

**Ventura Yacht Club**  
**2022 Thistle Pacific Coast Championship**  
**Sailing Instructions**

In support of the Thistle Class efforts for a “Green Regatta” the SIs will be posted on the bulletin board at the club. We ask that all competitors who wish to have a hard copy make every effort to come to the regatta with their documents pre-printed. For those traveling from out of town and without access to a printer, a limited number of SIs will be printed and will be available for the competitors meeting on Saturday morning.

**1. RULES**

- 1.1. The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing*.
- 1.2. If there is any discrepancy between the NOR and the Sailing Instructions, the Sailing Instructions will take precedent.

**2. NOTICE TO COMPETITORS**

Notices to competitors will be posted on the Official Notice Board located in the VYC patio.

**3. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

Any change to the Sailing Instructions will be posted by 1800 on the day prior to the affected event(s) or announced on the water by the Race Committee.

**4. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE**

- 4.1. Signals made ashore will be displayed from the VYC flagpole.
- 4.2. When flag AP is displayed ashore, ‘1 minute’ is replaced with ‘not less than 60 minutes’ in the Race Signals AP.

**5. SCHEDULE OF RACES**

- 5.1. The Racing Schedule is published in the Notice of Race for the regatta.
- 5.2. The competitors meeting will be held at 0900 on Saturday morning on the downstairs patio of VYC.
- 5.3. No Warning Signal will be made after 1400 on Sunday.

**6. CLASS FLAGS**

- 6.1. Class Flag will be the Thistle sail emblem.

**7. RACING AREA**

The racing area will be approximately 1 nautical mile west of the whistle buoy (R2) and/or approximately ½ nautical mile NW of the Ventura Harbor entrance in the vicinity of Pierpont Bay.

**8. COURSES**

- 8.1. The course diagrams and identifying course letters are illustrated on the last page of these SIs.
- 8.2. No later than the warning signal, the Signal Boat will display the course and the approximate compass bearing to the first *mark*.

**9. MARKS**

- 9.1. Marks will be yellow inflatable tetrahedrons.
- 9.2. The starting ‘pin’ mark will be an orange inflatable tetrahedron.
- 9.3. The windward offset mark will be a red inflatable ball.

**10. THE START**

- 10.1. The starting line will be between the staff displaying an orange flag and an orange inflatable tetrahedron to port of the signal boat.
- 10.2. The RC will attempt to hail the sail number(s) for OCS boat(s) via voice or VHF radio after the starting signal. Failure to make a hail or to time it accurately will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 62.1(a).

**11. CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE**

To change the next leg of the course, the race committee will move the original mark (or the finishing line) to a new position.

**12. THE FINISH**

The finish line will be between the staff displaying an orange flag on the Signal Boat and the course side of the finishing mark.

**13. PENALTY SYSTEM**

Appendix T ARBITRATION and Appendix V1 PENALTY AT THE TIME OF AN INCIDENT will be in effect.

**14. TIME LIMITS**

- 14.1. The time limit for a race shall be 90 minutes from its starting signal. If no boat in the fleet completes the race within the 90-minute time limit, the race shall be *abandoned*.
- 14.2. Any boat that has not finished within 30 minutes of the first finisher shall be scored *TLE*. The *TLE* score will be one point more than the total number of boats that finished within the time limit. This score will be the same for all boats receiving a TLE in the same race. This changes rules 35, 63.1, A4, A5, and A10.

## **15. PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS**

- 15.1.** Protest forms are available at the VYC office or on the Official Notice Board should the office be closed. Protests and requests for redress shall be delivered to the RC within the time limit.
- 15.2.** The time limit for protests and requests for redress shall be 1 hour after the signal boat reaches her slip. This includes protests and requests for redress by the RC. This changes RRS 61.3 and 62.2.
- 15.3.** A boat intending to protest or request redress based on an incident in the racing area she was involved in or sees shall, at the first reasonable opportunity after she finishes, inform the race committee at the finish line of her intent to protest or request redress and, when applicable, the identity of the protestee.

## **16. SCORING**

- 16.1.** Scoring will be the low point system.
- 16.2.** One race must be completed to constitute a regatta
- 16.3.** All races will be counted (no throw-outs). This changes RRS A 2.1.

## **17. SAFETY**

- 17.1.** All boats intending to race shall check in with the RC, before their first race of each day, by sailing past the Signal Boat on starboard tack, hailing their sail number and receiving verbal confirmation from the RC. Any boat that has not checked in will be scored *DNC*. This changes RRS 63.1, A4 and A5.
- 17.2.** A boat that retires from a race shall notify the RC as soon as possible by sailing by the Signal Boat or mark boat or hailing the RC on VHF.
- 17.3.** All boats are required to carry the safety equipment in compliance with the Thistle Class. All boats must have a US Coast Guard approved PFD for every person on board.
- 17.4.** The RC or Race Patrol may inspect a boat at any time; any boat found deficient shall be disqualified from all races for the day. This changes RRS A4, A5, and 63.1.
- 17.5.** Boats shall not impede the passage of commercial vessels and shall comply with the U.S. Inland Navigation Rules Act of 1980.

## **18. REPLACEMENT OF CREW**

- 18.1.** Substitution of competitors will not be allowed unless submitted in writing to and approved by the PRO.

## **19. RADIO COMMUNICATIONS**

- 19.1.** The RC will communicate on VHF Channel 69 unless radio traffic deems it necessary to change channels. Any change will be communicated to the fleet from the signal boat.
- 19.2.** A boat may use VHF to communicate with the RC under the following circumstances: retiring from a race, in need of assistance, or medical emergency.
- 19.3.** Except for the circumstances listed in 19.2, a boat shall neither make radio or cell phone transmissions while racing nor receive radio or cell phone communications not available to all boats.

## **20. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY**

Competitors participate entirely at their own risk. See RRS 4, Decision to Race. The Organizing Authority will not accept any liability for material damage, personal injury, or death sustained in conjunction with, prior to, during, or after the race.

## **21. INSURANCE**

Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance.

## **22. PARKING, BERTHING, & HOIST**

Competitor boats, their trailers and dollies are to be parked along the west wall of VYC. The VYC hoist is available for launching Friday-Sunday but may only be operated by qualified VYC operators. Competitors may store their boats on the guest dock overnight Saturday or may dry-store their boats. All vehicles will utilize free public parking along Spinnaker Drive or in the Harbor Cove Beach parking lot. No parking in the VYC lot will be allowed.

