

2023 RYC General Sailing Instructions

1. Rules

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

- The 2021-2024 Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS)
- PHRF-MA or one-design class rules
- These Sailing Instructions (SIs)
- Notice of Race (NOR) for each race or series

2. Eligibility & Entry

2.1. Any Yacht with a current and valid PHRF-MA certificate.

2.1.1. PHRF-MA Certifications can be obtained from the PHRF-MA Website @ <https://www.phrfma.org>

2.2. RYC members and their crew that participate in racing at RYC are obligated to serve as on the water RC for at least one Wednesday night or weekend race during the racing season. The Owner/Skipper is responsible for running their race in accordance to these Sailing instructions and the NOR for the event.

2.3. RYC club members will be billed for their racing activity.

2.4. All non-members are welcomed 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.

3. Club races/series may include one or all of the following Divisions:

3.1. Division 1 PHRF A1

3.1.1. Division Flag - Number Pennant "1"

3.1.2. Should this Division be split the "Division A2" Division Flag - Number Pennant "4"

3.1.3. All sails allowed under PHRF and/or OD class rules.

3.2. Division 2 PHRF B1

3.2.1. Division Flag - Number Pennant "2"

3.2.2. Should this Division be split the "Division B2" Division Flag - Number Pennant "5"

3.2.3. Only a headsail and main are allowed

3.3. Division 3 Sportboat A10:

3.3.1. Division Flag - Number Pennant "3"

3.3.2. This Division is a Sportboat class with a PHRF rating < 101

3.3.3. The definition of a Sportboat for this Division is:

3.3.3.1. Has a retractable bow sprit

3.3.3.2. Flies an asymmetrical spinnaker

3.4. Colgate Division

3.4.1. Division Flag – Colgate Pennant

3.5. Flying Scot Division

3.5.1. Flying Scot – Flying Scot Pennant

3.6. At The RC Chair's discretion, division may be split due to the number of participants (no less than 13 boats) and/or large rating disparities. Should there be a need to split one or more division the splits will be as follows:

3.6.1. Division 1A: yachts with PHRF ratings less than or equal to < 0 >

3.6.2. Division 1B: yachts with PHRF ratings greater than N/A

3.7. "B" Class (spinnakers not allowed), "B" Class may be sub divided into Subclasses as follows:

3.7.1. Division 2A: yachts with PHRF ratings less than or equal to < 0 >

3.7.2. Division 2B yachts with PHRF ratings greater than N/A

4. Notice to Competitors

4.1. These Sailing Instructions, Notices of Race (NORs), Bearing and Distance Table and a Mark Locations Chart are located at <http://www.ryc.org> > **Race**. Prior to the day of the event the only official event dates and starting times are in the published NORs.

4.2. All changes to NORs and/or sailing instructions shall be posted on the official RYC website <http://www.ryc.org> > **Race**, by 9 am of the scheduled race day. Should the NORs be updated on the day of the event, they will be posted on the website, and a notice will be sent to the competitors via email prior to 09:00 hrs.

5. Signals

5.1. Signals 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.

5.2. If the Race Committee (RC) intends to combine multiple Classes into a single start; each Class pennant shall be flown at the warning signal. When Class starts are combined results are also combined. As described in section 3 above.

6. Courses

- 6.1. 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'.
- 6.2. Courses will be signaled using a combination of letters and numbers designating the marks of the course. A complete list of marks and their locations can be found as described in Section 4.1 above: Competitors are encouraged to verify the accuracy of mark locations. Neither RC nor RYC assume 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).
- 6.3. A RED letter or a letter with a subscript "P" indicates that the mark shall be left to PORT, a GREEN or BLACK letter or a letter with a subscript "S" indicates the mark shall be left to STARBOARD.
- 6.4. 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 9.2 below.
- 6.5. The race committee may change a leg of the course that begins at a rounding mark by changing the next mark (or the finishing line) and signaling all boats before they begin the leg. The next mark need not be in position at that time. The signal shall be the display of flag C with repetitive sounds and the letter designating the next mark to be rounded in place of the mark in the original course. If the next mark is "M" (mobile), the range and bearing to "M" shall be displayed as well. 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. The remainder of the course remains the same unless subsequently changed. This modifies RRS Rule 33
- 6.6. 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."

7. Marks

- 7.1. The letter "M" designates a mobile mark set by the RC and shall be treated the same as any other fixed mark.
- 7.2. The Mark "S/F" designates a mobile mark set by the RC. Mark "S/F" shall be used as the starting and/or finishing mark. When being used as a Starting and Finishing mark it may also be the turning mark.
- 7.3. All Yachts racing must stay on the channel side of:
 - 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

7.4. The pin end of a starting line shall be the nearest Government or Inflatable Mark on the side of the race committee boat that is displaying the orange starting flag.

7.5. All skippers are responsible for reading the "Notice to Mariners" in case of changes to the location or characteristics of the marks.

8. The Start

8.1. Races shall be started in accordance with RRS Rules 26

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

8.3. A yacht crossing the starting line for the first time later than 4 minutes after her starting signal shall be scored Did Not Start (DNS). This modifies RRS A4.1.

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

9. The Finish

9.1. Finishing on the water shall be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the race committee boat and the course side of the finish mark.

9.2. Finish at the cupola shall be between the mast displaying an orange flag and the course side of government mark "60".

9.3. In the event of a cupola finish, all yachts must round mark "Z" leaving it to starboard on their approach to the finish line. Should mark "Z" not be listed as part of the course it shall be left to Starboard regardless, and the race length adjusted to include mark "Z".

9.4. When the RC is not on-station, no RC flag displayed on the copula mast, yachts finishing shall take their own finish time, via GPS or Cell Phone, and report it to the RC as soon as possible.

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

10. Protests

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

10.2. 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.

10.3. 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.

10.4. 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.

10.5. 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.

11. Scoring

11.1. 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.

11.2. 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.

12. Radio Communication

12.1. All yachts shall carry a VHF radio capable of transmitting and receiving on VHF Channels 16 and 71.

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

12.3. While conducting a race RC is under no obligation to respond to individual inquiries of any kind.

12.4. RC communications must be made to the entire fleet.

12.5. **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.

13. Prizes

13.1. A first place award shall be granted to a Class 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 Class with seven (7) starters or more.

14. Safety

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

14.2. 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.

14.3. 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.

14.4. A yacht suspected of violations of any part of 14.2 and/or 14.3 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.

15. Disposal of Waste or Trash

15.1. 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.

16. Responsibility

- 16.1. 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.
- 16.2. The responsibility of the PRO and/or RC is to provide set courses, start and to record positions and elapsed times at the finish.
- 16.3. The decision to start, continue, or retire from a race is the sole responsibility of each competitor.

17. Risk Statement

- 17.1. Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. RRS 3 states: The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue to race is hers alone.' By participating in events each competitor agrees and acknowledges that sailing is a potentially dangerous activity with inherent risks. RYC, The Race Committee Chair and PRO will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after an event.
- 17.2. The Skipper/Owner of each boat participating in RYC events shall be responsible for the behavior of each member of the crew of his/her boat both on the water and while ashore. The destruction of property, the breach of reasonable standards of good sportsmanship by any crew member, or any other person associated with the boat, or the failure of any of those persons to comply with the state and local laws, guidelines and recommendations as well as the host club's restrictions or with any reasonable request of the Organizing Authorities, Race Officers, Regatta Committee members, or their representatives, may result in the disqualification of the boat, and its exclusion from the regatta. It is the skipper's obligation to ensure that each crew member's waiver is reflected on the waiver list prior to closing of on-site registration and check-in.

18. Insurance

- 18.1. Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of \$500,000 per incident or the equivalent. Competitors shall be prepared to supply proof of insurance upon request by the RC.