

St. Joseph River Yacht Club

Sail Race Program 2018: Sailing Instructions

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

Safety and Seamanship: This is our highest priority, to have respect for the sea and other sailors. We will cancel a race when active thunderstorms are in the area or for other threats that impact safety. We expect our 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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Eligibility to Race: You must: 1) Either be an SJRYC member or on the Waiting List; 2) Complete the Regatta Net registration form accessible via the SJRYC.com website; 3) Either upload a scan of your current PHRF Certificate with your online registration or mail a copy to the Fleet Captain; 4) Send the SJRYC entry form with your race fee (\$145 if you are a member or \$195 if you are on the waiting list) to the Fleet VC (address is on the entry form available on the SJRYC website).

Handicaps: Each skipper is expected to obtain a current PHRF Certificate from the LMPHRF Handicap office. However, if you do not have a current certificate we will assign a local PHRF handicap with a 10% penalty above the fastest rated sistership in the PHRF data base. Local handicaps will be assigned by the Fleet Captain, are final, and cannot be appealed. If you start with a Local handicap, and later get an official Certificate, rating changes will not be retroactively applied.

New Racers: We welcome 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.

Racing Sections: Boats in the Spinnaker Section are allowed to use spinnakers. Jib and Main boats are not allowed to use spinnakers, whether asymmetrical or symmetrical. Splits within the two Sections, 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. In addition, each boat shall have a VHF marine radio capable of being heard over the normal sounds of the boat when underway. As with the decision to race, each skipper or owner assumes full responsibility for the safety of the crew.

SJRYC Lifejacket Rule: *Life jackets must be worn at the start and finish of every race by each person onboard.* Further, the RC Boat Team Leader reserves the right to call for "Lifejackets Mandatory" for the entire race if conditions warrant. Failure to comply will result in a DSQ with no appeal allowed. Lifejacket Mandatory races will be signaled by the use of the Code Flag "Y" (a rectangular flag with yellow and red diagonal stripes) and a hail on VHF prior to the start of the race.

Race Procedure: For all regular Series Races, competitors should be out in the lake by 6:30 PM. The Race Boat will host a call-in of all boats racing on VHF Channel 69. Radio contact and acknowledgement by the RC is required prior to racing, and all boats must pass by the stern of the RC 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. We suggest all boats monitor VHF channel 69 from the time you leave your dock, as this will be used for communications before, during, and after a race. All racers are reminded that flags are the official communication method on the race course.

Boats Required: Each Section will require at least one boat to start and sail the course for that Section's race to be scored.

Starting Sequence:

Warning	at 5 minutes: Section Flag up, Sound (horn or gun)
Prep	at 4 minutes: Blue Flag up, Sound (horn or gun)
Get Ready	at 1 minute: Blue Flag down, Long Sound (horn or gun)
Start	at 0 minutes: Section Flag down Sound (horn or gun) If another start follows, New Section Flag Up
Section Flags:	JaM: Yellow flag Spinnaker: Green flag
Delay Flag:	“AP” Flag (Red and White vertical stripes) Racers are referred to rule 26 of the Racing Rules of Sailing

Jack Rabbit Starts: When an RC Boat is unavailable and if the RC Team Leader feels it is safe to race, we will use a Jack Rabbit Start. This will be announced on VHF Channel 69, along with a projected start time and the course for the race.

The course for the first leg will be set as close to upwind as possible, or straight downwind if not. The Start Boat, which will be a member of our sailing fleet, will attempt to pass the mark or Pierhead being used approximately 1-2 minutes before the start headed on a line as close as possible to 90 degrees to the first mark unless the wind direction forces an alternate heading. Racers shall not cross the line between the start boat and start mark until the designated start time. Once the start horn has been signaled all boats including the Start Boat will be considered to be racing. Any boats over early (as determined by the Start Boat) shall perform a 360 degree turn or will be scored DNF. Any boat causing the Start Boat to alter course or making contact with the Start Boat during the start sequence shall be scored a DNF.

Boats will take their own times finishing either in the gap between the outer tips of the Pierheads, directly North of the North Pierhead, or directly South of the South Pierhead. If not in the gap between the Pierhead tips, the finish line shall be an imaginary line Due North of the North Pierhead tip or Due South of the South Pierhead tip extending 300 feet off the designated Pierhead. Once the boat’s bow crosses that line, boats will take their own times, announce their finish time on VHF channel 69 shortly after finishing, and email the Fleet Captain with their finish time within one hour after the finish (jimschrager@gmail.com).

Racing Rules: Our races are conducted according to the 2017-2020 Racing Rules of Sailing as published by US Sailing, and as amended by these instructions, or provided at Skippers' Meetings.

Missing Mark Rule: The first boat which arrives at the GPS coordinates for a mark of the course has the obligation to complete a reasonable visual search and round the mark if visible. If not visible, this boat is required to complete a "virtual rounding" using the established GPS coordinates for the missing mark, and to broadcast their virtual rounding on VHF Ch 69 either prior to or directly after rounding the mark. Each subsequent yacht in the race is required to broadcast their rounding so other yachts will be aware that a virtual rounding is 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) Broadcast your finish time on VHF as you cross the finish line; 3) If possible, note also the boat directly ahead and the boat directly astern 4) email finish time to jimschrager@gmail.com, along with boat ahead and astern, within one hour after the finish. Any disagreements need to be brought to the attention of the Fleet Captain who will resolve any discrepancies with the RC Boat Team Leader.

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

Example: If the Spinn section gets a 5 minute warning at 6:50 PM, for a 6:55 PM start; with JaM starting at 7:00 PM, cut-off time for that race will be 8:50 PM for both sections. If a boat finishes prior to 8:50PM, the race will be extended for one hour beyond that boat's finish time for that section.

Make-Up Races: If a race is canceled or abandoned for any reason the race will not be rescheduled and no points will be awarded.

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 Rule 4 under the US Sail Racing Rules. Regardless of the Race Team's decision, each skipper or owner assumes full responsibility for the safety of his or her yacht and crew.

Excessive winds or waves, as judged by RC Boat Team Leader will be considered a cause for cancellation. In the case of light winds, boats 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 RC Team Leader the race will be canceled.

If the National Weather Service declares a Severe Thunderstorm Warning which covers any of the time we normally are setting up to race or racing (5PM to 9PM) the RC boat will not be on the water and the race will be canceled.

Decisions to cancel a race will be made on VHF 69, and when possible with a notice on the Club website, an email to the fleet, and notification of the Club's staff. Decisions to cancel a race will be made by the RC Boat Team Leader.

SJRYC Offshore Series: The Offshore Series will award flags for the 1st, 2nd, 3rd places based on the best in a series of races outside of our regular Series races. Both Spinn and JaM boats are invited. The races are: 1) South Haven Invitational, 2) Rhumblin Regatta, 3) Queen's Cup, 4) Chicago to Mackinac, 5) PHRF Perfection St Joe to MCRYC, 6) Tri-State Chicago to St Joe, and 7) Tri-State St Joe to MCRYC. The best four finishes will be counted.

Boat of the Year Scoring: Both Spinnaker and JaM Sections will have an award for Boat of the Year. 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.

Series Scoring: Series races are scored under the Time-on-Time system as used by US Sail. We award flags for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place finishers in each section for each series. Low point total wins, 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 point total.

In case of a tie, first count which boat won the most 1st places; if not broken that way, then 2nd places, and so on. If a tie persists, then whoever finished highest in the final race of the Series breaks the tie. A finish position in any race used as a throw out 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 RC Boat but does not Start (DNS), Finish (DNF), or is Disqualified (DSQ), they shall be awarded points equal to the number of boats which started that race +1. Boats that check in and retire from the race must notify and be acknowledged by the RC of their withdrawal from the race. Failure to do so will result in a score of DNC.

DNS means a boat is in the starting area at the time of the start (or if delayed, at the delayed start), and is unable to start due to an accident, grounding, equipment failure, or similar events. DNC means a boat was not in the starting area, and earns points awarded equal to the number of boats registered in their section +1.

Protests: All protests will be handled in compliance with the 2017-2020 Sailing Rules as published by US Sailing. The Protest Committee Chairman will coordinate 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" flag (a red rectangle); 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 within one hour of the finish of the race. Protest Forms are available at the USSailing.org website.

Boats Not Racing Not Allowed to Interfere: We require all racers to stay clear of the starting area and away from competitors before and during a race unless they are properly registered to race in that Section. Failure to observe this rule will be considered “poor sportsmanship” as defined by rule 69 of the US Sail Racing Rules and will be subject to protest.

Special Rule for the Staggered Start Race: Skippers can use engines for propulsion up to their start time for this race, but not beyond.

Special Instructions for the South Haven Race: All boats must radio the Fleet on VHF 69 when 1/2 mile from the finish line and radio again with their GPS finish time when crossing the finish line. If weather permits, there will be a temporary marker approximately 300 feet due West of the So Haven South Pierhead. If there is not a marker, 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. Time limit is 7 hours from the beginning of the start sequence.

Special Instructions for the Cook Nuclear Buoy Race: Time limit is 8 hours from the beginning of the start sequence. Round the Buoy to Port; finish is an imaginary line extending 300 feet Due West from the St Joe South Pierhead tip; broadcast your time on VHF 69 just after crossing the finish; email finish time to JimSchrager@gmail.com

SJRYC Race Team

SJRYC Fleet Vice-Commodore: Louie Tremblay; Lo12uiet@aol.com

Fleet Captain: Jim Schrager; jimschrager@gmail.com

RC Boat Team Leader: Jim Scholz; jescholz@yahoo.com

RC Boat Team Members: Vickie Frees, Blan Page, Louie Tremblay

Senior Advisor: Ken Zimmerman; zimmek1@hotmail.com

Marks Chairman: Bill Born; modernprinting@comcast.net

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

SJRYC Race Course

The race course has three permanent marks:

Mark SW: Located West of the Pierheads, approx 1.3 miles West of the South Pierhead and approx 1 mile South of Mark NW

Mark SW: 42° 07.200 N 86° 31.360 W

Mark NE: Located 1 mile East of Mark NW and approx 1 mile at approx 355 degrees off the North Pierhead

Mark NE: 42° 08.200 N 86° 30.000 W

Mark NW: Located approx 1 mile North of Mark SW approx 1 mile East of Mark NE, and approx 1.7 miles at 315 degrees off the North Pierhead

Mark NW: 42° 08.200 N 86° 31.360 W

Starting Area: The Race Committee frequently uses a Starting Area located West of the Southern Pierhead at approx:

Starting Area: 42° 07.200 N 86° 30.000 W

Inflatable Marks can be used at locations as announced by the Race Boat Team Leader.

