

- 2011-
Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions
Grand River Sailing Club
Sponsored Races

1. RULES

The races will be governed by *The Racing Rules of Sailing for 2009 - 2012*, the prescription of US Sailing Association, except as any of these are changed by these sailing instructions. The races are designated Category A.

2. ENTRIES

Each yacht shall be owned and skippered by a member of GRSC. With approval of the race committee chairperson(s), other yachts may be invited to participate in individual races. Such visiting yachts are eligible to win trophies or flags for an individual race, but not for a series of races and will not be included in any calculation of places and point totals for a series of races.

US Sailing Association membership is required, if necessary to obtain a LMPHRF certificate.

The skipper and boat shall comply with all Federal, State, and Coast Guard requirements regarding the ownership, registration and safety regulations/equipment for their boat.

Completion of the registration form, submission of a valid certificate of insurance, submission of a valid LMPHRF certificate* and proper payment are required for eligible boats to enter. Boats not submitting proper information will not be scored.

* In the event a skipper has not obtained a current rating certificate, he/she may be allowed to race with an assigned rating upon approval of the race committee chairperson(s). The assigned handicap shall carry a 6 second penalty. Such assigned handicaps will be liable to protest, and the race committee chairperson(s) may appoint a special committee to hear such protests. Once an assigned-rating yacht receives a current rating, her finishes in previous races will be re-calculated, but she need not forfeit any trophies/flags already awarded.

3. FEES

Payment of GRSC and respective racing dues are required before a boat ranks as a starter.

Each owner/skipper will pay membership dues in the racing fleet or pay an entry fee per race. Fee amounts are as follows:

<u>Season Entry Fee</u> - US Sailing Members:	\$225 or as determined at the skippers' meeting
Non-US Sailing Members add:	\$10
Individual Races GRSC Members:	\$20
Individual Races non-GRSC Members:	\$25

4. NOTICE TO COMPETITORS

Notices to competitors will be posted on the bulletin board at the GRSC clubhouse and in the GRSC *Rhumbline*, if possible. There will be no weekly competitors' meetings. Competitors' meetings, if any, will be announced in the *Rhumbline*, on the bulletin board, and/or on individual race notices.

5. RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

It is mandatory that each boat have an operational marine radio with channel 69. Official announcements concerning race instructions, race changes, and other pertinent race information will be made on Channel 69 or such other channel as the race committee may designate for any race. Announcements made by the race committee on the designated channel will serve as the official direction to the fleet. Protests of the race committee due to a competitor not receiving a transmission will not be allowed. 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.

6. CHANGES IN SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Changes to the sailing instructions will be posted on the GRSC bulletin board. The race committee, on the designated marine radio channel, will announce any changes to the sailing instructions prior to the warning signal. Changes in the schedule of races will be noted in the *Rhumblines* and on the bulletin board at the GRSC clubhouse.

7. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

Postponement made ashore due to severe weather will be made at the Wharf Marina and/or on the designated marine radio channel.

8. SCHEDULE OF RACES

See schedule provided.

9. RACING AREA

The racing area will be either south or north of the Grand River channel, depending on wind conditions.

10. THE COURSE

The course will consist of windward and leeward legs or other course as determined by the race committee, as set by the race committee on the day of the race. The course may be of different lengths for different divisions. The course will be announced on the designated radio channel and displayed by the race committee prior to the warning signal. All marks are to be taken to port unless designated otherwise by the race committee.

11. MARKS

Inflatable marks will be placed each race day to provide for a series of windward-leeward legs, or other course as determined by the race committee.

12. THE START

Races will be started using Rule 26 unless otherwise noted. The starting line shall be between a staff or halyard displaying a yellow flag or shape on the race committee boat at the starboard end of the line and the port-end starting mark.

The race committee shall signal their intention to begin the starting sequence by displaying a yellow flag with repetitive sounds no less than one minute before the first warning of the day. This modifies Rule 26. The first warning for Wednesday evening races will be at 6:40, unless otherwise announced.

Unless otherwise indicated, division one (Spinnaker) will start second and division two (JAM) will be the first start. If there is more than one start, once any preparatory signal has been made, only boats within 4 minutes of their scheduled start are permitted to be in the starting area. The starting area is defined as a rectangle extending one-half of the length of the starting line in all directions from the starting line or its end points.

If a boat fails to start within 20 minutes after her starting signal, she shall be ineligible to start.

13. GENERAL RECALL

In the event of a general recall, Rule 29.3 will be used.

14. RABBIT START/PIER START

If no race committee boat is available for a particular race, a Rabbit Start or Pier Start may be used. See description of the Rabbit Start and Pier Start, provided, for details.

15. THE FINISH

The finishing line shall be between a staff or halyard displaying a yellow flag or shape on the race committee boat and the mark.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR FINISHING IN THE ABSENCE OF THE RACE COMMITTEE:

In the absence of the race committee boat at the finishing line, the first boat to finish shall finish by passing the finishing mark close abeam and recording her finish time. If possible, she shall then establish a finishing line perpendicular to the course from the last mark, and record the finish times of subsequent finishers in her fleet. In addition, each boat that finishes thereafter should take her own finishing time and report it to the race committee as soon as possible. The time differences between boats taken by the first boat to finish after the departure of the race committee shall establish the basis for the result calculation. In the absence of times taken by the first boat, the times as taken by the finishing boats themselves shall be the basis for the result calculation.

16. TIME LIMIT

The time limit will be one hour for the first boat in each division to reach the first mark. She has reached the mark when she has crossed an imaginary line running from the starting line through and beyond the first mark and is on her proper course on the 2nd leg of the race.

The time limit to finish will be two hours from the start of each division. Boats failing to finish within 30 minutes after the first boat in their division finishes or within the two hour limit, whichever is later, will be scored DNF. This changes Rule 35.

17. POSTPONING A RACE

The race committee will signal a postponement using Rule 27.3.

18. ABANDONING A RACE

The race committee will announce abandonment over the radio and with the proper signals. This changes Rule 32.1.

19. REPORTING

All starting yachts shall notify the race committee of their withdrawal or retirement as soon as possible.

20. PROTESTS

Any yacht protesting another yacht or wishing to enter a protest for any other reason, must follow Rule 61 with the following provisions and/or exceptions:

1. Must fly a protest flag and hail "protest" at the first reasonable opportunity following the alleged infraction. (Rule 61.1)

2. Must notify the race committee of the protest before the finish of the last race or at the first reasonable opportunity consistent with Rule 61.3. The race committee must be notified within 60 minutes after the finish of the last race.

3 Protests shall be written on forms available at the GRSC Clubhouse and lodged within 60 minutes after the time the last boat finishes, or as allowed by Rule 61.3.

4. Both parties to the protest will be given the opportunity to arbitrate the protest with an impartial arbiter.

5. If arbitration fails to resolve the protest, the protest will be heard by a formal protest committee.

6. Protester and protestee will be notified of the time and place of the protest hearing in a manner consistent with Rule 63.

7. Collisions: A boat involved in a collision must either protest or withdraw, doing neither will result in a DNF score for that boat. In light air when boats are drifting and not sailing, vessel contact may occur. This is not considered a collision. Skippers, out of respect for one another's boats, may agree on methods to prevent boats from touching. No protests will be allowed as a result of contact under drifting conditions.

21. SCORING

GRSC races will be scored as provided in Appendix A of the racing rules using Low Point System Rule A4.1.

First place = 1 point
Second place = 2 points
Third place = 3 points
Etc.

The GRSC Wednesday Night Series shall be scored as follows:

Three Regattas of four races each.
There will be no throw-outs in these regattas.

The Summer Series Championship will be scored on the cumulative performance of each boat in all three of the summer Wednesday Night Race Series regattas, a total of 12 individual races. Of the scheduled races, if 11 or 12 are completed, each competitor may throw out two finishes for computation of the championship; if 9 or 10 races are completed, each competitor may throw out one finish; if 8 or fewer races are completed, there will be no throw-outs.

Tie scores shall be resolved according to Rules Appendix A – Scoring, A7 and A8.

22. PRIZES

Prizes will be awarded as determined at the annual skippers meeting, subject to change based on the number of boats competing in each division.

Prizes for up to three places in each division will be awarded for the Summer Series.

23. NON-RACING VESSELS

Racing yachts shall observe Great Lakes Rules of the Road, which require the avoidance of commercial vessels underway.

24. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

Competitors participate at their own risk. (See Rule 4, Decision to Race.) Neither the Grand River Sailing Club, nor any agent of it, will accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the races.