

2022 Montana Sailing Championships & Montana Cup Regatta



Pacific Northwest Thistle Class Open Districts

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS (SIs)

**North Flathead Yacht Club
Flathead Lake, Somers, Montana**

1 RULES

- 1.1** The event is governed by the rules as defined in US Sailing: *The Racing Rules of Sailing 2021-2024*, the prescriptions of PHRF, Class rules for One Designs, and these sailing instructions and Amendments thereto.
- 1.2** The Montana Cup shall be governed by the PHRF of the Northern Rockies. Boats without ratings shall contact North Flathead Yacht Club and will be assigned a base rating. Specifications and measurements may be required to assign the base rating. Any adjustments will require a completed [measurement form](#). Check [Rocky Mountain PHRF Form](#).

2 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1** Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted no less than 1 hour before the first start on the day it will take effect, or at the Skipper's Meeting.
- 2.2** Changes to a sailing instruction may be made on the water by Principle Race Officer relaying information of change to the sailing instructions on VHF Channel 68.

3 COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

- 3.1** Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located on the middle deck of the NFYC Clubhouse. Other notice boards may be placed throughout the Club grounds
- 3.2** The race office is located at the NFYC Club House meeting room, 406 857-2582, nfycvice@gmail.com
- 3.3** On the water, the Race Committee will primarily use flags and voice hails to communicate with competitors. The RC also intends to monitor and communicate via VHF radio on channel 68.

3.4 While racing, except in an emergency, a boat shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats.

4 CODE OF CONDUCT

4.1 Competitors shall comply with reasonable requests from race officials.

5 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

5.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed at the Race Officer's boat.

5.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 60 minutes' in Race Signals AP.

6 SCHEDULE OF RACES

6.1 Friday, August 5

- 1900 hours A fleet start (not counted for scoring in MT Cup Regatta.)

Saturday, August 6

- 0800 hours Distance Race Start
- 0810 hours First Start A Fleet
(Race Committee will determine start time for general fleets)
- 1600 hours No starts after 4PM

Sunday, August 7

- 0730 hours On Course Race Warning Signal
- 1300 hours No Starts after 1:00 PM

6.2 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.

6.4 Depending on wind conditions, at least five races will be attempted on Saturday. No Races will be started after 4:00 PM. On Sunday, as many races as possible will be held before 1:00 PM.

7 Fleets

7.1 Fleets will be organized based on Spinnaker PHRF Numbers to be assigned at the Skippers Meeting.

7.2 Standard Fleets:

- Super A Fleet: Sport boats with PHRF 140 and Lower
- A Fleet: Displacement Boats with PHRF 140 and Lower
- B Fleet: Displacement Boats with PHRF 141 to 181
- C Fleet: Displacement Boats with PHRF 182 to 234

- D Fleet: Displacement Boats with PHRF 235 and Higher
- 7.3 One Design Fleets:**
- One design fleets may be organized with a minimum of 5 boats registered.
 - Thistles will sail in a one design. Registration is open to any Thistle but the districts trophy will be awarded to the top finishing Pacific Northwest Thistle member.

8 FLEET FLAGS

- 8.1**
- Super A and A Fleet Flag: solid blue flag with letter "A" in the middle
 - B Fleet Flag: solid red flag with letter "B" in the middle
 - C and D Fleet Flag: solid yellow with letter "C" in the middle.
 - One Design Fleet Flag: solid green with letters "OD" in the middle.
 - Thistles will start with a Thistle class flag
 - Cruising Fleet: Shall use the One Design Fleet Flag.

8 RACING AREA

- 8.1** The racing area shall be: Friday: The area of Somers Bay east of the Fish Hatchery on the west shore. Saturday and Sunday: An area east of Somers Bay near the north shore of Flathead Lake
Cruising Fleet: Northern end of Flathead Lake as far south as Woods Bay on the east shore and Angel Point on the west shore.

9 THE COURSES

9.1 Fleets A-D

The diagrams in SI addendum A show the courses, including the approximate angles between legs, the order in which marks are to be passed, and the side on which each mark is to be left.

- The course shall be windward/leeward
- Starting line will be between a staff on the committee boat flying an orange flag and an orange (pin) buoy at the port end.
- All marks will be rounded to port.

9.2 Super A and A Fleets:

Start, Long Windward, Leeward, Long Windward, Finish

9.3 B and J24 Fleets:

Start, Long Windward, Leeward, Short Windward, Finish

9.4 C and D Fleets:

Start, Short Windward, Leeward, Short Windward, Finish

9.5 Thistle Class

Courses will be a mixtures of Windward leeward, and Triangle courses signalled with the Thistle fleet Flag as follows;

- **Thistle Fleet: Triangle – Code Flag 6; Long Windward, Gybe Mark, Leeward, Short Windward, Leeward , Finish**
- **Thistle Fleet: W/L Code Flag 7; Long Windward, Leeward, Short Windward, Leeward, Finish**

9.6 Cruising Fleet

- **Saturday:**Boats will start/finish using the finish line, starboard of the committee boat leaving the pin to port. They will continue to the fixed mark at approximately 47.980 N, 114.066 W leaving it port. Please take your time based on GPS or cell phone time at the rounding of the mark. The finish will be the same as the start with the committee boat to port. If no boats have finished by 1pm the halfway times will be scored
- **Sunday:** Boats will start/finish using the finish line, starboard of the committee boat leaving the pin to port. They will continue to a mark approximately 200 yards off Angel Point leaving it port. Please take your time based on GPS or cell phone time at the rounding of the mark. The finish will be the same as the start with the committee boat to port. If no boats have finished by 1pm the halfway times will be scored

9.7 The Start and Finish Lines are restricted when a boat is "Sailing the course" and not "Starting" or "Finishing". This changes RRS 28.1

9.8 A boat that breaks SI rule 9.6 shall not correct her error. However, she will be exonerated if she takes a Two-Turns penalty, (see RRS 44.2).

10 Shortened Courses:

10.1 The race course may be shortened at the discretion of the Race Committee.

10.2 If the Short course flag (Code S) is flown during the start sequence, the race course will be shortened to once around each fleet's respective first lap course.

10.3 If the Short course flag is flown while a race is underway, the finish line will be where established by the Committee Boat and the nearest mark.

11 MARKS

11.1 Mark(s) are Orange or Green tetrahedrons.

11.2 Start and Finish Pins

- Orange Tetrahedrons

11.3 Long Windward Mark

- Orange Tetrahedron

11.4 Short Windward Mark

- Green Tetrahedron
- Mark is restricted a minimum of three boat lengths for boats not rounding said mark.

11.5 Leeward Mark

- Orange Tetrahedron

12 OBSTRUCTIONS

12.1 The Following objects are designated as obstructions:

- Rock/weather station south of the club with a flashing light on top of it.
- The trestles coming out from the shore south of the club.
- The north shore of Flathead Lake can get very shallow.
- There is a sand bar coming out from the mouth of the Flathead River.
- The Start and Finish Lines will be considered obstructions

13 THE START

13.1 The starting line is between a staff displaying an orange flag on the Race Committee boat at the starboard end and an orange bouy at the port end

13.2 Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area during the starting sequence for other races.

13.3 The starts shall be in accordance with RRS 26. The Start Signal for the fleet in sequence shall be the Warning Signal for the succeeding fleet.

13.4 There will be a trailing buoy behind the Committee Boat. The space between the buoy and the Committee Boat is restricted; any boats passing through this at any time will be scored DSQ.

13.5 **General Recall:** If there is a general recall at the start that fleet will begin a new start immediately after all other fleets have started. Other potential general recalls will follow in consecutive order. The

I flag (rule 30.1) will be flown after a general recall for that fleet's next start for that race only.

14 THE FINISH

14.1 The finishing line is between a staff displaying a blue flag on the finishing vessel (Committee Boat) at the starboard end and the course side of the port end finishing mark.

14.2 Upon finishing, boats are required to sail well clear of the finish area, and of other boats still racing, subject to protest by the Race Committee or affected boats.

15 PENALTY SYSTEM

15.1 Rules 44.1 & 44.2 are in effect.

16 TIME LIMITS

16.1 All Racers (Excluding the Cruising Fleet) not finished 30 minutes after the first boat in its fleet will be scored DNF. This Changes rule 32.1

16.2 Any boat not across the start line 10 min after her Starting Signal will be Scored DNS for that race.

16.3 The Race Committee has sole discretion to abandon any ongoing race at any time.

16.4 Cruising Fleet: If no boats have finished by 1300 hours the halfway times will be scored.

17 HEARING REQUESTS

17.1 A verbal declaration of a protest shall be given to the Race Committee upon finishing of the race for which the protest takes place. (This changes RRS 61.1)

17.2 The protest time limit is 45 minutes after the committee boat returns to the club and is secure(a sound signal will be blown) to file their protest form with the Vice Commodore or Race Committee.

17.3 The Protest Committee will review the filed protest form and schedule a protest hearing with time posted on the main bulletin board at the club house the same day as the incident occurred.

17.4 Hearing request forms are available from the race office in the upstairs club room filing cabinets in the top drawer.

17.5 Notices will be posted on the main bulletin board at the club house the same day as the incident occurred to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Hearings will be held in the protest room, located upstairs in the club house meeting room, beginning at the time posted.

17.6 All safety and sportsmanship violations should be reported to the Vice Commodore and/or the Fleet Captain (not the Race Steward).

18 SCORING

18.1 One completed race constitutes a series.

18.2 When fewer than six races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores. For fleets completing six or more races, each boat's worst score will be excluded from her series score. Scores for Disqualification are not excludable.

18.3 All races sailed by the Thistle Fleet will be scored with no throwouts.

20 SAFETY REGULATIONS

20.2 A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee at the first reasonable opportunity.

21 EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

21.1 A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules, notice of race and sailing instructions.

21.2 When instructed by a race official on the water, a boat shall proceed to a designated area for inspection.

22 OFFICIAL VESSELS

22.1 The official committee boats can be identified by the RC Flag being flown from them.

23 PRIZES

23.1 Prizes will be awarded to the first three finishers in each fleet. The Montana Cup will be awarded to the Club with the total highest points per the Montana Cup Deed of Gift.

24 RISK STATEMENT

24.1 RRS 3 states: 'The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue to race is hers alone.' By

participating in this event each competitor agrees and acknowledges that sailing is a potentially dangerous activity with inherent risks. These risks include strong winds and rough seas, sudden changes in weather, failure of equipment, boat handling errors, poor seamanship by other boats, loss of balance on an unstable platform and fatigue resulting in increased risk of injury. **Inherent in the sport of sailing is the risk of permanent, catastrophic injury or death by drowning, trauma, hypothermia or other causes.**

25 INSURANCE

25.1 Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum coverage of \$100,000 per incident or the equivalent. Proof of insurance may be required.