

THISTLE CLASS ASSOCIATION  
2023 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS  
North Flathead Yacht Club  
Somers, MT  
July 14 – 21, 2023

The notation '[DP]' in a rule in the SI means that the penalty for a breach of that rule may, at the discretion of the protest committee, be less than disqualification.

The notation '[NP]' in a rule in the SI means that instruction is not grounds for protest or a request for redress by a boat. This is an addition to rule 60.1.

## 1 RULES

1.1 The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS).

1.2 The prescription to RRS 63.1 is deleted

## 2 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any change to the sailing instructions shall be posted not less than 2 hours prior to the first scheduled race on the day it shall take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races shall be posted by 1800 hrs or by the protest time limit, whichever is later on the day before it shall take effect.

## 3 COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

3.1 Regatta Network will serve as the official notice board.

<https://www.regattanetwork.com/event/25405>

3.2 There will be a competitors' meeting at North Flathead Yacht Club as a part of the Opening Ceremonies which are scheduled for Sunday, July 16th at 1700hrs.

3.3 Radio communications between boats and the Race Committee will be on VHF 68

3.4 [NP] The following communications may be made by the race committee using the designated VHF Channel in addition to any Race Signals (this changes RRS 29, 32, 33 and 41): Courses, including the bearing and distance to the first mark; postponements and abandonments; boats identified as OCS and general recalls; changing courses or marks and identify marks; shortening the course; time limits.

3.5 [DP] A boat shall neither make radio transmissions while racing nor receive radio communications not available to all boats. This restriction also applies to mobile telephones. Exception - competitors are encouraged to inform the race committee of a retirement or safety issue.

## 4 CODE OF CONDUCT [NP][DP]

4.1 Competitors and support persons shall comply with reasonable requests from race officials.

4.2 Competitors and support persons shall handle any equipment and place advertising provided by the organizing authority with care, seamanship, in accordance with any instructions for its use and without interfering with its functionality.

## 5 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE / RRS 40.1

5.1 Signals ashore will be made from the flagpole at North Flathead Yacht Club.

5.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' will be replaced with '90 minutes.' This changes Race Signals AP.

5.3 [NP][DP] When a race committee vessel displays flag "Y" afloat, RRS 40.1 applies at all times (except temporarily while adding or removing clothing), not just when racing. This changes RRS 40.2(a). When flag "Y" is removed afloat, RRS 40.1 no longer applies.

## 6 SCHEDULE OF RACES

6.1 National Championship Race Series

Monday, July 17 0800 hrs Qualifying Races 1 & 2

Tuesday, July 18 0800 hrs Qualifying Race 3

Wednesday, July 19 0800 hrs Championship Race 4 & 5 President Races 1 & 2

Thursday, July 20 0800 hrs Championship Race 6 President Race 3

Friday, July 21 0800 hrs Championship Race 7 President Race 4

6.2 If the Race Committee (RC) is unable to complete the race(s) scheduled for a particular day, then that race(s) will be sailed on subsequent days.

6.3 No warning signal shall be made after 1530 hrs on Friday, July 21.

## 7 CLASS FLAGS

7.1 For the Qualifying Races, the class flag for the first start (Division 1) in each race will be the Thistle Class logo on a white field. The class flag for the second start (Division 2) in each race will be the Thistle Class logo on a purple field.

7.2 For the Championship series the class flag will be the Thistle Class logo on a white field and the President's series will be the Thistle Class logo on a purple field.

## 8 RACING AREAS

See Addendum A for the approximate location of the racing areas.

## 9 COURSES

9.1 The diagrams in 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.

9.2 No later than the warning signal, the RC Signal vessel shall display Pennant 1 or 2 to designate the course to be sailed. The approximate compass bearing of the first leg shall be displayed on a placard.

## 10 MARKS

10.1 Marks 1, 2 and 3 will be orange inflatable tetrahedrons.

10.2 Marks 4S and 4P (the gate) will be green inflatable tetrahedrons.

10.3 Mark 1a (the offset mark) will be a small green tetrahedron.

10.4 New marks, as provided in instruction 14, will be yellow inflatable marks.

10.5 The starting mark will be an inflatable mark, or an anchored vessel displaying a staff with an orange flag.

10.6 The finishing mark will be a red inflatable ball, or an anchored vessel displaying a staff with a blue flag.

10.7 The race committee **may** insert a midline buoy on the starting line. This buoy **may or may not** be on the course side of the starting line. It is used for reference and is not a mark of the course and is to be ignored.

## 11 RACING FORMAT

11.1 Practice Race – all boats participating will be split into two fleets based on sail number with the odd numbered boats starting first and the even numbered boats starting second.

11.2 Qualifying Races (Races 1 – 3) – The fleet will be split into four (4) groups as per TCA Bylaw Article XIII, Section 11. Competitors shall fly a colored ribbon identifying their group from the mainsail clew: A (green), B (purple), C (blue), and D (red). Two groups will start in the first start (Division 1) of each race; the other two groups (Division 2) will start in the second start:

Race	Division 1	Division 2
1	Group A (green) & Group B (purple)	Group C (blue) & Group D (red)
2	Group A (green) & Group C (blue)	Group B (purple) & Group D (red)
3	Group B (purple) & Group C (blue)	Group A (green) & Group D (red)

Group assignments by boat will be posted on the official notice board no later than 1830 on Sunday, July 16.

11.3 Championship / President's Division Races (Races 4 – 7) – The fleet will be divided into Divisions in accordance with TCA Bylaw Article XIV, Section 9(a).

## 12 THE START

12.1 The starting line shall be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the signal boat and the course side of the mark or the staff displaying an orange flag as described in instruction 10.4.

12.2 [DP] Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area during the starting sequence for other races.

12.3 [NP] After a postponement, general recall or abandonment is signalled by the RC Signal Boat, an RC Mark Boat may, as a courtesy, display code flags AP, 1st substitute or N to facilitate boats returning to the starting area. Only the signals displayed by the RC Signal Boat will govern the conduct of racing. This changes RRS race signals.

12.4 A boat starting later than five (5) minutes after her starting signal shall be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.1 and A5.2.

12.5 "The Signal boat may trail a substitute mark which will be considered part of the Signal boat"

## 13 WIND SHIFTS – ABANDONMENT [NP]

13.1 If a continuing

(longer than 5 minutes) wind shift of 30 degrees or more occurs after the start of the first Division, but before the first boat of both divisions passes the first mark, races for both Divisions shall be abandoned and restarted.

13.2 If such a continuing wind shift occurs during the first leg of races of the National Championship and President's divisions, only the race of the affected Division shall be abandoned.

13.3 Determination of time and amount of shift is in the sole judgment of a Race Committee representative near the weather mark, and it is not subject to protest, appeal, or hearing.

14 CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE To change the next leg of the course, the race committee will lay a new mark (or move the finishing line) and remove the original mark as soon as practicable. When in a subsequent change a new mark is replaced, it will be replaced by an original mark.

## 15 THE FINISH

15.1 The finishing line shall be between a staff displaying a blue flag on the signal boat and the course side of the mark or the staff displaying a blue flag as described in SI 10.6.

15.2 Boats shall not sail through the finish line unless they are finishing or attempting to finish. A boat that fails to observe this restriction may exonerate herself by taking a Two-Turns Penalty as described in RRS 44.2. This changes RRS 44.1 but does not change RRS 44.1 (b). A boat that fails to exonerate herself will be scored Did not sail the course (NSC) without a hearing. This changes RRS 63.1 and A5.

15.3, The finish line will not exist until the blue flags described in SI 10.6 are displayed.

## 16 TIME LIMITS AND TARGET TIMES

16.1 In accordance with RRS 35, the time limit for each division in each race is 2.5 hours.

16.2 In the Qualifying Races only, if no boat sails the course and finishes within the time limit in a division, the RC shall abandon the race for both divisions. This changes RRS 35.

16.3 Boats failing to finish within 30 minutes after the first boat in their division sails the course and finishes will be scored Time Limit Expired (TLE) without a hearing. This changes RRS 35, A5.1, A5.2 and A10.

## 17 HEARING REQUESTS

17.1 The protest time limit is 60 minutes after the RC Signal Boat docks at the end of each racing day or 60 minutes after the RC signals 'No more racing today', whichever is later.

17.2 Hearing request forms are available near the Jury Desk or online (US Sailing Hearing Request Form).

17.3 Notices shall be posted no later than 30 minutes after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Hearings shall be held at North Flathead Yacht Club.

17.4 Notices of Race Committee or Protest Committee protests shall be posted on the official notice board, and as a courtesy at the jury desk to inform boats under RRS 61.1(b).

17.5 In accordance with rule 70.5(a), decisions of the protest committee are final. US Sailing's permission has been granted. If the requirements shown on

<https://www.ussailing.org/competition/rules-officiating/appeals/no-appeal-rule-70-5-procedures/> are not met, the decisions of the protest committee may be appealed. US Sailing's permission is limited to the qualifying series. Competitors may appeal decisions of the Protest Committee in the Championship Series.

## 18 SCORING

18.1 The series scores for boats in the Championship Division will be the total of all their race scores, including the Qualifying Races, with no races excluded.

18.2 The series scores for boats in the President's Division will be the total of their race scores, excluding the Qualifying Races, with no other races excluded.

18.3 Four (4) races are required to be completed to constitute a series for the Championship Division.

18.4 One (1) race is required to be completed to constitute a series for the President's Division.

18.5 A boat scored DNS, DSQ, DNC or OCS shall be scored points of one more than the number of boats registered in that division's race. This changes RRS A5.2.

18.6 A boat scored DNF, RET, BFD, UFD or TLE are scored by adding the number of registered boats in that division's race to the number of finishers, then divided by 2 (any resulting fraction shall be rounded up to the nearest whole number). This changes RRS A5.2. For the purposes of this calculation, boats scored UFD, BFD will be excluded from the number of finishers.

## 19 SAFETY REGULATIONS [NP][DP]

19.1 Upon arriving in the starting area, boats shall check-in with the race committee by sailing past the stern of the RC Signal Boat on starboard tack, hailing their sail number and receiving confirmation from the RC.

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

## 20 REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT [NP] [DP]

20.1 Change in the number of crew or substitution of crew(s) shall not be permitted except in extenuating circumstances and only with the written approval of the National Race Committee. Refer to TCA Bylaws Article IX, Section 4 and Article XIII, Section 8(c).

20.2 Substitution for a damaged or lost rudder, centerboard, spar or other major equipment shall not be allowed unless the replacement meets TCA specifications and is authorized in writing by the Technical Committee. Request for substitution shall be made to the Technical Committee in writing at the first reasonable opportunity.

20.3 A request for replacement of a registered sail shall be made to the Technical Committee in writing at the first reasonable opportunity and shall not be allowed unless the replacement meets TCA specifications and is authorized in writing by the Technical Committee.

20.4 The Technical Committee shall be comprised of the Chief Measurer, the NRC Representative, and the Governing Board Representative.

## 21 EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

21.1[NP][DP] A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules and sailing instructions. On the water, a boat may be instructed by a Technical Committee equipment inspector to proceed immediately to a designated area for inspection.

21.2 Bow numbers will be supplied and installed by the OA and must be affixed throughout the entire National Championship regatta.

## 22 AWARDS

22.1 The National Championship and "Louis Carron Perpetual Trophy" will be awarded to the winning boat in the Championship Division.

22.2 Other awards will be made at the discretion of the Organizing Authority.

## 23 RISK STATEMENT

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.

24 INSURANCE Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum value of \$100,000 USD. Competing teams must show proof of insurance at Registration.

Addendum A  
 Illustrating the Courses (not to scale)

Courses 1 and 2 – Triangle/Windward/Leeward	
Signal	Mark Rounding Order
1	Start – 1 – 2 – 3 – 1 – 1a – 4s/4p – Finish (Equilateral triangle)
2	Start – 1 – 2 – 3 – 1 – 1a – 4s/4p – Finish (Right isosceles triangle)

Note: there is no offset mark (1a) when rounding mark 1 for the first time.

