

Potomac River Sailing Association

Spring Regatta: May 23, 2009

Sailing Instructions: LOWER Course

1 RULES

The series will be governed by the 'rules' as defined in the most current version of *Racing Rules of Sailing*. Inland Rules of the Road will apply. In particular, channel-bound traffic has right-of-way over racers.

2 ENTRIES

Bytes, El Toros, Lasers, Penguins, Sunfish and similar boats are eligible to compete. Two registered boats of the same class constitute a fleet. Classes with 5 or more registered boats will get their own start.

3 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located at the bulletin board across from the cranes.

4 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted before 11:00 am on Saturday.

5 SCHEDULE OF RACES

5.1 Racing is scheduled for Saturday. Six (6) races are planned. However, One (1) race will constitute a series.

5.2 A **skipper's meeting** for both the Upper and Lower courses will be held in the crane area at **11:00 a.m.** on Saturday.

5.3 The scheduled time of the warning signal for the first race on Saturday is **12:00 noon**. The start may not be delayed for latecomers.

5.4 The RC will determine the number of races to run based on wind and weather conditions. To alert boats that **no more races** are planned for the day, the RC will display the AP (Dr. Seuss flag) over A (white & blue tail) signal.

5.5 No warning signal will be made after **3:30 p.m. on Saturday**.

6 RACING AREA





Races will be conducted either in the cove north of the Washington Sailing Marina or on the Potomac River southeast of the Washington Sailing Marina (east of the power plant). The choice will be posted on the official notice board and announced at the skipper's meeting.

7 THE COURSES

7.1 The signal boat will be position between the leeward and windward marks. The start/finish line will be between the blue flag on the signal boat and a nearby mark. The **starts** will be **windward**. All **finishes** will be to windward.

- Boats shall leave **marks to port**.
- A **triangle symbol** indicates that boats shall round the windward, gybe, and leeward marks, and, if it is the last leg, **finish to windward**.
- A **sausage symbol** indicates that boats shall round the windward and leeward marks, and, if it is the last leg, finish to windward.
 - A **sausage** may be **followed by** a **GATE symbol** to indicate a leeward gate. When there is a gate, boats shall sail between the gate marks from the direction of the previous mark and round either gate mark.
 - A **sausage** may also be **followed by** a **down-arrow symbol** that indicates that boats shall round the windward mark and finish downwind.
- **Number 2 and 3** indicate the number of repetitions of the legs indicated by the **preceding triangle or sausage symbol**.

Course Board:

	Laser: Start-W-R-L-W-finish (Gold Cup)
	Penguin: Start-W-R-L-W-L-Finish (Olympic)
	Sunfish: Start-W-L-W-L-Finish
	El Toro: Start-W-R-L- W-R-L- W-R-L-Finish

7.2 **The start & finish line is closed** except for those boats that are either: in a starting sequence (after their 3 minute warning signal), starting, or finishing. While sailing a leg of the course or between races, boats shall not cross the start & finish line. Any boat that breaks this rule while

racing may exonerate herself by performing a 720-degree penalty turn, including two gybes and two tacks, before rounding the next mark of her course. A boat that breaks this rule while not racing may exonerate herself by performing the penalty turn after starting and before rounding the first mark of her course in the next race of the series. Any boat that breaks this rule without exonerating herself or after finishing the last race of the series, shall be scored DSQ without a hearing. This changes Rule A5.

8 MARKS

- 8.1 Marks will be **orange balls**.
- 8.2 The starting and finishing marks are orange balls.
- 8.3 A gate shall consist of two orange balls about 80 feet apart.

9 THE START

- 9.1 Races will be started using sound signals as prescribed in Appendix Q of US Sailing (**three minute starts**). A series of short sound signals will be made before the starting sequence begins to call attention to the impending starting sequence. The starting sequence shall consist of the following sound signals made at the indicated times:
- three long at 3 minutes (the warning),
 - two long at 2 minutes (the preparatory),
 - 1 long and 3 short at 1 minute and 30 seconds,
 - 1 long at 1 minute,
 - three short at 30 seconds,
 - 2 short at 20 seconds,
 - 1 short at 10 seconds,
 - 1 short for each second during the final 5 seconds, and
 - 1 long at the start.
- 9.2 Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area.
- 9.3 All boats bear the responsibility of checking in with the RC prior to the start of racing by sailing by the stern of the signal boat on starboard and hailing both their sail number and the skipper or owner's last name.
- 9.4 Any class that does not check-in at least five boats may be started with another class.
- 9.5 The starting sequence will be designated on the course board by the order (top to bottom) of the respective class symbols displayed on the board.
- 9.6 Individual recalls shall be signalled with one sound signal. The signal boat will attempt to hail the sail number (or some other clearly distinguishing feature) of each recalled boat, however, OCS boats will be responsible for ensuring they have properly started
- 9.7 General recalls shall be signalled with two sound signals and the hail of "general recall". The warning signal for the new start of the recalled class shall follow and may be preceded by a series of short blasts to attract attention.
- 9.8 Failure of a competitor to hear an adequate course, postponement, starting sequence, or recall signal shall not be grounds for redress.

10 THE START/FINISH

The starting line and finish line will be between the **blue** "RC" flag on the signal boat and the **orange** ball, located to the left of the signal boat. The orange ball will designate the port end of the starting line (when starting) and the starboard end of the finishing line (when finishing).

11 PENALTY SYSTEM

The 720-degree turns penalty, rule 44.2 of The Racing Rules of Sailing, will apply.

12 TIME LIMITS

- 12.1 The time limit will be 90 minutes for each class.
- 12.2 Boats failing to finish within 30 minutes of the first boat that sails the course and finishes will be scored Did Not Finish. This changes rules 35 and A4.1.

13 PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

- 13.1 Protest forms are available from the race committee. Protests shall be delivered to the race committee within the protest time limit.
- 13.2 The protest time limit is 60 minutes after the race committee boat docks.
- 13.3 Notices will be posted within 30 minutes of the expiration of the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses and where these hearings will be held.

14 SCORING

- 14.1 The Low Point scoring system of Appendix A will apply.
- 14.2 If 5 or fewer races are completed, all races will count; otherwise a boat's worst score will be excluded. This changes rule A2.

15 SAFETY

- 15.1 The race committee may elect to escort large vessels through the race area in order to avoid potential right-of-way conflicts between racing boats and channel-bound vessels. If the RC escort boat displays code flag "D" (horizontal yellow-blue-yellow stripes), no racing boat may go between the escort boat and the channel-bound vessel under penalty of disqualification.
- 15.2 Boats withdrawing from a race shall notify the RC as soon as practicable.

16 PRIZES

Prizes will be given each member of the crews of the top placing boats in the series as follow:

# of registered boats	depth of awards
1-4	1
5-7	2
8-10	3
11+	4