


# The 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Doc Gilbert Potomac Cup Regatta Hosted by Lightning Fleet 50

Leesylvania State Park  
Woodbridge, VA, USA  
May 13-14, 2017

## SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

1. RULES  
The regatta will be governed by the 'rules' as defined in the *Racing Rules of Sailing* (RRS).
2. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS  
Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located at the Pavilion.
3. CHANGES IN SAILING INSTRUCTIONS  
Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted by 10:30 AM on Saturday, and by 9:00 AM on Sunday, except that any change to the scheduled warning signal for Sunday will be posted by 6:00 pm Saturday.
4. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE
  - 4.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed on a committee boat at the dock.
  - 4.2 If a postponement (flag AP) is signaled ashore, the warning signal will be made not less than 30 minutes after AP is lowered. This changes RRS Race Signals "AP".
5. SCHEDULE
  - 5.1 The RC intends to run 4 races on Saturday and 2 on Sunday. Races not sailed on Saturday may be sailed on Sunday.
  - 5.2 A skipper's meeting will be held in the area of the hoists at 1030 on Saturday.
  - 5.2 The scheduled time of the warning signal for the first race is 1200 on Saturday and 1000 on Sunday.
  - 5.3 No warning signal will be made after 1400 on Sunday.
6. CLASS FLAGS  
The class flag will be:  
  
LIGHTNING  
(on white background)
7. RACING AREA  
The racing area will be approximately one nautical mile directly off the docks at Leesylvania State Park.

8. THE COURSE

The diagram in the illustration below shows the courses, including the order in which marks are to be passed and the side on which each mark is to be left. The weather leg will be approximately 1 mile. There will be a weather mark and offset mark approximately 10-boat lengths away, both will be rounded to port. The leeward mark will be a gate with two marks approximately 7-10 boat lengths apart. A yacht must pass between the marks and can round either mark to go upwind. If one of the gate marks is missing, round the remaining mark to port.

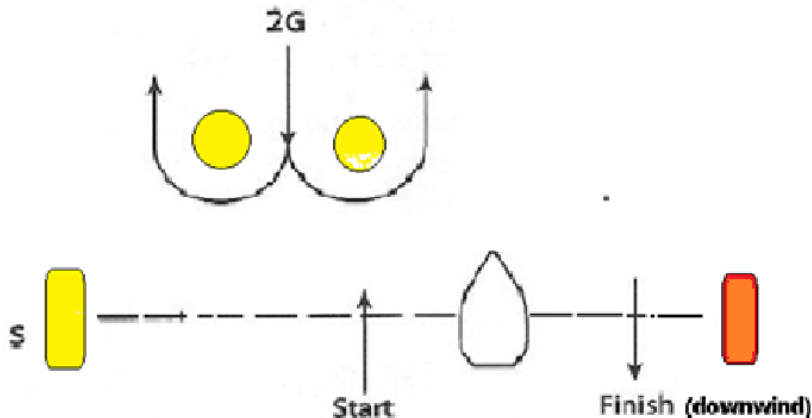
8.1 The five leg course, which shall be indicated by flying **a yellow flag with the numeral "5"** before the warning signal, is twice around a windward-leeward course with an extra weather leg for a total of 5 legs.

8.2 A four leg course, which shall be indicated by **a green flag with the numeral "4"** before the warning signal, is twice around a windward-leeward course for a total of 4 legs and the finish downwind to the left of the committee boat (looking downwind).

8.3 A three leg course, which shall be indicated by **a white flag with the numeral "3"** before the warning signal, is once around a windward-leeward course with an extra weather leg for a total of 3 legs.



Not to Scale



**Yellow flag with "5": 5 Leg W-L Course: Start--1(port)--1A(port)--2G--1(port)--1A(port)--2G--Finish(upwind);**

**Green flag with "4": Leg W-L Course: Start--1(port)--1A(port)--2G--1(port)--1A(port)--Finish(downwind);**

**White flag with "3": 3 Leg W-L Course: Start--1(port)--1A(port)--2G--Finish(upwind)**

9. MARKS

- 9.1 Mark 1 will be an **orange tetrahedron**.
- 9.2 Mark 1A will be a **small red ball**.
- 9.3 The starting mark S will be a **yellow cylinder**.
- 9.4 The leeward gate will be **two large yellow balls**.
- 9.4 The finishing mark for courses "5" and "3" will be Mark 1 and for course "4" will be an **orange cylinder**.

10. THE START

- 10.1 Races will be started using rule 26. The race committee may attempt to hail OCS (On the Course Side) boat(s) over the designated VHF channel. Failure of a boat to see or hear her recall notification and the timing and order of such hails will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 62.1(a).
- 10.2 The Starting Line will be between a staff or halyard displaying an **orange flag** on the main committee boat and the starting mark described in 9.3 or the staff displaying an **orange flag** on an anchored pin line boat. If a starting mark is used, a line boat may be positioned near the port end of the Starting Line.
- 10.3 **A limit mark may be laid adjacent to a Committee Boat to protect it. It will be a small orange or red ball, is not a mark of the course, and shall be considered an obstruction. Boats shall not pass between the limit mark and the Committee boat it guards after the preparatory signal. Boats infringing this Instruction shall take a Two-Turns Penalty or else be disqualified without a hearing.** This changes RRS 63.1.
- 10.4 A boat starting later than 15 minutes after her start shall be scored Did Not Start. This changes rule A4.1.

11. CHANGE OF COURSE AFTER THE START

To change the position of the next mark, the race committee will move the original mark (or the finishing line) to a new position. The change will be signaled before the leading boat has begun the leg, although the mark may not yet be in the new position. Any mark to be rounded after rounding the moved mark may be relocated without further signaling to maintain the course configuration. In the case of a windward mark move, there may be no offset mark.

12. THE FINISH

The finishing line will be between a staff displaying a **blue flag** on the committee boat and the course side of the finish mark described in 9.4.

13. PENALTY SYSTEM

- 13.1 RRS/US Appendix V1, (Penalty at the Time of an Incident) will apply.
- 13.2 The first two sentences of RRS 44.1 are changed to: 'A boat may take a One-Turn Penalty when she may have broken a rule of Part 2 or RRS 31 while racing. However, when she may have broken a rule of Part 2 while in the zone around a mark other than a starting mark, her penalty shall be a Two-Turns Penalty.'
- 13.2 Penalty taken after racing: RRS/US Appendix V2 will apply.

14. TIME LIMITS

- 14.1 The time limit for the first boat to reach the weather mark is **thirty minutes**. The time limit for the first boat to finish is **one hour and thirty minutes**.
- 14.2 Boats failing to finish within **thirty minutes** after the first boat sails the course and finishes will be scored "TLE" unless the race committee believes that such boats can be assigned a finishing place in order of progress along the course in a fair manner. "TLE" is calculated per rule A7. The race committee will have final judgment in this decision. This changes rule 35, A4.1, and adds "TLE" to scoring abbreviations in A11.

15. PROTESTS

- 15.1 Protest Forms are available from the Regatta Chairman. Protests shall be delivered to the Race Committee within one hour after the official docking of the designated (RC ensign) Race Committee Boat. The Time of docking will be posted on the official Notice Board.
- 15.2 Protests will be heard in approximately the order of receipt as soon as possible.
- 15.3 Protest notices will be posted within approximately 30 minutes of the protest time limit to inform competitors where and when there is a hearing in which they are parties to a hearing or named as witnesses.

16. SCORING

- 16.1 Six races are scheduled.
- 16.2 One race is required to be completed to constitute a series. If five or fewer races are completed, no scores will be excluded, this modifies rule A2.

17. RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

Competitors are permitted to use hand held VHF radios to monitor **channel 72**. The Race Committee may announce their intentions and inform competitors of upcoming starting sequences on channel 72. The Race Committee will attempt to hail boats identified as OCS (On the Course Side) on channel 72. Failure to receive a hail, for a hail to be made, the order of hails made, or receive other communications to the fleet shall not be cause for redress. Other use of any communication device is prohibited and such use shall require withdrawal from the race unless determined by the Race Committee to have been for emergency purposes.

18. PRIZES

Prizes will be awarded to each member of the crews placing first through fifth in the Lightning class. In addition, the Gilbert Perpetual Trophy will be awarded to the highest-placing yacht skippered by a member of Fleet 50 in the Lightning class.