



WILLOUGHBY RACERS

THURSDAY NIGHT SAILING INSTRUCTIONS



2024

Issued: March 15, 2024

1. **Rules:** Races will be governed by the rules as defined in the *Racing Rules of Sailing* (referred to herein as **RRS**), these Sailing Instructions, and the Willoughby Racers 2024 Thursday Night Notice of Race.
- 1.1 **Classes:** Spinnaker and Non-Spinnaker (single-headsail only). While not classes governed by PHRF, all competitors are required to adhere to the policies of PHRF of the Chesapeake, unless established otherwise in these Sailing Instructions.
- 1.2 Skippers should limit crew number to max on their PHRF certificate.
- 1.3 All boats must have a current Valid Rating from PHRF of the Chesapeake. A courtesy rating may be temporarily assigned for the Spring Series until the boat receives their rating. All changes to the hull, rig, sails or other factors upon which a rating is based must be reported to the Willoughby Racers Coordinator for evaluation.
- 1.4 Boats shall meet the safety requirements of the US Sailing Near Shore category with the addition of 2.4.6 (or all crew shall wear lifejackets), 2.4.7, 2.5.1, and 2.7.2 These requirements can be viewed at: <https://broadbaysailing.org/resources/Documents/Racing/Monohull-SER-2023.0.pdf> .
2. **Registration:** Each boat must be registered (online at <http://www.broadbaysailing.org/join-us>), have paid the entry fee, and signed up for a race committee boat slot available online (unless all slots have been filled) or signed up to set the C-Mark in order to be scored. R/C signup is available online: <https://form.jotform.com/80724121368150> .
3. **Notices to Competitors:** Notices to Competitors will be posted on the official notice board located outside the Office at Rebel Marine.
4. **Written Changes to Sailing Instructions:** Any changes to the Sailing Instructions will be posted before 1700 on the day of the race it will take effect.
5. **Schedule of Races:** The first Warning Signal will be at 1800 local time on the day of the race.

<u>Spring Series</u> –	April 4, 11, 18, 25	May 2, 9, 16	
<u>Summer Series</u> –	May 23	June 6, 13, 20, 27	July 11, 18
<u>Fall Series</u> –	July 25	August 1, 15, 22, 29	September 5, 12
6. **Starting Times: Starts shall be in accordance with RRS 26. The first Warning Signal will be 1800.**
7. **Starting Sequence and Class Flags / Ribbons:**

Spinnaker (Class Flag Red)
Non-Spinnaker I (Class Flag White)
Non-Spinnaker II (Class Flag Blue)

All participating boats must display a class ribbon on the backstay approximately 5 feet above the transom. Boats must remain in the same class throughout the series. Skippers must notify the WR Coordinator in writing (preferably by e-mail to willoughbyracers@broadbaysailing.org) of their intention to change class for the next series by 1700 hours on the day before their first race in that series. In the absence of such notification, the class in which a boat races first in a series shall determine the class in which she is scored for that series.
8. **Time Limit:** No boat will be scored later than two hours after the last start (e.g. 2015 if the NS-2 class starts at 1815). This changes Rule 35.
9. **VHF Radio:** Race information will be communicated (as a courtesy) on VHF channel 72. Race committee may attempt to hail boats that are OCS on VHF72.
- 9.1 **Weather Cancellations:** Unless weather conditions are clearly inhospitable, the decision to set the drop mark(s) and start/finish line shall be made by the Race Committee not later than 1730. Cancellation announcements will be made via VHF channel 72. Racing may be cancelled at any time (before or during a race) when weather conditions warrant. This decision will be made based on the judgment of the Race Committee and Series Captain, and the decision is not subject to request for redress. Cancellations will be announced via VHF channel 72, and, while racing, by a yellow flag signal and a series of three horn blasts. Observed lightening or severe weather predicted for or during the time frame of our event will be cause for cancellation.
10. **Courses:** All rounding marks will be left to Starboard. Courses will be signaled by a flag on the backstay of the Race Committee boat:

East Start - White Flag
Spinnaker Class – Start-A-B-C-A-Finish
Non-Spinnaker Classes – Start-A-B-C-Finish
West Start - Blue Flag
Spinnaker Class – Start-B-C-A-B-C-Finish
Non-Spinnaker Classes – Start-B-C-A-Finish
11. **Racing Area:** All races will be held in Willoughby Bay (aka Little Bay).

12. **Marks:**
 Start – Orange Ball drop mark north of the Committee Boat, and approximately 200 yards south of green day marker #11.
 A – Bird Nesting Pole at the east end of Little Bay
 B – #5 Daymark at the west entrance channel to Little Bay.
 C – Yellow Ball drop mark located 20 boat lengths southwest of Daymark #7 at the north entrance channel to Little Bay.
 Approx. coordinates are 36°58.080’N, 76°18.400’W.
 Spinnaker Class (Red Fleet) Finish – Orange Ball south of the Race Committee (R/C) Boat.
- 12.1 **Passing Marks:** Daymarks 9 and 11 shall be passed on the south side (to starboard when westbound and to port when eastbound). The line of buoys marking the security perimeter near the navy base (if present) is both a mark and an obstruction. The area marked by the line of white buoys that defines the perimeter of the Spud Area for Safe Harbor is an obstruction. Boats must stay out of these restricted zones at all times.
13. **The Starting Line and The Start:** It is anticipated (but not required) that except for the first fleet to start, subsequent Warning Signals will be made simultaneously with the previous class Start Signal. WATCH THE FLAGS ON THE R/C BOAT! The starting line for all fleets will be between the Start Mark and the orange flag on the R/C Boat.
14. **Line Restriction:** After starting and subsequently rounding the first mark of the course, boats shall not cross between the Start Mark and the Spinnaker Class Finish Mark except to finish. This changes Rule 28.2. Boats that violate this instruction and do not “unwind” before finishing will be scored NSC by the R/C. The restricted line is considered an obstruction.
15. **Shortening the Course:** After the starting signal, the race committee may shorten the course at any Mark for all classes by moving the committee boat to a position near the selected rounding mark and displaying Code Flag S. The course indicated by the backstay flag is to be sailed until the shortened course finish. Finish will be between the adjacent mark and Flag S.
16. **The Finish:** The Finishing Line for the Spinnaker fleet will be between the Spinnaker Class Finish Mark and the orange flag on the Committee Boat. The Finishing Line for all Non-Spinnaker fleets will be between the Start Mark and the orange flag on the Committee Boat. The orange flag is a change from the finish line signal shown in the RRS.
17. **Mark Retrieval:** The first Non-Spinnaker boat to finish shall be responsible for the retrieval of the C mark. Should a mark not be retrieved by 2030 hours, the boat responsible for retrieving the mark shall be penalized one position for the race, unless other arrangements have been approved by the Race Committee.
18. **Penalty System:** Except when she is required to retire by RRS 44.1, a boat infringing a rule of RRS Part 2 may take a penalty in accordance with either RRS 44.2 (2 Turns Penalty – HIGHLY RECOMMENDED) or RRS 44.3 (20% Scoring Penalty).
19. **Protests and Requests for Redress:** In addition to the requirements of RRS 61.1(a), boats shall inform the race committee of their protest immediately after crossing the finish line. This changes Rule 61.1(a). Protests and Requests for Redress shall be delivered (in writing) to the WR Coordinator in the lounge of Rebel Marina or by e-mail to wr@broadbaysailing.org within 1 hour of the time the committee boat reaches the dock on the day of the incident (protest time limit). If the Coordinator is absent, the current Series Captain will be designated to receive the written protest in the same location. It is the responsibility of the protester to remain at Rebel Marina until the end of the time limit or until the written protest has been delivered. Protest forms are available in the Documents area of the Willoughby section of the BBSA website or from the WR Coordinator. However, written protests may be submitted on other types of paper. Before a protest hearing is scheduled for an alleged violation of a Part 2 rule, the current Series Captain or designee will set up a meeting between the parties to attempt to mediate the protest. If agreement can be reached, the protest can be withdrawn, or one or more of the parties can accept a 50% scoring penalty. This changes Rule 63. If a protest cannot be worked out between the two parties during mediation, a hearing will be held on the following Monday in the Rebel Marine lounge. The protest committee shall be appointed by the WR Coordinator.
20. **Scoring:** Boats not having a unique sail number shall not be scored. This changes Rule A4.1; only the R/C may protest a breach of this rule. For purposes of applying handicaps, the length of the Non-Spinnaker course will be 4.1 miles and the Spinnaker course 6.2 miles. When the course is shortened, the corrected course distances will be used for these calculations. Each series will be scored according to RRS Appendix A Low Point System, except that 1) there will be 2 throwout races in each series (1 throwout race if only 4 races are scored, no throwouts if 3 races are scored), and 2) Appendix A Section 9, Race Scores In A Series Longer Than A Regatta, will not apply. Disqualification as a result of a protest hearing shall be scored DNE (disqualification that is not excludable). A minimum of three races must be scored to make a series valid. If fewer than three races in a series are scored, the series will be scored as abandoned.
21. **Race Committee Obligation:**
 Boats not racing in order to serve as Race Committee shall be scored for that race equal to the boat’s average score of non-throwout races for that series, rounded to the nearest tenth. (Example: 1-2-RC-4-5-6-7 shall be scored $(1+2+4+5)/4=3$ for the race when the boat performed Race Committee duty.) Exception: If the race is abandoned, no boat will receive a score for that race.
 A boat scheduled to be Race Committee shall either serve as scheduled, or find her own replacement. If she is unable to either serve or find a replacement, she will be penalized in accordance with RRS 44.3(c) (20% penalty) for the next 5 races in which she competes.
22. **Prizes:** Trophies for each series and other awards will be given following the Hot-Buttered Rum Race on November 2nd.

23. **Disclaimer of Liability:** Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. See Rule 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 the regatta.
24. **Insurance:** Each participating boat shall be insured for racing with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of \$100,000 per event or the equivalent.
25. **Safety/Compliance with Government Restrictions:**
- 25.1 Boats racing in or near a shipping channel shall give way to commercial and/or military vessels operating in the channel and are required to **KEEP CLEAR** of those vessels. Competitors shall take evasive action well in advance of any potentially dangerous situation. Communication directly with those vessels via VHF-16 is advised.
- 25.2 Any attempt by a competitor to exercise right of way over, to cross in close proximity to, or to interfere with the reasonable transit of the race area by commercial, military, or other vessels unable to respond readily or restricted in their ability to maneuver will be grounds for protest.
- 25.3 Should such a protest occur, the burden of proof is on the vessel allegedly interfering to show that she in no way interfered with that commercial/military vessel. Such protest may also be filed by a protest committee as a result of a report received from the offended vessel or local port authorities/pilots; the protest time limit for this circumstance is 48 hours after the time limit of the last race completed.
- 25.4 As per RRS 42.3(i), if a dangerous situation develops, a boat may use her engine to avoid that situation. No penalty will be assessed, provided she does not gain a significant advantage in the race.
- 25.5 In no way does this instruction absolve any competitor from violation of the Collision Regulations.