

- 2023 -
Grand River Sailing Club
Wednesday Races
Sailing Instructions

1. RULES

1.1. The races will be governed by *The Racing Rules of Sailing 2021 – 2024* (RRS) and the prescriptions of the US Sailing Association, except as any of these are changed by these sailing instructions. The races are designated Category A.

2 NOTICE TO COMPETITORS

2.1 Notices to competitors will be posted at GRSC and on the club website.

3. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

3.1 Competitors will be informed of changes to the sailing instructions at least one day in advance of taking effect.

4. SCHEDULE OF RACES

4.1 See schedule provided.

5. CLASS FLAGS

5.1 Class flags will be: Spinnaker – blue; Jib and Main – red.

6. RACING AREA

6.1 The racing area will be on Lake Michigan approximately one-half mile either south or north of the Grand River channel, depending on wind conditions.

7. THE COURSE

7.1 The course will consist of windward and leeward legs or other course as determined by the race committee on the day of the race. The course may be of different lengths for different divisions.

7.2 The course will be announced on the designated radio channel and displayed by the race committee boat prior to the first warning signal.

7.3 All marks are to be taken to port unless designated otherwise by the race committee.

8. MARKS

8.1 Inflatable marks will be placed each race day.

9. THE START

9.1 Races will be started using RRS Rule 26.

9.2 The starting line will 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.

9.3 The race committee will 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.

9.4 The first warning for Wednesday evening races will be at 6:40, unless otherwise announced.

9.5 Unless otherwise announced, the Jib and Main Division will start first and the Spinnaker Division will start second.

9.6 Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area if other divisions are in their starting sequence. 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.

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

9.8 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.

10. COURSE CHANGES

10.1 The race committee may shorten the course after the starting signal by decreasing the number of legs, displaying flag S with two sounds.

11. THE FINISH

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

11.2 If the committee boat is absent when a boat finishes, she shall record her finish time, and her position in relation to nearby boats, and report to the race committee at the first reasonable opportunity.

12. PENALTY SYSTEM

12.1 RRS Rule 44 Two-Turn Penalty. See RRS Part 4, section 44 for Properly taking a penalty during a race.

13. TIME LIMITS

13.1 The first boat in each division will have one hour to pass the first mark.

13.2 The time limit to finish will be two hours. If a boat finishes within two hours, other boats in her division will have 30 minutes after the first boat finishes, or two hours, whichever is longer, to finish. This changes RRS Rule 35.

14. PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

14.1 Protest forms are available at the club, the GRSC website and from the race committee.

14.2 The race committee shall be informed of the protest at the first reasonable opportunity.

14.3 Protests or requests for redress shall be written on official forms available and delivered to race officials within 2 hours after the race, or as allowed by Rule 61.3.

14.4 Both parties to the protest will be given the opportunity to arbitrate the protest with an impartial arbiter. See RRS Appendix T

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

14.6 Collisions: A boat involved in a collision must either protest or withdraw. Doing neither will result in a DNF score for that boat.

14.7 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.

15. SCORING

15.1 Races will be scored as provided in RRS Appendix A, using Low Point System Rule A4.1. Tie scores will be resolved according to RRS Appendix A – Scoring, A7 and A8.1.

15.2 The Wednesday Summer Series will be comprised of three Sponsored 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 Series Regattas, a total of 12 races. If 11 or 12 races 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.

15.3 The Wednesday Fall Series will be comprised of two Sponsored Regattas of three races each. There will be no throw-outs in these regattas. The Fall Series Championship will be scored on the cumulative performance of each boat in both of the Fall Series Regattas, a total of 6 races. There will be no throw-outs.

16. SAFETY

16.1 A boat that retires shall notify the race committee as soon as possible.

16.2 RRS Rule 50.2 is modified. When a spinnaker pole or whisker pole is attached to a head sail, it is not necessary to attach the pole to a mast. It may be held by a crew member.

17. RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

17.1 It is mandatory that each boat have an operational marine radio with channel 69, the designated channel.

17.2 Announcements made by the race committee on the designated channel will serve as the official direction to the fleet. Protests or requests for redress due to a competitor not receiving a transmission will not be allowed.

17.3 Except in emergency, a boat that is racing shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats.

17. PRIZES

17.1 Subject to the number of boats competing in each division, prizes for up to three places in each division will be awarded for the Summer Series, Fall Series and each of the five Sponsored Regattas.

18. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

18.1 Competitors participate at their own risk. See RRS 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.

19. INSURANCE

19.1 Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum of \$300,000 or equivalent per incident.