

St. Joseph River Yacht Club

Sail Race Program 2014: Sailing Instructions

The Sail Race Program at SJRYC stresses safety, seamanship, sportsmanship, and improvement of skills.

Safety and Seamanship: This is our highest priority, to have respect for the sea and other sailors. We will cancel a race if active thunderstorms are in the area or for other threats that impact safety. We expect a boat or competitor shall give all possible help to any person or vessel in danger.

Sportsmanship: We expect each participant to approach racing with the highest level of integrity toward other boats and crews.

Improvement of Skills: Over many years SJRYC has developed a well-deserved reputation as one of the best sailing programs on the Lakes, especially for a harbor our size. We prize those sailors who commit to improving their racing skills. We see our racing program as a "proving ground" for those who choose to compete at higher levels.

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Handicaps: We race under PHRF. Each skipper is required to obtain an official PHRF handicap from the LMPHRF Handicap office. However, for your first year of racing, if you do not have a handicap we will assign to you a PHRF handicap with a 10% penalty above the fastest rated sistership reported in the PHRF data base. Race Committee assigned handicaps are final and cannot be appealed.

Racing Divisions: Boats in the Spinnaker division are allowed to use spinnakers. Jib and Main is for those boats not using spinnakers (neither asymmetrical nor symmetrical).

Section splits within the two Divisions, if any, will be determined by the Fleet Captain after all boats are registered.

Safety Equipment: All USCG required safety equipment, as well as any required by state law, must be carried. As with the decision to race, each skipper or owner assumes full responsibility for the safety of the crew.

Race Procedure: For all regular Series Races, competitors are urged to be out in the lake by 6:30 PM on the night of a race. The Race Committee will communicate on VHF Channel 69 to host a radio call-in of all boats racing. Radio contact with the Race Committee is required prior to racing, and all boats must pass by the stern of the Race Committee Boat prior to the first Warning Signal.

The course will be announced after call-in is complete, as will the starting sequence and starting times. Normal start times will be 5 to 10 minutes before, after, or on the hour of 7PM. If there is a delay due to lack of wind, the Race Committee will announce this on channel VHF 69.

We suggest all boats monitor VHF channel 69 from the time you leave your dock on race day, as this will be used for communications before, during, and after a race to include race course, start sequence, recalls, shortening of the course, and any other situation that requires communication.

SJRYC Lifejacket Rule: *Life jackets must be worn at the start and finish of every race by each person onboard.* Further, the Race Committee reserves the right to call any race a "Lifejacket Mandatory" if conditions warrant. Failure to comply will mean a DSQ with no appeals allowed. Lifejacket Mandatory races will be signaled by the use of the Code Flag "Y" (a rectangular flag with yellow and red diagonal stripes).

Course: The race course has three permanent marks:

Mark A: Located West of the Pierheads, approx 1.1 miles due West of the South Pierhead and approx 1 mile due South of Mark C at position N42 06.915; W86 30.958

Mark B: Located 1 mile East of Mark C, and approx .9 miles at approx 355 degrees off the North Pierhead, at position N42 07.770; W86 29.794

Mark C: Located approx 1 mile due North of Mark A, approx 1 mile due East of Mark B, and approx 1.4 miles at 315 degrees off the North Pierhead at position N42 07.770; W86 30.958

Inflatable Marks can be used at locations as announced by the Race Committee.

The Race Committee frequently uses a Starting Area located South of the Southern Pierhead at the approx position of N42 06.915 W86 29.796

Starting Sequence:

Warning	Sound (horn or gun) at 5 minutes: Section Flag up
Prep	Sound (horn or gun) at 4 minutes: Blue Flag up
Get Ready	Sound (horn or gun) at 1 minute: Blue Flag down
Start	Sound (horn or gun) at 0 minutes: Section Flag down If another start follows, New Section Flag Up

Section Flags: Section 1: Yellow flag
Section 2: Green flag

Delay Flag: "AP" Flag (Red and White vertical stripes)

Finishing Times:

If a Committee Boat is not on station at the finish, boats will take their own times as follows: 1) Call on VHF Ch. 69 approximately one minute prior to finishing; 2) When you cross the line, read off your time on the radio; 3) If possible, note also the boat directly ahead and the boat directly astern.

If finish times are unable to be recorded at the Club, email them to the Race Committee (racecommittee@sjryc.com), along with boat ahead and astern, prior to Noon the following day. Any disagreements need to be brought to the attention of the Fleet Captain who will meet with the Race Committee and resolve any discrepancies.

Race Time Limits: For all regular Series races, not including long distance races, the time limit is two hours from the beginning of the starting sequence for the first Division. If no boats in a section finish within the time limit, there are no points given to any boats for that race.

Example: If the Spinn Division gets a 5 minute warning at 6:50 PM, for a 6:55 PM start; with JaM getting a five minute warning at 6:55 PM for a 7:00 PM start, cut-off time for that race will be 8:50 PM for both sections.

Minimum Boats Required: A race will not be counted unless at least one boat in a section starts a race.

Make-Up Races: For 2014, there are no Make-Up races scheduled. If a race is canceled for any reason, the race will not be rescheduled and no points will be awarded to any boat.

Weather Related Cancellations: Safety will be the primary reason for all calls to delay, cancel, or abandon a race in progress. This does not replace the responsibility of each skipper to decide whether to participate as noted in the language of Rule 4 under the ISAF/US Sail Racing Rules. Regardless of the Race Committee decision, each skipper or owner assumes full responsibility for his/her yacht's and crew's safety.

Excessive winds or waves, as judged by the Race Committee will be considered as cause for cancellation. In the case of light winds, the Fleet will meet on the water at the starting area. The Delay Flag will be flown if winds are not strong enough to start the race. After sufficient delays as judged by the Race Committee, the race will be canceled.

Decisions to cancel a race will be made on VHF 69, and when possible a notice on the Club website, an email to the fleet, a delay flag at the Club's flag pole, and notification of the Club's staff. All decisions to cancel or delay a race will be made by the Chairman of the Race Committee and/or the Fleet VC. The Fleet Captain will fill-in for the Fleet VC if needed.

Series Scoring: For the Spring and Summer series, low points win, with points awarded in the order of finish, that is, 1 point for first, 2 for second, and so on. Spinnaker will have 1 throw out and JaM will have 2 throw outs in each Series. These races will be removed from the points total.

In case of a tie, first look to which boat won the most 1st places; if not broken that way, then 2nd places, and so on. If a tie still persists, then whoever finished highest in the final race for the Series breaks the tie. The finishing position for any race used as a throw out in the series will not be counted when breaking a tie.

If a boat checks in at the starting line via VHF channel 69 and passes the stern of the Race Committee but does not Start (DNS), Finish (DNF), or is Disqualified (DSQ), they shall be awarded points equal to the number of boats that started that race +1. If they do not go to the starting area and check in as noted above, they will be categorized as a Did Not Compete (DNC) and will get points equal to the number of the boats registered in the section fleet.

Boat of the Year Scoring: Low points wins, as in the Series scoring, and if there is a tie, first look to the boat that won the most 1st places over the entire season, if still a tie, then 2nd places, and so on. If a tie still persists, then whoever placed highest in the final race of the year breaks the tie. The finishing position for races used as throw outs in either series will not be counted when breaking a tie.

The Commodore's Performance Awards: The JaM section will award a take-home trophy for the best scoring boat whose length is 30 feet over-all and under, which we will call the "30 and Under" Class. The Spinnaker section will award a take-home trophy for the best scoring boat rating from 81-87 PHRF, which we will call the "Level 84" Class. Handicaps will be used to score both sections for this award. The scoring procedure used for BotY will be used for these awards. All boats in these two categories will still be eligible for all regular awards.

Racing Rules: Our races are conducted according to the 2013-2016 rules as published by US Sailing, and as amended by these instructions provided and at Skipper's Meetings.

Protests: All protests will be handled in compliance with the 2013-2016 Sailing Rules as published by US Sailing. The Protest Committee Chairman will arrange all protest hearings.

To lodge a protest, the Protesting Skipper must: 1) At the first reasonable opportunity, inform the other yacht by hailing "protest;" 2) Fly a protest flag at the earliest possible opportunity, which is a Code "B" (a red rectangular flag); 3) Notify the Race Committee boat upon finishing or retiring from the race of the nature of the protest and the name of the protested yacht; 4) Submit to the Protest Committee a written protest on or before the commencement of the protest meeting. Protest Forms are available at the USSailing.org website.

New Racers: We welcome all new sailors who want to race with us, and each of us should actively invite other boaters to join our program. Most new boats will start in JaM and move up to Spinn when they have built the skills and crew needed. They do not have to be a member of SJRYC for their first year but should be on the waiting list. Please email Jim Schrage if you know of anyone interested in joining us.

Special Finishing Instructions for South Haven Race: All boats must radio the Fleet on VHF 69 when they are 1/2 mile from the finish line. They must radio again with their exact GPS finish time when crossing the finish line. If weather permits, there will be a temporary marker approximately 300 feet due West of the South Pierhead. If there is not a marker, then the finish line will be an imaginary line extending 300 feet Due West from the South Pierhead. A finish form noting the boat ahead and astern (if known) must be turned in to a SJRYC race official at the Saturday AM SHYC Invitational Skippers Meeting. The maximum time limit for this race is 7 hours from the beginning of the starting sequence.

2014 Race Course

SJRYC 2014 Race Team

Fleet Vice Commodore: Terry Deegan; terrydeegan@aol.com
Race Committee Chairman: Ken Zimmerman; zimmerk1@hotmail.com
Fleet Captain: Jim Schrager; jimschrager@gmail.com
Rhumblin Chair: Dirk Krueger; dkruger@krugerplasticproducts.com
Protest Committee Chair: Dr. Stuart Boekeloo; aleydiscenters@aol.com

SJRYC Sail Race Calendar 2014

Wed 07 May: Pre-season Skippers Meeting, 7PM at SJRYC

Wed 14 May: Shakedown Race

Wed 21 May: Spring Series #1

Wed 28 May: Spring Series #2

Fri 30 May: Night Nav Race to South Haven, Spinn Spring Series #3

Sat/Sun 31/01 May/June: SHYC Invitational

Wed 04 Jun: Spring Series #4

Wed 11 Jun: Spring Series #5

Sat 14 Jun: Rhumbline Regatta, Skipper's Meeting at 10:30AM

Wed 18 Jun: Spring Series #6

Wed 25 Jun: Spring Series #7

Fri 27 Jun: Queen's Cup: Milwaukee to Muskegon

Wed 02 July: Spring Series #8

Wed 09 Jul: Summer Series #1

Wed 16 Jul: Staggered Start for non-Mac boats

Fri/Sat 18/19 Jul: Chicago Mac

Wed 30 Jul: Summer Series #2

Wed 06 Aug: Summer Series #3

Sat 09 Aug: PHRF race to MCYC

Wed 13 Aug: Summer Series #4

Wed 20 Aug: Summer Series #5

Sat 23 Aug: Dual Handed Race

Wed 27 Aug: Staggered Start for JaM + Spinn

Fri/Sun/Mon 29/31/01 Aug/Sep: Tri State

Wed 03 Sep: Summer Series #6

Wed 10 Sep: Summer Series #7

Wed 17 Sep: Summer Series #8

Sat 20 Sep: Chili Regatta

Sat 11 Oct: Awards Banquet. SJRYC

BotY Races in **bold type**

Night Nav to South Haven for Spinn Section only; counts for Spinn Spring Series

One throw-out in each Series for Spinn; Two throw-outs in each Series for JaM

No Make-up Races

For Wednesday night races, plan to be offshore by 6:30 PM, monitor VHF Ch 69

Questions, comments, concerns: Contact Fleet Captain: JimSchrager@gmail.com

