

**2017 LITTLE CREEK SAILING ASSOCIATION  
WEDNESDAY NIGHT SAILING INSTRUCTIONS  
WITH CHANGES AS OF December 2, 2016**

**Rules:**

Races will be governed by the rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing for 2017 – 2020, and these Sailing Instructions.

Non spinnaker classes will be single-headsail only.

Boats are strongly encouraged to meet or exceed US Safety Equipment Requirements for Category Ches Bay (4P). No crew limits apply.

All changes to the hull, rig, sails or other factors upon which a rating is based must be reported to the LCSA Point of Contact (POC) for evaluation, prior to the next LCSA race.

**Registration:**

Each boat must be registered (by submitting a signed 2017 LCSA Entry Form and liability waiver, have paid the BBSA and LCSA entry fees, and signed up for a Race Committee (RC) boat slot (unless all slots have been filled) in order to be scored.

- Boats serving as RC for a race that is cancelled will be rescheduled by the LCSA Point of Contact.

Submit a valid PHRF rating to the LCSA Point of Contact. A yacht without a valid PHRF rating will be assigned a courtesy rating by the LCSA Point of Contact until a valid certificate is obtained.

**Written Changes to Sailing Instructions:**

Any changes to the Sailing Instructions will be emailed to the captains of all registered boats before 1700 on the day before it will take effect.

**Schedule of Races:**

Every Wednesday beginning April 5, 2017 through September 20, 2017.

There will be five series conducted in the LCSA 2017 schedule. Each series will consist of five scheduled races. Races cancelled for weather or other reasons will not be scored, but will remain part of the series.

Series 1 -	Apr 5,	Apr 12,	Apr 19,	Apr 26,	May 03,
Series 2 -	May 10,	May 17,	May 24,	May 31	Jun 07,
Series 3 -	Jun 14	Jun 21,	Jun 28,	Jul 5,	Jul 12,
Series 4 -	Jul 19.	Jul 26,	Aug 02 ,	Aug 09,	Aug 16,
Series 5 -	Aug 23,	Aug 30,	Sep 06,	Sep 13,	Sep 20,

The first Warning Signal will be scheduled for 1825 except during the months of April and September when it will be at 1755 due to the earlier sunset.

**Scoring:**

Each series will be scored according to RRS Appendix A Low Point System, except that

1) There will be 2 throw-out races in each series, (Note: for each fleet, there will be 1 throw-out race if only 3 races are scored in that fleet, and 0 throw outs if only 1 or 2 races are scored).

2) Appendix A Section 9, Race Scores in a Series Longer than a Regatta, will not apply.

3) Boats not racing in order to serve as Race Committee (RC) shall be scored for that race equal to their boat's average score of non-throw-out races for that series (note: averages ending in .5, will round up to the next whole number. Example: In a series a boat that places: 1-2-RC-4-5, shall be scored  $(1+2)/2=1.5$ , which will be rounded to a 2nd place finish for the race when the boat performed RC duty). RC will not get "credit" towards points, unless at least one boat in their fleet completes the race.

4) Cancelled races in a series will count as a throw-out, including the RC. In the event 3 or 4 races in a series are cancelled, the series scoring will be based upon the races actually conducted in that series (no throw-outs).

Scores for disqualification as a result of a protest hearing (DSQ, DNE) shall not be used as a throw-out.

Exception: If the race is abandoned, no boat will receive a score for that race.

A boat scheduled to be Race Committee shall either serve as scheduled, or find her own replacement. When finding a replacement, the Race Committee will notify the LCSA Point of Contact of the change prior to the race start. If she is unable to either serve or find a replacement, she will be penalized in accordance with RRS 44.3(c) (20% penalty) for the next 5 races in which she competes.

**Prizes:**

Trophies for the first three places in each series will be given at the LCSA 2017 Awards / 2018 Kick-off meeting to be held in March 2018.

Additionally, boats will be recognized for their performance in all 5 series.

- Each boat will be scored based on it's best 13 races of the year in the 5 LCSA series (note: For boats racing in more than one Fleet in different series, the best 13 races will all be in the same Fleet).
- The three lowest totals in each Fleet will be recognized.
- Ties will be decided by the boat with the most first place finishes in their Fleet.

**Classes and Flags:**

Spinnaker (Class A (code flag "9") , B (code flag "6") , or C (code flag "7")

Non-Spinnaker I – PHRF rating of 170 or less (Code Flag "5")

Non-Spinnaker II – PHRF rating of 171 or higher (White flag)

All participating boats must display their class flag on the backstay approximately 5 feet above the transom. Boats must stay in the same fleet for an entire series. Boats must notify the LCSA Point of Contact that they are changing fleets prior to the start of the series. In the absence of such notification, a boat will remain in the class in which it raced in the previous series.

**Racing Area:**

All races will be held outside of Little Creek entrance off the shore of the East Beach development.

**Courses:**

Courses shall be posted on the Race Committee boat as indicated by large letters for course marks and numbers for number of laps. Leave RED letter marks to PORT and GREEN or BLACK letter marks to STARBOARD.

**Finish**

The last letter on the course board will be "S". The finish line shall be the line between the "S" mark and the orange flag on the Race Committee boat. Regardless of the color of the "S", all boats shall finish from the course side of the finish line. If course has been shortened, boats shall finish from the course side between Race Committee boat and designated mark. While not required, the race committee should consider adjusting the finish line so that it is roughly perpendicular to a line drawn from the race committee boat and the last mark before the finish.

**Marks:**

S – Orange Ball drop mark in the vicinity of the Race Committee boat.

J – VMRC reef buoy off Ocean view beach.

K – Red LC2 buoy at the entrance to Little Creek channel.

L – Green LC1 buoy approximately 2 miles north of the Little Creek channel.

**The Start:**

All starts shall be in accordance with RRS 26 with two modifications. A courtesy Attention sound may be signaled approximately one minute before the Warning Signal and only a "P" flag will be used at the Preparatory signal. The first Warning Signal will be scheduled for 1825 except during the months of April and September when it will be at 1755 due to the earlier sunset.

<u>Signal</u>	<u>Flag &amp; Sound</u>	<u>Minutes before starting signal</u>	
Courtesy Attention		3 or 4 rapid sounds	6 (approximate)
Warning	Class flag(s);	1 sound	5
Preparatory	P Flag:	1 sound	4
One-minute	Preparatory flag removed;	1 long sound	1
Starting	Class flag(s) removed;	1 sound	0

It is anticipated (but not required) that there will be two starts (Non-Spinnaker II Fleet followed by Non-Spinnaker I Fleet and Spinnaker Fleets); when more than one start is to be used, subsequent Warning Signals are expected, but not required, to be made simultaneously with the previous class Starting Signal.

As feasible, the Race Committee will use GPS time to start the race; official time of start remains the Flag. As per rule 26, "the absence of a sound signal shall be ignored".

**Individual Recall (rule 29.1):**

A boat is over the starting line early if any part of the boat is on the course side of the line when the starting gun sounds. When this happens, flag "X" is flown with one sound. "X" remains flying until all offenders have restarted properly by getting back behind the starting line.

Additionally the Race Committee shall attempt to announce the "over-earlies" on the radio.

**Starting Line:**

The starting line for all fleets will be between the "S" drop mark and an Orange Flag on the Race Committee boat. It is recommended that the start line be approximately 1.5 times the total length of the largest fleet.

**Keeping Clear of Starting Area:**

Boats are encouraged to remain clear of the starting area as boats are starting. Boats not racing shall keep clear of boats that are racing.

**Compliance with government restrictions:**

Boats must comply with government-restricted areas, whether marked by buoys, defined by law (keeping clear of war ships), or instructed by military / public safety personnel. No redress will be given for compliance with government restrictions.

**Shortening Course:**

The Race Committee may shorten the course at any time by anchoring at a mark of the course, displaying Flag "S", and sounding two horns as the first boat approaches. Boats shall finish by passing between the Race Committee boat and the mark in the direction from the previous mark.

**The Finish:**

Unless shortened, the Finishing Line for all classes will be between the "S" drop mark and the orange flag on the Race Committee boat.

**Penalty System:**

Except when she is required to retire by RRS 44.1, a boat infringing a rule of RRS Part 2 may take a penalty in accordance with RRS 44.2 (2 Turn Penalty – HIGHLY RECOMMENDED).

**Time Limit:**

No boat will be scored later than two hours after the first start (2030 if the first start was at 1830; 2000 if the first start was at 1800). This modifies Rule 35.

**Radio Communications:**

- \* All boats must have a working VHF and should monitor VHF-72 from 1700 until racing is completed for that evening.
- \* Between 1700 and the Warning Signal, the Race Committee may announce:
  - Cancellation of racing due to bad weather or other factors.
- \* While racing, the Race Committee may announce:
  - Boats who are "over early"
  - Shortening of the course
  - Abandonment of racing
  - Any other factors affecting safety or fairness of the competition
- \* Failure of a boat to receive a properly made radio announcement will not be considered grounds for redress.
- \* To facilitate proper radio communications, boats are urged to limit use of VHF-72 to emergency communication with the Race Committee and early retirement from the race.

**Weather cancellations:**

This decision will be made based on the judgment of the Race Committee and the decision is not subject to request for redress. Cancellations while racing will primarily be by VHF-72, Code Flag N and a series of three horn blasts.  
Race Committee should cancel the race whenever he/she thinks it will be unsafe, or when there is a high probability of damaging boats because of the weather. Sustained winds of 20 kts or greater on the race course will be grounds for cancelling the race.

**Protests and Requests for Redress:**

In addition to the requirements of Rule 61.1(a), boats shall inform the race committee of their protest immediately after crossing the finish line or as soon as possible after retiring. This changes Rule 61.1(a).

Protests and Requests for Redress shall be delivered (in writing) to the Race Committee at the Bay Point Marina, or a place verbally designated by the Race Committee, within 1 hour of the time the committee boat reaches the dock on the day of the incident (protest time limit). It is the responsibility of the protester to remain in the area until the end of the time limit or until the written protest has been delivered. The Race Committee will immediately notify the LCSA Point of Contact of the protest and determine a means of passing the written protest to the LCSA Point of Contact.

Before a protest hearing is scheduled for an alleged violation of a Part 2 rule, the LCSA Point of Contact or designee will set up a meeting between the parties to attempt to mediate the protest. If agreement can be reached, the protest can be withdrawn, or one or more of the parties can accept a 50% scoring penalty. This modifies Rule 63.

Protest hearings shall be scheduled by the LCSA Point of Contact. The protest committee shall be appointed by the LCSA Point of Contact.

**Disclaimer of Liability:**

Competitors participate in a race entirely at their own risk. See Rule 4, Decision to Race. The organizing authority will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after any race.

**Insurance:**

Each participating boat shall be insured for racing with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum coverage of \$100,000 per event or the equivalent.

**LCSA Point of Contact:**

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