

STOCKTON SAILING CLUB

South Tower 2015 - Sailing Instructions

I. RACING RULES:

The race will be governed by the 2013-2016 International Yacht Racing rules as adopted by the United States Sailing Association *except as altered by these sailing instructions*. Between the hours of sunset and sunrise, the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea shall apply. The Stockton Sailing Club South Tower Race Instructions and USSA rules shall apply, in that order.

II. ELIGIBILITY:

Skippers of mono-hulled yachts with self-bailing cockpits who are members of recognized yacht clubs or sailing associations are eligible to participate, provided the yacht meets the following specifications:

Minimum LOA	22' 0"
Maximum PHRF	275
Minimum Crew	3 (skipper plus 2 crew)

Additionally, certain multi-hulled yachts may be invited to race. These yachts will compete solely within their own division.

Applicable fees and forms must be received by the Race Chair prior to the skippers meeting. Each yacht shall submit either an existing current PHRF certificate or SSC PHRF certificate or a completed Stockton Sailing Club PHRF Application form for a PHRF number.

III. RESPONSIBILITY:

The safety of each yacht and her crew is the sole and inescapable responsibility of the owner and/or the skipper, who shall decide whether or not to start or to continue to race. Every yacht shall render assistance to any vessel or person in peril, when in a position to safely do so. A yacht which alleges that her finishing position has been materially prejudiced through no fault of her own by rendering assistance may apply for redress from the Protest Committee. From sunset to sunrise, all personnel on deck shall wear a U.S.C.G. approved Personal Flotation Device.

IV. MINIMUM EQUIPMENT:

All yachts must comply with the U.S.C.G. requirements for recreational vessels, and have the following additional equipment:

- Life ring, man overboard light, and whistle, all attached as one unit.
- A working VHF radio with channels 14, 16 and 72.
- Life lines or safety lines leading from both sides of the cockpit forward, well secured at each end.
- Manual bilge-pump with minimum capacity of 10 gallons per minute.
- Up-to-date charts of the race course.
- A motor and sufficient fuel to propel the yacht for 3 hours at 70% of her hull speed in smooth water.

V. INSPECTION:

The Race Committee has the right to inspect any vessel, and to reject its entry if they find she does not meet the requirements of these instructions.

VI. INTERFERENCE WITH OTHER VESSELS:

Yachts shall not impede the passage of a vessel that has restricted ability to maneuver within a narrow channel or fairway. Yachts that impede the passage of such a vessel endanger their own safety and that of the other vessel, and are thereby subject to protest by the Race Committee or contestants in the race and face disqualification.

VII. START/FINISH LINE:

The start/finish line is a line extending from a small white flag pole on the lawn in front of the Race Platform across the channel to a white pole on the opposite bank. In the event that a large vessel would obscure the finish line, yachts must finish between that vessel and the Race Platform.

Prior to her division's warning signal, a yacht shall stay at least 100 yards upriver from the starting line.

VIII. COURSE:

From the starting line proceed down the route of the Stockton Deep Water Channel/San Joaquin River, New York Slough and Suisun Bay, through San Pablo Bay (leaving the buoys marking the Pinole Shoal dredged channel in San Pablo Bay to the North) and into San Francisco Bay. Once in San Francisco Bay proceed to the YRA Mark 16 (Yellow cylinder marked with a Blue "C" 0.2 nm East of Ft Point - "Blackaller"). YRA Mark 16 must be rounded to PORT. Return to finish line via the same course. Racing yachts must record the time that they round YRA Mark 16 and report this time to the race committee for scoring purposes. **Phone: 209-483-4428.**

For the purposes of U.S.S.A. rules 18 and 19 the following shall be considered restricted areas as if a point of land extended from the shore. This precludes passing between them and the land.

- The area between Anita Rock and the Buoy marking the same.
- The bell buoy off the west end of Alcatraz.
- The outermost rocks off Point Blunt and any buoy marking the same.
- Castro Rocks and any buoy marking the same.

Additionally: The area within and to the North of the Pinole Shoal dredged channel and restricted areas specified on navigational charts shall also be considered restricted areas. Boats may not enter areas that are restricted by government regulations (such as the area off of Port Chicago).

X. HANDICAPS:

Corrected times will be computed in accordance with the PHRF time allowances as assigned by the Stockton Sailing Club Handicap Committee. The distance for handicap purposes will be 140 nautical miles.

For the purposes of assigning handicaps, yachts choosing to race using headsails with LP's of 110% or less, or without spinnakers, will be accorded the following rating adjustments:

- Headsails of 110% or less + 9 seconds/mile
- No spinnaker +15 seconds/mile

All yachts will be assumed to use headsails from 111% to 155% or to class limit, and spinnaker, unless the race chair is notified in writing by 1900 hours, Thursday that there will be a change.

XI. SKIPPERS MEETING:

A representative from each yacht (*preferably the Skipper*) must attend the Skippers meeting at the Stockton Sailing Club clubhouse on Friday at 1000 hours.

XII. NOTICES AND CHANGES:

Changes in these sailing instructions may be given verbally or in writing at the Skippers Meeting. In the event of any changes, the Regatta Committee will signal the racers by displaying code flag "L" from the flag standard ashore. Notices to competitors will be posted on the official regatta notice board located in the clubhouse.

XIII. STARTING DIVISIONS:

The Race Committee will assign each yacht to a starting division. Division assignments will be announced no later than the Skippers Meeting.

XIV. STARTING TIMES:

The race will start on Friday, June 26, 2015. Races will be started using RRS 26. Absence of a sound signal will be disregarded.

CLASS FLAG	SIGNAL	FLAG	TIME	SOUND	MIN TO START
A	Warning - Division I	A	1055	Horn	5
	Preparatory	P	1056	Horn	4
		Drop Prep	1059	Horn	1
A	Start - Division I	Drop Class	1100	Horn	0
B	Warning - Division II (if required)	B	1100**	Horn	5

Verify your class flag & start Time.

****Warning signals for subsequent classes will be made with or after the preceding start signal.**

Additional starts at 5 minute intervals as necessary.

XV. TIME LIMIT:

Any yacht not finishing by 0800 Sunday will be scored DNF whether or not another yacht in her division has finished within the prescribed time limit.

XVI. GENERAL RECALL:

Recall of an entire starting division will be signaled by the posting of the First Substitute pennant and the sounding of two horns. All recalled divisions will restart, at 5-minute intervals, following the last regular scheduled start. These restarts will be in the same relative order as originally scheduled.

XVII. INDIVIDUAL RECALL:

Yachts prematurely across the starting line at their starting signal may be notified by hail and/or code flag "X" from the Race Platform. However, nothing contained in these instructions shall relieve a yacht of her obligation to make a proper start.

XVIII. ALTERNATE PENALTIES:

The 720-turn penalty (U.S.S.A. Rule 44.2) is hereby modified to include the following: *"However, no yacht shall execute its penalty turns between the start line and light 38, which lies approximately 7/8 miles down river from the start line."*

XIX. YACHTS TAKING A DNF (Did Not Finish):

Each yacht not finishing the race shall notify the Race Committee representative (Phone: 209-981-5754). Skippers failing to notify the Race Committee may be denied the privilege of racing in future South Tower races.

XX. PROTEST:

Protests shall be submitted in writing in accordance with U.S.S.A. rules and be delivered to the Race Committee within one hour of the protesting yacht's finish time. Protests will be heard in the clubhouse, beginning promptly at 0900, Sunday.

Subsequent appeals will not result in re-awarding of trophies or prizes.

XXI. TROPHIES:

Results will be announced on Sunday at 11 a.m. in the Stockton Sailing Club. Trophies will be awarded as follows:

- Number of trophies awarded per division will be based on number of entries
- First overall (corrected time)
- First to the Weather Mark (elapsed time)
- First Stockton Sailing Club yacht (corrected time)

XXII. COMMUNICATIONS:

All boats shall carry an operating VHF radio & shall monitor channels 14 and 72 during the race for safety.

All boats shall check in with the race committee approximately one hour prior to their anticipated finish time by calling 209-981-5754.