

# Sailing Instructions

- **Rules**

The races will be governed by the rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS).

- **Notice to Competitors**

Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located in the Muskegon Yacht Club (MYC) foyer.

- **Changes to the Sailing Instructions**

Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted before 0930 on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted one week in advance of the new race date. Posted instructions may be superseded by written or verbal instructions given by the Race Committee to each skipper prior to the warning signal.

- **Signals Made Ashore**

Signals made ashore will be displayed on the MYC flagpole. When the AP flag is displayed ashore 1 minute is replaced with not less than 30 minutes in the race signal AP. When Y flag is displayed ashore, rule RRS 40 applies at all times while afloat. This changes the RRS Part 4 preamble.

- **Schedule of Races**

Dates, starting times, and number of throw outs will be indicated in the MYC race calendar which shall be available at [www.muskegonyachtclub.org](http://www.muskegonyachtclub.org) and [www.yachtscoring.com](http://www.yachtscoring.com)

- **Class Flags**

Class flags will be:

- PHRF Div.1                      Code Flag 1
- PHRF Div.2                      Code Flag 2
- PHRF Div.3                      Code Flag 3
- PHRF Div.4                      Code Flag 4
- Jib & Main                      Code Flag 5
- Melges 24                      Melges 24 Class Flag

- **Courses**

No later than the first division warning signal, the Race Committee signal boat will display the buoy numbers to be rounded or will display the approximate compass heading to the first mark and the number of legs of the race. All marks are to be left to port unless Changes to the Sailing Instructions have been posted.

- **Marks**  
 Muskegon Lake races will use the following marks: Permanent MYC race marks number 1-8, USCG green navigation buoy number 3 (MYC #9) and Bultima's western most mooring (MYC #B) will be used. Orange inflatables called "X" and yellow inflatables called "Y" will also be used. Lake Michigan races will use orange and yellow inflatables. If multiple races are scheduled, the Race Committee may use a white inflatable as one end of the finish line.
- **The Start**  
 The starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the signal boat and an orange mark, permanent or inflatable. Boats whose warning signal has not yet been given, shall avoid the starting area.
- **Individual Recalls**  
 Individual recalls will be signaled in accordance with RRS 29.1. The Race Committee will attempt to hail any boat recalled on VHF channel 73. Failure to make a broadcast or to time it accurately will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 62.1(a).
- **The Finish**  
 The finish line will be between the staff holding a blue flag and a nearby race mark. The finish boat will display the second substitute signal flag at the finish line if the Race Committee intends to start another race that day.
- **Time Limit**  
 Muskegon Lake course races will have a 2 hour time limit for the first boat in each class to finish the race. Lake Michigan course races will have a 3 hour time limit for the first boat in each class to finish the race. Boats still racing 30 minutes after the first boat in their class has finished and not thereafter retiring will be scored Time Limit Expired (TLE). Time limit will be adjusted by handicap in PHRF races. This changes RRS 35 and RRS A4.
- **Scoring**  
 With reference to Time Limit, boats scored TLE shall receive points equal to the number of finishers in her class plus 2 points. This changes RRS A4.2 and RRS A5.
- **Penalties**  
 A boat may take a One-Turn Penalty when she may have broken a rule of RRS Part 2 or RRS 31 while racing. However, when she may have broken a rule of RRS Part 2 while in the zone around a mark other than a starting mark, her penalty shall be a Two-Turns Penalty.
- **Penalties Taken After a Race**  
 After a race, a boat that may have broken a rule of RRS Part 2 or RRS 31 while racing may take a Post-Race Penalty for that incident per RRS T2. However, a 20% penalty must result in a minimum of 2 places and a 30% penalty must result in a minimum of 3 places. This changes RRS T2.2.

- **Protest Arbitration (This changes RRS 60.1(b), 63.1, 63.6 and 66)**

An arbitration meeting will be held prior to the protest hearing for all protests involving RRS Part 2. After a protest form is delivered, one designated representative of each party will appear before an arbitrator. No witnesses are permitted. After hearing the testimony of each representative, the arbitrator shall reach one of the following conclusions:

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

B) There was a breach of the rule by one of the boats involved. The representative of the offending boat has the option of accepting a 40% alternative penalty (minimum 4 places). If the penalty is accepted, the matter cannot be reopened.

C) The matter should go to a protest committee for a hearing. When the protest is referred to the protest committee, the arbitrator shall not be a member of the protest committee but can be an observer and can be called as a witness.

- **Protests**

A boat intending to protest is required to report her intention and the boat(s) being protested to the Race Committee at the finish of the race. This changes RRS 61.1(a). Protests must be written. Protest forms are available from the Race Committee and the written protest must be delivered to the Race Committee within 1 hour of the docking of the Race Committee signal boat.

- **Safety Regulations**

A boat that retires from a race shall notify the Race Committee as soon as possible.

- **Radio Communication**

A boat shall neither make nor receive radio transmissions while racing not available to all boats. This includes mobile telephones.

- **Disclaimer of Liability**

Competitors compete in the racing entirely at their own risk. See RRS 4 Decision to Race. The Organizing Authority will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with, or prior to, during, or after a race.

- **Insurance**

Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third party liability insurance with minimum coverage of \$300,000 per event or equivalent.

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