

Little Creek Sailing Association (LCSA)

Wednesday Racing Sailing Instruction

February 28, 2023

Revision 0

1) Rules

- a) Races will be governed by the rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) for 2021 – 2024, and these Sailing Instructions (SI).
- b) Non-spinnaker classes will be single-headsail only.
- c) Boats shall meet the safety equipment requirements of the US Sailing Nearshore category. These Safety Equipment Requirements (SER) can be viewed at: <https://www.ussailing.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Monohull-SER-2021.0.pdf>
- d) All changes to the hull, rig, sails or other factors upon which a rating is based must be reported to the Performance Handicap Racing Fleet (PHRF) of Chesapeake (www.phrfchesbay.org) and the LCSA Coordinator at least 1 day prior to the next LCSA race.

2) Registration and Fees

- a) To be registered for racing, you must have:
 - i) Paid the Broad Bay Sailing Association (BBSA) and LCSA membership dues. Join BBSA & LCSA at: <https://broadbaysailing.org/join-us>. Total dues are \$90.00, which includes BBSA membership (\$55.00) and LCSA membership (\$35.00).
 - ii) Signed up for a Race Committee (RC) boat slot (unless all slots have been filled). You can sign up for RC at: <https://broadbaysailing.org/LCSACalendar>.
 - iii) Submitted a link to your boats valid PHRF rating from the PHRF of Chesapeake to the LCSA Coordinator at LCSA@broadbaysailing.org. Request a PHRF rating at <http://www.phrfchesbay.org>.
- b) Any vessel without a valid PHRF rating will not be scored, with the following exceptions:
 - i) Proof of application for 2023 PHRF has been provided to the LCSA Coordinator.
 - ii) Members that have a boat that they have never raced with LCSA, will be granted upon request, for their first series raced, a courtesy rating from the LCSA Coordinator. There is no redress for assigned rating.
- c) All requirements to be scored must be met by 5:00 PM the day before the race.

3) Changes to This Sailing Instruction

- a) Any changes to the SI will be emailed to the captains of all registered boats before 5:00 PM on the day before it takes effect.

4) Skippers' Meeting

- a) None

5) Classes and Flags

- a) There will be three classes, Spinnaker (Spin), Non-Spinnaker 1 (NS1) and Non-Spinnaker 2 (NS2).
 - i) Spin: Code Flag 6, 7, or 9.
 - ii) NS1: Boats with PHRF rating of less than or equal to 170; Code flag 5.
 - iii) NS2: Boats with PHRF rating greater than 170; White flag.
- b) Boats must stay in the same class for an entire series.
- c) Boats must notify the LCSA Coordinator that they are changing class prior to the start of the next series. If notification isn't made the boat must remain in the class it raced in the previous series.
- d) Boats must display their class flag on the backstay approximately 5 feet above the transom. If the boat does not have a backstay, the class flag shall be flown on the starboard rearmost shroud or starboard flag halyard at least 5 feet above the deck.
- e) A boat may be protested for not displaying the proper class flag. Upon being protested, she may exonerate herself by taking a one turn penalty. If she does not take the one turn penalty, it could result up to a DSQ if taken to a Protest Committee.

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6) Racing Area

- a) All races will be held outside of Little Creek entrance off the shore of the East Beach development.
- b) Course Marks
 - i) S – Orange Ball drop mark in the vicinity of the RC boat.
 - ii) J – Yellow buoy off Ocean view beach. Vicinity of N36 56.541; W 76 12.163 (location is shown on many charts as VMRC reef buoy).
 - iii) K – Red “2” buoy near the entrance to Little Creek channel. Vicinity of N36 56.483; W 76 10.798
 - iv) L – Green “1” buoy approximately 2 miles north of the Little Creek channel. Vicinity of N36 58.077; W 76 10.068

7) Courses

- a) Courses shall be posted on the RC boat as indicated by large letters for course marks and numbers for number of laps. Leave **RED** letter marks to **PORT** and **GREEN** letter marks to **STARBOARD**:
 - i) Example 1: **K L K S**
 - ii) Example 2: **K S x2**

8) Time Limit

- a) Any boat that does not finish within two hours after their class starts will not be scored. (This modifies RRS 35.)

9) Radio Communications

- a) VHF channel 72 will be used for radio communications during this race.

10) Check In / Retirement

- a) Competitors must check in with the RC and be acknowledged prior to racing. A boat that retires from the race shall notify the RC as soon as possible via the VHF channel 72 or cell phone if they have the RC's cell number.

11) The Start

- a) The start will be in accordance with RRS 26.
- b) There will be three starts. The first class to start will be NS2, followed by NS1 and then Spin. Unless a second or third start is postponed, rolling starts will be used. RC may postpone or combine starts but shall notify competitors via VHF channel 72.

12) Shortening Course

- a) The RC may shorten the course at any time by anchoring at a mark of the course, displaying Flag “S”, with two sounds as the first boat approaches per RRS 32.

13) The Finish

- a) The last letter on the course board will be “S”. The finish line shall be the line between the “S” drop mark and the Blue Flag on the RC boat unless the course has been shortened. Regardless of the color of the “S” on the course board, all boats shall finish from the direction of the last mark or the course side of the finish line.
- b) If the course has been shortened, boats shall finish from the course side between RC boat and designated mark.
- c) While not required, the RC should consider adjusting the finish line so that it is roughly perpendicular to a line drawn from the RC boat and the last mark before the finish.

14) Scoring

- a) The PHRF (CR) Circular Random handicap rating will be used for all races.
- b) Each series will be scored according to RRS Appendix A Scoring except for each class (Spin, NS1 and NS2): (this changes RRS A2)
 - i) The 2 worst scores will be excluded if 5 races are completed.

Little Creek Sailing Association (LCSA)

Wednesday Racing Sailing Instruction

February 28, 2023

Revision 0

- ii) The worst score will be excluded if 4 races are completed.
- iii) Zero scores will be excluded if 3 or fewer races are completed.
- c) Scores for disqualification as a result of a protest hearing (DSQ, DNE) shall not be used as a throw-out. Exception: If the race is abandoned, no boat will receive a score for that race.
- d) Weekly race scores will be posted on the LCSA Official Webpage at: <https://broadbaysailing.org/LCSAResults>.
- e) The RC boat's score for that race will be the boat's average score of non-excluded races for that series, rounded to the nearest tenth. (Example: 1-2-RC-4-5 shall be scored $(1+2)/2=1.5$ for the race when the boat performed RC duty.) Exception: If the race is abandoned, no boat will receive a score for that race.

15) Race Committee

- a) A boat scheduled to be RC shall either serve as scheduled or find her own replacement. If she is unable to either serve or find a replacement, she will be penalized in accordance with RRS 44.3(c) (20% penalty) for the next 5 races in which she competes.
- b) RC should deliver the scoring sheet to the LCSA Coordinator or the designated representative by either:
 - i) Hand-delivery at a mutually agreed location or
 - ii) Sending a text or e-mail with a photo of the results to the LCSA Coordinator LCSA@broadbaysailing.org or designated representative. (Recommend the RC keep the scoring sheet for 24 hours, in the event of accidental loss).

16) Prizes

- a) Trophies for the top three boats in each series will be given at the LCSA 2023 Awards / 2024 Kick-off meeting. If this changes skippers will be notified by email and/or text.
- b) Fleet Champions for SPIN, NS1 and NS2 will be recognized for their class performance in all five series.
 - i) Fleet Champions will be determined by the best 13 scores of the year in the five LCSA series. For boats racing in more than one class, the best 13 races will all be in the same class.
 - ii) The lowest total in each class will be recognized.
 - iii) The RC credit will not apply.
- c) Ties will be decided by the boat with the most first place finishes in their class. In case of an equal number of first place finishes, scoring shall move to the most second place finishes and so on.

17) Contacts

- a) BBSA Little Creek Sailing Association Coordinator - Andy Spittler LCSA@broadbaysailing.org

18) Sail Numbers

- a) All boats must have a sail number on at least one sail, preferably on both the headsail and the main sail. Boat owners will provide their sail number to the LCSA coordinator in writing before their first race. Boats not scored because they did not have a sail number or had mismatched sail numbers will not be subject to redress.

19) Safety / Compliance with Government Restrictions

- a) Boats racing in or near a shipping channel MUST give way to commercial and/or military vessels operating in the channel and are required to KEEP CLEAR of those vessels. Competitors MUST take evasive action well in advance of any potentially dangerous situation. Communication directly with those vessels via VHF-13/16 is advised.
- b) Any attempt by a competitor to exercise right of way over, to cross in close proximity to, or to interfere with the reasonable transit of the race area by commercial, military, or other vessels unable to respond readily or restricted in their ability to maneuver will be grounds for protest.
- c) Should such a protest occur, the burden of proof is on the vessel allegedly interfering to show that she in no way interfered with that commercial/military vessel. Such protest may also be filed by a protest committee as a result of a report received from the offended vessel or local port authorities/pilots; the protest time limit for this circumstance is 48 hours after the time limit of the last race completed.

Little Creek Sailing Association (LCSA)

Wednesday Racing Sailing Instruction

February 28, 2023

Revision 0

- d) As per RRS 42.3(c)(i), if a dangerous situation develops, a boat may use her engine to avoid that situation. No penalty will be assessed, provided she does not gain a significant advantage in the race.
- e) In no way does this instruction absolve any competitor from violating the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREGs).

20) Protests and Requests for Redress

- a) Boats shall inform the RC of their protest at the time of the protest or as soon as possible after finishing or retiring by voice or by radio. The protestor shall ensure that the RC acknowledges the protest. (This modifies RRS 61.3.)
- b) Protests shall meet the requirements of RRS 61.2. and be reported to the LCSA Coordinator on the night of the race by hand delivery or e-mailing LCSA@broadbaysailing.org,
- c) The time limit to send this protest to the LCSA Coordinator is four hours and 30 minutes after the last start. (This modifies RRS 61.3.)
- d) Before a protest hearing is scheduled for an alleged violation of the RRS, the LCSA Coordinator or designee will set up a meeting between the parties to attempt to mediate the protest. If agreement can be reached, the protest can be withdrawn, or one or more of the parties can accept a 50% scoring penalty. (This modifies RRS 63.)
- e) Protest hearings shall be scheduled by the LCSA Coordinator, or their representative. The protest committee shall be appointed by the LCSA Coordinator. Should the LCSA Coordinator be a party in the protest, they may transfer some or all their duties concerning the protest to the BBSA Racing Fleet Captain.

21) Severe Weather Plan

- a) Sustained winds of 20 kts or greater are grounds for cancelling a race.
- b) The RC may cancel or postpone a race for lightning depending upon the location and direction of the storm.
- c) Delays or cancellations before racing will be by the VHF channel 72 and announced 30 minutes prior to the first warning if time permits. Updates will be provided every 15 minutes until it is determined to race or abandon.
- d) Cancellations while racing due to weather will be by the VHF channel 72. Competitors shall respond with acknowledgement.
- e) Any decision to cancel or postpone is based on the judgement of the RC and is not subject to redress.

22) Disclaimer of Liability:

- a) Competitors participate in a race entirely at their own risk. The organizing authority will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after any race. The safety of a boat and its crew is the sole responsibility of the person in charge of the boat. The person in charge must ensure that the boat is sound, seaworthy, and manned by a competent crew of appropriate number for the boat. By participating or intending to participate in an event conducted under the rules, each competitor and boat owner agrees to accept these rules.
- b) The person in charge of each boat shall ensure that all competitors in the crew and the boat's owners are aware of their responsibilities under RRS 4.

23) Insurance:

- a) Each skipper of a participating vessel, by entering a LCSA sponsored race, certifies that the vessel they captain is insured for racing with valid third-party liability insurance, with a minimum coverage of \$100,000 per event or the equivalent.