or no large headsails.

4.2. If no spinnaker is declared a yacht may not fly two (2) headsails at the same time, with the exception of yachts holding a PHRF ratings based on a two (2) headsail rig.

4.3. Scoring handicaps will normally be calculated using the PHRF Time-On-Distance method. The Fleet Captain Sail may choose to score an individual series using Time-On-Time by posting an announcement to that affect at least one week prior to the first race of that series.

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5. Schedule of Races

5.1. The Schedule of Races shall be posted on the official Vallejo Yacht Club Race Bulletin Board (herein after Race Bulletin Board) located in the VYC Clubhouse. Copies posted elsewhere (i.e. VYC web page) are for the convenience of the racers and shall not be construed as official.

6. Hours of Racing

6.1. All Wednesday evening races have the following starts:

- "C" Fleet 1800 hours
- "B" Fleet 1805 hours
- "A" Fleet 1810 hours

6.2. Starting times for all other races shall be specified in the Schedule of Races posted on the bulletin board. These times may be changed by the Fleet Captain Sail by posting different start and/or deadline times at least one week prior to the race.

6.3. All races shall have a time limit of 2030 hours or one half(1/2) hours after sunset, whichever is later, unless otherwise specified. If one (1) yacht in a fleet sails the course and finishes within the time limit stated herein, the time limit for subsequent yachts within the same fleet shall be extended. Time limits for subsequent yachts shall be extended by the PHRF delta time for the given course between the fleet scratch yacht (lowest PHRF rating) participating in the same race and subsequent yachts. All yachts finishing after the prescribed time limit shall be scored DNF. This amends RRS 35.

6.4. Starting times for races not given in the Schedule of Races will be posted at least one week prior to the start of the race.

6.5. Yachts finishing after dark must be prepared to take their own finish time.

7. Notices

7.1. All notices permitted or required by these General Sailing Instructions (such as changes to starting times, deadlines, and courses; rating changes; amendments; etc.) will be posted on the Race Bulletin Board.

7.2. Any changes to these General Sailing Instructions will be posted on the Race Bulletin Board before 0900 hours on the day it will take effect. The Fleet Captain Sail will make an effort to ensure that all racers are aware of any amendments, but each racer is individually responsible for observing all notices.

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8. Starts

- 8.1. Races shall be started in accordance RRS 26, except as amended by the following: Ten (10) minutes prior to the first class start, one (1) courtesy signal gun with no flag or other visual signal may be sounded. This amends RRS 26.
- 8.2. The start line is an imaginary line from the blue/white pole on the VYC tower through the blue/white pole on the harbor breakwater, extending across the Mare Island Channel, unless otherwise prescribed by notice.
- 8.3. The use of other start lines will be posted on the Race Bulletin Board at least one week prior to the start of the race.
- 8.4. Yachts not in their preparatory period shall stay clear of all starting yachts in the starting area. The starting area is defined as the area extending from the Start/Finish line, 100 yards in each direction. Onus is on the protesting party.
- 8.5. Yachts that must transit the start area, such as leaving the harbor, must stay as far as possible to the east side of the Mare Island Channel.
- 8.6. The Race Committee will signal the number of starts by displaying a numeric flag that indicates the number of starts.

9. Recalls

- 9.1. The Race Committee will signal individual recalls by displaying code flag X. The Race Committee may hail the sail numbers of the yacht or yachts concerned. The flag will be lowered to signal all yachts clear or, one minute before the next starting signal, whichever occurs first. Failure of a yacht to be aware of the Race Committee's signal shall not relieve the yacht of her obligation to start correctly.

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10. Courses

10.1. Course numbers for races with a start line as described in Section 8.2 above will be displayed on the VYC tower. A list of course numbers to be used in 2010 will be available on the Race Bulletin Board and the VYC web site.

10.2. All marks, except starting and finishing marks, listed in the Course Sheet are to be rounded.

10.3. Unless a special course is posted on the race bulletin board as described below, a course numbers will be displayed on the tower for each starting Fleet. The left-hand (as viewed from the course) or North number defines the course for "A" Fleet. The middle defines the course for "B" Fleet, and the right hand or South number defines "C" Fleet.

10.4. Courses for special races (e.g. Luna Race, etc.) may be posted on the Race Bulletin Board at least one (1) hour prior to the first start, or course numbers will be signaled pursuant to 10.1 through 10.3.

10.5. The following course restrictions are in effect at all times:

- Mare Island Light #1 (Dolphin) shall be left to the west.
- Mare Island Light #2 (At end of Breakwater) shall be left to the east
- Castro Rock Buoy (R"2CR") shall be left to the east.
- Anita Rock shall be left to the south.
- Pt Blunt Buoy off Angel Island shall be left to the North.
- Point San Pablo Buoy ("R2") shall be left to the east.

10.6. Yachts must stay clear of fisherman's lines.

10.7. Onus is on the protesting party.

10.8. Commercial vessels, tugs, tows, and all government vessels shall be given right-of-way. Special consideration should be given to the turning pattern and approach of the Vallejo Ferry Service at the ferry terminal landing.

11. Finishes

11.1. Unless otherwise posted on the race bulletin board as described below, the finish line is an imaginary line from the blue/white pole on the VYC tower through the blue/white pole on the harbor breakwater, extending across the Mare Island Channel.

11.2. Other finish lines may also be used. Special finish lines will be posted at least one week prior to the race.

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12. Safety

12.1. Minimum equipment shall be the USCG requirements for size of vessel.

12.2. A personal floatation device (PFD) shall be worn by all competitors while racing.

12.3. All vessels greater than 17' LOA shall carry on board, a mechanical auxiliary means of propulsion capable of propelling the vessel at a minimum speed of 3 kts in flat, calm conditions. Exceptions to this rule may be made only with advance written approval of the Fleet Captain Sail.

12.4. All Yachts are encouraged to monitor Channel 68 for race information.

13. Committee Notification

13.1. A yacht retiring from a race is required to notify the Race Committee either by lowering the headsail(s) before crossing the finish line, or verbally upon returning to the harbor. If the yacht is returning to a harbor other than that of VYC, the Race Committee is to be notified by phone immediately upon arriving ashore.

13.2 A yacht retiring from a race is required to notify the race committee immediately upon deciding to withdraw. Failure to notify race committee via radio or telephone will result in your boat receiving a DSQ for that race.

14. Protests

14.1. Protesting yachts are required to verbally **confirm** their intent to file protest with the Fleet Captain Sail or Race Committee within 30 minutes of their recorded finish time. This amends RRS 61.3.

14.2. Written protests must be filed with the Fleet Captain Sail or Race Committee no later than two (2) hours after the protesting yacht's recorded finish time, unless the Race Committee grants additional time.

14.3. Protests must conform to USSA rules. Standard forms will be made available, but are not mandatory. All necessary information must be provided on the form used, as defined in Rule 61.2 of the RRS.

14.4. The time, date, and location of each protest hearing will be set at the discretion of the Protest Chairman. Said chairman, within a reasonable time span, will make notification to parties concerned of hearing date, time, and location. Protests will normally be heard in the Club's Board Room at 1930 on the Monday following the race.

14.5. Rule 69 will be enforced.

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14.6. Parties to protests between two yachts, where the alleged infringement is a rule in either Part 2 or Part 3 of the RRS, are invited to resolve the issues through informal protest mediation. Participation is entirely voluntary, and is not a precondition to participation in a protest hearing.

14.7. Intent to protest must be shown with a red protest flag, the dimension of which should be no less than 12" x 12" and no more than 18" X 18"

15. Alternative Penalty

15.1. The 720 degree turns penalty, RRS 44.1 is amended as follows: An infringing yacht involved in hull or standing rigging contact cannot exonerate herself by this penalty, but must go through the protest procedure. This amends RRS 44.1.

16. Scoring

16.1. All individual races are scored separately for each fleet using the following low point scoring system. This amends RRS, Appendix A 4.1:

- **First** place: .75 point
- **Second** place: 2 points
- **Third** place: 3 points, etc.
- **DNF** equals the number of starting yachts plus 1 point.
- **DNS** equals the number of starting yachts plus 2 points.
- **DSQ** equals the number of starting yachts plus 3 points.

16.2. **RC (Race Committee)** shall score points equal to the best score - but no worse than third place - for that yacht in the series for which the yacht serves as Race Committee. In no case, however, shall a yacht receive a RC score better than any competitor in that yacht's fleet for that race.

16.2a. Any yacht assigned to Race Committee that fails to show up or find a replacement shall receive a DSQ for the assigned race. This DSQ must be carried and cannot be used as the dropped score.

16.3. Ties are not broken in individual races. This Amends RRS, Appendix A 7.

16.4. The six monthly Wednesday Evening Series are each scored by adding the points of the month's races with one throw out. The yacht with the lowest point total in each fleet is awarded fleet first place in the series, second lowest points is awarded fleet second place, etc. Series ties will be broken pursuant to RRS, Appendix A 8. Ties remaining unbroken will be left tied.

16.5. The Weekend Series are each scored by adding the points of the month's races with one throw out. The yacht with the lowest point total in each fleet is awarded fleet first place in the series, second lowest points is awarded fleet second place, etc. Series ties will be broken pursuant to RRS, Appendix A 8. Ties remaining unbroken will be left tied.

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16.6. The Midwinter Series is scored by adding the points of the midwinter races, with one throw out. The yacht with the lowest point total in each fleet is awarded fleet first place in the series, second lowest points is awarded fleet second place, etc. Series ties will be broken pursuant to RRS, Appendix A 8. Ties remaining unbroken will be left tied.

16.7. The scoring system defined in 16.1 above will be used for the purpose of determining the Wednesday Evening and Season Champions as follows:

16.8. A Season Score is calculated by adding the total points for all races between the end of the Midwinter races and the Jones/Duvall Champion of Champions Race, except for races marked as no points. The two (2) Weekend Races and the five (5) Wednesday Evening Races with the highest points will be dropped from each yacht's score.

16.9. A Wednesday Evening score is calculated by adding the total points for all of the Wednesday Evening Races in that calendar month.

16.10. The yacht with the lowest monthly Score is the fleet's Champion.

17. Trophy Distribution

17.1. As in the past, awards will be combined on individual trophies.

17.2. Trophies are awarded to the top three places within each fleet for every trophy race, unless there are fewer than three finishers in a fleet, in which case each finisher in the fleet receives a trophy. .

17.3. Trophies are awarded for the Champion of Champions Race, Wednesday Night Series, North Bay Championship, Midwinter Series and any specialty races on the following basis:

Three boats (3) one (1) trophy

Five boats (5) two (2) trophies

Seven boats (7) or more three (3). trophies

17.4. Trophies are awarded to the Season Champion and Wednesday Evening Champion in each fleet. In addition trophies are awarded to the second and third places in each fleet for the Season and for the Wednesday Evenings, unless there are fewer than three yachts in a fleet with Season or Wednesday Evening points, in which case each yacht in the fleet with Season or Wednesday Evening points receive a trophy. Awards shall be given to all participating VYC yachts. Special Bonus awards may be awarded after each race at the discretion of the Fleet Captain Sail.