

# 2016 F18 US National Championship

September 19 – 23, 2016

Organizing Authority: United States Formula 18 Association,  
Hosted by Sandy Hook Bay Catamaran Club (SHBCC), Atlantic Highlands, NJ

## SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

### 1 RULES

- 1.1 The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing 2013-2016 (RRS). If there is a conflict between languages the English text will prevail.
- 1.2 This is an international competition; US Sailing Prescriptions will apply but the US Sailing Prescriptions to rules 60, 63.2 and 63.4 are deleted. Full text of the US Sailing Prescriptions will be posted on the Official Notice Board.

### 2 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS & INFORMATION MEETING(S)

- 2.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the notice board located at the beach entrance. **NOTE:** White boards may be used, i.e. weather reports, provisional results, etc. but they are not OFFICIAL notice boards.
- 2.2 There will be a **MANDATORY Competitor's Meeting** for the competition on Monday, September 19 at 0900.
- 2.3 There will be a Daily Morning Briefing to be held at 0930 and a Daily After Racing Debrief for interested competitors.

### 3 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 3.1 Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted not less than 60 minutes prior to the first scheduled race on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted prior to the previous day's protest time limit.

### 4 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 4.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed from the club flag pole outside the Cat House.
- 4.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 30 minutes' in race signal AP. This changes Race Signal AP.

### 5 SCHEDULE OF RACES

- 5.1 There will be 5 days of racing (09/19 – 09/23) - the objective of 3 to 5 races per day, back to back.
- 5.2 A maximum of 15 races are scheduled.
- 5.3 The scheduled first warning signal:
  - 5.3.1 Monday – Thursday (09/19 – 09/22) will be 1100.
  - 5.3.2 Friday – (09/23) will be 1000
- 5.4 On Friday – (09/23), no initial warning after 1400.

### 6 CLASS FLAGS AND ORDER OF STARTS

- 6.1 Class flag shall be an F18 Class Flag

### 7 RACING AREA

- 7.1 The racing area will be on Sandy Hook Bay and adjacent waters.

### 8 THE COURSES

- 8.1 Standard Multihull Windward – Leeward Courses will be used. Reference Appendix A.
- 8.2 No later than the warning signal, the RC may display the approximate compass bearing and distance of the first leg.

### 9 MARKS

- 9.1 Rounding marks will be Yellow Inflatable Marks.
- 9.2 The offset mark will be a White Inflatable Mark.
- 9.3 The change mark, as provided in instruction 12.1 will be an Orange Inflatable Mark.
- 9.4 The starting and finishing marks will be an Orange/Red Inflatable Mark.

**10 RESERVED**

**11 THE START**

- 11.1 Races will be started using rule 26 with the warning signal made 5 minutes before the starting signal.
- 11.2 The starting line will be between the course side of a staff flying an Orange Flag on the Signal Boat and the course side of the Starting Mark described in SI 9.3.
- 11.3 A boat starting later than four minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes RRS A4.

**12 CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE**

- 12.1 To change the next leg of the course, the RC will lay a change mark (or move the finishing line) and remove the original mark as soon as practicable. When in a subsequent change a change mark is replaced, it will be replaced by an original mark. A single gate mark may be moved or adjusted without a signal. This changes RRS 33.

**13 THE FINISH**

- 13.1 The finishing line will be between the course side of a staff flying an Orange Flag on the Signal Boat and the course side of the Starting Mark described in SI 9.3.
- 13.2 If the race committee is absent when a boat finishes, she should report her finishing time, and her position in relation to nearby boats, to the race committee at the first reasonable opportunity. *US Sailing Prescription to RRS 34.*

**14 PENALTY SYSTEM**

- 14.1 The Two-Turns Penalty is replaced by the One-Turn Penalty. This changes RRS 44.1.

**15 TIME LIMITS AND TARGET TIMES**

- 15.1 Time limits and target times are as follows:

Race Target Time	Race Time Limit	Initial Weather Mark Time Limit	Initial Weather Mark Target Time
35-40 minutes	90 minutes	30 minutes	8-13 minutes

- 15.2 If no boat has passed their initial Weather Mark A within the Initial Weather Mark time limit, the race shall be abandoned. Failure to meet the target times will not be grounds for redress. This changes rule 62.1 (a).
- 15.3 Boats may be finished on the course at the discretion of the RC. The RC determines the method and order of finishing. This changes RRS 35 and A4.

**16 PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS**

- 16.1 Competitors intending to file a protest shall notify the RC of their intent.
- 16.2 Protest forms will be available in the Regatta Office (Cat House). Protests and requests for redress or reopening shall be delivered there within the appropriate time limit.
- 16.3 The protest time limit is 60 minutes after the signal boat has docked after the last race of the day, or 1500 hours, whichever is later.
- 16.4 Notices will be posted no later than 30 minutes after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Hearings will be held in the protest room, the location of which shall be posted on the official notice board, beginning at the time posted on the notice board.
- 16.5 Notices of RC or Protest Committee (PC) protests will be posted to inform boats under RRS 61.1(b).
- 16.6 Breaches of instructions 11.3, 16.1, 18, 21 will not be grounds for a protest or a request for redress by a boat. This changes RRS 60.1. Penalties for these breaches may be less than disqualification if the PC so decides. The scoring abbreviation for a discretionary penalty imposed under this instruction will be DPI.
- 16.7 On the last scheduled day of racing a request for reopening a hearing shall be delivered:
  - 16.7.1 (a) within the protest time limit if the requesting party was informed of the decision on the previous day;
  - 16.7.2 (b) no later than 30 minutes after the requesting party was informed of the decision on that day. This changes RRS 66.
- 16.8 On the last scheduled day of racing a request for redress based on a PC decision shall be delivered no later than 30 minutes after the decision was posted. This changes RRS 62.2.

## **17 SCORING**

- 17.1 Three (3) races are required to be completed to constitute a series.
- 17.2 Series Scoring:
  - 17.2.1 When three or fewer races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores. This changes RRS A2.
  - 17.2.2 When five to ten (5 – 10) races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score. This changes RRS A2.
  - 17.2.3 When eleven to fifteen (11 – 15) races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her two (2) worst scores. This changes RRS A2.

## **18 SAFETY REGULATIONS**

- 18.1 A personal flotation device shall be worn, properly fastened, from dock to dock by all competitors while launching and when sailing, except temporarily while changing clothes. Such device shall verifiably conform to the government regulations that apply in the racing area. The penalty for failure to comply with this rule shall be at the discretion of the protest committee, and may result in disqualification.
- 18.2 Boats shall check in by hailing their sail numbers to the RC signal boat before the start of the first race each day (and the first race following any postponement ashore).
- 18.3 A boat that retires from a race shall notify the RC as soon as possible.

## **19 REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT**

- 19.1 Substitution of competitors will not be allowed without prior written approval of the Race Committee.
- 19.2 Substitution of damaged or lost equipment will not be allowed unless authorized by the Race Committee. Requests for substitution of equipment shall be made to the Race Committee at the first reasonable opportunity.
- 19.3 Substitution of a damaged spinnaker will be allowed under the condition the competitor presents the damaged spinnaker for inspection as soon as reasonable upon their and the RC's arrival back to the launch site.

## **20 EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS**

- 20.1 A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules and sailing instructions. On the water, a boat can be instructed by a RC equipment inspector or measurer to proceed immediately to a designated area for inspection.

## **21 RADIO COMMUNICATION**

- 21.1 Except in an emergency, 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.

## **22 AWARDS**

- 22.1 Prizes will be given as follows:
  - 22.1.1 The 2016 Formula 18 Nationals Champion title will be awarded to the top finishing US entry.
  - 22.1.2 The 2016 US Formula 18 Masters Champion title will be awarded to the top finishing entry where the sum of the crew ages shall be greater than 85 on the first day of competition.
  - 22.1.3 The 2016 US Formula 18 Youth Champion title will be awarded to the top finishing entry where both crew members are age 23 or younger on the first day of competition.
  - 22.1.4 Overall number of prizes will be awarded based on the number of entries.

## **23 DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY**

- 23.1 Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk, See RRS 4, Decision to Race. It is the personal responsibility of each competitor to determine their level of safety. If wind, wave or water conditions make you doubtful of your ability to handle the conditions safely, it is your decision and your decision only to continue sailing or to retire. The organizing authority will not accept any liability for property damage, personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with, prior to, during, or after the regatta.

## **24 INSURANCE**

- 24.1 Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum coverage of \$100,000 (USD) per event or the equivalent.

**25 SPECIAL NOTES**

- 25.1 Any boat receiving 'hands on' assistance from rescue/mark boats will be scored Did Not Finish. *This changes RRS rule A5.* The RC may decide when a boat or crew needs assistance.
- 25.2 The RC may request redress for competitors who exhibit extraordinary sportsmanship.

**SAFETY NOTES TO ALL SAILORS**

**ELECTRICAL POWER LINES – AVOID!!!**

Before raising the mast, and always while sailing, check for and avoid low overhead electrical power lines. If you see a power line, **AVOID IT! A MAST COMING IN CONTACT OR EVEN NEAR AN ELECTRICAL POWER LINE CAN CAUSE SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH TO PEOPLE ON OR TOUCHING THE BOAT!**

**ATTACHMENT A – Illustrating the Course**

No.	Course	Finish	Options
1	(S) A C A	(F) Downwind	1G
2	(S) A C A C A	(F) Downwind	2G
5	(S) A C	(F) Upwind	5G
6	(S) A C A C	(F) Upwind	6G

**NOTE:** Colors and/or shape of marks used in illustrations may not accurately represent the actual color or shape of marks used on the actual race course. Refer to SI 9, 11 and 13.

COURSE 1 and 2 DIAGRAM and ROUNDING ORDER (Not to Scale)

COURSE 1: START – W – L (or GATE) – W – FINISH

COURSE 2: START – W – L (or GATE) – W – L (or GATE) – W – FINISH



COURSE 5 and 6 DIAGRAM and ROUNDING ORDER (Not to Scale)

COURSE 5: START – W – L (or GATE) – FINISH

COURSE 6: START – W – L (or GATE) – W – L (or GATE) – FINISH

NOTE: Location of FINISH represents it is upwind & may not be above the Weather Mark

