

St. Joseph River Yacht Club

Sail Race Program 2015: Sailing Instructions

The Sail Race Program at SJRYC stresses safety, seamanship, sportsmanship, and improvement of skills.

Safety and Seamanship: This is our highest priority, to have respect for the sea and other sailors. We will cancel a race if active thunderstorms are in the area or for other threats that impact safety. We expect our boats and competitors to provide all possible help to any person or vessel in danger.

Sportsmanship: We expect each participant to approach racing with the highest level of integrity and courtesy toward other boats and crews, whether on or off the race course.

Improvement of Skills: Over many years SJRYC has developed a well-deserved reputation as one of the best sailing programs on the Lakes, especially for a harbor our size. We prize those sailors who commit to improving their racing skills. We see our racing program as a "proving ground" for those who choose to compete at higher levels.

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Handicaps: We race under PHRF, and each skipper is required to obtain an official PHRF Certificate from the LMPHRF Handicap office. However, for your first year of racing, if you do not have a handicap we will assign to you a temporary PHRF handicap with a 10% penalty above the fastest rated sistership reported in the PHRF data base. Temporary handicaps will be assigned by the Principal Race Officer, are final, and cannot be appealed.

Eligibility to Race: To be eligible to race you must: 1) Either be a SJRYC member or on the Waiting List; 2) Complete the Regatta Net entry form by going to the SJRYC.com website, click on "Boating and Sailing," opening the "Racing Results" box, hit the www.regattanetwork.com link, find the event you want to register for and select the "Register Online" tab to complete the registration form; 3) Either upload a scan of your current PHRF Certificate with your online registration or mail one to the Fleet Captain; 4) Complete the SJRYC entry form on the SJRYC website; and, 5) Pay a race fee of \$130 if you are a member or \$180 if you are on the waiting list, either online through the SJRYC website or by mailing the payment to the Fleet Captain.

Racing Divisions: Boats in the Spinnaker division are allowed to use spinnakers. Jib and Main is for those boats not using spinnakers (neither asymmetrical nor symmetrical).

Section splits within the two Divisions, if any, will be determined by the Fleet Captain after all boats are registered.

Safety Equipment: All USCG required safety equipment, as well as any required by state law, must be carried. As with the decision to race, each skipper or owner assumes full responsibility for the safety of the crew.

Race Procedure: For all regular Series Races, competitors are urged to be out in the lake by 6:30 PM on the night of a race. The Race Committee will communicate on VHF Channel 69 to host a radio call-in of all boats racing. Radio contact with the Race Committee is required prior to racing, and all boats must pass by the stern of the Race Committee Boat prior to the first Warning Signal.

The course will be announced after call-in is complete, as will the starting sequence and starting times. Normal start times will be 5 to 10 minutes before, after, or on the hour of 7PM. If there is a delay due to lack of wind, the Race Committee will announce this on channel VHF 69.

We suggest all boats monitor VHF channel 69 from the time you leave your dock on race day, as this will be used for communications before, during, and after a race to include race course, start sequence, recalls, shortening of the course, and any other situation that requires communication.

SJRYC Lifejacket Rule: *Life jackets must be worn at the start and finish of every race by each person onboard.* Further, the Race Committee reserves the right to call any race a "Lifejacket Mandatory" if conditions warrant. Failure to comply will mean a DSQ with no appeals allowed. Lifejacket Mandatory races will be signaled by the use of the Code Flag "Y" (a rectangular flag with yellow and red diagonal stripes).

New Racers: We welcome all new sailors and each of us should actively invite other boaters to join our program. They do not have to be a member of SJRYC for their first year but must be on the waiting list. Please email any of us on the Race Team if you know of anyone interested in joining us.

Course: The race course has three permanent marks:

Mark A: Located West of the Pierheads, approx 1.1 miles due West of the South Pierhead and approx 1 mile due South of Mark C

Mark B: Located 1 mile East of Mark C, and approx .9 miles at approx 355 degrees off the North Pierhead

Mark C: Located approx 1 mile due North of Mark A, approx 1 mile due East of Mark B, and approx 1.4 miles at 315 degrees off the North Pierhead

Lat/Lon coordinates are shown on the last page of these Instructions and on the map of the race course.

Inflatable Marks can be used at locations as announced by the Principal Race Officer.

The Race Committee frequently uses a Starting Area located South of the Southern Pierhead at the approx position of N42 06.915 W86 29.796

Starting Sequence:

Warning	Sound (horn or gun) at 5 minutes: Section Flag up
Prep	Sound (horn or gun) at 4 minutes: Blue Flag up
Get Ready	Sound (horn or gun) at 1 minute: Blue Flag down
Start	Sound (horn or gun) at 0 minutes: Section Flag down If another start follows, New Section Flag Up

Section Flags: Section 1: Yellow flag
Section 2: Green flag

Delay Flag: "AP" Flag (Red and White vertical stripes)

Missing Mark Rule: When the first boat in the fleet arrives at the GPS coordinates for a mark of the course, they have the obligation to complete a reasonable visual search to determine if the mark can be seen and round it if visible. If not visible, they are required to complete a "virtual rounding" using the established GPS coordinates for the missing mark, and to broadcast this to the fleet on VHF Channel 69 either prior to or directly after rounding the mark. Each subsequent yacht in the race is required to broadcast their rounding as well so other yachts will be aware that a virtual rounding will be required. A yacht may not request redress if they decide to locate the mark once a virtual rounding has been declared. Rule 34 of the US Sailing Racing Rules is hereby amended for all SJRYC races.

Finishing Times: If a Committee Boat is not on station at the finish, boats will take their own times as follows: 1) Call on VHF Ch. 69 approximately one minute prior to finishing; 2) When you cross the line, read off your time on the radio; 3) If possible, note also the boat directly ahead and the boat directly astern.

If finish times are unable to be recorded at the Club, email them to the Fleet Captain (jimschrager@gmail.com), along with boat ahead and astern, prior to Noon the following day. Any disagreements need to be brought to the attention of the Fleet Captain who will resolve any discrepancies with the assistance of the Principal Race Officer.

Race Time Limits: For all regular Series races, not including the long distance race to South Haven, the time limit is two hours from the beginning of the starting sequence for the first Division. If any boat finishes a race within the time limit, an extension of one hour is added for all other boats in that section to finish. If no boats in a section finish within the time limit, there are no points given for that race.

Example: If the Spinn Division gets a 5 minute warning at 6:50 PM, for a 6:55 PM start; with JaM getting a five minute warning at 6:55 PM for a 7:00 PM start, cut-off time for that race will be 8:50 PM for both sections unless a boat finishes in which case the time will be extended for one hour for that section.

Weather Related Cancellations: Safety will be the primary reason for all calls to delay, cancel, or abandon a race. This does not replace the responsibility of each skipper to decide whether to participate as noted in the language of Rule 4 under the ISAF/US Sail Racing Rules. Regardless of the Race Committee decision, each skipper or owner assumes full responsibility for his/her yacht's and crew's safety.

Excessive winds or waves, as judged by the Principal Race Officer will be considered as cause for cancellation. In the case of light winds, the Fleet will meet on the water at the starting area. The Delay Flag will be flown if winds are not strong enough to start the race. After sufficient delays as judged by the Principal Race Officer, the race will be canceled.

Decisions to cancel a race will be made on VHF 69, and when possible a notice on the Club website, an email to the fleet, a delay flag at the Club's flag pole, and notification of the Club's staff. All decisions to cancel or delay a race will be made by the Principal Race Officer and/or the Fleet VC. The Fleet Captain will fill-in for the Fleet VC if needed.

Minimum Boats Required: A race will not be counted unless at least one boat in a section starts a race.

Make-Up Races: For 2015, there are no Make-Up races scheduled. If a race is canceled for any reason, the race will not be rescheduled and no points will be awarded.

Series Scoring: All series races are scored under the Time-on-Time system as used by US Sail. We will award flags for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place finishers in each section for each series. Low points win, with points awarded in the order of finish, that is, 1 point for first, 2 for second, and so on. Spinnaker will have 1 throw out and JaM will have 2 throw outs in each Series. These races will be removed from the points total.

In case of a tie, first look to which boat won the most 1st places; if not broken that way, then 2nd places, and so on. If a tie still persists, then whoever finished highest in the final race for the Series breaks the tie. The finishing position for any race used as a throw out in the series will not be counted when breaking a tie.

If a boat checks in at the starting line via VHF channel 69 and passes the stern of the Race Committee but does not Start (DNS), Finish (DNF), or is Disqualified (DSQ), they shall be awarded points equal to the number of boats that started that race +1. If they do not go to the starting area and check in as noted above, they will be categorized as a Did Not Compete (DNC) and will get points equal to the number of the boats registered in the section fleet.

Spinnaker Offshore Series: A Spinnaker Offshore Series will award flags for the 1st, 2nd, 3rd places based on the best in a series of races outside of the regular Series. For 2015, the races will be the: 1) South Haven Invitational, 2) Rhumbline Regatta, 3) Queen's Cup, 4) PHRF Perfection race from St Joe to MCYC, 5) PHRF Perfection race from MCYC to St Joe, 6) Tri-State Chicago to St Joe leg, and 7) Tri-State St Joe to MCYC leg.

The best four finishes will be counted.

Boat of the Year Scoring: Low points wins, as in the Series scoring, and if there is a tie, first look to the boat that won the most 1st places over the entire season, if still a tie, then 2nd places, and so on. If a tie still persists, then whoever placed highest in the final race of the year breaks the tie. The finishing position for races used as throw outs in either series will not be counted when breaking a tie.

The Commodore's Cup Awards: The Commodore's Performance Award will be renamed the Commodore's Cup, and will be available in both Spinn and JaM. For 2015, each skipper will choose to race for the BotY award or the CC award, but not both. Each skipper is automatically signed up to race for the BotY award. To instead race for the CC award, the skipper must send an email to the Fleet Captain at any time prior to Midnight on the day of the final Spring Series race. At least 2 boats in a section must sign up to race for the CC to be awarded in that section. Handicaps and the scoring procedure used for BotY will be used for the CC awards. All boats racing, whether for BotY or CC awards, will be eligible for Series Flags.

Protests: All protests will be handled in compliance with the 2013-2016 Sailing Rules as published by US Sailing. The Protest Committee Chairman will arrange all protest hearings.

To lodge a protest, the Protesting Skipper must: 1) At the first reasonable opportunity, inform the other yacht by hailing "protest;" 2) Fly a protest flag at the earliest possible opportunity, which is a Code "B" (a red rectangular flag); 3) Notify the Race Committee boat upon finishing or retiring from the race of the nature of the protest and the name of the protested yacht; 4) Submit to the Protest Committee a written protest on or before the commencement of the protest meeting. Protest Forms are available at the USSailing.org website.

Racing Rules: Our races are conducted according to the 2013-2016 rules as published by US Sailing, and as amended by these instructions provided and at Skipper's Meetings.

Special Finishing Instructions for South Haven Race: All boats must radio the Fleet on VHF 69 when they are 1/2 mile from the finish line. They must radio again with their exact GPS finish time when crossing the finish line. If weather permits, there will be a temporary marker approximately 300 feet due West of the South Pierhead. If there is not a marker, then the finish line will be an imaginary line extending 300 feet Due West from the South Pierhead. A finish form noting the boat ahead and astern (if known) must be turned in to a SJRYC race official at the Saturday AM SHYC Invitational Skippers Meeting. The maximum time limit for this race is 7 hours from the beginning of the starting sequence.

Lat/Lon Coordinates for the 2015 Race Course

Starting Area:	42° 06.815 N (42.11358)	86° 29.802 W (86.4967)
Mark A:	42° 06.815 N (42.11358)	86° 31.152 W (86.5192)
Mark B:	42° 07.815 N (42.13025)	86° 29.802 W (86.4967)
Mark C:	42° 07.815 N (42.13025)	86° 31.152 W (86.5192)

SJRYC 2015 Race Team

Fleet Vice Commodore: Byron Higgins; lavieve@hotmail.com

Principal Race Officer: Ken Zimmerman; zimmek1@hotmail.com

Fleet Captain: Jim Schrage; jimschrager@gmail.com

Protest Committee Chair: Dr. Stuart Boekeloo; aleydiscenters@aol.com

Marks Chairman: Bill Born; modernprinting@comcast.net

