



Sailing Instructions

Sailing Season 2011-2012

Rules

All races will be governed by *The Racing Rules of Sailing*, the prescription of the Yachting Australia as to when they apply, the rules of each class concerned except any of those class rules that are changed by these sailing instructions, and by these sailing instructions. Note that revised rules will apply from 1st January 2010.

Entries

Eligible boats may be entered by completing registration with the Port Macquarie Sailing Club Inc. Registration involves paying the single race fee of \$5 per adult crewed boat per day. A junior race start fee of \$2 per boat per day will apply. For those only competing in one race on multi race day the fee will be \$5 or \$2 for craft in the 2 categories.

The appropriate start fees are to be paid to the starters located upstairs in the clubhouse. All the competitors are to wear an Australian Standard approved PFD. Failure to wear a PFD at any time during the race will result in disqualification.

Skippers are required to sign on and off for each race unless specifically exempted by sailing instructions for back to back races.

Penalties for not doing so are:

Failure to sign on - DNS

Failure to sign off - DNF (nominated events only)

Safety Equipment

Each competing boat is expected to carry or be equipped with the following safety equipment:-

Paddle

Towing ring or a method of securing a towing line

Notices to Competitors

Notices to competitors will be posted during a series on the notice board and copies given to each member. The program will also show member duties as starters or duty official.

Changes in Sailing Instructions

The Race Committee will post any change(s) to the sailing instructions before 10am on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 2pm on the day before it will take effect.

Signals made Ashore

Signals for starts, recalls, delays, abandonments, etc. will be displayed ashore from the starters position, on the balcony of the clubhouse, or by flags from the clubhouse.

Schedule of Race

Races are scheduled as on the published program. Every month a double header consisting of a series race and club championship will occur. There will also be a handicap start once a month (unless a sprint series of races is being conducted in that month), with handicaps displayed at registration desk.

Racing Area

The racing area is between Settlement Point and Hibbard Ferries for normal races and between the Town Green and the Dennis Bridge for marathons.

The Course

The course will be displayed on the course board outside the boat shed. It will be explained and confirmed at a briefing occurring at 12:30pm EST, 1:30pm DST and (10:30am for two races on one day).

Marks

All rounding marks will be orange buoys. The only change of course will be a shortened course, if wind conditions are light. Code flag "S" will be attached to the last buoy. All boats are to round the buoy on the correct hand as per the set course, proceed direct to the finish line crossing the line from the direction of the buoy carrying the shortened course flag. The duty officials will try to brief the helmsman of each boat racing.

Penalty System

The penalty for any on the water infringement shall be a 720 turn except for mark rounding where a 360 turn will suffice.

Interference with Starting Officials

Competitors must not discuss, argue, debate or raise their voice, with the starters about any on water infringement they may have been party to. This behaviour will result in a DND result which must be carried to the end of the series and is not discardable in the result computation. Grievances about the start, finishes or on water incidents must be raised with a member of the race committee and if appropriate, a Protest form filled out and lodged with the race committee for a hearing to be held.

Scoring

The low point scoring system, rule A2, will apply for scratch racing with back calculated yardsticks based upon the Victorian Yacht Club yardsticks as published for each class of boat. Club handicaps are calculated by the scoring program and are to be carried over from the conclusion of one series to the commencement of the next.

New boats to the club will start on yardstick for their class and have to sail 3 races at the club before a handicap is computed for the point score.

Starting times

The racing will commence at 11am on days with two races. The second race will start at 2pm DST, while on days of one race the start will be at 1pm EST or 2pm DST. On the occasion of the day of change from DST to EST the second race will start at 1:30pm. Starting times may be delayed at the discretion of the race committee.

The Start

Races will be started in the following order at the times noted above for each class:

monohulls

catamarans

Yachts / trailer sailors and Junior/Novice

Races will be started as follows:

6 min to first start One white light and sound signal

3min to start One white and two red lights

2min to start One white and one red light

1min to start One white light with sound signal, announcement of class starting

Start first class All lights off, sound signal, then one white and two red lights for next class.

The 3 minute light and sound signal count down is performed for each class.

This procedure will be followed until all class / divisions have started.

Flags will only be used if on water starts from the rescue boat are required.

The starting line will be between the yellow flag on the river bank in front of the clubhouse and the yellow flagged buoy, or when a flag start is in progress from between the yellow flag on the boat and the yellow flagged buoy.

Boats whose 5 minute start countdown has not commenced, will keep clear of the start line.

Boats must be on the water 10 minutes before their official starting time.

Recalls

General recalls will be signalled by two long blasts of the hooter. The recalled fleet (class) will go to the end of the starting order.

Individual recalls, are signalled by one blast of the hooter, and notification of individual boat number by loud hailer, where possible. A restart need only be a dip start (with no right of way rights for the premature starting boat) Responsibility for a proper start rests with each boat.

The Finish

The finish line will be the same as the start line, ie. Between the yellow flag on the river bank and the yellow flagged buoy, or between the boat carrying the yellow flag and yellow flagged buoy. The finish line is not to be crossed during the race unless starting or finishing. Boats crossing the start/finish line may exonerate themselves by "unwinding" during the race. Failure to exonerate will result in disqualification.

Time

The time limit for will be 3 hours for each class from their start time. Boats failing to finish within half an hour after the first boat or within the time limit, whichever is later, will be scored Did Not Finish. This changes rule 35.

In handicap start races, the 3 hour limit shall apply from the start time of the scratch boat.

Protests

Protests shall be written on forms available at the sign on desk and delivered there within 1 hour after the time of the last boat's finish. Protests will be heard in the order of receipt as soon as possible. Protest notices will be posted within 30 minutes of the protest time limit to inform competitors where and when there is a hearing, in which they are parties or named as witnesses.

The decision of the protest committee will be final as provided in rule 70.4.

A nominal fee of \$20.00 is to be lodged with each protest

Prizes

Prizes will be awarded at the end of season presentation, except for regattas, when they are awarded at the completion of the regatta.

Boats will compete in their class divisions of

Catamarans,

Monohulls,

yachts / trailer sailors and

Junior / Novice.

The season is divided into a sprint race series of 12 races and 2 long race series in spring and then summer, with scratch Back Calculated Yardstick winners awarded in each division (providing there are sufficient starters in each division for a series to be sailed. This determination is at the discretion of the race committee). The 2 worst races in a series of each boat are dropped to determine the winners.

Handicap prizes will be awarded for the spring, summer series and Club Championship. The 1st 2nd and 3rd scratch place getters will not be eligible for prizes in the handicap results.

1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes will also be awarded to the best score in the club championship races where 1 worst race is dropped to determine the division winners.

Responsibility

Competitors taking part in these events do so at their own risk and responsibility. The Port Macquarie Sailing Club Inc. shall not be responsible for death, injury, damage or loss in any circumstances what so ever.

It shall be the sole responsibility of each boat to decide whether or not to start or discontinue in a race (ISAF fundamental rule 4).

If a race in progress is cancelled/abandoned because of wind or sea conditions, competitors shall return to the beach and sign off immediately, so all starters may be accounted for.

Duty Official

The Duty Official of the day (normally the rescue boat primary driver) is required to oversee reserve duty crews, the starting officials and to co-opt assistance as required. In the case of two or more races on one day, the Duty Official is only responsible for the race in which they officiate and not the other race(s).

Abandonment

The Duty Official (including Starting Officials) may, if they consider wind and sea conditions to be dangerous, abandon the race in progress. The Starting Officials should seek direction from a member of the race committee if possible before abandoning a race.

Code flag "N" will be displayed from the veranda of the club house starters position and or the rescue boat.

The rescue boat will attempt to contact all boats still racing.

All Members

Members will be expected to assist with the organisation of club races on a roster basis.

Duty crews will assist the duty official of the day, and should report to the duty officer at least 90 minutes before the race is due to start. Non Compliance without notification of the duty officer may result in penalty points being given. All members **MUST** have paid their club dues plus boat storage fees by **30th September** each year.

Non Payment of dues and storage by this date will result in maximum points being accrued i.e. did not contest points being awarded up until the date the dues are paid.

Insurance

Each participating boat shall have been insured with valid third party liability insurance. All owners/competitors who race are deemed to have made a declaration that they hold such cover. The Port Macquarie Sailing Club may be able to arrange insurance cover for individual owners under the club's comprehensive boat insurance policy.