

**ETCHELLS FLEET 27
2018 SPRING, SUMMER, and FALL SERIES,
FLEET CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES,
And THURSDAY NIGHT SERIES**

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

April 24, 2018

1. RULES

- 1.1. The Fleet 27 Spring, Summer, and Fall Series and the Fleet Championship will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing.
- 1.2. US Sailing prescriptions Appendix T (Arbitration) and Appendix V (Alternative Penalties) will apply.
- 1.3. The Sailing Instructions (SIs) of the PYC Thursday Night Series will apply except as modified or amended by the sailing instructions published for these series by Fleet 27.
- 1.4. The Thursday Night Series is run by the Portland Yacht Club. Fleet 27 encourages participation in this series. For maximum turnout, our Fleet focuses our attention to sailing the second and fourth Thursdays each month starting June 7, finishing September 13.

2. SAFETY

- 2.1. Fleet 27 rules require an operational VHF radio and a hand held double "C" or "D" cell flashlight (or larger) be onboard each boat for all races.
- 2.2. When conditions justify, the Organizing Authority will encourage the Race Committee to implement rule 40, requiring the usage of PFDs by all competitors and crew. Racers will be notified by the flying of flag Y with one sound signal before or with the warning signal.

3. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

- 3.1. Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located at the Portland Yacht Clubs front porch at least one hour prior to the scheduled warning signal. These changes will also be announced to competitors verbally when checking in or over VHF channel 72.
- 3.2. Modifications to the Sailing Instructions will be emailed to all Fleet members.

4. CHANGES TO THE SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 4.1. Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted before 1700 on the day it will take effect.
- 4.2. Changes will also be posted on the Fleet 27 website shortly thereafter.

5. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 5.1. If the Race Committee feels conditions are such that a safe or fair race cannot be held as scheduled, they shall display flag AP approximately one hour prior to the scheduled warning signal. The Fleet shall be hailed over VHF 72 if AP is signaled, if and when AP is dropped, or if racing will be abandoned for that night. If a postponement is signaled ashore, the warning signal will be made not less than 60 minutes after the AP is lowered.
- 5.2. Signals made ashore will be displayed on the RC vessel Lindsay Lord while still at the dock or from the yardarm of the PYC mast.

6. SCHEDULE OF RACES

- 6.1. Dates of Fleet racing:
 - **Spring Series:** May 15 to June 19
 - **Summer Series:** June 26 to July 31
 - **Fall Series:** August 7 to September 11
- 6.2. The scheduled time of the warning signal for the first race is 1800.
- 6.3. For races on and after August 21, the warning signal is 1730.

7. CLASS FLAG

- 7.1. The class flag is the Etchells logo on a contrasting background.

8. RACING AREAS

- 8.1. The usual Tuesday Series start is to the south of Clapboard Island though wind conditions could allow use of other sailing areas.

9. THE COURSES

- 9.1. Courses will be windward/leewards. Initial windward legs will be between 0.5 and 1.5 miles in length, depending on wind conditions.
- 9.2. An offset mark will be employed at the windward mark.
- 9.3. A leeward gate may be substituted for the leeward mark.
- 9.4. The approximate course heading and distance to the windward mark shall be displayed during the starting sequence.
- 9.5. All marks will be rounded to port.
- 9.6. Courses:
 - W** = windward/leeward with number of laps: 1 (upwind, finish downwind), 1.5 (upwind, downwind, finish upwind), 2 (upwind, downwind, upwind, finish downwind), or 2.5. The pin is the leeward mark unless a gate is set.
 - WM** = windward/leeward starting and finishing in the middle of the course, with the number of laps: 1 (upwind, downwind, finish upwind in middle of course) or 2 (upwind, downwind, upwind, downwind, finish upwind in middle of course).

10. MARKS

- 10.1. Marks shall be orange inflatable cylinders. The offset mark shall be a green ball or a yellow inflatable mark.

11. CHECK IN

- 11.1. Each boat shall check in with the Race Committee before the start of the evenings racing and prior to the Warning signal by sailing by the Committee boat on starboard tack, hailing her skippers name, boats name, and sail number. Failure to check in will result in not being scored for that race.
- 11.2. Guest skippers are allowed, but notification must be made to the Race Committee before the start of that evenings racing. Boats with a guest skipper will be scored for a maximum of 2 nights racing per series or 5 nights racing per season. These scored races will be the races sailed earliest in each series or season. Other races completed by a guest skipper will not be scored **for that boat** though we welcome the participation with the Fleet.

12. THE START

- 12.1. Approximately one minute prior to the warning signal, multiple sound signals will occur to alert competitors.
- 12.2. Races will be started by using RRS 26 with the warning signal made 5 minutes before the starting signal.
 - 5 minutes:** Class flag; 1 sound
 - 4 minutes:** P, I, Z, Z & I, U, or Black flag; 1 sound
 - 1 minute:** Prep flag(s) down; 1 sound
 - Start:** Class flag down; 1 sound
- 12.3. The starting line will be between the staff displaying an orange flag on the starting boat on the starboard end and the course side of the port-end starting mark.
- 12.4. A boat starting later than 5 minutes after her starting signal shall be scored *Did Not Start* without a hearing. This changes RRS A4 and A5.
- 12.5. Individual recalls will be signaled according to RRS 29.1.
- 12.6. General recalls will be signaled according to RRS 29.2.
- 12.7. The Race Committee will attempt to notify recalled boats on channel 72. 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).

13. CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

- 13.1. To change the next leg of the course, the race committee will move the original mark (or the finishing line) to a new position.
- 13.2. A change of course will be signaled by displaying flag C with repetitive sounds.
- 13.3. The change will be displayed on the course board before the leading boat has begun the leg.
- 13.4. If a change in course is made involving moving the windward mark, the new windward mark will be a single inflatable cylinder WITHOUT an offset.

14. SHORTENING COURSE

- 14.1. Shortening the course may occur at any mark of the course by the Race Management vessel displaying flag S with two sound signals.
- 14.2. Boats will finish between the mark and the Race Management vessel in the direction they would normally sail to complete the course.

15. THE FINISH

- 15.1. The finishing line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the finishing boat and the course side of the finishing mark.
- 15.2. After finishing the first race, competitors will attempt to stay clear of the finish line and observe the starting area boundaries as stated in the Sailing Instructions under section 13.3.

16. WITHDRAWAL

- 16.1. A boat that retires from a race or does not intend to start the next scheduled race shall promptly report this to the Race Committee via hailing or through VHF 72. If this is not possible, she shall report her actions to Race Headquarters on shore.

17. PENALTY SYSTEM

- 17.1. By implementing Appendix V, the first two sentences of RRS 44.1 are changed to: 'A boat may take a One-Turn Penalty when she may have broken one or more rules of Part 2 or rule 31 in an incident while *racing*. However, when she may have broken one or more rules of Part 2 while in the *zone* around a *mark* other than a starting *mark*, her penalty shall be a Two-Turns Penalty.'
- 17.2. RRS 44.3 is also eliminated, no scoring penalty will be accepted while on the water, just the penalty turns.
- 17.3. Appendix V simply stated:
At the time of the incident:
One-Turn penalty for Part 2 (when boats meet) or RRS 31 (touching mark).
Two-Turns penalty for Part 2 (when boats meet) while in the *zone* around a non-starting *mark*.
Penalties taken after a race:
30% if taken before the hearing begins.
- 17.4. If the skipper does not believe he/she was wrong, the incident will move to a formal protest.

18. TIME LIMITS AND TARGET TIMES

- 18.1. No races shall be started within 60 minutes of sunset at the PYC.
- 18.2. The first finisher of a race must finish prior to 30 minutes of sunset for that race to count for the series.
- 18.3. Boats failing to finish within 20 minutes after the first boat sails the course and finishes will be scored *Did Not Finish* without a hearing. This changes RRS 35, A4, and A5.

19. PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

- 19.1. Boats intending to protest or request redress for an incident in the racing area should radio their intention to the RC immediately after finishing or retiring from the race concerned, naming any other boat(s) involved, and await an acknowledgement. (This adds to RRS 61.1(a))
- 19.2. The Race Committee will attempt to inform the Fleet of parties to the protest(s) but it is still the responsibility of those parties involved to comply with protest requirements.
- 19.3. Protest forms are available outside the PYC business office and will be lodged with the Race Committee within 45 minutes after the time the Race Committee boat docks or at the conclusion of the arbitration meeting.
- 19.4. The protest hearings will be held as soon as possible after the races, but in any case it will be no later than that same evening. The jury will attempt to hear protests in order of receipt.
- 19.5. It is the sole responsibility of each party to a protest to remain on call in the vicinity of the PYC. Failure of any such boat to appear when called for a hearing will be considered by the Protest Committee as grounds for proceeding under RRS 63.3 (b).

20. SCORING

- 20.1. For all series and the Fleet Championship, boats will be allowed 1 drop after 5 races, 2 drops after 10 races, 3 drops after 15 races, 4 drops after 20 races, 5 drops after 25 races, and so forth.
- 20.2. Ties will be broken using Appendix A8.
- 20.3. Scoring guest skippers is listed under 12.2 above.
- 20.4. Boats assigned to do Race Committee shall receive their average score for the corresponding Series for all races completed the night they are assigned.

20.5. A team will be scored DNC until it has fulfilled all eligibility requirements.

20.6. The best 5 races count for the Thursday Night Series. CHIPS scoring shall be used for the Thursday Night Series.

21. EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

21.1. Boats may be inspected for safety equipment at the discretion of the Race Officer. Boats may be inspected for compliance with Class Rules as needed.

21.2. Items may include: (minimums from Class Rules)

- One PFD with attached whistle, USCG Type III, for each crewmember onboard
- 7.7 pound (or heavier) anchor with ¼" chain totaling 12.1 – 19.8 pounds (approx. 5.5' – 16' of chain) and 148 – 164' 10mm (3/8") dia. anchor line.
- 2 Buckets, 2.5 gal. with 5' lanyards.
- Floating tow rope, 82 – 98' 10mm (0.5") diameter
- 2 paddles, 4' or longer
- Working bilge pump
- Working VHF radio with Channels 9, 16, 68, and 72
- Working double "C" or "D" cell hand held flashlight

21.3. Boats found not in compliance with their equipment check shall be protested by the Race Officer or the Race Committee for all races that evening.

22. COMMUNICATIONS

22.1. All boats must carry a working VHF radio. VHF channel 72 will be used for communication. Except for an emergency, a boat racing shall neither make nor receive radio communications not available to all boats. This restriction also applies to mobile telephones.

22.2. The use of cell phones as data gathering instruments for only the RaceQs program will be allowed. No cell phone communication nor information from the internet or cell phone shall be obtained or referenced while racing.

23. TOWING PROCEDURE

23.1. Should conditions warrant be it lack of wind or timing constraints, boats should stay together for efficient towing back to shore. Boats should head directly toward the PYC fairway after the last race. Boats preferring a tow will follow the Fleet Towing policy or they may not be picked up.

24. PRIZES

24.1. Awards will be given for the top three finishers in each Series. Awards may be provided for winners of each Tuesday evening as well as the yacht that is most improved that evening over its current overall standing in that series.

24.2. The Fleet Champion trophy will also be awarded.

24.3. There will be an award for the winner of the Thursday Night Series.

25. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

25.1. Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. See rule 4, Decision to Race. The Etchells Fleet 27 and the Portland Yacht Club will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the regatta.

26. INSURANCE

26.1. Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third party liability insurance with a minimum cover of \$300,000 per incident or equivalent.