

**TSS PORTSMOUTH CLUB RACES 2008-2009 WATCH**  
**SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

**In order to promote participation in small boat racing by sailors at all ages and experience, we intend to keep it simple and have fun. Rules are required, though, to keep it fair.**

## **1 RULES**

The Portsmouth race series shall be governed by *The Racing Rules of Sailing*, except as they are modified by the Club Championship Rules, which are published separately, and these Sailing Instructions.

The Club Championship Rules shall govern any award of the Club Championship for the Portsmouth race series.

## **2 ENTRIES, WAIVERS and PFDs**

Competitors enter by registering with the Racing Fleet Captain or the Portsmouth Race Officer (“RC”) in advance of their first race. The RFC and RC need to assign you a Portsmouth rating. Some paperwork may be required, such as an entry form with waiver. Minors must have parental consent and parent’s waiver and must be “actively” supervised by a TSS member or Youth Sailing or Sea Explorer adult.

Races are open to non-members with the permission of the Racing Fleet Captain or Portsmouth Race Officer. Non-members’ scores will show on the race score sheets but non-members are not eligible for the Club Championship and non-members’ scores shall not count for the series.

**BY REGISTERING AND RACING, EACH COMPETITOR (AND PARENT, IN THE CASE OF A MINOR) ACKNOWLEDGES AND CONSENTS TO THE FOLLOWING WAIVER: I agree to be bound by The Racing Rules of Sailing and all other rules that govern this event. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I hereby waive any rights I may have to sue the race organizers (organizing authority, race committee, protest committee, host club, sponsors, or any other organization or official) involved with the event with respect to personal injury or property damage suffered by myself or my crew as a result of our participation in this event and hereby release the race organizers from any liability for such injury or damage. NOTE: It is ultimately the responsibility of each racer to participate or not - all factors, including weather, should be considered in the decision to race or continue racing.**

Personal Flotation Devices should be worn by all sailors. **PFDs MUST be worn by all minors before leaving shore or dock and until return.** Minors not wearing PFDs are not allowed to race – they shall return to shore and shall be scored DSQ; however, they can race if they return wearing a PFD.

## **3 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS**

Notices to competitors will be posted on the official racing notice board at TSS. Any change to these Sailing Instructions will be posted as a Notice and announced at the skippers’ meeting. Changes in the schedule of races or race days will be posted as Notices, announced at the skippers’ meeting and the Racing Fleet Captain will try to notify competitors in advance. A competitor’s failure to receive a notice shall not be grounds for redress.

#### **4 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE**

Signals made ashore will be displayed at the Club's flagstaff. If a postponement is signaled ashore, the warning signal will be made not less than 30 minutes after AP is lowered. Any postponement signaled ashore lasting more than 60 minutes means races are abandoned that day.

#### **5 SCHEDULE**

There will be two series: Spring - April through June and Fall - August through November.

Race days: Usually, two Sundays monthly. The schedule of race days will be posted on the website, distributed by e-mail and posted on the official racing bulletin board at TSS.

Skippers' meetings: On the porch at TSS, thirty (30) minutes before the warning signal of the first race. The skippers' meetings will usually be at 3:00 p.m.

The scheduled time of the warning signal for the first race each day is 4:00 p.m. Check for postponement flag ashore or on the RC boat. Races held outside channel marker #2 will have a warning signal later than scheduled.

Subsequent races will be held as soon as possible after the end of the previous race. There will usually be three races. The length of each race depends on the racers, but we estimate about 30 minutes.

#### **6 RACING AREA**

The racing area will be announced at the skippers' meeting. Races will usually occur in Bal Harbour or another area of the waterways of the community of Apollo Beach. Occasionally, the races will occur in the waters outside Apollo Beach channel marker #2. The RC boat will be identified by a Race Committee flag or an orange flag.

#### **7 STARTING AND FINISHING LINES**

The starting and finishing lines will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the Race Committee boat and an inflatable buoy.

#### **8 CLASS FLAGS and STARTS**

At least two (2) boats shall be in the starting area before RC shall start a race.

Class flags will be as follows:

All boats except prams: #1 Pennant (red dot in long, white triangular pennant) or Red Flag

Prams: #2 Pennant (white dot in a long, blue triangular pennant) or Blue Flag

Prior to the first warning signal, all yachts shall pass the stern of the Race Committee boat on a starboard tack and check in with the skipper's name, boat type and class (prams or others) and sail number.

Classes may start together or separately, at the discretion of the RC.







The RC may require non-members to start later to minimize interference with TSS racers. The RC may require non-members to start with the prams.

Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area.


The RC may sound a series of short horn signals (usually 3) before the sequence begins in order to attract attention.

Rule 26 shall not apply. The following changes Rule 26:

Races shall be started using the following signals. The **FLAG** signals will govern, even if sounds are used. Signals will be timed from their commencement.

Signal	Sound / Flag	Time
<b>Warning</b>	3 long /Class Flag UP	<b>3 minutes</b>
	 If  , Class goes 2 times around the course	
<b>Preparatory</b>	2 long /  OR  UP	<b>2 minutes</b>
	1 long /  OR  DOWN	1 minute
	3 short	30 seconds
	2 short	20 seconds
	1 short	10 seconds
<b>START</b>	1 long /Class Flag DOWN	<b>0/START</b>

The RC shall wait at least 1 minute before giving the warning signal for the next class.

-  The “I” (“India”) flag at the preparatory signal (black dot on a yellow square flag) means Rule 30.1 “Round an End Rule” shall apply. The Rule is: If any part of a boat’s hull, crew or equipment is on the course side of the start line or its extensions during the minute before her starting signal, she shall thereafter sail across an extension to the pre-start side before starting. This means, if you’re across the start line in the minute before your start, you cannot “dip start;” you will be scored OCS unless you sail around the pin end or the RC boat end of the start line, then sail across the start line.



The “T” (Tango”) flag at the Warning Signal (red, white and blue stripe) with the class flag means that class will go around the course two times. For TSS races, the twice around course is always marks to port and it is only used for the Windward-Leeward course.

## 9 RECALLS will be signaled by flags. In addition,



**(Blue cross in white square flag) Individual recall:** The Race Committee may attempt to hail a boat by sail number or (some other distinguishing feature) or by skipper’s name for an individual recall, but failure to notify a competitor or the competitor’s failure to hear shall not be grounds for redress.



**(yellow long triangle inside blue long triangle) General recall:** The Race Committee may attempt to hail boats by class (prams, sunfish, or the like) or by skipper's names for a general recall, but failure to notify a competitor or competitors, or a competitor's or class of competitors' failure to hear shall not be grounds for redress. A class that has a general recall shall start after the last scheduled class has started. If more than one class is recalled, they shall start in the order in which they were recalled.

## 10 COURSES and MARKS

The courses will be as described and depicted on the attached diagrams, which show the courses, course designations, the marks in order and the rounding direction of each mark. Course signals may be made orally or noted on a flag or board on the RC boat. The marks will usually be round, cylindrical or triangular orange or yellow inflatables, but occasionally, RC may designate a piling or tower as a mark.

## 11 PENALTIES

**360 Degree Turn** - A boat that touches a mark while racing must take a penalty at the time of her incident. The penalty must be taken immediately, or as soon as possible. The infringing/offending boat shall get clear of other boats and take the penalty without continuing to sail forward in the race. If there was no contact, her penalty shall be one consecutive 360 degree turn, including 1 tack and 1 jibe.

**720 Degree Turn** - Contact can result in damage to boats and should be avoided. If two boats touch, the offending boat shall do a 720 degree turn (2 turns in the same direction), including 2 tacks and 2 jibes. Touch is defined as any contact between boats, including rigs, sails, crew, etc. Failure to honor this rule will result in the boat being disqualified.

## 12 TIME LIMIT

A boat failing to finish within ten (10) minutes after the first boat in its class has finished and a boat finishing ten (10) minutes or more after the first boat in its class has finished will be scored DNF.

This time limit may be altered by the RC, being reduced or extended to approximately 30% of the first boat's time. The time limit is based on a thirty minute race and is intended to allow RC to aim at 3 starts during a race day.

## 13 PROTESTS

**NON-MEMBERS SHALL HAVE NO RIGHT TO PROTEST OR REQUEST REDRESS.**

Official protests are discouraged. Try to keep clear, work it out on the water or on the porch and have fun.

To protest on the water, hail the boat you're protesting. Waving a red flag is recommended. In any event, a protested skipper's failure to hear you is not grounds for redress. To preserve your right to an "official protest," notify the RC of your protest immediately after you cross the finish line and

before departing the finishing area, identifying the skipper/boat you're protesting.

Talk about it on the porch after the race. A review of the rules and discussion among the competitors and RC is a learning experience.

Official protest forms are available at TSS, the TSS website and other websites, and the US Sailing rulebook. To be official, protests must be written. Official protests must be delivered to the RC within thirty (30) minutes of RC's arrival on the porch at the end of the race day. Protest hearings will be held as soon as possible, at a date, time and place designated by the Racing Fleet Captain.

RC shall have the right to protest a boat when RC witnesses a foul or request redress.

## **14 SCORING**

The Portsmouth Rating System will be used, with modifications for the Beaufort Scale of Wind Velocity. The time on time method of scoring is in effect. Scoring shall otherwise be in accordance with the Club Championship Rules.

RC's estimate of wind velocity shall not be grounds for redress.

Any competitor who challenges a vessel confined to the Tampa Bay shipping channels in such a way as to cause them to file a report, or who violates a moving or static safety or security zone resulting in the filing of a report, will be scored DSQ. This changes Rule 63.1.

Any competitor littering the water or the shore shall be scored DSQ.

Members' series scores for the Club Championship shall not be penalized or enhanced by non-members' scores. Non-members' scores shall be eliminated from the series scores for the Club Championship.

Scoring shall otherwise be in accordance with the Club Championship Rules and the Portsmouth Club Championship Rules.

Subject to protests and review by the Racing Fleet Captain, preliminary unofficial scores will be announced at TSS on the race day. Official scores will be calculated at the end of the series and shall be subject to approval by the Racing Fleet Captain.

## **15 AWARDS**

Awards, and the number of awards, are at the discretion of the Racing Fleet Captain.

**ATTACH COURSE DIAGRAMS**

**POST RACE DATES**

**POST ON OFFICIAL BULLETIN BOARD**

**E-MAIL TO RACERS**

**POST SIs with course diagrams, entry form, race dates on WEBSITE/RACING PAGE**