

**Downtown Sailing Center (DSC) Thursday Night Racing Series  
Patapsco River, Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A.**

**SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

February 7, 2018

Replaces all prior editions

**1. RULES**

**1.1** The series will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing for 2017-2020.

**1.2** All prescriptions of US Sailing will apply.

**1.3** RRS 32, 33, 35, 62.1(a), 90.3(b), A4 and A5 are changed by these instructions.

**1.4** SI 10.4 changes rule A5.

**1.5** SI 10.4 changes rule 62.1(a).

**1.6** SI 11 changes rule 33.

**1.7** SI 12.2 changes rule 32.

**1.8** SI 14.2 changes rules 35 and A4.

**1.9** SI 15.6 and 15.6a change rule 63.1

**1.9** Appendix T applies.

**1.10** A competing boat's mainsail and jib shall consist of the DSC supplied sails rigged on each boat. Neither the mainsail nor the jib may be replaced with another sail.

**1.11** A competing boat's spinnaker shall conform to the one-design class rules for that boat. Sail number requirements shall not apply.

**1.12** All participating boats shall be crewed by a minimum of 3 persons who have current Racing Skipper or Racing Crew Upgrades with the Downtown Sailing Center, including at least one Racing Skipper. Boats not meeting this requirement must meet the provisions found in SI 19 or shall be scored did not start; did not come to the starting area (DNC).

**1.13** If there is a conflict between the Notice of Race and these Sailing Instructions, these Sailing Instructions will govern.

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**2. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS**

**2.1** Notices to competitors will be posted on the DSC Racing Documents web site located at <http://downtownsailing.org/Resource>

**2.2** At 17:30 on each night of racing, the race committee shall broadcast notices to competitors on VHF channel 71. All participants shall be responsible for complying with all instructions provided.

**3. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

**3.1** Changes to these Sailing Instructions will be posted on the DSC Resources web page under Racing Documents <http://downtownsailing.org/Resource> not later than 24 hours prior to the scheduled first Warning Signal for which they will be in effect.

**3.2** Changes to these Sailing Instructions may be made orally on the water prior to the warning signal for each race as specified in RRS 90.2(c).

**4. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE**

**4.1** No signals will be made ashore.

**5 SCHEDULE OF RACES**

**5.1** Dates of racing:

Series 1 – April 19 to May 17

Series 2 – May 24 to June 21

Series 3 – June 28 to July 26

Series 4 – August 2 to August 30

Series 5 – September 6 to October 4

**5.2** The scheduled time of the warning signal for the first race each evening of racing shall be 18:00.

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**5.3** The warning signal for subsequent races on each evening will be made as soon as practicable after the last boat in the previous race finishes or the expiration of the time limit defined below.

**5.4** On each night of racing, the race committee will notify the competitors of the completion of racing.

### **6 VENUE**

- A. Alpha - Patapsco River north and west of Tide Point and east of Harbor View Tower
- B. Bravo - Patapsco River north and west of Fort McHenry and east of Broadway Pier
- C. Charlie - Patapsco River North of Fort McHenry

See Attachment A for diagram of the racing area.

For more information concerning these venues, please consult NOAA Chart 12281.

**6.2** RC will inform the competitors of the rendezvous to be used for the evening's races.

### **7 THE COURSES**

**7.1** All courses shall be windward-leeward courses, as illustrated in Attachment B. The number of legs will be signaled by the Race Committee boat displaying a course board with the letter "L" and a numeral representing the number of legs of the course. For example, a two-leg windward-leeward course (Start - Mark 1 - Finish) will be signaled as "L2."

### **8 MARKS**

**8.1** All marks will be drop marks.

**8.2** All rounding marks are to be rounded to port.

### **9 AREAS THAT ARE OBSTRUCTIONS**

**9.1** The following area is designated as an obstruction: The area of the Patapsco River between Fort McHenry and the three (3) green buoys off its northeast shore: "7" Q G; "5" Fl G 4s; "3" Q G.

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**10 THE START**

**10.1** Races will be started by using the Audible-Signal Racing System, as per Appendix U of the RRS.

**10.2** A series of five (5) short sounds will be made approximately five (5) seconds before the sequence begins in order to attract competitors' attention in conformance with rule U2.

**10.3** The starting line will be between a staff displaying a yellow flag on the committee boat and the starting mark.

**10.4** A boat that does not start within five (5) minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes rule A4 and A5.

**10.5** When at a boat's starting signal any part of her hull, crew or equipment is on the course side of the starting line and she is identified, the race committee will attempt to broadcast her boat name or number on VHF channel 71. Failure to make or hear a broadcast or to time it accurately will not be grounds for a request for redress. This changes rule 62.1(a).

**11 CHANGING THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE**

**11.1** The race committee may change a leg of the course that begins at a rounding mark by changing the position of the next mark (or the finishing line) and signaling all boats before they begin the leg. The next mark need not be in position at that time. This changes rule 33.

**12 THE FINISH**

**12.1** The finishing line will be between a staff displaying a yellow flag on the committee boat and the finishing mark.

**12.2** The race committee may signal a shortened course with two sounds before the first boat crosses the finishing line. The finishing line shall be between the mark and the yellow flag on the Race Committee Boat. This changes rule 32.

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**13 PENALTY SYSTEM**

**13.1** Appendix T applies. The Race Committee Bag maintains copies of the “protest form” and “Scoring Penalty and Protest Withdrawal Form” and the bag is available from the Race Committee between and after races.

**13.2** The penalty for the infraction of a boat not appearing for assigned race committee duty, as defined in the DSC Racing Program Guidelines, will be assigned as follows:

- A. The penalty shall be a score of Disqualification (DSQ) for each of four (4) consecutive races beginning with the first race on the night of the infraction.

**14 TIME LIMITS AND WIND RESTRICTIONS**

**14.1** Time limits are as follows:

- A. Mark 1 time limit is 25 minutes. If no boat has passed Mark 1 within the Mark 1 time limit, the race will be abandoned.
- B. The race time limit is 45 minutes. If no boat has finished within the race time limit, the race will be abandoned.

**14.2** Boats failing to finish within 15 minutes after the first boat sails the course and finishes will be scored Did Not Finish without a hearing. This changes rules 35, A4, and A5.

**14.3** Races should not be started unless the Race Committee is satisfied that the wind speed in the starting area, and, to the best of its belief, on the rest of the course, is in excess of an average of three knots (3.45 mph) for a period of at least five (5) minutes.

**14.3.a** If average wind speed falls below three (3) knots for a sustained period of five (5) minutes during a race, the race shall be abandoned.

**14.4** Races started in winds exceeding 22 knots (25.32 mph) sustained shall be raced with no spinnakers. Only jibs and reefed mainsails shall be used.

**14.5** If average wind direction shifts 60 degrees in one direction sustained for a period of five (5) minutes during a race, the race shall be abandoned.

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**15 PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS**

**15.1** A boat intending to protest shall follow the provisions of RRS 61.1(a).

**15.2** When there is contact involving a DSC assigned race boat, the DSC assigned race boat shall protest the other boat or shall accept the penalty, which may be to retire.

**15.2.a** If the fouling boat exonerates herself on the water and there is no damage, the protest need not be in writing.

**15.3** For the purposes of interpreting rule 44.1(b), "serious damage" shall consist of any damage or contact that results in visible or structural damage, for which the DSC may initiate an email to the Race Council or rules committee.

**15.4** Promptly following the completion of each race, a boat that intends to protest an incident in that race shall notify the Race Committee of the name of the boat(s) that she intends to protest. For the final race of the evening, the race committee shall be notified of the intent before the protesting boat leaves the racing area.

**15.5** Directly following the close of the protest time limit, Arbitration shall be held for each protest according to the prescriptions in Appendix T.

**15.5.a** Arbitration will be held near the DSC docks in the order of protest forms received.

**15.6** Parties that fail to attend Arbitration shall have the following penalties assigned without a hearing unless significant damage is involved:

1. Protesting parties that fail to attend Arbitration will have their protest(s) disallowed;
2. Protested parties that fail to attend Arbitration will receive a score of DSQ (last place +1) for the race in which they were protested.

**15.6a** Protest Committee may assign other or additional penalties for additional races in the series.

**15.6** Protest hearings will be heard in compliance with the rules of Part 5, including the

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requirement in rule 61.2 that the protest be submitted in writing within the protest time limit.

**15.7** Protest hearings will be held two Wednesdays after the date of the protest at the Downtown Sailing Center, 1425 Key Hwy Baltimore, MD 21230, at 1800 hours local time.

**15.8** Protests may be withdrawn in writing and attached to the Protest Form, per Rule T4.

**15.9** The protest time limit is one hour after the last boat in the same fleet finishes the last race of the day the day or one-half-hour after the Race Committee docks, whichever is later. The same time limit applies to requests for redress. The race office consists of the Race Committee and the Race Committee Bag. The protest committee shall extend the time limit if there is good reason to do so.

**15.10** Protest forms and Penalty forms are available from the Race Committee and extra copies are located in the Race Committee bag. The Protest form may also be downloaded at: [http://www.ussailing.org/wp-content/uploads/DARoot/Race%20Admin/Links%20and%20Docs/2013-2016\\_protest\\_form.pdf](http://www.ussailing.org/wp-content/uploads/DARoot/Race%20Admin/Links%20and%20Docs/2013-2016_protest_form.pdf) and will be made available to all race skippers.

## **16 SCORING**

**16.1** The Low Point scoring system of Appendix A will apply.

### **16.2**

- A. When fewer than eight (8) races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores.
- B. When from eight (8) to eleven (11) races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.
- C. When twelve (12) or more races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her two (2) worst scores.

## **17 SAFETY REGULATIONS**

**17.1** All boats shall check in with the race committee prior to racing and identify the race skipper aboard. This check-in may be performed on VHF Channel 71 or by sailing within hail of the committee boat.

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**17.2** Failure to check-in shall preclude a boat from being scored for all races until she does so. A boat shall not consider herself checked in until she receives confirmation from the race committee of her check-in.

**17.3** A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee as soon as possible.

**17.4** A boat that leaves the racing area prior to finishing the last race shall notify the race committee as soon as possible.

**17.5** No check-out is required after completion of the last race.

**18 HAUL-OUT RESTRICTIONS**

**18.1** Boats will be provided for all competitors, who shall not modify them or cause them to be modified in any way except that:

- A. a compass may be tied or taped to the hull or spars;
- B. wind indicators, including yarn or thread, may be tied or taped anywhere on the boat;
- C. hulls, keels, and rudders may not be cleaned except at the discretion of the organizing authority, Downtown Sailing Center, which may be initiated in an email and/or verbally to all competitors;
- D. adhesive tape may be used anywhere above the water line.

**19 Guest Skipper Provisions**

**19.1** Each team will be allowed a non-DSC guest skipper no more than twice per series and no more than 4 times per year, per guest skipper.

**19.2** Guest skippers must be able to meet the DSC skipper requirements.

**20 RADIO COMMUNICATION**

**20.1** A boat shall neither make radio transmissions while racing nor receive radio communications not available to all boats.

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**20.2** Race committee communication shall be on VHF channel 71.

**21 PRIZES**

**21.1** Prizes will be given as follows:

- A. Prizes will be given to the first three (3) finishing boats in each series.
- B. Prizes will be given to the first four (4) finishing boats overall. A boat's overall season score shall be calculated on the basis of her finishing place in each series treated as if it were a single race. The Low Point System will apply.
- C. The awards committee may combine the prizes in (a) and (b) as they see fit.
- D. These prizes will be presented at the End of Season Party scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on October 10.

**22 DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY**

**22.1** Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. See rule 4, Decision to Race. The organizing authority or its agents will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the regatta.

**23 Race Committee Duty (RC) Requirements:**

**23.1** Each team shall provide at least 1 skipper and 1 crew for Race Committee duty on their assigned night (see SI 13.2).

**23.2** Each team may field a racing team in addition to their RC members on their assigned night.

**23.3** If a team chooses not to race on their RC night, they shall be scored DNC for all races that night.

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**24 RIGHTS TO USE NAME AND LIKENESS**

**24.1** By participating in the Thursday Night Racing Series, competitors automatically grant to the organizing authority the right, in perpetuity, to make, use, and show, at their discretion, any photography, audio, and video recordings, and other reproductions of them made at the venue without compensation.

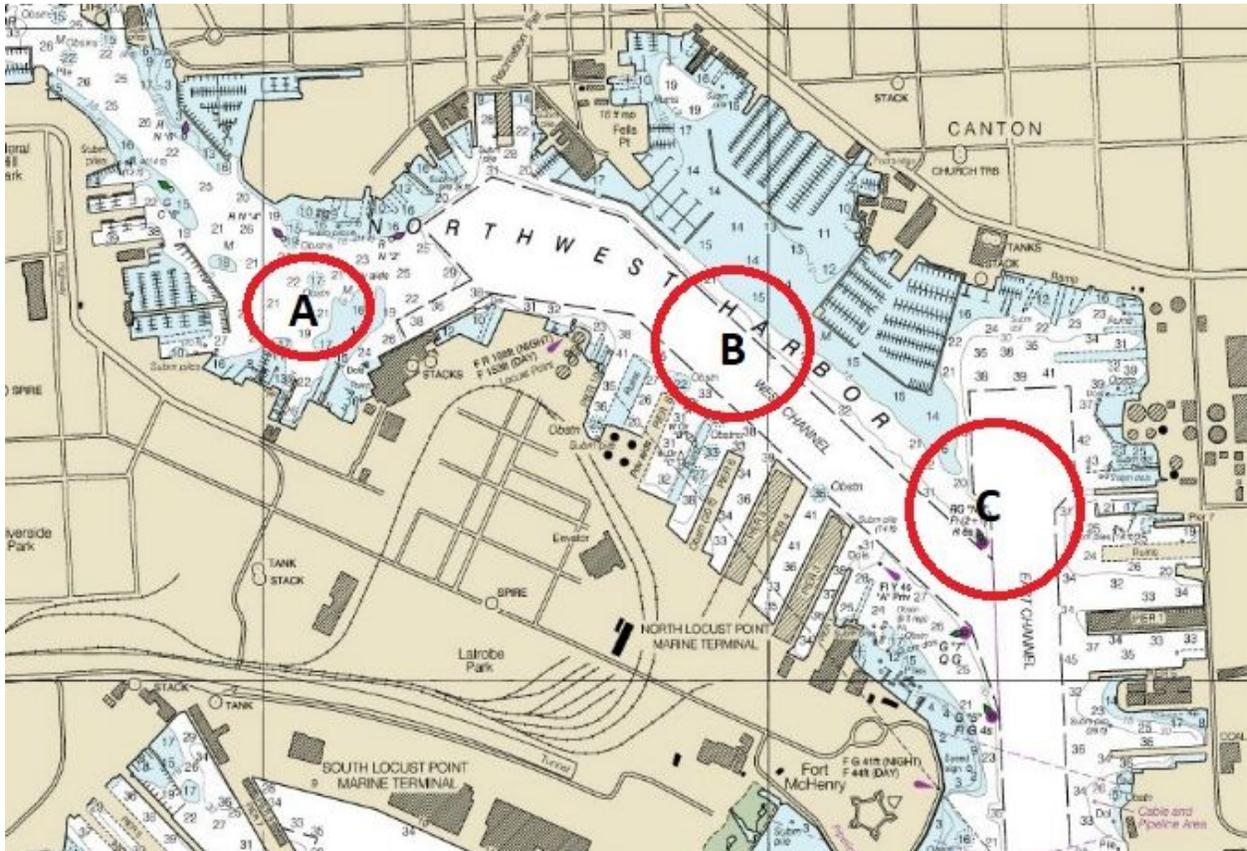
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**Attachment A: Racing Areas**



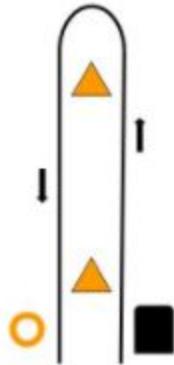
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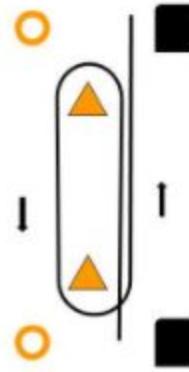
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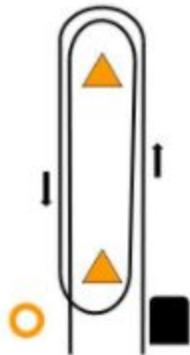
**Attachment B: Course Diagrams**



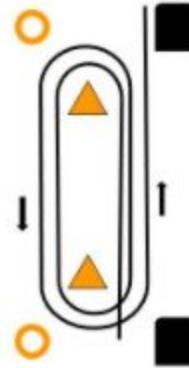
Course "L2"



Course "L3"



Course "L4"



Course "L5"