



51st BVI Spring Regatta

April 5-7, 2024

Sailing Instructions

1. RULES

- a) The regatta will be governed by the Rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) except as altered by these sailing instructions. The regatta organizing authority (OA) is the Royal BVI Yacht Club and the BVI Spring Regatta and Sailing Festival.
- b) All monohull boats will be rated in accordance with CSA Rules.
- c) All multihull boats will be rated in accordance with the CSA Multihull Rule.
- d) The minimum number of crew for each boat will be two, except where class rules state otherwise.
- e) The decision as to the class in which a boat races rests entirely with the Organizing Authority. The OA reserves the right to transfer a boat's entry to another class after the first day's racing and before the start of the second day's racing. In that event, the OA will advise the yacht in writing. Decisions of the OA under this clause shall be final. This changes RRS 62.
- f) Rule 26 is changed as follows: There will be no signal flags except the "X" flag. Signals will be made by horn and VHF radio announcement only.
- g) RRS 29.1 is changed such that Individual Recalls may be announced by VHF radio. Failure to make a broadcast or to time it accurately will not be grounds for redress.
- h) RRS 33 (a) and (b) are changed such that new course information will be made by VHF radio.
- i) RRS 44.1 is changed to allow a One Turn Penalty for a breach of Part 2 rules and rule 31.
- j) RRS 52 will not apply.
- k) RRS 47 is changed by adding the following sentence to the rule: However, discarding wool bands when setting a sail is permitted.
- l) RRS Appendix A2 is modified: No race scores will be discarded.
- m) Bareboats: Anchor and chain provided must be carried on board when racing. Anchor and chain only may be relocated from its normal position.
- n) Boats may be required to display advertising chosen and supplied by the organizing authority. Bow stickers, when provided, shall be attached near the bow as close to the toe rail as possible.
- o) Accredited journalists, photographers or cameramen who are not regular crew members may join and/or leave a boat at any time and by any means so long as their doing so does not directly affect another competitor and they play no part in the racing of the boat. This changes RRS 48.2. These persons are not counted as "crew".

2. CHANGES TO THE SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any change to the Sailing Instructions will be posted on the Official Notice Board by 0800 hours on the day it will take effect, except any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 2000 hours on the day before it will take effect.

3. COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

- a) Notices to Competitors will be posted on the Official Notice Board located at:
<https://www.yachtscoring.com/emenu.cfm?eID=16230>

A courtesy posting may appear on the Unofficial Notice Board near the Registration Tent.

- b) The race committee will use the VHF radio for announcements and general information. An announcement will be made each morning at 0930 hours on the designated course VHF radio channel. It is strongly suggested competitors have reliable VHF radios. Failure to receive a broadcast will not be grounds for redress.

PSY signal boat VHF radio working channel is 69.

SOL signal boat VHF radio working channel is 71.

4. SCHEDULE OF RACES

Date		1 st Warning
Fri	April 5	10:00
Sat	April 6	10:00
Sun	April 7	10:00

Additional races on each day will be announced via the designated VHF radio channel.

5. CLASSES

The order of starts for the first race of the day is as follows:

PSY Race Area	
Class	1 st Warning
CSA Racing 1	10:00
CSA Racing 2	10:05
CSA Racing 3	10:10
Sport Multihull	10:15
Performance Multihull	10:20

SOL Race Area	
Class	1 st Warning
Cruising Multihull	10:00
Performance Cruising A	10:05
Performance Cruising B	10:10
Jib & Main	10:15
Bareboat 1	10:20
Bareboat 2	10:25

6. IDENTIFICATION

- a) Boats without sail numbers may be assigned and provided with a number, which shall be affixed to the bow of the boat within 6” of the toe rail and no more than 12” from the bow stem. Competitors are to ensure that the bow numbers remain affixed throughout the duration of the regatta. Competitors not displaying their bow number as required are subject to protest only by the Race Committee or Organizing Authority. This changes RRS 60.
- b) Check-In: Before the first start of the day, boats are required to check-in with their signal boat by sailing on starboard tack, or motoring by the stern of the signal boat and identifying themselves to the race committee. Check-In by VHF radio is not permitted.

7. RACING AREA

See the “Course Marks” card for a description of the Start and Finish locations for both the PSY and SOL Fleets.

8. COURSES

- a) Courses may include a combination of Islands, government buoys and inflatable marks, as shown on the “Course Marks” card.
- b) No later than the preparatory signal the signal boat will display the course to be sailed, approximate magnetic bearing to the laid windward mark, if a laid windward mark is being used, the

order and side in which marks are to be left or rounded, on a white course board by listing the marks in order. (This changes rule 27.1) A mark followed by the letter "P" shall be left or rounded to port; a mark followed by the letter "S" shall be left or rounded to starboard.

- c) A Course will be described as follows: e.g. **(SA)-10S-11P-9S-(FD)**. Where (SA) and (FD) are the designated start and finish line at **Area-A, Area-B, Area-C, Area D or Designated Area-F**.
- d) The race committee will endeavor to broadcast the course to be sailed, the approximate range and bearing to a laid windward mark if used, on the designated VHF radio channel.
- e) No boat, after starting, shall sail through the finishing line except when finishing.

9. THE START

- a) The starting line will be between a staff with an orange flag on a signal boat and the course side of a nearby inflatable mark. **Rule 26 is changed as follows: There will be no signal flags except the "X" flag. Signals will be made by horn and VHF radio announcement only.** There will be no penalty for late starters.
- b) The race committee will attempt to notify competitors who are OCS on the designated VHF radio channel. Failure to do so, or failure of a competitor to hear or receive such transmissions will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 62.
- c) A 'keep away buoy' may be off the stern of the signal boat and is considered part of the signal boat. Boats shall not pass between the buoy and the signal boat.

10. CHANGE OF COURSE

The race committee may reposition a mark to shorten the course or to realign the course with the wind direction. Information regarding the new course direction and distance will be broadcast on the designated VHF radio channel. This changes RRS 33.

11. THE FINISH

The finish line will be between a staff with a blue flag on a signal boat and the course side of a nearby mark. Some races may be finished between a staff with a blue flag onshore at Nanny Cay and the course side of an inflatable mark as announced by the race committee on the VHF radio at the starting area.

12. TIME LIMIT

- a) Boats failing to finish within 60 minutes after the first boat in their class sails the course and finishes will be scored Time Limit Expired (TLE) and scored points for the finishing place one more than the number of boats that did finish the race.
- b) The race committee may announce on the VHF radio that a boat has not, or will not be able to, finish within the Time Limit, so they should stop sailing and motor to the finish, in order for their class to have another start in a timely manner.
- c) For the Round Tortola course, if used, boats failing to finish within 120 minutes after the first boat in their class sails the course and finishes will be scored Time Limit Expired (TLE) and scored points for the finishing place one more than the number of boats that did finish the race. This changes RRS 35, A4, A5, and A11.

13. HEARING REQUESTS

- a) An International Jury will hear protests.
- b) Protests shall be made in writing and delivered to the Protest Desk, located in the Registration Tent, within one hour of the time the Fleet signal boat docks.
- c) Protests under RRS 78 (Compliance with Class Rules and Rating Certificates) shall be made in writing and delivered to the Protest Desk not later than the protest time limit on the first race day.
- d) Protest forms may be obtained from the Protest Desk.
- e) Protests will be heard as soon as possible after each day's racing. The person representing a boat in a protest hearing must have been aboard during the race. This adds to RRS 63.3 (a).

- f) The International Jury may, at its discretion, impose an alternative penalty in lieu of disqualification for any infringement, including safety requirements, with the exception of an infringement of the rules of Part 2 and rule 31.
- g) Provided that rule 44.1(b) does not apply, a boat that may have broken one or more rules of Part 2 or rule 31 in an incident may take a Post-Race Penalty (30% scoring penalty) at any time after the race until the beginning of a protest hearing involving the incident.
- h) For the purpose of RRS N1.4 (b) the time limit for a hearing by the jury constituted in compliance with N1.1, N1.2, and N1.3 is thirty minutes after the decision.
- i) Decisions of the International Jury will be final as provided in Rule 70.5.

14. SCORING

- a) The Low Point scoring system, rule A2.1, will apply. One race is required to be completed to constitute a series. No race scores will be discarded.
- b) Corrected times will be rounded to the nearest second.

15. SAFETY REGULATIONS

- a) Yachts may not have an anchor overhanging the bow.
- b) The OA may refuse to allow any boat to race if in its opinion the boat is insufficiently crewed or equipped or is otherwise not seaworthy or unsuitable for the course to be sailed. The OA will state the reason for its decision as required by RRS 76.1, which decision will then be final.
- c) The Race Committee will have the right to inspect any boat before or after racing.
- d) A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee at the first reasonable opportunity.

16. PRIZES

- a) Class Awards, 1st, 2nd, 3rd
- b) Guy Eldridge Award for true Spirit and Enthusiasm
- c) Other Special Awards (TBD)

17. PHOTOGRAPHIC AND MEDIA RIGHTS

Competitors grant the Organizing Authority the unrestricted right and permission to use the name and the image for any text, photograph or video footage of either themselves or the yacht they are sailing during the event to be published or broadcast in any media whatsoever (including but not limited to Press and TV advertisements or Internet), for either editorial or advertising purposes or to be used in press information; in this respect, competitors' names and any biographical material of themselves may also be used or reproduced in any way known.

18. LIABILITY

- a) As a condition of entry into this Regatta, the entrant accepts that it is his/her sole and inescapable responsibility for the management and safety of his/her yacht, and the BVI Spring Regatta Committee, BVI Chamber of Commerce and Hotel Association, Sponsors, the Royal BVI Yacht Club, or any of their members and employees, accept no responsibility for loss of life or injury to participants or others or the loss of, or damage to, any yacht however caused, before, during or after the Regatta.
- b) The Skipper/Owner of each yacht participating in the Regatta shall be responsible for the behavior of each member of the crew of his yacht. In the case of any destruction of property, any breach of reasonable standards of good sportsmanship by skipper or any crew member, or the failure to comply with any reasonable request of any officer or agent of the BVI Spring Regatta Committee directed to any member of any participating yacht, that yacht may be disqualified from participating in any future races in the Regatta.
- c) The BVI Spring Regatta committee is focused on offering world class racing. All participants shall comply with any guidelines that are set by the BVI Government and / or the Event Organizers.