



**SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**  
**2017 Lightning**  
**Spring Championship**  
Columbia Sailing Club Fleet 440  
292 Shuler Road, Columbia, SC 29212  
April 29-30, 2017



**1. RULES**

- 1.1. The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in the 2017-2020 Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) with US Sailing prescriptions and the International Lightning Class Association (ILCA) Document Governing All Sanctioned Lightning Class Championships.
- 1.2. If there is a conflict between the Sailing Instructions and any other document governing the event, the Sailing Instructions take precedence. This changes RRS 63.7.
- 1.3. The Two Turns penalty of RRS 44 as changed below will apply:  
“When an infringing yacht has its spinnaker drawing at the time of the infringement, drops it completely while taking her penalty, and resets it immediately and has it drawing after the penalty, the penalty is one turn instead of two.”
- 1.4. RRS 42.3(c) is deleted and replaced with Article VIII 12 of the Rules Governing All Lightning Class District Championships:  
On a free leg of the course, when surfing (rapidly accelerating down the leeward side of a wave) or planing is possible, the boat's crew may, in order to initiate surfing or planing, pump the sheet, but not the guy controlling any sail, but only once for each wave or gust of wind. When the mainsail is pumped, only that part of the sheet between the crew member handling the sheet and the first block on the boom shall be used.

**2. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS**

- 2.1. Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located just inside the clubhouse front doors.
- 2.2. A Competitors' Meeting will occur Saturday April 29 on the front porch of CSC Clubhouse at 1030.

**3. CHANGES TO THE SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

- 3.1. Changes to the sailing instructions made on the first day of the regatta will be posted no later than 15 minutes after the end of the competitors' meeting.
- 3.2. Any change to the racing schedule for Sunday will be posted by 2100 on Saturday.
- 3.3. Oral changes may be given on the water with the hoist of code flag “L”.

**4. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE**

- 4.1. Signals made ashore will be displayed on the clubhouse flagpole.
- 4.2. When flag AP is displayed ashore, ‘1 minute’ is replaced with ‘not less than 30 minutes’ in RRS “Race Signals”.

## 5. SCHEDULE OF RACES and ON SHORE ACTIVITIES

- 5.1. Saturday April 29  
1030 Competitors Meeting  
1155 Warning Signal first race of the day; subsequent races to follow.  
1730 Happy Hour  
1830 Dinner
- Sunday April 30  
0730 Coffee and Continental breakfast  
0925 Warning Signal first race of the day, subsequent races to follow.  
After Sailing Awards at the CSC Clubhouse
- 5.2. The Race Committee may adjust the racing schedule to suit weather conditions.  
5.3. A starting sequence may not begin after 1400 on Sunday April 30.

## 6. RACING AREA

- 6.1. The Racing area will be described at the competitors' meeting.

## 7. CHECK IN & RETIRING

- 7.1. Prior to the preparatory signal of the first race of each day, each boat is required to check-in by sailing near the stern of the race committee signal boat on starboard tack, hail her sail numbers and receive a clear acknowledgment from a member of the race committee. Failure to check in may result in not being scored.
- 7.2. A boat that retires from a race shall make an effort to notify the race committee at the first reasonable opportunity. The Race Committee may be contacted by VHF channel 78 to comply with this information.

## 8. THE COURSE

- 8.1. The Course Diagrams illustrate the course(s), including the approximate angles between legs, the order in which marks are to be rounded or passed.

## 9. MARKS

- 9.1. The starting marks will be a staff displaying an orange flag on the race committee signal boat at the starboard end and a yellow tetrahedron at the port end.
- 9.2. Marks 1 & 2 will be orange tetrahedrons. The windward offset mark will be a red ball.
- 9.3. Course change mark will be yellow cylinder.
- 9.4. Finish marks will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the race committee finish boat at the starboard end and a yellow tetrahedron at the port end.

## 10. THE START

- 10.1. Races will be started in accordance with RRS 26, with the warning signal given five (5) minutes before the starting signal. The race committee may give repetitive sound signals to indicate that the starting sequence is about to commence.
- 10.2. The class flag is a white background with a red lightning bolt.
- 10.3. Individual recalls will be signaled in accordance with rule 29.1. The Race Committee shall attempt to notify OCS boats and boats that have not complied with rule 30.1 by hailing sail numbers, on the specified VHF channel. The delay of such a hail, the order of hailing or the failure of a competitor to hear such a hail shall not be grounds for granting redress. This changes RRS 62.1(a).

## **11. CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE**

- 11.1. To change the next leg of the course, the race committee will lay a new mark (or move the finish line) and remove the original mark as soon as practicable. The change will be signaled before the leading boat has begun the leg, although the new mark may not yet be in position. Any mark to be rounded after rounding the new mark may be relocated without further signaling to maintain the course configuration.
- 11.2. When in a subsequent change a new mark is replaced, it will be replaced by an original mark.
- 11.3. A changed weather mark (Mark1) will not have an offset mark (Mark 1a) for the rest of the race even though the original offset mark (Mark 1a) may still be in the water.

## **12. TIME LIMIT**

- 12.1. A boat starting more than five minutes after her starting signal will be scored DNS without a hearing. This changes RRS 63.1, A4.1, and A5.
- 12.2. The time limit is 90 minutes for the first boat to sail the course as required by RRS 28.1. Boats still racing more than 20 minutes after the first boat that sails the course finishes will be scored TLE without a hearing. This changes rules 35, 63.1, A4.1 and A5.

## **13. PROTESTS, REQUEST FOR REDRESS and PENALTIES**

- 13.1. US Sailing Appendix T Sections B (Post Race Penalties) and C (Expedited Hearings) shall apply.
- 13.2. RRS 61.1(a) is changed to require a boat intending to protest another boat to notify the race committee finish boat as soon as practical after finishing of her intent to protest and of the identity of the boat to be protested.
- 13.3. The protest time limit is 30 minutes after the official arrival of the race committee signal boat at the dock.
- 13.4. The race committee will post its official arrival time on the notice board. Flag “B” will be hoisted with one sound signal when the RC signal boat docks and will be lowered with one sound signal at the protest time limit.
- 13.5. A boat that has taken a penalty or retired under rule 31 or 44 shall complete an acknowledgement form at the notice board within the protest time limit.
- 13.6. Notices will be posted on the notice board within 30 minutes of 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 located in the main clubhouse unless an alternate location is posted with the hearing notices.
- 13.7. Notices of protests by the race committee or protest committee will be posted to inform boats under RRS 61.1(b).
- 13.8. On the last day of the regatta, a request for reopening a hearing shall be delivered within the protest time limit if the party requesting reopening was informed of the decision on the previous day or no later than 30 minutes after the party requesting reopening was informed of the decision that day. This changes RRS 66.
- 13.9. On the last day of the regatta, a request for redress based on a protest committee decision shall be delivered no later than 30 minutes after the decision was posted. This changes RRS 62.2.

## **14. SCORING**

- 14.1. The low point system of RRS Appendix A will apply, except that all races will be scored. This changes RRS A.2. Unlimited races are scheduled with one race constituting a regatta.
- 14.2. Boats failing to meet the time limits of SI 12.2 will be scored without a hearing Time Limit Expired (TLE). The score for TLE will be two more points than the number of

boats finishing within the time limit, except where that would be higher than DNF. In that case TLE would get one more point than the number of boats finishing. This changes rule A4.2.

**15. PRIZES**

15.1. Prizes will be awarded to the top five boats.

**16. RADIO COMMUNICATIONS**

16.1. Use of handheld VHF radios will be permitted for communication from the race committee to competitors. The race committee intends to use VHF channel 78 to identify OCS (On Course Side of the line) boats after starts and otherwise communicate with the fleet on the water. Competitors shall only use the specified channel while racing to listen for OCS hails, for notification of retirement from the racing area, or for emergency. Any other use constitutes outside help. This changes RRS 41.

The designated VHF radio channel for communication is will be 78.

16.2 The Lightning Class Representative will be in communication with the PRO between races on an alternate channel.

**17. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY**

17.1. Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. See RRS 4, Decision to Race. The organizing authority shall have no liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with, or prior to, during, or after the regatta.

**Course Diagrams**

On the last leg of a WL3 or WL5 to windward, the weather mark and the offset mark do not have a required side and the finish line does not have to be to windward of the weather mark.

