

2018 RYC General Sailing Instructions

1. Rules

1.1 The Raritan Yacht Club races will be governed, in ascending order of precedence by:

1. The 2017-2020 Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS)
2. US Sailing Prescriptions
3. PHRF-MA or one-design class rules
4. These Sailing Instructions (SIs)
5. SIs for each race or series
6. Notice of Race (NOR) for each race or series: Note: Race dates will be listed on the RYC race calendar
7. RYC Race Calendar (ryc.org)

2. Eligibility & Entry

2.1 Races are open to yachts:

- All Yachts with an LOA 19 Feet or more in length
- With a current and valid PHRF-MA rating is posted at <http://www.ussailing.org/racing/offshore-big-boats/phrf-valid-lists/> The owner(s)/skipper(s) must be able to produce a valid PHRF-MA certificate upon request. Yachts that cannot produce proof shall be disqualified from the event at hand and all preceding events. PHRF certificates are not required for yachts racing in Race Committee approved one design events/race.

To attain a PHRF-MA certificate visit <http://www.phrfma.org>.

2.3 All RYC club members will be billed for their racing activity. All non-members are welcome guests. Payment for entry fees for non-members shall be made via check payable to Raritan Yacht Club and delivered to RYC (160 Water St. Perth Amboy, NJ 08861 ATTN: Race Billing) no later than 30 days after entry.

2.4 A yacht is eligible for a **series score** only if it participates in more than 50% of the races in that series, unless a series includes only two races, in which case participation in both races is required.

2.5 Divisions for all races/series except Macan, Red Grant and Fall Regattas are defined as:

“A” Division (spinnaker allowed unless otherwise specified in the Notice of Race). “A” Division may be divided into subdivisions as follows:

- A-1: yachts with PHRF ratings less than or equal to 138
- A-2: yachts with PHRF ratings greater than 138
- A-10: yachts with asymmetric spinnakers with PHRF ratings in the range of 81 – 93. When utilized, this division will sail non-handicap.

“B” Division (spinnakers not allowed), “B” Division may be sub divided into divisions as follows:

- B-1: yachts with PHRF ratings less than or equal to 141
- B-2: yachts with PHRF ratings greater than 141

3. Notice to Competitors

3.1 The Notices of Race (NORs) are located at <http://www.ryc.org>. The official starting times are published in the NORs. Times published on other calendars and/or websites may or may not be current. Please verify all sailing days and starting times with the NORs.

3.2 All changes to NORs and/or sailing instructions shall be posted on the official RYC website <http://www.ryc.org> under Race, by 9 am of the scheduled race day. An attempt will be made to also post the change on the RYC Race Board, located on the deck of the club house, however, only changes posted on the RYC website are official; failure to post on the Notice Board shall not be grounds for redress.

4. Signals

4.1 Signals deemed as being made ashore will be displayed on the flagstaff. The first warning signal, once AP is lowered from the flagstaff, will not be made less than 60 minutes after being lowered from the flag staff. If the

committee lowers the AP from the flagstaff and then subsequently raises the AP on the RC boat, that first signal cannot be made before 60 minutes has passed from the time the AP was taken down from the flag staff.

4.2 If the Race Committee (RC) intends to combine multiple divisions into a single start; each division pennant shall be flown at the warning signal. When division starts are combined results are also combined.

4.3 The pennant and division flags for each division are as follows:

Division	Code Flag
A-1	1
A-2	2
A-10	3
B-1	4
B-2	5

Note code flag 3 is not utilized.

5. Courses

5.1 No racecourse shall be established where the rhumb line for a leg passes through the section of the shipping channel designated Ward Point Bend (East), Ward Point Bend (West) and Red Bank Reach as bounded by Government Marks N '60' and G '35'.

5.2 Except as noted in a race or series NOR, courses will be signaled using a combination of letters and numbers designating the marks of the course. A listing of marks and their locations can be found under in the Race section of the RYC website: Competitors are encouraged to verify the accuracy of mark locations. Neither RC nor RYC assumes any responsibility for the accuracy of this data. The accuracy of the information shall not be grounds for redress. This modifies RSS 62.1(a).

5.3 A RED letter, or subscript "P" indicates that the mark shall be left to PORT, a GREEN or BLACK letter or subscript "S" indicates the mark shall be left to STARBOARD.

5.4 When signaling the course, the last mark posted shall be the finish. When the last mark posted is "RYC," the finish will be a cupola finish as described in section 8.1 below.

5.5 The RYC mooring area shall be defined as a continuing obstruction. The boundary of the mooring field is defined as "the perimeter that encloses the mooring field by connecting adjacent outermost moorings or the outermost part of a yacht on such a mooring."

6. Marks

6.1 The letter "M" designates a mobile mark set by the RC. Mark "M" may be used as a turning mark. When used as a turning mark, the RC may communicate the magnetic bearing to the mark and approximate distance.

6.2 The placard "S/F" designates a mobile mark set by the RC. Mark "S/F" shall be used as the starting and/or finishing mark.

6.3. All Yachts racing must stay on the channel side of the line drawn between:

- Raritan Bay Light 58 and FL 56
- FL 56 and Nun 54
- Nun 54 and FL 50
- FL 50 and FL46
- FL 46 and Raritan Bay Light 42

6.4. The pin end of a starting line shall be the nearest mark on the side of the race committee boat that is displaying the orange starting flag.

6.5. All skippers are responsible for reading the “Notice to Mariners” in case of changes to the location or characteristics of the marks.

7. The Start

7.1 Races shall be started in accordance with RRS 26

7.2 The starting line shall be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the Race Committee (RC) and the course side of the starting mark.

7.3 A yacht crossing the starting line for the first time later than 10 minutes after her starting signal shall be scored Did Not Start (DNS). This modifies RRS A4.1.

7.4 No race shall be started from the cupola unless specified in the Notice of Race.

7.5 In the event of a General Recall, the recalled class shall start after the remaining classes have started.

8. The Finish

8.1 The finish line for cupola finishes shall be between government mark “60” and the mast of the cupola. The finishing line for races not finishing at the cupola shall be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the race committee boat and the course side of the finish mark.

8.2 In the event of a cupola finish, all yachts must round mark “Z” leaving it to starboard on their approach to the finish line, regardless if mark “Z” is listed as a mark of the course.

8.3 There is no time limit for auxiliary races. However, RC may not be on-station after 18:00 hours for weekend races or 21:00 hours for weekday races. Any yacht finishing without the RC on-station shall take her own elapsed time, via GPS, and report it to the RC as soon as possible.

8.4. All yachts that retire from a race or series shall, if practical, notify RC before leaving the racing area.

9. Protests

9.1 The RC Chairman shall assign a Protest Committee Chairman (PC).

9.2 Written protests shall be filed with the PC or RC no later than 18:00 hours of the race day, except for Wednesday night races, which must be submitted no later than 21:30 hours. If the PC or RC is not available, protests shall be delivered to an RYC bartender and be dated, signed and time stamped by that bartender. This modifies RRS 61.3.

9.3. Protest hearings shall be scheduled by the PC in the order received. Protest hearings shall be heard at RYC, and if practicable, on the same day submitted.

9.4. For cases involving violations of RRS Part 2, an arbitration meeting may be held. After a protest form is delivered, one designated representative of each yacht shall appear before one or more Arbiters. Each representative shall be permitted no more than 5 minutes of testimony. Testimony from witnesses is not permitted. Upon conclusion of testimonies, the arbiter(s) shall reach one of the following conclusions:

- There was no breach of a rule. If the representative agrees, the protest is withdrawn and cannot be reopened. If any representative disagrees, the matter is referred to the PC for a hearing.
- There was a breach of a rule by one or more of the yachts involved that did not include injury or serious damage. The representative of each offending yacht has the option of:
 - 1) Accepting a 40% alternative penalty (using the general approach to RRS 44.3(c)) or;
 - 2) Submitting the matter to the PC for a hearing.
 - If the penalty is accepted, the matter cannot be reopened or made the subject of redress by the yachts that were party to the arbitration.
- The matter should go to the PC for a hearing.
 - This conclusion is mandatory in cases where the designated parties of the yachts involved disagree as to whether there was injury or serious damage resulting from the incident.

10. Scoring

10.1 RRS Appendix A2 is modified so that each yacht's *series score* will be the sum of her race scores. As a further modification, there will be no throw out(s) unless so stated in the NOR for a specified series.

10.2 Any yacht scored with a **DSQ** as a result of a protest that is participating in a series where the NOR specify throw out(s), the **DSQ** cannot be a throw out.

10.3 A yacht is considered **series entrant**, if she participates in one or more races scheduled in that series.

10.4 RRS Appendix A9, the definition of a yacht's **finish position** in a series held longer than a regatta is modified as follows: a *yacht* that came to the starting area but did not start, did not finish, retired after finishing or was disqualified shall be scored points for the finishing place one more than the number of *yachts* that came to the starting area *for that race*. A series entrant, that did not come to the starting area *for an individual race*, shall be scored points for the finishing place *for that race* one more than the number of *yachts* entered in that series, calculated at the conclusion of the series.

11. Radio Communication

11.1 All yachts shall carry a VHF radio capable of transmitting and receiving on VHF Channels 16 and 71 and all yachts shall monitor VHF Channel 71.

11.2 Prior to the warning signal for each division, the RC may announce on VHF Channel 71 the course to be sailed.

11.3 While conducting a race, RC is under no obligation to respond to individual inquiries of any kind. Any RC communications must be made to the entire fleet.

11.4 Individual recalls shall be signaled in accordance with RRS 29.1. As a courtesy, the RC may attempt to hail yachts OCS yachts by sail number on VHF Channel 71. The failure of any yacht to hear the hail, the hail of some but not all OCS yachts, the untimely hail of some or all OCS yachts, or failure to hail any or all yachts shall not be grounds for redress. This modifies RRS Rule 62.1.

12. Prizes

12.1 A first place award shall be granted to a division with three (3) starters. A second place award shall be granted to a division with five (5) starters or more. A third award shall be granted to a division with seven (7) starters or more.

13. Safety

13.1 All yachts shall carry the safety equipment required by applicable national, state, and local rules/regulations.

13.2 All yachts shall comply with the applicable international, national, state, and local navigation rules, and shall stay clear of commercial traffic while in marked channels.

13.3 All Yachts shall comply with international and inland rules commonly known as 72 COLREGS and any amendments to include that all vessels comply with rule 9, which state any vessel requiring transit within a channel shall not be impeded by "give way" vessels which include sailing vessels.

13.4 A yacht suspected of violations of any part of 13.2 and/or 13.3 may be subjected to protests by competitor(s) or by the RC in accordance with RRS 60. If found in violation by the PC, the penalty shall be disqualification from the race, disqualification for all races sailed on the day of the infraction, or other disciplinary action consistent with the seriousness of the infraction. A yacht found guilty of repeated infractions shall be referred to the RYC Sailing Advisory Committee with a recommendation that she be banned by the RYC Board of Governors from subsequent racing activity for a period of 1 year.

14. Disposal of Waste or Trash

A competitor shall not intentionally put trash in the water. This rule applies at all times when afloat. Intentional dumping of trash will be scored DSQ for the race closest in time to the infringement.

15. Responsibility

15.1 RYC, the RC, and/or their representatives assume no responsibility for accidents and/or injuries to persons suffered in any way or from any cause in any way related to any race or series.

15.2 The responsibility of the RC is to provide a start and to record positions and elapsed times at the finish. In the event of distance races with predicted long intervals between finishing boats, skippers may be asked to record their own GPS finishing times.

15.3 The decision to start, continue, or retire from a race is the sole responsibility of each competitor.