



## **2023 GRSC Commodores Invitational Sailing Instructions**

### **1 RULES**

1.1 The GRSC Commodores Invitational race will be governed by the rules as defined in The 2021-2024 Racing Rules of Sailing.

### **2 ADDITIONAL IDENTIFICATION**

2.1 While racing, boats are encouraged to display appropriate backstay identification. See Item 5, Class Divisions, Sections, and Flags, below. This is not required, but it is encouraged.

### **3 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS**

3.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the event website on YachtScoring.com under the Race Blog.

### **4 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

4.1 Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted before 8:00am on Friday, August 18, 2023

### **5 CLASS DIVISIONS, SECTIONS, AND FLAGS**

5.1 There will be two (2) overall divisions; a spinnaker division and a non-spinnaker division.

5.2 Within the two (2) divisions, multiple sections will be established to prevent overcrowding at the starting line. Sections will be determined by the Race Committee based on the type and number of yachts entered in the race in each division. Specific sections will be assigned by the Race Committee and announced at the Skippers Meeting and on Yachtscoring.

5.3 Numerical signal flags, as identified by the International Code of Signals, will be used as the Section Flags for the race.

## **6 RACING AREAS**

6.1 The Racing Area shall be defined as Lake Michigan.

## **7 THE COURSE**

7.1 The course will be from a starting point approximately ½ mile off of the North Grand Haven, MI channel to a finish located either : A. approximately ½ mile SW of the Muskegon pier head between the Muskegon committee boat and a mark anchored perpendicular with the shoreline, or B. inside the outer Muskegon breakwall, with the finish line between the committee boat and the north outer breakwall light. Specific finish location will be determined on race day and announced at the skippers meeting. Depending on wind direction at the time of the start the Race Committee will attempt to place a mark approximately one mile to windward of the starting line, RC may forgo rounding due to conditions or wind direction at the time of the start. Mark rounding details will be given at the Skippers Meeting. The actual course length will vary based on rounding mark location, at minimum the race course will be 10.5 miles.

## **8 THE START**

8.1 There will be two options for the start. Race Committee will determine the starting option the day of the race and announce it at the Skippers Meeting as well as the radio prior to starting. The options are as follows:

**Option A:** Races will be started by using Rule 26 with the first warning at 1155 EDT on Saturday, August 19, 2023. The number of section starts will be determined by the Race Committee based on the number of yachts entered in the race. Sections will be announced at the Skippers Meeting (NOTE: it is the Skippers responsibility to note their section on the sequence outlined below). The following schedule of starts will be used to start the race:

### **Start #1 Start**

1155: WARNING - Section JAM and Spin 3 Flags Up

1156: Prep Flag Up

1159: Prep Flag Down

1200: START - Section JAM and Spin 3 Flags Down

### **Start #2**

1205: WARNING - Section 1 and 2 Flags Up

1206: Prep Flag Up

1209: Prep Flag Down

1210: START - Section 1 and 2 Flags Down

Start #3 (if needed sections will be announced)

1215: WARNING - Section Flags Up

1216: Prep Flag Up

1219: Prep Flag Down

1220: START - Section Flags Down

**Option B:** Races will be started by using a modified version of the Rabbit Start. The “Rabbit” boat will be designated at the Skippers Meeting and announced on channel 73 prior to the first start. A representative from the Race Committee personnel will be on the Rabbit boat and will be checking in competitors prior to the start. Rabbit starts will proceed as follows:

**Start #1 (Spin 3 and JAM)**

**1155:** RC will call “Five Minute Warning” for start 1 over the radio

**1158:** Rabbit Boat will sail onto the starting line near the North breakwall headed West on a heading of 263 degrees.

**1200:** Once all boats are on or South of the line the RC will start the race by counting down: 5 4 3 2 1 START over the radio. Upon “Start” call boats can break off of the Rabbit line and begin racing North

**Start #2 (Spin 1 and 2)**

**1205:** RC will call “Five Minute Warning” for start 2 over the radio

**1208:** Rabbit Boat will sail onto the starting line near the North breakwall headed West on a heading of 263 degrees (straight off of the North Breakwall). As Rabbit boat sails West, all boats in starting division will fall in line behind the Rabbit, on the same heading.

**1210:** Once all boats are on or South of the line the RC will start the race by counting down: 5 4 3 2 1 START over the radio. Upon “Start” call boats can break off of the Rabbit line and begin racing North

8.2 The starting line for option A will be approximately ½ mile NW from the North Grand Haven Pierhead. The starting line for Option B will be established using the North Grand Haven pierhead as the Eastern mark, and a “Rabbit” boat that will be sailing West on a heading of 263 degrees. The RC will be on the Rabbit boat, using the North pierhead as line-of-sight to establish the starting line. The waters South of the start line will be considered the starting area, and waters North of the start line will be considered the course.

8.3 Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting line.

8.4 If Option B (Rabbit Start) is used there will be no general or individual recalls. In the event several boats are over the line early the RC will call on the radio for boats to fall back in line and the Rabbit boat will continue to sail West and will extend the start time until all boats are on or under the line. If individual boats do not fall back in line before the countdown ends they will be assessed a five (5) minute penalty. This rule is only in place in the event a Rabbit Start is used.

## **9 THE FINISH**

9.1 The finish line shall be located either : A. approximately ½ mile SW of the Muskegon pier head between the Muskegon committee boat and a mark anchored perpendicular with the shoreline, or B. inside the outer Muskegon breakwall, with the finish line between the committee boat and the north outer breakwall light. Specific finish location will be determined on race day and announced at the skippers meeting.

9.2 It is the sole responsibility of the finishing yacht to make sure that the Race Committee can identify them. Boats that are finishing must sail between the mark and the committee boat. As boats approach the finish line, the finishing boat will call the Race Committee on VHF Channel 73 when they are approximately five (5) minutes from finishing and identify themselves by name and sail number. The Race Committee may not respond due to responsibility of finishing other yachts

## **10 TIME LIMITS**

10.1 Boats starting the race must cross the starting line no later than five (5) minutes after their section start time. Boats that have not crossed the starting line within this period of time will be scored DNS.

10.2 The overall time limit for finishing the race is five (5) hours after your starting time. Boats not completing the race within this period will be scored DNF.

## **11 PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS**

11.1 Any yacht planning to protest should immediately inform the offending yacht of their intent and display a red protest flag. For each Division, the protest time limit is 2 hours after the last boat in the Division has finished.

11.2 Notices of protests by the race committee will be posted to inform boats under rule 61.1(b). Such notices, time and place of hearing, etc., will be posted at MYC.

## **12 SCORING**

12.1 The scoring system is as follows: PHRF, Time on Distance. Corrected time, from low to high, determines place in Section and Division.

## **13 SAFETY REGULATIONS**

13.1 Each boat shall conform to US Coast Guard safety standards and the requirements of a "Category 3 race" as defined in the World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations book (available from US Sailing), formerly known as ISAF.

13.2 A boat that retires from the race shall announce their withdrawal over the VHF radio/channel 73. They must also notify the race committee as soon as possible; this can be done by contacting the Race Organizer Marshall Lystra at (616) 402-0227

## **14 OFFICIAL BOATS**

14.1 Official boats will be marked with an RC flag or otherwise designated by the Race Committee at the Skippers Meeting.

## **15 BERTHING**

15.1 After finishing, visiting yachts may use the transient dock at MYC during the after party and awards ceremony.

## **16 RADIO COMMUNICATION**

16.1 A boat shall neither make radio transmissions while racing nor receive radio communications not available to all boats. This restriction also applies to mobile telephones. VHF Channel 73 is the official channel for all race related communications.

16.2 The Race Committee will communicate with the competitors using VHF channel 73. The information is provided as a courtesy. Any errors or omissions of these broadcasts or failure to hear them shall not constitute grounds for granting redress.

## **17 PRIZES**

17.1 Prizes will be given as follows: The overall winner of the Spinnaker Division will be awarded the Commodores Trophy, the first place finisher in the Jib & Main Division will be awarded the Vice Commodores Trophy. All Sections will be awarded flags to 3rd in Section.

## **18 DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY**

18.1 Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. See rule 3, Decision to Race. The organizing authority will not accept any liability for material damage, personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with, prior to, during or after the regatta.

## **19 INSURANCE**

19.1 Each participating boat shall be insured by a valid third-party liability insurance company with a minimum policy limit of \$300,000.