



SAILING INSTRUCTIONS



75th Mercury Class National Championship

August 27-29, 2021

Hosted by Stillwater Yacht Club

Organizing Authorities: Mercury Class Yacht Racing Association and Stillwater Yacht Club

Regatta Chairman and SYC Fleet Captain: Richard Clark

PRO: Gerald Stratton

1. RULES

- 1.1. This regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing for 2021-2024* (RRS)
- 1.2. The Mercury Class Yacht Racing Association (MCYRA) prescription: *Rules Governing The Mercury Championship Series*, shall apply.
- 1.3. RRS 40 is deleted and replaced with: "Competitors shall wear life jackets or other adequate personal buoyancy while racing." Flag Y will not be displayed.
- 1.4. RRS Appendix T1, *Post Race Penalties*, will apply.
- 1.5. RRS Appendices T2, T3, and T4 pertaining to arbitration, will apply.
- 1.6. Once launched, yachts shall remain in the water for the duration of the Regatta unless permission to haul out is expressly granted by the Organizing Authorities.

2. SIGNALS ASHORE, NOTICES TO COMPETITORS, AND COMMUNICATIONS

- 2.1. Signals ashore will be made from the flagpole on Stillwater Pier.
- 2.2. Notices to competitors will be posted on the regatta website and on the Official Notice Board located at *Charlie's Place* on Stillwater Pier.
- 2.3. Changes to the Sailing Instructions, if any, will be posted not later than 1000 hours on the day they take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 1800 hours on the day before it takes effect.
- 2.4. The Race Committee will communicate on marine VHF channel 69. (This changes NOR 11.1.)
- 2.5. Each yacht is encouraged to carry a radio capable of receiving and transmitting on marine VHF channels.

3. SCHEDULE

- 3.1. Competitor Check-in:
 - 3.1.1. Thursday, August 26: 1200-1700 hours (Stillwater Pier)
 - 3.1.2. Friday, August 27: 0900-1100 hours (Stillwater Pier)

3.2. Weighing, Measuring and Inspection

3.2.1. Thursday, August 26: 1200-1700 hours (Weighing and Inspection - Stillwater Pier; Sail Measurement - Tennis Court #8)

3.2.2. Friday, Aug. 27: 0900-1100 hours (Weighing and Inspection - Stillwater Pier; Sail Measurement - Tennis Court #8)

3.3. Competitors' Meeting

3.3.1. Friday, Aug. 27: 1130 hours (Stillwater Pier)

3.4. Dates of Racing

3.4.1. Friday, Aug. 27: Two races are scheduled. Warning signal for first race at 1225 hours.

3.4.2. Saturday, Aug. 28: Two races are scheduled. Warning signal for first race at 1055 hours.

3.4.3. Sunday, August 29: One race is scheduled. Warning signal at 1055 hours.

3.5. The Race Committee reserves the right to make changes to the racing schedule.

4. CLASS FLAG and COURSE SIGNAL

4.1. The Class Flag will be a white flag displaying the Mercury Class insignia.

4.2. The course to be sailed will be designated by a black number on a white placard.

5. MARKS

5.1. Mark S is an orange inflatable, cylindrical in shape.

5.2. Mark A is an orange inflatable, spherical in shape.

5.3. Mark O is an orange ball, approximately two (2) feet in diameter.

5.4. Marks Bs and Bp are orange inflatables, tetrahedral in shape.

6. COURSES, STARTING and FINISHING LINES, and GATES

6.1. Descriptions of the numbered courses and a course diagram are provided in Appendix A.

6.2. Starts will be conducted in accordance with Rule 26.

6.3. The starting line will be between a staff with an orange flag on the Race Committee boat and Mark S.

6.4. The finishing line for Courses 1 - 5 will be between a staff with a blue flag on the Race Committee boat and Mark S. The finishing line for Courses 6 - 8 will be between a staff with a blue flag on a Race Committee boat and Mark A.

6.5. At its discretion, the Race Committee may position the gate (marks Bs and Bp) to windward or to leeward of the starting line. (See illustration in Appendix A.)

6.6. Rule 28 is changed such that if one mark of a gate is missing, the remaining mark shall be rounded to port.

6.7. If Mark O is missing a Race Committee boat displaying Code Flag G and making repetitive sound signals will be stationed near Mark A. Yachts will round Mark A to port and proceed to the mark of the course listed immediately after Mark O.

7. OBSTRUCTIONS

7.1. Large bodies of kelp shall rank as obstructions, as shall the waters within a 100' radius of a stationary dive boat or a "Diver Down" safety flag displayed from a floating object.

8. HAILING OCS BOATS

- 8.1. The Race Committee may hail (on marine VHF channel 69) the sail number or other identifying feature of any boat that was on the course side of the starting line at the start signal.
- 8.2. The failure of a hail, the failure of a boat to hear a hail, or the order of the hail(s) shall not be grounds for a yacht to request redress. This changes Rule 62.1.

9. PENALTIES AT THE TIME OF AN INCIDENT

- 9.1. The first two sentences of Rule 44.1 are changed to: A boat may take a One-Turn Penalty when she may have broken a rule of Part 2 or Rule 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.

10. TIME LIMITS

- 10.1. The time limit for the first boat to finish a race shall be two (2) hours.
- 10.2. Boats failing to finish a race within 30 minutes of the time the first boat successfully finishes will be scored Did Not Finish (DNF) without a hearing. This changes Rules 35, A4 and A5.

11. BOAT RETIRING

- 11.1. A boat retiring before completing a race shall notify the Race Committee as soon as reasonably possible by sailing past a Race Committee boat and hailing their intention to retire, or by hailing the Race Committee on marine VHF channel 69.
- 11.2. The Race Committee may protest a boat that disregards instruction 11.1. In the event of disqualification, the Protest Committee may assess a penalty less than the points for a Disqualification (DSQ) specified in Section 12.3. This changes Rule 64.2.

12. SCORING

- 12.1. The Low Point Scoring System of RRS Appendix A will apply, except that no score shall be excluded.
- 12.2. Five (5) races are scheduled. A minimum of three (3) races must be completed to constitute a series.
- 12.3. A boat disqualified by the Protest Committee shall be scored the number of entrants in the series plus two (2). This changes Rule A5.2.

13. PROTESTS

- 13.1. The protest filing period expires one (1) hour after the principal Race Committee boat returns to its mooring. The protest filing time limit will be posted on the Official Notice Board.
- 13.2. Hearing schedules and notices to the parties to a hearing will be posted on the Official Notice Board within 90 minutes of the time the principal Race Committee boat returns to its mooring.

Appendix A

Courses

Course	Marks of the Course										
1	Start	Ap	Op	Gate	Fin-1						
2	Start	Ap	Op	Gate	Ap	Op	Gate	Fin-1			
3	Start	Ap	Op	Gate	Ap	Op	Gate	Ap	Op	Gate	Fin-1
4	Start	Ap	Op	Gate	Ap	Op	Fin-1				
5	Start	Ap	Op	Gate	Ap	Op	Gate	Ap	Op	Fin-1	
6	Start	Ap	Op	Gate	Fin-2						
7	Start	Ap	Op	Gate	Ap	Op	Gate	Fin-2			
8	Start	Ap	Op	Gate	Ap	Op	Gate	Ap	Op	Gate	Fin-2

Note: Unless shortened, courses 4 & 5 finish downwind; all other courses finish upwind.

