

RBSA Sailing Instructions (revised April 2024)

1| RULES

1.1 Round Bay Sailing Association (RBSA) races will be governed by the latest edition of the Racing Rules of Sailing (e.g., 2021-2024) as adopted by US Sailing (except where modified below). Participants are reminded of the RRS Basic Principle of Sportsmanship and the Rules: Competitors in the sport of sailing are governed by a body of rules that they are expected to follow and enforce. A fundamental principle of sportsmanship is that when competitors break a rule they will promptly take a penalty or retire.

1.2 CHESAPEAKE CLASS - The alternate definition of "yachtsman" as an amateur ("Corinthian") originated in Britain in the mid-nineteenth century and caught on in America. New Corinthian yacht clubs had fleets of small boats, and the rules required that they be raced only by Corinthian sailors who did all the work, had all the fun, and were paid not a nickel. In this Corinthian spirit, RBSA provides the Chesapeake Class to further competition within the fleet and encourage participation throughout the season. Boats new to RBSA whose skippers lack racing experience will be assigned to the Chesapeake Class and boats who finished in the 50th percentile or lower of the entire RBSA participants in the Wednesday night races of the prior sailing season will remain in the Chesapeake Class if that is where they sailed in the prior season or will have the option to move to the Chesapeake Class if they were not part of it in the prior season. The members of the Chesapeake Class will be designated at the annual Skippers' Meeting and will compete for a single season long award. The Chesapeake Class will have their own start on Wednesday nights and will sail and be scored with other boats sailing what is termed the Standard Courses. Each Wednesday night score, for boats in this class, will be applied the Chesapeake Class standings as well as the Wednesday Series Low Point and Season High Point standings.

2| NOTICE TO COMPETITORS

2.1 Information regarding membership, social events, committees, and other club matters will be announced on the club's website at www.roundbaysailing.com.

3| CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

3.1 These Sailing Instructions will be posted on and any change to the Sailing Instructions will be announced on the club's website at www.roundbaysailing.com.

4| SIGNALS

4.1 All signals will be made by the on-water Race Committee (RC) onboard a Race Committee Boat. The RC may conduct the race from the Linstead pier as a last contingency if their RC boat becomes inoperable.

4.2 RBSA executes a modified starting sequence using horns and VHF radio transmission of a recorded starting sequence. Starting flags for each class are not required to be used; but, the on-water RC may determine to use them if there is doubt that the VHF radio or sound signals can be heard. The RC will display flags for On Station, Postponement, Abandon Race, Premature Starter, Recall, and Shorten Course. All participating boats are required to monitor VHF channel 68 upon entering the racing area, prior to the start, and during the race. The RC will use the VHF radio Channel 68 (or alternate if that intent is conveyed to all participants) to inform boats of the intended start location, to broadcast the countdown to each horn signal in the starting sequence, and to communicate real-time race decisions by

the RC (e.g., abandon race/shorten race). Participants are expected to use VHF for safety considerations (e.g., capsizing).

5| SCHEDULE OF RACES

5.1 The Schedule of Races for each season will be announced on the club's website at www.roundbaysailing.com.

5.2 For a race to take place there must be at least three starters.

5.3 Canceled or abandoned races will not be made up unless there are less than three races at the scheduled end of a series. Make-up races will be announced by email and posted on the club's website.

6| CLASS FLAGS

6.1 Boats will be issued colored streamers at the beginning of the season that indicate whether they are in the first, second or, third start; these must be flown prominently from the backstay or side stay if there is no backstay while in the starting area pre-race, during the entirety of the race and, until signaled as having finished by the on-water RC or when retiring from the race after having advised the on-water RC of that decision. Boats not in the Chesapeake Class may move between the Long Course fleet and the Standard Course fleet only between the end of a series and 24 hours before the start of the next series by communicating with the Club Race Committee Chairperson (Club RC) and receiving their concurrence.

6.2 Races will be run in accordance with the Race Management Instructions as posted on the club's website at www.roundbaysailing.com.

7| RACING AREAS

7.1 Unless otherwise specified, club races will take place on the Severn River.

8| COURSES

8.1 Boards on the RC Boat will display the course designation prior to the warning signal (five minutes) for the first start. The course designation are represented by a letter and number displayed (e.g., "A 8") that corresponds to a specific course that can be determined using the laminated "Cue Card" provided to each boat at the beginning of the season. Boats competing in the Long Course fleet will read their course from the Long Course Cue Card and boats competing in the Standard Course fleet will read their course from the Standard Course Cue Card (i.e., A 8 represents a different course to Long Course participants than it does to Standard Course participants)

8.2 Marks will be rounded in the order indicated on the Cue Card reading left to right. The first mark of the course will be the starting Mark, either A, B, N, D, or V. The starting line is the line between the starting mark and the RC Boat. Boats will start by crossing the starting line in the direction of the most direct course to the second mark of the course. The second and all subsequent marks of the course will be left to port except the finish line, which is the line between the RC Boat and the finish mark. The finish line shall be crossed in the direction of the most direct course from the preceding mark. The racing marks are listed below and are shown graphically on a chart on the website.

8.3 The Club RC, present in the racing area, will determine the courses to be sailed based upon wind direction and strength and working from the options listed on the Cue Card. The selected course will be relayed to the on-water RC in sufficient time to allow the RC to post

the selected course prior to the first four horn signal. The Club RC may also communicate with the on-water RC regarding other race management issues. If the Club RC is not present in the racing area, this role will fall to the Commodore and if the Commodore is not present, to the Vice Commodore, then to the Rear Commodore, and then to the Past Commodore. No other participants are permitted to engage in discussions with the on-water RC regarding course selection or race management issues.

8.4 After the race commences and if conditions warrant, the on-water RC may shorten the course for the Long Course fleet, the Standard Course fleet or both fleets. The RC has limited options as how to shorten course since there are two courses being sailed by two fleets using mostly the same marks. The new finish mark must be the same for both Long Course and Standard Course boats. The decision to shorten the course will be conveyed to the competitors by displaying the S Flag with two horn blasts and also by making a VHF Channel 68 announcement describing the manner in which the course is shortened for each fleet. It is possible that one fleet will sail their full prescribed course and that the other will sail a shortened course.

8.5 Postponement will be signaled by display of the AP Flag with two horn blasts. When ready, the on-water RC will lower the AP Flag with one horn blast and restart the starting sequence at the warning signal (five minutes before the first start) approximately one minute later.

8.6 Recalls: Display of X Flag with one horn blast will be used when boats have started prematurely. The on-water RC will attempt to hail early starters and may employ VHF Channel 68 to repeat the hail: however, it is the sole responsibility of each skipper to return and restart when over early. When the RC is unable to identify premature starters, a display of the First Repeat Flag and two horn blasts will be made to recall an entire start. The warning signal for a new start of the recalled class shall be made about one minute after the First Repeat is removed with One Sound, and the starts for a succeeding class shall follow the new start.

9| MARKS

9.1 All government navigational marks will always be honored in any RBSA event.

9.2 Racing marks will normally be orange and white cans, orange or yellow buoys. Marks will be located approximately as follows:

- A - S of Linstead community pier
- B - W of Eaglenest Point near R10
- C - NE of Sherwood Forest community pier
- D -NW of Sherwood Forest community pier
- E - Near marker R12 and Linstead
- N - SE of R10 near Swan Point
- S - Near the entrance to Sullivan Cove
- V - SE of marker G9 near Long Point

DISTANCE MATRIX

This is the approximate distance in nautical miles between marks on the course

	A	B	C	D	E	N	S	V
A		0.57	1.79	1.40	0.36	1.12	0.33	0.81
B			1.32	1.06	0.90	0.58	0.39	0.57
C				0.58	2.00	0.77	1.70	1.04
D					1.53	0.72	1.40	0.59
E						1.41	0.69	0.96
N							0.96	0.61
S								0.85
V								

10| CHECKING IN

10.1 Prior to the warning signal for the first start, boats shall check in and be recognized by the on-water RC by stating the boat's name and sail number.

10.2 Boats must notify their intention to sail non-spinnaker by hail to the on-water RC prior to start and receive acknowledgement from the on-water RC.

11| STARTS

11.1 Wednesday, Friday or Weekend Races will be run in accordance with the details in the Race Management Instructions. Wednesday Races will include three starts.

The **first start** at 1800 is for Long Course and is scored by PHRF Time-on-Time.

The **second start** at 1805 is for Standard Course and is for boats designated as part of the Chesapeake Class and is scored by ORR-EZ Time-on-Time.

The **third start** at 1810 is for Standard Course and is for boats not in the Chesapeake Class and is scored by ORR-EZ Time-on-Time.

All boats in the second and third start are scored against one another. By announcement from the Commodore prior to the start of Series 4, start times for all classes may be shifted up to 30 minutes earlier for Series 4.

11.2 Approximately one minute before the warning signal for the first start, the on-water RC will sound a series of four horns to announce their intention to begin the starting sequence. This is not a timed signal and failure to receive such cannot be grounds for protest or redress. The on-water RC will use the RBSA Starting Sequence audio file for broadcast over VHF to guide the timing of the horn signals

11.3 Boats that are not within five minutes of their start must not enter the starting area which is defined as the area where boats in good time for their start will sail between their preparatory signal and starting signal. They must keep clear of those in another fleet that are within the five minutes prior to their start.

11.4 The starting line will be between the R Flag hoisted by the RC Boat and the starting Mark.

12| CHANGES TO THE COURSE

12.1 After the warning signal for the first start, the on-water RC will not change the prescribed course without following the Postponement procedure. No changes will be made to any mark on the course to cause it to deviate from the prescribed course that is posted

for the start. Only by following the shorten course procedure after all classes have started can the on-water RC eliminate marks of the course starting with the last mark of the course and then the second to last and so on.

13| FINISHES

13.1 Unless otherwise specified, finishes will be at the same line as the start. If a course has been shortened prior to a boat's arrival at the finish, skippers must take note of the RC signals and VHF communications on VHF Channel 68 prior to the finish and cross the line in the direction of the most direct course from the preceding mark. The required side of a mark may change when a shortened course is signaled based upon the direct course from the preceding Mark.

13.2 If there is no RC on station at the finish, the first boat should stand by and record finish times for themselves and all following finishers.

14| PENALTY SYSTEM

14.1 A boat that has taken a penalty under rule 44 shall notify the RC upon finishing.

15| TIME LIMIT

15.1 Any boat not finishing within 45 minutes of the finish of the first boat in her starting fleet will be hailed on VHF Channel 68 and advised that they are scored TLE (Time Limit Expired), thus concluding their race. This 45 minute after first finisher limit on finishing does not apply to the Chesapeake Class. This changes RRS 35.

15.2 A race in which no boat has finished by 2030 hours on Wednesdays or Fridays shall be abandoned.

16| PROTESTS AND REQUEST FOR REDRESS

16.1 A boat declaring a protest during a race must display a red protest flag. This changes RRS 61.1(a)(2).

16.2 The format for submitting a protest can be found on the website and must be completed and emailed to the Commodore or the Club RC also known as the Race Committee Chair.

16.3 The time limit for submitting a Protest or Request for Redress is 24 hours after the conclusion of the race or incident (whichever comes later).

16.4 Protest and Redress hearings will be scheduled at the discretion of the Club RC and the procedure will be in accordance with US Sailing Rules. Notice will be given to everyone involved.

17| SCORING

17.1 Boats in the Long Course start will be scored against each other using PHRF Time-on-Time handicaps. Boats in the two Standard Course starts will be scored against each other using ORR-EZ Time-on-Time handicaps. Boats in the Chesapeake Class will be scored against all boats in the Standard Course starts as well as against all other Chesapeake Class boats.

17.3 Racing will be scored using the current Racing Rules of Sailing including the Low Point Scoring System and tie-breaking procedures.

17.4 Each series will be scored on the basis of a boat's best races. For each six races sailed in a series, boats earn one throw-out. DSQs may be thrown out. If there are less than six races none will be thrown out.

17.5 If a skipper provides the on-water RC personnel for a race in which his boat does not compete, this will count as participation in that race. Points will be awarded equal to the boats average score in her races in that series (excluding throw-outs). Only one such award may be made per series.

17.6 Designated Fun Races, and other annual races will not count toward series Low Point or Season High Point standings.

17.7 Races in which 50% or more of the boats that qualified as starters in the race are scored as TLE (as scored by Rule 17.8) shall not count as a race toward the series and HP calculation; Wednesday or Friday whichever is applicable. This changes RRS 35.

17.8 Any boat not finishing within 45 minutes of the finish of the first boat in her class will be scored TLE (Time Limit Expired). This 45 minute TLE scoring does not apply to the Chesapeake Class. This changes RRS 35.

17.9 The RC scorer, without hearing, will assign boats scored TLE points equal to the number of boats in the fleet within the time limit plus 2 points, except that they will not be scored worse than the number of boats starting that race.

18| VHF BROADCASTS

18.1 The on-water RC will broadcast information including the start sequence on VHF Channel 68 and will attempt to provide additional information regarding Abandon Race and Shorten Course during the race. However, it is the responsibility of each skipper to follow auditory and visual instructions and signals and failure to receive such shall not be grounds for protest or redress.

19| SAFETY REGULATIONS

19.1 All U.S. Coast Guard required safety equipment (and minimum ORR mandated safety equipment) must be aboard and available. The safety of each boat is the sole responsibility of the boat's skipper.

19.2 The on-water RC may direct competitors to wear flotation devices by announcement over VHF radio Channel 68. Failure to comply may result in disqualification. USCG-approved flotation devices must be worn by anyone on deck between the warning signal and the finish signal from November 15th until April 1st.

19.3 Boats retiring from a race shall notify the on-water RC either by direct verbal communication or via VHF Channel 68 before leaving the racing area unless damage to the boat, injury to the crew, or adverse weather makes it impossible to do so.