



**2015 Lightning North American Championships
October 8-11, 2015
Southern Yacht Club and ILCA Fleet 62
New Orleans, Louisiana**



FOUNDED 1849

Sailing Instructions

1. RULES

1.1 The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing*. The prescriptions of US Sailing Appendix T, Sections B, and C shall apply.

1.2 The International Lightning Class Association (ILCA) "Document Governing All Sanctioned Lightning Class Championships" hereinafter referred to as the "Document Governing" will apply.

1.3 The following rule change was adopted at the Governing Board Meeting in March 2014 for the 2015 NAC:

ARTICLE XIII- RACING CONDITIONS

A. DIVISIONS AND QUALIFYING SERIES

1. **Divisions** – All competitors entitled to enter the North American Championships shall be divided into 2 Divisions- the Championship Division and the President's Cup Division- based upon the results of a Qualifying Series. However, if the number of competitors in a North American Championship Regatta is sixty-nine (69) or fewer, then the Qualifying Series shall not be sailed, and all competitors shall compete in the Championship Division.
2. **Qualifying Series** – If a Qualifying Series is held, then the competitors shall be divided into a maximum of three equal flights, shall be rotated between these flights, such that each competitor will have an opportunity to sail against as many different competitors as possible.
3. **Qualifying Series Scoring** – Three (3) Qualifying Series races shall be scheduled to be sailed the first day. If fewer than three (3) races have been completed then the number of races completed shall constitute the Qualifying Series. If there is no Qualifying Series then the competitors shall choose their respective divisions. The EC shall have the right to revise designated divisions. This provision changes RRS A2, and shall be included in the Sailing instructions to be valid.
4. **Right of Appeal** – The right of appeal shall be denied for the Qualifying Series per RRS 70. The Notice of Race and the Sailing instructions shall so inform all competitors. The Executive Committee may waive this requirement if the host venue cannot meet the requirements of RRS 70.

5. **Qualifying Series Scoring** – If a Qualifying Series is held, then the Championship Division shall include the reigning North American Champion and the thirty nine (39) competitors, regardless of country of origin, receiving the lowest number of points in the Qualifying Series and all competitors tied for thirty- ninth (39th). Should the reigning NA Champion decide to sail the qualifying series, he or she forfeits automatic inclusion in the Championship Division. The remaining competitors shall comprise the Presidents’ Cup Division.

B. FINAL SERIES SCORING

1. **If the Qualifying Series is Held-** The number of races scheduled in each Division for the Final Series shall be seven (7). Each competitor’s final position in the Qualifying Series shall be counted as the result of the first race. If the reigning North American Champion chooses not to sail in the Qualifying Series, his or her average points for the race(s) sailed in the Final Series shall be counted as one (1) race. This provision changes RRS A2, and it shall be included in the Sailing Instructions to be valid. If all scheduled races are sailed, then six (6) races shall be scored. Otherwise all races shall be scored.
2. **If the Qualifying Series is not Held** – The races that would have otherwise been sailed on the Qualifying Series shall be counted towards the Final Series for a possible maximum of eight (8) races. If six (6) or more races are completed, then all but a competitor’s worst final shall be scored. Five (5) or fewer races are sailed then all races shall be scored.

1.4 (a) RRS 63.7 will be replaced by: “If there is a conflict between a rule in the notice of race and a rule in the Sailing Instructions, the rule in the Sailing Instructions shall take precedence.”

(b) RRS 42.3(c) is replaced with: "Except on a beat to windward, when surfing (rapidly accelerating down the front of a wave) or planning is possible, the boat’s crew may pull any sail using the sheet only, (not the guy) in order to initiate surfing or planning but each sail may be pulled in 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." per the Document Governing Article VIII Racing Conditions Numbers 12 PROPULSION.

(c) RRS 44.1 is modified by SI 14.1

1.5 While racing, boats shall display bow numbers and Sponsor Decals. The organizing authority will supply the numbers/decals and instructions for their use.

2 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located in the Grill Room (second floor) at the Southern Yacht Club (SYC) located on the A Frame in the SYC dry storage area.

3 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted before 0800 on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by the end of protest time on the day before it will take effect.

4 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

4.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed from the A Frame on the waterfront closest to the northern most hoist.

4.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 60 minutes in the race signal AP.'

5 SCHEDULE OF RACES

- 5.1 Thursday October 8:
0900-1600 Registration and Measurement
1400 Practice Race
1730 Welcome and Competitors Meeting
Friday October 9th:
0955 Warning Signal
Saturday October 10th:
0955 Warning Signal
Sunday October 11th:
0955 Warning Signal
No races will be started after 1500 hrs.

5.2 Eight races are scheduled for this event. Three (3) races must be completed to constitute the championship.

5.3 To alert boats that a race or sequence of races will begin soon, the orange starting line flag will be displayed with one sound at least five minutes before a warning signal is made.

6 CLASS FLAG

The Lightning Insignia on a white flag will be the Class Flag.

7 RACING AREAS

The racing area will be due north of the Southern Yacht Club.

8 THE COURSES

8.1 The diagram in Addendum A show the courses, the order in which marks are to be passed, and the side on which each mark is to be left. A windward offset mark will be laid approximately perpendicular to the course axis. The windward offset mark is to be rounded to port.

8.2 The approximate length of the first leg of the course will be 1.00 to 1.50 nautical miles.

8.3 No later than the warning signal, the race committee signal boat will display the approximate compass bearing of the first leg, and the course to be sailed.

9 MARKS

9.1 Marks 1, 2s and 2p will be orange inflatable tetrahedron marks. Mark 1 offset will be a small orange ball.

9.2 New marks, as provided in instruction 12.1, will be yellow inflatable tetrahedron marks.

9.3 The starting marks will be the race committee signal boat at the starboard end of the line, and a race committee boat at the port end of the line. The finishing mark will be an orange inflatable round mark.

10 NOT USED

11 THE START

11.1 Races will be started in accordance with RRS 26.

11.2 The starting line will be between staffs displaying orange flags on the starting marks.

11.3 A boat starting later than 5 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes rule A4.

11.4 If flag U has been displayed, no part of a boat's hull, crew or equipment shall be in the triangle formed by the ends of the starting line and the first mark during the last minute before her starting signal. If a boat breaks this rule and is identified she shall be disqualified and scored UFD without a hearing, but not if the race is re-started or re-sailed. This changes rule 26.

11.5 If any part of a boat's hull, crew or equipment is on the course side of the starting line at her starting signal and she is identified, the race committee will attempt to broadcast her sail and/or bow number on VHF channel 72. Failure to make a broadcast or to time it accurately will not be grounds for a request for redress. This changes rule 62.1(a).

11.6 If RRS 30.3 is in effect and a general recall is signaled, the Race Committee shall display a boat's bow number (not her sail number) if she broke RRS 30.3 before the next warning signal. This changes RRS 30.3.

12 CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

12.1 To change the next leg of the course, the race committee will lay a new mark (or move the finishing line) and remove the original mark as soon as practicable. When in a subsequent change a new mark is replaced, it will be replaced by an original mark.

13 THE FINISH

13.1 The finishing line will be between the staff from which an orange flag is displayed on a race committee boat and the course side of the nearby finishing mark.

14 PENALTY SYSTEM

14.1 The two turns penalty is modified with the addition of the provision that when an infringing boat has its spinnaker drawing at the time of the infringement, drops it

completely below the gooseneck while taking her penalty, and resets it immediately and has it drawing after the penalty; the penalty is a one turn penalty. This modifies RRS 44.1

15 TIME LIMITS AND TARGET TIMES

15.1 Target time for first boat to finish the race will be 90 minutes. Failure to meet the target time will not be grounds for redress. This changes rule 62.1(a).

15.2 Time limit shall be 150 minutes. If no boat completes three legs within 90 minutes, the race shall be abandoned and, if possible, re-sailed.

15.2 Boats failing to finish within 30 minutes after the first boat sails the course and finishes will be scored Time Limit Expired (TLE) without a hearing. A TLE score shall be two (2) points more than the number of boats that have finished within the time limit. This changes Document Governing VIII Racing Conditions Numbers 3 and RRS 35, A4, A5, and A11.

16 PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

16.1 Protest forms are available at the official notice board and should be handed in to the jury desk located in the Baldwin room on the second floor of SYC. Protests and requests for redress or reopening shall be delivered there within the appropriate time limit.

16.2 The protest time limit is 60 minutes after the race committee signal boat docks.

16.3 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.

16.4 Notices of protests by the race committee or protest committee will be posted to inform boats under rule 61.1(b).

16.5 Breaches of instructions 1.4, 8.2, 11.5, 18, 21, 23 and 24 will not be grounds for a protest by a boat. This changes rule 60.1(a). Penalties for these breaches may be less than disqualification if the protest committee so decides.

16.6 On the last scheduled day of racing a request for reopening a hearing shall be delivered:

(a) Within the protest time limit if the requesting party was informed of the decision on the previous day;

(b) No later than 30 minutes after the requesting party was informed of the decision on that day. This changes rule 66.

16.7 On the last scheduled day of racing 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 rule 62.2.

17 SCORING

17.1 The Low Point System of Appendix A will apply, as modified by SI 17.3.

17.2 Three (3) races are required to be completed to constitute a series.

17.3 (a) When fewer than six (6) races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores.

(b) When six (6) or more races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.

17.4 To request correction of an alleged error in posted race or series results, a boat may complete a scoring enquiry form available at the race office.

18 SAFETY REGULATIONS

18.1 Prior to the first warning signal of her first race of each day, each boat is required to check in by passing astern of the Race Committee signal boat on starboard tack and hail her bow number until acknowledged by the Race Committee. Failure to check in shall result in a 20% scoring penalty without a hearing. This changes RRS 63.1 and A5.

18.2 A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee as soon as possible and may do so using VHF channel 72.

19 REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT

19.1 Substitution of competitors will not be allowed without prior written approval of the Executive Committee or in their absence the Organizing Authority. In no case may a Skipper be substituted.

19.2 Substitution of damaged or lost equipment will not be allowed unless authorized by the Event Measurement Committee or the Race Committee Chair. Requests for substitution shall be made to the committee at the first reasonable opportunity.

20 EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

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 race committee equipment inspector or measurer to proceed immediately to a designated area for inspection.

21 EVENT ADVERTISING

21.1 Boats may only display advertising as per ISAF Regulation 20 and are restricted to only the hull as per Lightning Class Constitution Article VII 2.

21.2 The forward part of the hull, 25% of the hull length excluding the bow numbers, of all participating boats in the event, may be used to display advertising provided by the Organizing Committee.

22 OFFICIAL BOATS

Official boats will be marked as follows:

Race Committee boats will fly an RC flag

Jury boat will fly a Judge flag

Safety/Patrol boats will fly a bright pink numbered flag

23 SUPPORT BOATS

23.1 Team leaders, coaches, and other support personnel shall stay outside the racing area (defined as 100 meters outside the lay lines of the course including the start area) from the start of the first race to the finish of the last race of the regatta.

Individual competitors may not use support boats at any time during the regatta unless such support is available to all competitors or is authorized by the organizing authority. The penalty for failure to comply with any of these requirements may be disqualification of all yachts associated with the infringing support personnel.

24 TRASH DISPOSAL

Boats shall not put trash in the water. Trash may be placed aboard official boats.

25 RADIO COMMUNICATION

25.1 A boat shall neither make radio transmissions nor receive radio communications not available to all boats. This restriction also applies to mobile telephones.

25.2 The race committee intends to use VHF marine radio channel 72 to broadcast courtesy information to competitors, including OCS hails after starts.

25.3 Failure of the Race Committee to hail, failure of the amplification system or radios, the order of the hail, or failure of a boat to hear a hail shall not be grounds for a boat to request redress. This instruction changes RRS 41 and 62.1.

25.4 GPS units may not be carried aboard during the regatta. This modifies Article VIII 5 b) 3 of ILCA By-laws.

26 PRIZES

Prizes will be awarded as per the NOR.

27 DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. See rule 4, Decision to Race. 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 the regatta.

28 INSURANCE

Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance. Proof of insurance shall be provided upon registration.

29 RIGHTS TO USE NAME AND LIKENESS

By participating in this event, competitors automatically grant to the organizing authority and the event sponsors the right, in perpetuity, to make, use, and show, at their discretion, any photography, audio and video recordings, and other reproductions of them made at the venue or on the water from the time of their arrival at the venue, until their final departure, without compensation.