



Sailing Instructions

ALL RACES

These sailing instructions apply to all GSSC racing events, unless otherwise noted. The official current copy of these instructions will reside on the GSSC website, and a notice board containing these sailing instructions, handicap ratings, and any updates will be mounted at the clubhouse.

Changes to these instructions will be announced prior to a race, posted at the clubhouse and, when possible, on the Club's Facebook page.

1 General & Miscellaneous

- 1.1 **Rules** – All races will be governed by the most current *Racing Rules of Sailing* (RRS) and where noted amended by these instructions. The RRS are available online at www.racingrulesofsailing.org/rules
- 1.2 **Liability** – Boats participate in club races entirely at their own risk [see RRS 1.3]. GSSC will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with a race event.
- 1.3 **Courtesy to Other Vessels** – Boats will be aware of other non-racing vessels with crew that may not understand traffic and right-of-way regulations and that do not adhere to the RRS or these instructions. Boats shall be courteous to non-racing boats and shall refrain from making tactical decisions that may confuse non-racing boats or pose a risk of collision.
- 1.4 **Inspections** – Random inspections may be made throughout each season for compliance with assigned PHRF and Yardstick ratings and safety standards.
- 1.5 **Passing Start/Finish Gate** – Unless starting or finishing at a mark, there is no requirement to either pass through or avoid a start/finish gate when on the race course.
- 1.6 **Collision with RC Boat** – Any collision with a Race Committee boat that is not owned by the Club will result in an automatic disqualification from the race. [modifies RRS 31 & 44.1]
- 1.7 **Electronic Steering** – In a solo-crew event, the use of electronic vanes and steering equipment may be permitted by consensus of all participants prior to the race start.

2 Race Schedules

- 2.1 Race schedules will be posted on the GSSC website and at the clubhouse prior to lift-in.

- 2.2 Updates to the schedule will be emailed to members, posted on the website and, if possible, posted at the clubhouse.
- 2.3 The Race Committee may delay start times at its discretion.
- 2.4 The Race Committee is responsible for all official times. Skippers are encouraged to be in the starting area prior to approximate starting times so that they can sequence their timing with the preparatory signals.

3 Registration, Conditions & Races Proceeding

- 3.1 **Open Registration** – Unless otherwise noted, races are open to all sailboats; membership with GSSC is not required.
- 3.2 **Minimum Participants** – No less than three boats must be registered and present for a race to proceed.
- 3.3 **For weeknight races**, boats wishing to participate shall sail past the Race Committee boat and identify themselves as racing prior to the start.
- 3.4 **For weekend and multi-day races**, boats wishing to participate shall register by the posted registration deadline. Barring cancellation under 3.2, a boat may register until the start time by identifying itself to the Race Committee or Race Coordinator.
- 3.5 **Abandoned Races** – A race will be abandoned if less than three boats are present at the start of the race, or if wind & weather conditions are deemed by the Race Committee to be either insufficient or unsafe for completing the race.
- 3.6 **Cancelled Races** – A race will be cancelled if,
 - a. for a long-distance race, weekend race or pursuit race, less than three boats are registered by the registration deadline, or
 - b. up to 3 hours before the race, the wind & weather forecast is deemed to be either insufficient or unsafe for completing the race.
- 3.7 **Shortened Races** – In lieu of abandoning a race, the Race Committee will have discretion to shorten a race course at any time.
- 3.8 Series races that are cancelled or abandoned and removed from a series are not required to be rescheduled.
- 3.9 Single races, except for long-distance races, that are cancelled or abandoned will be rescheduled only if possible.

4 Signals Made Ashore

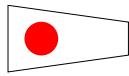
- 4.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed from a flag mast on the GSSC pier or flown from the Race Committee boat while tied to the pier.

5 Race Marks

- 5.1 Primary marks will consist of orange 5-foot inflatable tetrahedrons or yellow 5-foot inflatable cylinders.
- 5.2 Secondary or replacement marks will consist of yellow and orange 2.5-foot inflatable tetrahedrons.
- 5.3 Changed marks due to drifting, missing marks, or shortening of a course will be a smaller tetrahedron. Prior to the start of a race, changed marks will be noted at the clubhouse. During a race in progress, an attempt will be made to inform the first three lead boats.
- 5.4 Regular racing marks are established as follows:
 - a. Mark A (Back Bay) ▲ [N62 28.184 / W114 21.305]
 - b. Mark B (Bayly Burrow) ▲ [N62 28.981 / W114 21.200]
 - c. Mark C (Hideaway Island) ▲ [N62 29.335 / W114 19.539]
 - d. Mark D (spare mark) *no fixed location/marker*
 - e. Mark E (Start Gate [East]) ● [N62 28.517 / W114 21.236]
 - f. Mark F (Start Gate [West]) *no fixed location/marker*
- 5.5 Regular racing landmarks are established as follows:
 - a. Hideaway Island [N62 29.156 / W114 19.047]
 - b. Mosher Island [N62 26.469 / W114 20.585]
 - c. N'Dilo Buoy (N25) [N62 28.812 / W114 19.608]
 - d. Pilot Islands Buoy (MOA) [N62 10 23.0 / W114 05 22.3]
- 5.6 When present, the Race Committee boat will be Mark F at the start/finish gate and may replace other marks as needed.

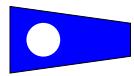
6 Race Courses

- 6.1 Regular race courses are established as follows:



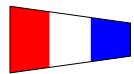
Course One
(north wind)
4.1 NM / 7.6 KM

1. START Mark E to Starboard
2. Mark B to Starboard
3. Mark C to Starboard
4. Mark A to Starboard
5. Mark B to Starboard
6. FINISH Mark E to Port



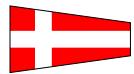
Course Two
(south wind)
4.7 NM / 8.7 KM

1. START Mark E to Port
2. Mark A to Port
3. Mark C to Port
4. Mark B to Port
5. Mark A to Port
6. FINISH Mark E to Starboard



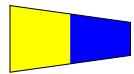
Course Three
Mosher Island
(north wind)
9.6 NM / 17.75 KM

1. START Mark E to Starboard
2. Mark B to Starboard
3. Hideaway Island to Starboard
4. Mosher Island to Starboard
5. Hideaway Island to Port
6. Mark B to Port
7. FINISH Mark E to Port



Course Four
Mosher Island
(south wind)
10.25 NM / 19.0 KM

1. START Mark E to Port
2. Mark A to Port
3. Hideaway Island to Starboard
4. Mosher Island to Starboard
5. Hideaway Island to Port
6. Mark B to Port
7. FINISH Mark E to Port



Course Five
Mosher Island
(Snowball Cup)
6.75 NM / 12.5 KM

1. START N'dilo Buoy to Starboard
2. Mosher Island to Starboard
3. Hideaway Island to Port
4. FINISH at Mark B



Course Six
Moose Bay
54.0 NM / 100 KM

Leg 1

5. START N'dilo Buoy to Starboard
6. FINISH Pilot Island MOA to Starboard

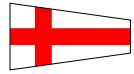
Leg 2

7. START Pilot Island MOA to Port
8. FINISH M'Dilo Bouy to Port



Course Seven

undefined course



Course Eight

undefined course



Course Nine

undefined course

6.2 For course sets 1 & 2 and 3 & 4, course selection will be made by the Race Committee at the race start based on prevailing wind direction. The course number pennant will be flown either on the Race Committee boat or from ashore.

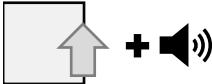
6.3 The Race Committee may adjust a start position or mark location to suit wind direction and will inform participants prior to the start of the race.

6.4 **Dinghy Races** – When a dinghy race is scheduled in conjunction with a regular race using course 1 or 2, the course for dinghies will be shortened to four legs, as follows:

- Course One – Start •E → ▲B → ▲C → ▲A → •E Finish
- Course Two – Start •E → ▲A → ▲C → ▲B → •E Finish

7 Race Starts

7.1 When the Race Committee boat is present, a ten-minute starting sequence will be used, as follows:

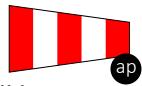
10 minutes to Start (1st Prepatory Signal)		Solid white flag is raised, horn sounded once
6 minutes to Start		Solid white flag is lowered, no horn
5 minutes to Start (2nd Prepatory Signal)		Solid blue flag is raised, horn sounded once
1 minute to Start		Solid blue flag is lowered, no horn
Start Signal		Solid red flag is raised, horn sounded once

7.2 **Dinghy Starts** – When racing as part of a regular race, dinghies will start at the 5-minute signal. All other boats will avoid the starting area at this time. **[modifies RRS 63.1]**

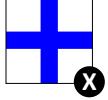
7.3 When a Race Committee boat is not present, the Race Coordinator or designate will make audio signals at 10 minutes to start, 5 minutes to start and the race start.

7.4 When there is no race official present, boats will self-start using posted start times, starting instructions, if available, and synchronized clocks.

7.5 Extended delays of the start by the Race Committee will be indicated by flying the *answering pennant* and two horn blasts. At the end of the extended delay, the answering pennant will be lowered and one horn blast will be made, signaling one minute to start.



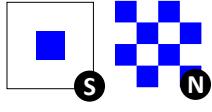
8 Recalls

- 8.1 When the Race Committee boat is present, the starting line will be judged for boats crossing early.
- 8.2 When there is an individual recall, the Race Committee will attempt to hail the recalled boat(s) both before and after the start signal. Individual recalls will be signalled with the use of the code flag 'X' at the time of an early crossing and three short horn blasts immediately after the start signal. 
- 8.3 The following will not be grounds for redress: **[modifies RRS 62.1(a)]**
 - i. Failure of the Race Committee to broadcast the sail numbers or boat name.
 - ii. Failure of a boat to receive the recall broadcast.
 - iii. A boat's position in the sequence of broadcast.
- 8.4 There will be only one general recall allowed per race. After one general recall, the next start shall be governed by the black flag rule **[see RRS 30.3]**. A black flag will not be displayed. The new start sequence will then start with the 2nd preparatory signal and a five-minute countdown to the restart. The general recall flag will be lowered one minute prior to the five-minute signal. 
- 8.5 When a Race Committee Boat is not present at the start, boats are expected to use the honour system and exonerate themselves on a premature start.
- 8.6 If a boat starts prematurely, it must return back to the start line and round either a start mark or the Race Committee boat.
- 8.7 Dipping the line to restart is not permitted.

9 Changing Marks

- 9.1 Once the last boat has started a leg, the Race Committee may change the position of the leeward mark in order to keep the course square, regardless of any boat racing upwind on the leg. The course will be kept square by all available means.
- 9.2 The Race Committee will attempt to notify the lead boats of any change by means of a sound signal and the use of flag 'C'. **[modifies RRS 33]** 
- 9.3 The Committee may change a fixed mark prior to a boat commencing the leg formed by the mark, and will attempt to notify the lead boats by a sound signal and flying flag 'C'.

10 Shortening a Course

- 10.1 The Race Committee will have discretion to shorten a course or abandon a race for reasons including, but not limited to, no wind, adverse weather, or the entire fleet navigating the course improperly. 

A shortened course will be indicated with flag 'S'. An abandoned race will be indicated with flag 'N'.

10.2 No course will be shortened to less than 2 legs in length. If required, the course will be abandoned.

10.3 The Race Committee may shorten the last leg by relocating the last mark to not less than half of the leg's original length, and will fly flags 'C' and 'S' in this scenario.  

10.4 The Finish of a shortened course shall be between the mast flying flag 'S' on the Race Committee boat and the nearest orange or yellow tetrahedron mark.

10.5 If possible, the Race Committee will attempt to advise the lead boats of the shortened course prior boats commencing the new shortened leg by displaying the flags and using sound signals. The Race Committee's priority is to set the new course and to be stationed for the finish of the race.

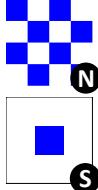
10.6 The Race Committee will not shorten a leg in progress.

10.7 The following will not be grounds for regress:

- Failure of the Race Committee to broadcast a sound signal heard by the lead boats.
- Failure of a boat to see the code flags or receive a sound signal.

11 Time Limits

11.1 For all evening races,

- no race will be started after 19:15 hours;
- all boats must finish by 21:00 hours or incur a DNF score;
- if the lead boat does not reach the first mark within 35 minutes, the race will be abandoned and the Committee boat, if present, will fly flag 'N';
- if the lead boat does not reach the first mark within 25 minutes, the Committee may shorten the course to finish at the second mark. A shortened course will be noted by flying flag 'S'. 

11.2 For weekend courses,

- no race will be started after 14:00 hours;
- all boats must finish by 18:00 hours or incur a DNF score;
- if the lead boat does not reach the first mark within 60 minutes, the race will be abandoned and the Race Committee boat, if present, will fly code flag 'N';

- d. if the lead boat does not reach Hideaway Island within 45 minutes, the Race Committee may shorten the course by removing the Mosher Island mark. A shortened course will be noted by fly flag 'S'. If a Race Committee boat is not present, the race will be shortened to finish between the N'Dilo buoy and the lower Burwash range marker.
- e. if the lead boat does not reach Mosher Island within 150 minutes, the course may be shortened to finish between
 - i. the marker at the south end of Mosher Island and the Race Committee boat,
 - ii. the N'dilo buoy and the Race Committee boat, or
 - iii. if a Race Committee boat is not present, the N'dilo buoy and the lower Burwash range marker.

11.3 For multi-day and long-distance courses,

- a. no race will start after 12:00 hours;
- b. all boats must finish by sunset or incur a DNF score.

11.4 For the Snowball Cup,

- a. no race will be started after 19:30 hours;
- b. all boats must finish within 180 minutes or incur a DNF score;
- c. if the lead boat does not reach Mosher Island within 75 minutes, the race will be abandoned;
- d. if the lead boat does not reach Mosher Island within 60 minutes, the race may be shortened to finish at the N'Dilo bouy.

12 The Finish

12.1 A race boat will finish by

- a. crossing between the flag mast of the anchored Race Committee boat and the assigned finish mark, or
- b. crossing between two assigned finish marks, or
- c. touching the single assigned finish mark.

12.2 When the Race Committee boat is present, it will confirm each boat's finish time with a single horn blast and record each finish time.

12.3 **Self-Reported Finish** – When the Race Committee boat is not present, each boat will self-report its own finish times by 12:00 the next day or incur a DNF score. Self-finish reports must include the boat name, boat class or make/model, and finish time in 24-

hour ‘hh:mm:ss’ format, as well as estimated wind conditions and a list of other recognized participants.

- 12.4 **Contact on Finish** – When touching a finish mark is required, contact may be made with a boat hook, whisker pole, spinnaker pole, mop handle, MOB pole, or any other extension. If there is concern for safety, contact may be interpreted as being within the skipper’s reasonable spitting distance.
- 12.5 Boats that finish a course must vacate the course and yield to boats still competing.

13 Protests and Request for Redress

- 13.1 A protest flag must be flown by the protesting boat for the protest to be valid.
- 13.2 If possible, and as soon as practical, a protesting boat should inform the boat being protested that they are under protest so that they may accept a penalty on course if this is an option to the offending boat.
- 13.3 The time limit for lodging a protest is 30 minutes after the last boat finishes or abandons a race and may be extended to accommodate the delayed return of the Race Committee boat to the club dock.
- 13.4 Protests must be written and submitted to the Race Committee.
- 13.5 Protests will be heard immediately following lodging of the protest at the clubhouse. If not possible, all efforts will be made to hear protests within one week at a time set by the Race Coordinator.
- 13.6 Written protests must include the protesting boat and skipper, the offending boat and skipper (if known), the action being protested, and an account of the event. Protest forms will be available at the clubhouse.



14 Communications During a Race

- 14.1 When possible, the Race Committee will assist boats with start times, course instructions and other issues as requested.
- 14.2 For the purpose of racing, boats are not required to have a VHF radio onboard. Boats racing on courses longer than 7 nautical miles are encouraged to have a VHF radio onboard and to monitor channel 16.
- 14.3 Boats are reminded that VHF radio is monitored by the Coast Guard and has rules and regulations on its use. All users must exercise proper technique when using a VHF radio.
- 14.4 In the event the Race Committee hails the fleet on channel 16, it will request all boats to switch to channel 68 for further instruction, as follows:

“GSSC Fleet, GSSC Fleet, GSSC Fleet, this is the RC boat. Go to channel 6 8. Out.”

15 Scoring

- 15.1 **Race Score** – Races are scored using the Low Point system and are based on the corrected time of each boat. [see [RRS Appendix A](#)]
- 15.2 **Series Score** – The scoring for a race series will be identified in each notice of a race. Typically, series longer than 3 races will use a “best x of y” model.

16 Handicaps and Time Corrections

- 16.1 The Race Coordinator will maintain a list of all Club boats and other racing boats for the purpose of classifying and assigning handicaps. However, it is the responsibility of owners and skippers to identify their boat to GSSC and its Race Committee at each race.
- 16.2 Rating assignments and adjustments are at the discretion of the Race Coordinator, and may be affected by a boat’s variants, such as oversized sails, flying sails, and propeller types.
- 16.3 **Yardstick** – all boats will be assigned a base rating in accordance with US Sailing’s model of the Portsmouth Yardstick (“D-PN”) and using its *Table of Precalculated Classes* as a reference.
- 16.4 **PHRF** – Where Yardstick numbers are unavailable, boats will be assigned a Performance Handicap Racing Fleet (PHRF) rating in accordance with US Sailing’s model and using its *Table of Precalculated Classes* as a reference. PHRF ratings will then be converted to Yardstick ratings.¹
- 16.5 **Schell** – Where neither Yardstick or PHRF ratings are available, boats will be assigned a PHRF rating using the *Schell Regression Formula*² and available class data. PHRF ratings will then be converted to D-PN ratings.
- 16.6 **Individual Adjustments** – The Race Coordinator may, at his/her discretion, provide rating adjustments for individual boats based on hull or sail modifications or other identifiable reason.
- 16.7 Ratings will be updated and published/posted prior to lift-in each season. Ratings will not be adjusted once a regatta/series has started.

17 Awards & Prizes

- 17.1 Awards and prizes for regatta winners will be given at the *year-end* party.
- 17.2 Participants that are not members of the Club may compete and place at all races; however, trophies and prize gifts are given to club members only.

¹ The PHRF-to-DPN conversion formula used is from Wikipedia.

² The Schell Regression Formula used is from <https://people.well.com/user/pk/YRAphrf-sf.html>
