

# Benicia Yacht Club

## Thursday Night Sailing

### 2023 Regular Season

## Sailing Instructions

- 1.0 **RULES**: Racing will be governed by the 2021-2024 ISAF Racing Rules as adopted by U.S. Sailing, except as otherwise amended in these instructions. Membership in US Sailing is not a requirement for any captain or crew. All races will be Category A events.
- 2.0 **ELIGIBILITY**: boats belonging to a BYC member or belonging to a reciprocal PICYA yacht club member, or an organization recognized by YRA which have a completed entry form on file will be eligible for series recognition. The skipper of record will sign in all guests and comply with club rules when in the clubhouse. Guest boats may race at the discretion of the race committee but will not be officially scored.
- 3.0 **ENTRY**: Prior to sailing its first race, the entrant must have a completed BYC Racing Entry Form on file with the Race Chairman. Each boat must also have on file with the race chairman a copy of current liability insurance policy for their boat with the minimum amount of \$200,000. Any boat not satisfying the entry requirements will not be considered a competitor.
- 4.0 **RATINGS**: YRA PHRF ratings will be used. Each boat will be deemed racing with a spinnaker and a 155% maximum genoa unless declared otherwise. Ratings will be based on established San Francisco Bay ratings but subject to adjustment by the BYC Rating Committee. The following allowances will be applicable: +18 sec/mile for non-spinnaker, +3 sec/mile for a 2 blade fixed prop, +6 sec/mile for a 3 blade fixed prop, +6 sec/mile for boat with <125% head sail rated for a 155% head sail, -3 sec/mile for each previous year's division champion sailing the same boat. Competitors who hail the committee boat before the first warning to sail singlehanded will receive an additional +12 sec/mile for that race and/or 12 seconds per mile for non-spinnaker for that race.

Requests for rating change shall be submitted in writing to the Rating Chairman along with evidence to support the request. Rating changes must be posted prior to the first race in a monthly series. No ratings will become effective mid-month.

- 5.0 **COURSES AND MARK DESCRIPTIONS:** Published as a separate Course Sheet. The Course Sheet is part of the Sailing Instructions.
- 5.1 **COURSE SELECTION:** Each Thursday, an assigned skipper will select the courses for all Fleets. The courses selected are to be sent to the Committee Team Lead on the day of the race by 1700 hours.
- 6.0 **MANAGEMENT:** Racing will be under the management of the Race Committee of the Benicia Yacht Club which shall have full power to interpret the rules and conditions governing each race, to decide eligibility, and to reject the entry of any boat. The Race Committee is composed of the Race Chairman, the on-the-water race management, and if applicable the owner/operator of the committee boat.
- 7.0 **NOTICES TO COMPETITORS:** Notices will be posted on the Benicia Yacht Club Racing Website(s).
- 8.0 **CHANGES IN SAILING INSTRUCTIONS:** Any change in Sailing Instructions will be posted on the Benicia Yacht Club Racing website(s) at least 5 days prior to application of the change. In addition, at least one email will be sent the competitors to alert them of the change.
- 9.0 **ON-THE WATER COMMUNICATIONS:** Each boat intending to race must check in with the Race Committee before starting. Check in may be by hail or on VHF Channel 71.

The Race Committee will monitor VHF channel 71 for traffic concerning withdrawals and emergencies during the race. The Race Committee will broadcast on VHF channel 71 instructions relating to modification, cancellation, or abandonment of a race. The Committee will make a reasonable effort to respond to inquires concerning course and starts.

A boat retiring from a race must notify the Race Committee of that fact by hail, on VHF channel 71, or by phone. Boats finishing after dark should notify the Race Committee by radio approximately one(1) minute before finishing.

- 10.0 **MINIMUM EQUIPMENT:** All boats must comply with the U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment requirements for recreational vessels. All boats must display the proper running lights. All boats must have a VHF radio that is operating and tuned to channel 71 while they are in the race. Failure to do so may disqualify the boat.

- 11.0 **RESPONSIBILITY:** It is the sole responsibility of each skipper to decide whether to start, or to continue to race.
- 12.0 **INTERFERENCE WITH COMMERCIAL TRAFFIC:** Boats must not interfere with commercial vessels, naval vessels, tugs or fishing boats. Boats so doing and thereby endangering their own safety and that of others will be subject to disqualification and/or protest by other competitors.
- 13.0 **START SEQUENCE:** Races will be started per the course sheet, with classes starting at 5-minute intervals. The Start procedure will comply as described in RRS Rule 26, "Starting Races". The starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange (or white) flag or shape on the race committee boat and the starting mark. Boats whose preparatory signal has not been made shall keep clear of the starting area and all boats whose preparatory signal has been made. Starting times are shown on the Course Sheet. Courses will be signaled by international code number pennants and may not be changed after the preparatory signal is made.

The start sequence will proceed as follows:

18:00:00 C Fleet: Warning  
18:05:00 C Fleet: Start; A Fleet: Warning  
18:10:00 A Fleet: Start; Aloha Fleet: Warning  
18:15:00 Aloha Fleet: Start

- 13.1 **Alternate Start Line:** The race committee may choose to start and finish the race from on-shore in the absence of a committee boat. The start and finish line shall be a line extending 50 yards south from the start buoy in line with a white or orange flag on shore near the marina gate for E Dock. The race committee will make every attempt to coordinate the flag sequence with radio transmission on channel 71.
- 14.0 **RESTRICTED AREAS:** Daymark "23" (near Benicia's 1st Street Pier) must be left to the north. Boats may not pass between the islands or visible rocks and the North shore of the Carquinez strait.
- 15.0 **INDIVIDUAL RECALLS:** Individual recalls will be signaled in accordance with ISAF rule 29.1. The Race Committee may hail an over early boat by sail number or name, but hailing is not required. Failure of any boat to be aware of the Race Committee signal shall not relieve the boat of her obligation to start correctly. Returning boats must yield to all properly starting boats.
- 16.0 **GENERAL RECALLS:** When at the starting signal, one or more unidentified boats are on the course side of the starting line, or there has been an error in the starting procedure, the Race Committee may signal a General Recall.

Recall of the entire starting division will be signaled by radio. All boats will immediately return for restart after the following divisions have started. All following divisions will start in their assigned sequence.

- 17.0 **ALTERNATIVE PENALTY:** The two turn penalty as written in paragraph 44.1 of the ISAF 2023-2024 Racing Rules of Sailing with U.S. prescriptions will be in effect. If fouled by another boat, immediately hail your intent to protest so that the other boat can elect to perform the alternate penalty. To absolve the protest, the protested boat must get clear and perform two turns in the same direction, staying clear of all boats until on the proper course for the next mark. Fouling a mark is now a one turn penalty.
- 18.0 **SHORTENED COURSE:** Courses may be shortened by consensus of the skippers and approval by the Race Committee. The Race Committee will broadcast the course change over VHF radio, and they will make a reasonable effort to ensure that all applicable boats are aware of the change.
- 19.0 **TWICE AROUND:** Twice around flags are discontinued.
- 20.0 **THE FINISH:** The finishing line will be between a staff displaying an orange (or white) flag or shape on the Race Committee boat and the finishing mark or as noted in paragraph 13.1. The direction for finishing will be described in the course sheet. Should the last boat in the race be sufficiently behind, the race committee may leave their station and ask that boat to take their finish time.
- 21.0 **TIME LIMIT:** All boats must finish before the time limit. The time limit is calculated as the official sunset plus 30 minutes. However, for a given fleet, if any boat finishes within the time limit, then the limit for that fleet is extended for an additional 20 minutes after the first boat's finish time. Boats not finishing within the time limit will be scored "Did Not Finish" (DNF).
- 22.0 **PROTESTS:** Protests must be filed with the Race Committee no later than sixty (60.0) minutes after the official time limit (para 21.0). Protests must conform to ISAF rules.

Protest mediation may occur on the night of the race for protests involving a rule of part 2 and 4 of The Racing Rules of Sailing and paragraphs 14 and 24 of this document. Mediation will be conducted per the "Protest Mediation" document posted on the bulletin board. A boat that accepts fault at a mediation hearing shall receive a DNF score. The scores for the other boats will be adjusted accordingly.

If necessary, the protest will be held at an agreed time by both skippers and the Protest Chairman.

- 23.0 **SCORING:** The Low Point Scoring system will be used for the monthly series results: The Low Point Scoring System: The winner of each race will be scored 1.0 points, the second boat 2.0, the third boat 3.0, etc. ISAF Appendix A is amended to state that a boat not finishing (DNF) or withdrawing due to protest mediation will be scored 1.0 more than the number of boats starting. A boat not starting (DNS) will be scored 2.0 more than the number of boats starting, and a boat that is disqualified (DSQ) will be scored 3.0 points more than the number of boats starting. DSQs can not be used as throw-outs. The monthly winner will be the boat with lowest score in the best three of the four monthly races (One throw-out per month). Ties will be broken first by the number of first place finishes, then by the number of second place finishes, etc. A month is defined as the first four races in April, then the next four races will be May, etc. The final tie-breaker shall be the finish in the final race of the month or the series.

The 3-month series will be calculated using the Low Point Scoring System. Three throw-outs will be used. Ties will be broken as above. A separate perpetual trophy, the Shawn Proctor Trophy, shall be awarded to the monohull boat with the lowest point score for the series.

A boat whose crew serves as the Race Committee and does not sail shall average her 2 best finishes for that month to obtain a finishing position for that race, provided that the skipper is aboard the committee boat. A boat, which races on the night of her committee boat obligation will be scored as usual. If there are only three races for the month, then the third result to be used for the calculation shall be the average of the last race of the preceding month and the first race of the subsequent month.

- 24.0 **DISPOSAL OF WASTE OR TRASH:** Boats observed willfully discharging trash overboard shall be disqualified from all races sailed on the day that the infraction is observed. The onus is on the protesting boat.
- 25.0 **FEES:** For competitive boats, the fee for the season is \$250. The following discounts apply: BYC member \$70 and; US sailing membership \$20. New race/first time skipper total fee is \$75. The competitive single-race fee is \$15. Each skipper must provide evidence that he is a member of BYC, or a member of a reciprocal PICYA yacht club, or an organization recognized by YRA.
- 26.0 **COMMITTEE BOAT:** All boats will serve at least once as the Race Committee boat. A boat may be requested to serve more than once

during the racing season. It is acceptable for a boat to obtain the services of another boat or powerboat. Each boat which serves as the Race Committee is required to provide at least three people to help staff the Race Committee. The onus is on the racer to provide the boat. The schedule will be posted on the bulletin board in the BYC clubhouse. Each skipper is responsible for food and drink for the race committee.

- 27.0 **PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES:** All individuals, while racing from their prep signal until the boat clears the finish line, during any BYC sponsored race must wear a personal flotation device (PFD). The only exception is to quickly add or remove an article of clothing. The PFD may be either a Coast Guard approved device or an unapproved device. Boat with individual/s not wearing a PFD for any other reason will be disqualified without mediation.
- 28.0 **LIMITING BOUY:** The race committee may place a limiting buoy near the committee boat. Boats will be disqualified for passing between the committee boat and the limiting buoy. Boats touching the limiting buoy during their starting sequence must complete a 360 degree turn before rounding the first mark of the course.
- 29.0 **SAIL NUMBERS:** Only the main sail number will be used for identification. Numbers on all other sails are not necessary and/or do not have to match the main sail number.
- 30.0 **AWARDS:** The number of awards will be according to the number of boats in a fleet as noted:
- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| 9 or more..... | 4 |
| 5-8.....       | 3 |
| 4.....         | 2 |
| 3 or less..... | 1 |
- 31.0 **NON-SPINNAKER:** Boats racing without a spinnaker are limited to using one head sail at a time unless they are changing from one sail to another.
- 32.0 **ABANDONMENT OF RACE:** The race committee may determine to abandon a started race. An announcement over VHF radio must be made immediately.
- 33.0 **GUEST RACERS:** For their first race, a guest shall sail without a fee. The guest shall be scored for that night, but their placement shall not effect the placement of the officially entered racers. Subsequently, guest racers must complete an entry form and include an entry fee of \$15.00 per race and have their insurance information submitted the race committee before race start. Their times and placements shall be announced but will not be included the series

scoring unless they enter for the entire year. Guest racer fees paid will be subtracted from the season entry fee should the guest wish to enter for the whole season.

34.0 **ALOHA FLEET:** The "Aloha Fleet" is provided for skippers who wish to sail non-competitively, not be scored, and to simply relax to experience the joy of sailing.

34.1 **ALOHA FLEET RULES:** The Aloha Fleet skippers must refer to and comply with the **Benicia Yacht Club Sailing Instructions**, with the exception of the instructions listed in this document.

Aloha boats will not be required to strictly adhere to the ISAF Racing Rules. However, all boats are required to comply with the U.S. Inland Navigation Rules at all times. **Aloha boats must keep clear of competing boats**, to avoid obstructing or interfering in any way.

34.3 **ALOHA FLEET ENTRY:** The skipper must comply with the requirements for entry ("3.0 ENTRY"). However, they will not be required to have membership with a YRA/PICYA recognized organization.

34.5 **ALOHA FLEET COURSES:** Each week, the Aloha Fleet will likely be assigned the same course as the one assigned to the C Fleet. However, the assignment serves as a suggested course. Aloha boats are permitted to steer wherever they desire as long as they comply with paragraph 34.1.

34.13 **ALOHA FLEET START:** The official start for the Aloha Fleet will be immediately following the competitive starts. Specifically, the start sequence will proceed as follows:

1810 Warning Signal (gun), Aloha Class Flag (Hotel) raised.  
1811 Preparatory Signal (horn), Papa Flag raised.  
1814 One Minute Signal (prolonged horn), Papa Flag removed.  
1815 Starting Signal (gun)

34.20 **ALOHA FLEET FINISH:** The committee will record a successful finish for boats which sail the assigned course correctly and completely. Skippers may self-report if they finish after the committee boat has returned to dock.

34.21 **ALOHA FLEET COMMUNICATION WITH RACE COMMITTEE:** Prior to the first warning (at 1800) Aloha boats must announce their participation to the Race Committee. All boats which elect to not finish or complete the course must communicate their intention to the race committee. Communications are held on VHF 71.

34.25 **ALOHA FLEET FEE:** For Aloha Fleet boats, the fee for the season is \$50. The Aloha single-event fee is \$5.