

# SOUTHWEST HARBOR FLEET

## 2024 Sailing Instructions

### 1 Rules

- 1.1 Races will be governed by the current rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing and these sailing instructions.
- 1.2 Races are informal assisted by volunteer help.
- 1.3 All races are sailed as **non-spinnaker**.

### 2 Entries

Membership Registration is required for each entry.

### 3 Notices to Competitors

- 3.1 Notices and schedule changes shall be announced over VHF 65, at a tea, by email and posted on the SWH Fleet's Google page.
- 3.2 On the day of a race, all competitors should assume that racing is a go. Cancellations, postponements and changes to the starting area will be announced on VHF channel 65 between 1200 & 1210 hrs.
- 3.3 The following code flag designations will be used, when applicable, to identify classes:
  - Bullseye = Red Class logo on white flag
  - Tempest = Code flag "T"

### 4 Schedule of Races

- 4.1 The schedule of races shall be each Friday starting July 7<sup>th</sup> through August 25<sup>th</sup>.
- 4.2 Amendments may be made per SI 3.1

### 5 Race Areas

- 5.1 Races shall be conducted in upon the waters of the Great Harbor of Mt. Desert and Somes Sound. The official Race Chart shall be the "Race Mark Addendum of the Northeast Harbor Fleet," shown as "ATTACHMENT A" page 5 (also available on the NEH Fleet's website).
- 5.2 Races will normally start at 1:30 pm North of Greening Island, aka AREA "A", unless an alternate area and time is announced over VHF 65.

## 6 Course

- 6.1 The course will be determined and announced over VHF Ch 65 prior to the warning signal for each class.
- 6.2 Mark Courses may also be posted by number & letter boards. The last letter shown indicates the finish mark.

## 7 Marks

- 7.1 Marks of the course may be Northeast Harbor Fleet letter designated buoys (colored flag buoys), a portable pole buoy, inflatable buoys, islands, or combinations thereof. (A description of Marks and a Race Chart may be found at the Northeast Harbor Fleet web site.)
- 7.2 When used, Letter boards designate the marks of the course in the order they are to be rounded.
- 7.3 All marks are to be rounded to port unless otherwise instructed.
- 7.4 All government navigational buoys, except those shown on the official Race Chart as racing marks E, I, P, Q, and R, must be properly observed unless they are posted as rounding marks of the course.

## 8 The Start

- 8.1 The 3-minute Sound Starting System will be used. This changes RRS 26. Bullseyes will start first. The Warning signal for each Class thereafter will be 4 minutes after the preceding Class.
- 8.2 The starting line will be between a staff with an orange flag on the Signal Boat and an inflatable mark or a buoy with an orange or pink flag to port of the Signal Boat. If no Signal Boat is available, a "Rabbit" or "Gate" start will use a buoy as the "pin end" of the "Gate."
- 8.3 If there are fewer than three class boats intending to start a race there will be no start for that class.
- 8.4 Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area during the starting sequence for other races.
- 8.5 A boat starting later than 5 minutes after her starting signal will be scored "Did Not Start" without a hearing. This changes RRS A4 and A5.

## 9 Recalls

9.1 "Individual Recall" is made by raising code flag "X" with one sound signal and announcing the sail number by loud-hailer and/or VHF radio. Failure to make a broadcast or to time it accurately will not be grounds for a request for redress. This changes RRS 62.1(a).

9.2 "General Recall" is made by raising "1st Substitute" with two sound signals.

## 10 The Finish

10.1 The Signal Boat will fly a solid blue flag indicating it is on station for the Finish.

10.2 The finish line will be between a staff with an orange flag on the Signal Boat and the course side of the Finish Mark.

10.3 **In the event a Signal Boat is not available to record finishes**, each boat shall finish as close to the Finish Mark as possible and record who was nearest ahead and nearest behind her. This information should be communicated to Fleet Secretary Mike Hays (michael.hays.mdi@gmail.com or 460-9130) either in person, email, text or phone, no later than 1630 hrs (4:30 pm) each race day.

## 11 Time Limits

11.1 The time limit for each class is 40 MINUTES.

11.2 Boats unable to finish within 10 MINUTES after the first boat in the class will be scored as "Did Not Finish" (DNF). No race will be started after 1510 hrs

## 12 Scoring

12.1 The Low point scoring system will be used for all races.

12.2 After six (6) races or more, a boat's worst score shall be discarded. After nine (9) races or more, a boat's next worse score shall be discarded.

12.3 A boat that did not start, retired after finishing, or was disqualified shall be scored points for the finishing place one more than the number of boats entered in the race. This changes RRS A4.2

12.4 A boat that started but did not finish and is not being protested shall be scored one additional point more than the number of boats that finish. This modifies RRS A9.

## 13 Safety Equipment

13.1 Each boat should have on board the following **recommended** equipment:

- Compass
- Anchor and Rode, 120 ft min.
- Racing Rules of Sailing 2021-2024
- Current Copy of SWHF Sailing Instructions
- Bucket
- Valid Protest Flag (bright red rectangle)
- Paddle
- Knife
- Minimum First Aid Kit (i.e., West Marine Lifeline First Aid - \$4.99)
- A means of retrieval for a man overboard

13.2 Each boat shall have on board the following **required** Equipment:

- 1 USCG serviceable, approved PFD for each person on board
- 1 USCG serviceable, approved throwable PFD
- 1 USCG current, approved Flare Kit
- 1 Handheld VHF radio, charged and operational
- 1 Foghorn or whistle

## 14 Electronic Communication

14.1 VHF Radio may be used at any time for communication between the Race Committee and race participants. Normally, VHF Channel 65 will be used for all SWH Fleet communications. However, traffic override by other vessels may require use of an alternative channel (66 or 68) that shall be announced by the RC when needed.

14.2 The use of electronic devices for assistance with navigation and timing is allowed.

## 15 Disclaimer of Liability

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

## 16 Arbitration and Alternative Penalties

Appendix T – Arbitration and Appendix V – Alternative Penalties shall be in effect.

ATTACHMENT "A"

NEH Fleet Race Mark Chart

