

ONEIDA LAKE SAILING CLUB
2011 RACING SEASON
SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

1. RULES

- 1.1. All races conducted during the Oneida Lake Sailing Club (OLSC) race season will be governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing*.
- 1.2. Racing rule 1.2 Life Saving Equipment and Personal Floatation Devices applies. OLSC highly recommends all individuals wear a personal flotation device from the beginning of the race, at the preparatory flag, until the boat has finished or withdrawn from the race.
- 1.3. Racing Rule 23.1 is amended as follows: A boat not racing shall not interfere with a boat that is racing. For all OLSC events consisting of more than one class, the class that is in its prestart sequence shall have right of way, on the pre-start side of the starting line and its extensions, over all boats in subsequent classes. The Right of Way rules 10, 11, 12 and 13 shall not apply between keep clear boats and right-of-way boats as defined in this rule. In addition Racing Rule 44 is amended as follows: The penalty for breaking Rule 23.1 as amended herein, shall be to complete 2 penalty turns after the starting signal for the penalized boat in accordance with Rule 44.2
- 1.4. Racing Rule 29.2 General Recall is amended as follows: When a general recall is signaled as described in Rule 29.2, the starting sequence for a subsequent class racing shall continue. The warning signal for the recalled class will be given with the starting signal for the class in progress. Any other classes racing will then be started in order following the restart for the originally recalled class.
- 1.5. Racing rule 34 is supplemented as follows: When no committee boat is present for a race and two racing marks are used for the starting line and during the course of the race either one or both of the marks moves out of their original positions then the new line formed by the marks in either situation shall define the finish line. If the new position of the finish line in either case is parallel to the direction from the last mark of the course then boats may finish in either direction through the line.

2. POLICY

It shall be the policy of the Oneida Lake Sailing Club to take all measures necessary to insure the safety of our members and guests in all of our activities. In order to further this policy, we strongly urge that all of our race participants, skippers and crew alike, agree to adhere to the following conditions:

- 2.1. No person on board a boat shall consume alcohol while racing; where racing is defined in the Racing Rules.
- 2.2. The skipper of each boat is requested to conduct a pre-race inspection of all safety equipment on board to insure it is functioning properly before leaving the dock.

3. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

Notices to competitors will be posted on the Official Notice board at the Oneida Lake Marina and as a courtesy on the board at Callahan's Marina as well.

4. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any change(s) to the sailing instructions will be posted on the Official Notice Board at the Oneida Lake Marina and as a courtesy on the board at Callahan's Marina.

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5. RACING LEVELS AND HANDICAPPING

OLSC has two racing fleets, designated the Open Fleet and the White Sail fleet, which provide sailors with two levels of racing competitiveness.

5.1. **Open Fleet:** Open to any member of OLSC with an established PHRF handicap. Boats may use spinnakers when racing in this fleet. The open fleet is split into two divisions, PHRF 1 and PHRF 2. PHRF 1 includes all boats with a PHRF rating of 174 or lower and PHRF 2 is all those boats with a rating of 177 or higher. The PHRF 1 division has two subdivisions, one consisting of J-24s and the other containing all other boats. Each boat will be scored and awarded points in their respective division and subdivision. In addition an overall winner will be determined by combining the two PHRF division results and an overall winner will be determined for the PHRF 1 division by combining the J-24 results with the remainder of the division. Season champions will be determined for each PHRF Division, for the two subdivisions in PHRF 1 and there will be an open fleet overall champion as well. Races sailed by this fleet will have two starts for every race with the PHRF 2 division starting 5 minutes before division 1. If there are two or less boats in either division for any race then there will be only one start for that race.

5.2. **White Sail Fleet:** Open to any member of OLSC with a PHRF handicap. This fleet was established as a developmental fleet and is generally considered to be less competitive. Boats in the White Sail Fleet may use only main and/or jib sails while racing. The White Sail Fleet is also split into two PHRF divisions as determined by the race committee at the beginning of the season. Races sailed by this fleet will also have 2 starts but the division 1 boats will be started first. Boats in both divisions will be scored and awarded points using their PHRF handicaps. In addition the division 2 boats finishing fourth place or lower will be awarded points using the Club Handicapping System described in 5.4 below.

5.3. **PHRF Handicap Procedure:** These handicaps will be determined from the current issue of the US SAILING PHRF Handicaps Book. For each class of boat the median PHRF for that class will be used as a base number. If that number is not evenly divisible by three then it will be rounded to the nearest number divisible by three using standard round off rules. Other adjustments are made to the handicap to allow for sail inventory, motor in water, etc. Any sailor who believes his handicap to be incorrect may appeal in writing to the Race Committee for a review. This appeal should state the reasons for the requested appeal. The Race Committee will consider the reasons given and render a decision.

5.4. **Club System Handicap:** This system rewards improvement of the skipper and crew from race to race, much like a bowling or golf handicap. Boats that sailed at least three races last year will start the season with last season's rating. As each race is sailed, one third of last season's handicap will drop out. After three races, the current handicap will be based solely on this season's results. Club handicap for new OLSC sailors will initially be equal to their boat's General PHRF Time Correction Factor for the Fleet in question.

5.5. Race boat skippers and/or owners are obligated to promptly inform the Race Captain or the OLSC handicapper of any changes in sail inventory or modifications to the boat or on-board equipment that may affect their PHRF rating for the current sailing season. PHRF ratings will be posted prior to the start of the season and forms will be available to institute any change. The obligation for notification belongs to the owners or racers of the boat. Any boat for which changes that affect its PHRF rating are not reported will be subject to appropriate penalties and/or disqualifications.

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6. TIME LIMITS

- 6.1. **Starting Time:** There will be a twenty-minute time limit after the starting signal for all boats to cross the starting line. If a boat fails to start within this time, it shall be scored DNS.
- 6.2. **First Mark:** If the leading boat does not reach the first mark within 60 minutes after the start the race will be abandoned or shortened. The leading yacht or committee boat, if present at the first mark, will make this determination. If wind conditions dictate the use of a short leg to enable a windward start the windward mark at the end of the short leg will **not** count as the first mark for purposes of this rule. In that case the time limit to the next mark of the course will be 70 minutes from the starting signal.
- 6.3. **Finishing Times:** Unless otherwise stated the following limits on race duration shall apply to all races conducted by the Oneida Lake Sailing Club. Rule 35 of the Racing Rules applies.
- Evening races 2 hours
Weekend races 3 1/2 hours
- Time limits for the Commodore's Cup, the White Sail Regatta, the Roecker Memorial, the Frenchman's Island race and any other special race will be determined on race day and/or posted in the respective Notice of Race.
- 6.4. **Finishing on the course:** The race committee, in the interest of time, can finish a boat on the course when it becomes obvious that the finishing position of that boat cannot change with regard to any other boats in its division (class), or in a race with an overall score with regard to any other boat in the race. The boat will not be scored as DNF but rather in the last position relative to the boats racing.

7. SCORING

- 7.1 Race scoring will be time on time and based on the low point system as described in Appendix A to the Racing Rules of Sailing. In accordance with Rule A9 therein boats that come to the starting area but do not start, do not finish, retire after finishing or are disqualified shall be scored points for the finishing place one more than the number of boats that came to the starting area. Likewise boats that do not come to the starting area shall be scored points for the finishing place one more than the number of boats entered in the series. A boat is considered entered in a series if it competes in at least 1/3 of the races scored for the series.
- 7.2 Series and season results will be calculated on the basis of 70% of the races actually scored (sailed), i.e. each competing boat will be scored on the basis of the 70% of the scores which yields the lowest result for that boat . Standard round off rules will apply.
- 7.3 To be eligible for season scoring a skipper must be a member in good standing of the Oneida Lake Sailing Club and must complete committee boat duty in accordance with Section 9. A boat will be awarded a score of one (1) for a race for which committee boat duty is fulfilled. Only one such score may be earned in each of the open and white sail fleets and the score will be tabulated in the season results only.
- 7.4 Changing Boats
- 7.4.1 The places won and the series points earned will be awarded to the owner irrespective of the boat being sailed. If the skipper changes boats during the season, the places won and the series points earned will be transferred and added to places won and the series points earned by the skipper with other boats in subsequent PHRF races.

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7.4.2 The places won and the series points earned under Club Handicap during a particular season also belong to the skipper irrespective of the boat being sailed. Since the Club Handicap is a rating of the skipper sailing a particular boat as compared to the top boat/skipper combination, the skipper must use a new Club Handicap established sailing the second boat. The places won and the series points earned, under Club Handicap, will be transferred and added to those earned with other boats in subsequent Club races.

7.4.3 The above provisions do not permit transfers back to any boat previously used by a given skipper during the same season.

8. RADIO COMMUNICATIONS: The official race channel will be VHF 72.

9. COMMITTEE BOAT OBLIGATION

9.1 All skippers wishing to participate in any open or white sail series shall perform Committee Boat duties for at least one event. See Section 7.3 for scoring for committee boat duty. In an attempt to avoid drawing names, each racer is requested to sign up for Committee Boat Duty no later than the pre-season rules meeting on May 4th. Skippers may sign up at any time prior to the meeting by contacting the race Captain or any member of the race committee. A new racer may substitute observing duty on another boat as one committee boat fulfilled. Racers that do not sign up for a committee boat date will be assigned a date at the time they register for their third race.

9.2 If a person has a conflict with the date on which they have signed up to be Committee Boat, **they** are responsible to arrange a substitute for that race. They must notify the Race Captain of their replacement, or lack thereof no less than 48 hours before the race in question. If a switch in committee boat assignments is not accomplished by the participant himself, his boat will be disqualified from the race in question. In addition, the Race Captain will assign an alternate committee boat date on which the participant must make-up the one that was missed.

9.3 If there is no Committee Boat present for a race the following procedures will be used. For white sail races and open races which have meetings a drawing for Committee Boat will be done at the Skippers' meeting. All signed up racers who have not yet fulfilled one Committee Boat Duty will be in the drawing. For other open races, the Race Captain will attempt to find a volunteer on land before going out on the water. If that is unsuccessful the Race Captain will start the PHRF 2 Division. The PHRF 1 Division will then utilize an honor start. All boats will receive a time hack and synchronize their watches prior to the start, will record the clock time of their finish in hours/minutes/seconds and will report the same to the Race Captain at their earliest convenience.

9.4 OLSA has a permanent committee boat which is available for any member to use in performing committee boat duties. A boat owner performing committee boat duties using this boat (or any other boat) may also receive racing credit for the same race if their boat is sailed by somebody else in that race.

10. PROTEST PROCEDURES: The procedures for protesting an action by a competitor while racing, including informing the protestee, the contents of the protest and the protest time limit, shall be in accordance with Part 5 of the Racing Rules of Sailing.