



Ocean City Yacht Club

Offshore Sailing Instructions - 2016

1. **RULES**

- 1.1 The regattas will be governed by the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS 2013-2017)
- 1.2 Any questions in regard to these Sailing Instructions must be submitted in writing. The question and answer will be posted on the Official Regatta Notice Board.

2. **NOTICES TO COMPETITORS**

- 2.1 Notices will be posted on the regatta notice board located the side entrance to Ocean City Yacht Club.

3. **CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

- 3.1 Any change in the sailing instructions will be posted before 0830 on the day it will take effect, except for any changes in the schedule of races which will be posted by 1300 on the day before it will take effect.

4. **SIGNALS MADE ASHORE**

- 4.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed at the Ocean City Yacht Club.
- 4.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 60 minutes' in race signal AP.
- 4.3 When flag "L" is displayed ashore, an important message or additional notices are posted.

5. **SCHEDULE OF RACES**

- 5.1 The schedule of races will be posted on the offshore regatta board.
- 5.2 Additional races may follow the first race of each day at the sole discretion of the race committee
- 5.3 When more than one race (or sequence of races, for two or more classes) will be held on the same day, the warning signal for each succeeding race will be made as soon as practicable after the finish of the previous race. A rapid horn blast will be made to alert boats that another race will begin soon.

6. **CLASS FLAGS**

6.1	Class flags	Code Flag
	Cruising class.....	1
	PHRF Spinnaker.....	2

7. **RACING AREAS**

7.1 The start areas shall be in the vicinity of the GE buoy.

8. **THE COURSES**

8.1 Courses shall be windward-leeward for PHRF Spinnaker fleets and will be designated by "W-4" For the Cruising class the courses shall be a triangle followed by windward-leeward and designated by "T-W5"

8.2 The basic course designation will be displayed from the race committee signal boat before or with the warning signal.

8.3 The approximate compass bearing from the middle of the starting line to Mark 1 will be displayed from the race committee signal boat. The distance to Mark 1 may be displayed. An offset mark (small buoy) may be used in conjunction with the weather mark. An offset buoy will not be used if the mark is moved. No offset mark will be used on T-W5 courses.

8.4 When there is a gate, boats shall sail between the gate marks from the direction of the previous mark and round either gate mark.

8.5 Mark 1 will be approximately .75 to 1.5 nautical miles to windward

8.6 Course for bay race to be posted at a later date.

9. **MARKS**

9.1 Inflatable marks will be used for the courses except for the LeFort Cup.

9.2 New marks as provided in instruction 12.0 will be a different from original marks.

9.3 The starting and finishing marks will be inflatable marks for the buoy races.

9.4 LeFort Cup

- a) Start "GE" buoy off Great Egg inlet
- b) Finish Mark - Absecon Inlet Buoy "1"

10. **THE START**

10.1 Before the warning signal for the first class, each boat shall sail past the stern of the Race Committee Signal Boat and hail her class and sail number, which hail will be acknowledged by the race committee.

10.2 Races will be started using RRS 26 with the warning signal given 5 minutes before the starting signal. The order of start for buoy races will be:

- 1. Cruising fleet
- 2. PHRF Spinnaker

- 10.3 The starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the starting boat at the starboard end of the line and a buoy on the port end. Races to Absecon Inlet (LeFort Cup) the starting line shall be between an orange flag on a race committee boat on the starboard end and the "GE" buoy on the port end.
- 10.4 Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area.
- 10.5 A boat starting later than 4 minutes after her starting signal will be scored "Did Not Start". This changes RRS A4.2.
- 10.6 Individual recalls will be as per RRS 29.1. As a courtesy, during the last minute before the start, the race committee may raise code flag "V" if boats are over the start line and lower it when all boats are clear. In addition the race committee will also attempt to announce the sail number of over early boats on VHF 71. The Race Committee expects to identify a considerable number of, if not all, premature starters. It is planned that there will be no general recall. However, should a general recall be signaled, RRS 29.2 shall apply.
The following shall not be grounds for redress:
- a) Failure of a boat to receive the recall broadcast.
 - b) Failure of the Race Committee to broadcast numbers.
 - c) A boat's position in the sequence of broadcast numbers.
- 10.7 Flag "WHITE" displayed indicates that the committee boat is establishing a starting or finish line. Keep clear of the area between the committee boat and the nearby mark.

11. **CHANGE OF POSITION OF THE NEXT MARK– IN ACCORDANCE WITH RRS 33**

- 11.1 As a courtesy the Race Committee may at times broadcast the above change over the fleet VHF channel 71.

12. **THE FINISH**

- 12.1 The finish line for the buoy series will be between an orange flag on the RC boat and an inflatable mark. Boats in the LeFort Cup will finish by passing between a committee boat to port and Absecon Inlet ("1") Buoy to starboard.. If no committee boat is present then the boats will finish leaving Absecon Inlet ("1") to starboard within three boat lengths of the ("1") buoy. When the buoy is sighted at 336 degrees note the GPS time, record it and forward it to Mike Pinto at 609-226-1638.
- 12.2 Flag 'R' displayed signifies that there will be another race today. Remain in the area.
- 12.3 A boat, which retires from a race, shall notify the race committee before leaving the course area by sailing past the committee boat or by calling on the appropriate VHF channel. Failure to do so may result, at the discretion of the jury, in disqualification from all races that day.

13. **PENALTY SYSTEM**

- 13.1 RRS 44.3 Scoring Penalty will apply. The minimal penalty will be 2 places. A boat that has taken a penalty RRS 44.3 shall complete an acknowledgement form at the race office within the protest time limit. This changes RRS 4.3(b).
- 13.2 Boats seen displaying a Yellow Flag while on the course and not reporting and not completing the appropriate acknowledgement at the race office may be penalized 40%. This changes RRS 44.3(b).

14. **TIME LIMITS**

- 14.1. In buoy races if a yacht does not reach mark 1 in one hour or if no yacht finish within a two hour period the race may be abandoned at the discretion of the race committee.
- 14.2 If a yacht is unreasonably delaying the completion of a race, the race committee may score the yacht points equal to last place in that race.
- 14.3 Boats failing to finish within thirty minutes after the first boat in their class that sails the course and finishes the race, may be scored TLE (time limit expired) and scored points equal to the number of finishers in that race plus two. This changes RRS 35 and A4.1.
- 14.4 As soon as possible upon docking the Race Committee will post:
 - a) The time of completion of the last race for each class.
 - b) The list of boats penalized by the RC.
 - c) All boats reporting a protest.
 - d) All boats seen displaying a red or yellow flag on the course.
 - e) All boats requesting redress.

15. **PROTEST AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS**

- 15.1 A boat intending to protest or seek redress is requested to notify and receive acknowledgement from the race committee at the finish line after finishing and clearing, giving the name and number of the boat being protested. This changes RRS 35 and A4.1.
- 15.2 Protest forms and penalty acknowledgement forms are available at the OCYC race office and in this SI booklet. These shall be delivered to the race office at OCYC within the protest time limit which is 90 minutes after the last boat in each class has completed the last race.
- 15.3 Notices will be posted as soon as possible but not later than 5 minutes after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or witnesses. Hearings will be held in the Commodores Lounge of OCYC.
- 15.4 Arbitration- Protests:
 - a. An infringement boat that accepts fault at the arbitration hearing shall receive a 40% penalty as calculated in RRS 44.3.
 - b. For a protest involving infringement of a rule of Part 2 an arbitration hearing may be held prior to the protest hearing.
 - c. After the protest forms are lodged pursuant to the sailing instructions, one designated representative from each boat will testify before the arbitrator. No witnesses shall be allowed. Unresolved arbitration will be referred to the protest committee.
- 15.5 Breaches of instructions 10.4, 13.2, 14.1, will not be grounds for protest by a yacht. This Changes RRS. 60.1(a). Penalties for these breaches may be less than disqualification if the protest committee or the jury so decides.
- 15.6 Requests for reopening a hearing shall be within the protest time limit of the next official race day in the respective series.

16. **SCORING**

16.1 The scoring system is a Low Point System

16.2 One race is required to be completed to constitute a series:

- a) When fewer than 7 races have been completed a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores
- b) When 7 races have been completed the boat's series score will be the total of her scores excluding her worst score
- c) When 8 or more races have been completed a boat's series score will be the total of her score excluding her two worst scores

16.3 OCYC encourages owners/boats to compete in major regattas including class Regional and National championships in other venues. A competitor who misses an OCYC Offshore may request the RC give average score(s) redress for the days' missed race(s). If granted, the competitor will be given a score for those missed races equal to the average score of all Offshore Series races completed so far in the series. Such average score redress may be requested for only one missed race day. The following conditions shall apply in the RC's decision to grant redress:

- a) The competitor must request the accommodation in writing at least one week prior to the missed race day. The written request must name the away-event, which the competitor plans to attend.
- b) The away event must be a major regatta of class event such as a Regional or National Championship, Block Island Race Week, etc. or any event that is attended for the purpose of advancing the sailing program of OCYC.
- c) The competitor may be required to submit evidence that he did in fact attend the event for which the redress was requested.
- d) The Jury shall be solely responsible for deciding whether to grant such redress and its decision is not subject to appeal.
- e) Such requests shall be sent to Past Commodore Burns, "Chairman Race Management"

17. **SAFETY REGULATIONS**

17.1 All boats are required to carry all safety equipment as required by national, state or local regulations.

17.2 If class rules require additional equipment, that also must be on board.

17.3 All boats racing offshore must have on board an operable VHF radio with spare power and be capable of transmitting on the Race Committee and USCG frequencies.

18. **RADIO COMMUNICATION**

18.1 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.

18.2 The Race Committee will communicate with the fleet on VHF channel 71.

19. **DISPOSAL OF WASTE OR TRASH**

- 19.1 Boats observed discharging waste or trash over the side shall be either disqualified from that race or from all races on the day of the infraction, or be subject to other disciplinary action or both.

20. **DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY**

- 20.1 Competitors participate in the offshore series entirely at their own risk. See RRS 4, Decision to Race. The organizing authority will not accept any liability for materials damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during or after the series.

21. **RESPONSIBILITY**

- 21.1 The responsibility of the Race Committee is to provide a start and to record positions and times at a finish. The decision to start, continue or retire is the responsibility of the contestant.