



O'PEN SKIFF MIDWINTER CHAMPIONSHIP

2020

Carolina Yacht Club

Charleston, SC

November 21-22, 2020

Sailing Instructions

Due to the current circumstances regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, this event has been modified to promote proper social distancing and reduce risk to competitors, volunteers, and staff. Please read the following carefully. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Important Event Introduction: The O'pen Skiff Midwinters will be hosted by the Carolina Yacht Club November 21-22nd, 2020. The purpose of this event is to run a fun event for youth sailors in a more loosely competitive style, in dynamic junior boats, and to showcase the new age of junior sailing. Results are not nearly as important as good, fun, sailing. It is our goal that sailors will improve their skills, make new friends, and have a TON of fun. The event will be a combination of conventional style race formats with unorthodox "Un-Regatta" style courses and events. Don't expect conventional 'round the buoys' racing or upwind starts for all races. Capsizes, freestyle, speed, obstacles, and fun will be required. If you want to challenge your limits, have fun, and pioneer a new chapter of youth sailing, we invite you to join us for the 2020 O'pen Skiff Midwinters. **Masks will be required at all times on land. All competitors and guests will be required to observe proper social distancing. Sanitizing stations are available throughout the competition area. All activities will be conducted outdoors.**

Eligibility:

The fleet is comprised of two divisions. This modifies Class Rule C.2.3

U13 Division: Competitors born after December 31st, 2007

O'pen Division: All ages

1 Rule Number One:

All sailors are required to participate in the spirit of fun and good sportsmanship at all times. Violators of Rule Number One may be publicly embarrassed.

2 Other Rules:

2.1 Races will be governed by O'pen Skiff Un-Regatta Rules and generally accepted sailing rules with the following priority: these Sailing Instructions and subsequent Changes to Sailing Instructions, the O'pen Skiff Class Rules as modified by these Sailing Instructions, and the Notice of Race. In the event of a conflict between these Sailing Instructions, the Notice of Race, and/or O'pen

Skiff Class Rules, these Sailing Instructions and subsequent Changes will take priority. In true “Un-Regatta” spirit this event is not run under standard Racing Rules of Sailing 2017-2020.

2.2 These special rules apply:

2.2(a) Expect unconventional courses and starting procedures. On different legs of the course there may be required moves signaled by loudhailer from the Referees. Depending on conditions these may include stand up sailing, capsizes (mast tip must hit water), 360 degree turns, other freestyle moves, or course obstacles. You must follow the Referee’s instructions.

2.2(b) When capsizes or freestyle moves are required you must make sure you are clear of all other sailors. Capsizing or freestyling into another boat is NOT okay.

2.2(c) Competitors shall remain on or near their vessels at all times. In other words, no ‘boarding’ other boats unless required.

2.2(d) There may be a Freestyle Expression Session that will be scored separately. Sailors will compete in three-minute heats that will be subjectively judged by the Panel of Undistinguished Judges. Be creative and have fun with it. Individual or tandem teams are scored equally. Come up with creative team names.

2.2(e) The RC or Referees may change these Sailing Instructions verbally on the water by hail.

3 **Marks (*Marks will be described in the Skippers Meeting*)**

3.1 The turning marks of the course will be described in the Skippers Meeting.

3.2 The starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the Race Committee signal boat and either a starting mark or a staff displaying a flag on a Race Committee boat at port end.

3.3 The finish line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on a Race Committee finish boat and either a finish mark or a staff displaying a flag on a Race Committee boat.

3.4 Minor contact of the marks of the course is permitted. Contact that causes any damage, or the location of the mark to change is not permitted.

3.5 Hitting the Race Committee boat, start boat, finish boat, or any boat is always prohibited.

4 **Starting Procedures**

4.1 Unless otherwise described races will be started using a three-minute audible start sequence as follows:

3 minutes to start: 3 long sound signals and raising of Class Flag

2 minutes to start: 2 long sound signals and raising of Preparatory Signal Flag

1 ½ minutes to start: 1 long and 3 short sound signals

1 minute to start: 1 long sound signal and lowering of Preparatory Signal Flag

30 seconds to start: 3 short sound signals

20 seconds to start: 2 short sound signals

10 seconds to start: 1 short sound signal

5-4-3-2-1 seconds to start: 1 short sound signal counting down to start

Start: 1 long sound signal and lowering of the Class Flag

4.2 Individual and General Recalls will be signaled.

5 **Kinetics**

5.1 Pumping and ooching are prohibited unless “O” flag is being displayed from the Race Committee boat. Rocking is always prohibited unless specifically announced by the Referee.

6 Protests & Referees

- 6.1** It is the responsibility of every competitor to sail in a manner that is fair and with due respect for their fellow competitors. Absolutely no intentional contact is permitted. The results will be decided on the water. Referees will be on the water to ensure the results are a valid reflection of sailing ability.
- 6.2** Regardless of whether a penalty is called by the referees, competitors are expected to exonerate themselves of any rule infraction by completing a 360-degree turn. One tack and one jibe in any order is required to complete a 360-degree turn. Competitors are encouraged to enforce the rules amongst themselves in a sportsman-like manner by politely hailing “protest”.
- 6.3** Penalties may be given on the water by hail from the referees for violating any rules. These may take the form of requiring one or more 360-degree penalty turns. All determinations and decisions of the referees are final.
- 6.4** Hitting a mark is not grounds for protest (see SI 3.4).
- 6.5** There will be no formal protest hearings except in extreme circumstances as determined by the referees.

7 Notice to Competitors

7.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the Official Notice Board located under the Boathouse.

7.2 Schedule

Saturday, November 21st

9:00 – 10:00 AM	Breakfast/Lunch Pick up under Boathouse
10:30 AM	Skipper’s meeting (outdoors)
12:00 PM	First Warning

Sunday, November 22nd

11:00 AM	First Warning
2:00 PM	No racing starting after 2:00 PM
3:00 PM	Awards (outdoors)

8 Changes to the Sailing Instructions

- 8.1** Any changes to the Sailing Instructions will be posted no later than 9am of the day it is to take effect.
- 8.2** Changes to the regatta schedule will be posted no later than 8pm on the day before it is to take effect.

9 Signals Made Ashore

- 9.1** Signals made ashore will be displayed from the CYC flagpole.
- 9.2** When the AP (postponement) flag is displayed ashore there will be no less than 15 minutes before the warning signal of the next start after the AP flag is lowered.

10 Schedule of Races

- 10.1** There will be a mandatory competitors' briefing at Carolina Yacht Club at 10:30am on Saturday, November 21st under the Boathouse.
- 10.2** The last possible warning signal will not be after 4:30pm on Saturday and will not be after 2pm on Sunday.
- 10.3** After a long postponement on the water, as a courtesy, the RC will indicate that the AP flag is about to be lowered with a succession of rapid sounds signals.

11 Scoring

- 11.1** The Low Point O'pen Skiff Un-Regatta scoring system will be used.
- 11.2** Boats will be scored points relative to their finish position i.e. one point for first place, two points for second place, three points for third place, etc.
- 11.3** One discard score will be calculated for every five races completed i.e. one discard for five races, two discards for ten races, three discards for fifteen races.
- 11.4** If there is a series-score tie between two or more boats, each boat's race scores shall be listed in order of best to worst, and at the first point(s) where there is a difference the tie shall be broken in favor of the boat(s) with the best score(s). No excluded scores shall be used. If a tie remains between two or more boats, they shall be ranked in order of their in the last race of the series.
- 11.5** One completed race is required to constitute a regatta.

12 Measurement and Checks

- 12.1** Boats, sails, and equipment must be in conformity with the O'pen Skiff Class Rules. The RC may check boats and crews before, during, and after races.

13 Advertising

- 13.1** Competitors may be required to display event sponsor stickers on their sails. Life jackets must be worn at all times on the water. Helmets are highly recommended.

14 Safety

- 14.1** Special care must be taken to avoid contact with other sailors, including when special maneuvers are required. Pay particular attention to leaving enough room so your boom or mast tip does not hit another competitor.

15 Decision to Race & Disclaimer of Liability

The responsibility for a competitor's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers/his alone. Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. Carolina Yacht Club, the O'pen Skiff Class, and all organizers, volunteers, and race officials of this event will not accept in any case any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the competition. Before entering this event, a signed waiver will be required as well as publicity/media releases.

16 When all else fails, refer to Rule Number 1.

EVENT CONTACT:

Kate O'Donnell
Sailing Director
Carolina Yacht Club
(843) 973-3558
sailingdirector@carolinayachtclubsc.org

WARNING: Extreme levels of fun may be experienced during this event. Other sailing craft may appear less exciting after experiencing the O'pen Skiff.