



OAKLAND YACHT CLUB

2021 Sweet 16 Series - Wednesday Evenings

1st Half: April 28 – June 16; 2nd Half: July 7 – August 25

First gun at 1825 hours

1. **Rules:** The 2021-2024 Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) as adopted by US Sailing except as amended by these Instructions. This series will be sailed in compliance with Alameda County Covid-19 Health Orders, as amended from time to time. See <https://covid-19.acgov.org/>, and in compliance with the 2021 YRA Guidelines for Holding Races under the tiered COVID-19 system As of 1/25/21*, as posted in Jibeset
2. **Entries:** Races are open to BAMA rated multihulls and monohull keel sailboats 20' and over
3. **Equipment:** All boats **must** comply with the United States Coast Guard (USCG) equipment requirements for recreational vessels. Crew members must wear masks.
4. **Start/Finish Lines:** Once the first warning has sounded, the Start/Finish line is restricted to boats preparing to start, starting, passing through the starting line to begin a second lap, or finishing. **Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area during the starting sequence for other racers.** See Addendum for information about restricted areas.
5. **Starting and Course Signals:** Starting will be as described in Rule 26 as changed here. No flags. The official race signals will be audible by radio only on VHF channel 69. No course, class, preparatory, postponement, shorten-course, or starting infraction flags will be flown. And because of the need for a clear radio channel for the starting sequences, no communication by radio with the RC will be allowed during the starting sequences, except to point out an error by the committee or a safety hazard. Note: fleets are often combined into multi fleet starts.
6. **Radio:** All boats must have working VHF radios and must be turned on to VHF channel 69 until racer has finished or withdrawn.
7. **Late Starts:** A yacht will be scored as DNC if it starts more than 15 minutes late unless it hails the RC and requests a late start and is given permission to start.
8. **Time Limit:** Sundown plus 30 minutes. Racers who do not finish before time limit expires will be scored for a Late Finish and will be scored "number of finishers in the division plus 1." This changes Rule 35.
9. **Individual Recall:** 1 sound, sail number or boat name may be hailed via radio.
10. **General Recall:** 2 sounds and a radio hail to the fleet being recalled. The RC will instruct re fleet's starting order via radio.
11. **Postponement:** 2 sounds and a radio hail to all racers. To lift postponement, 1 sound and a radio hail to all racers one minute prior to the start of the next sequence.
12. **Abandonment:** 3 sounds and a radio hail to all racers.
13. **Changes to Sailing Instructions:** Any changes to the sailing instructions will either be posted on Jibeset prior to 1200 hours on the day it will take effect or RC will advise via radio hail prior to the first warning.
14. **Courses:** The course sheet is published separately and ranks as a part of these sailing instructions.
15. **Shorten Course:** Races may be shortened at the end of the first "lap." Horns will be used to signify finishing.
16. **Restricted Areas in addition to Start/Finish Line restriction:** The area northwest of Coast Guard Island bounded by a line from day marker G "S" to R "2" to R "4" and from each end of that line to the nearest point on Coast Guard Island is restricted. See the Addendum to the Sailing Instructions for more information.
17. **Sail Numbers:** Sails whose numbers differ from number on entry must be reported to RC before each race.
18. **Withdrawals:** Yachts withdrawing are to notify the RC by hailing or VHF channel 69.
19. **Protests:** Protest hearings will difficult. Please consider some way of resolving the matter informally. Protests must be received no later than 0900 hours on Tuesday following the race at the email address race@oaklandyachtclub.com and contain information identifying the parties, the facts and the rule(s) claimed broken.
20. **Responsibility:** Skippers are solely responsible for deciding whether to start or continue racing.
21. **Ratings:** All monohull yachts must have a NCPHRF certificate and multihull yachts must have a BAMA rating certificate. The certificate is to be the current year or 1 year prior. One Single Race (SR) entry per boat, per series, will be accepted without the PHRF Certificate.
22. **Scoring:** Scoring per RRS Appendix A using the low point scoring system, except that number of yachts finishing plus 1 for DNF, DNS, DSQ, OCS or RET, plus 2 for DNC, plus 3 for DNE. Time on distance will be the basis for handicap scoring. Two throw-outs per Half series.
23. **Management:** Oakland Yacht Club shall have full power to interpret and enforce these instructions.
24. **Prizes:** TBD

Addendum to Sailing Instructions

A. Course 6 has been changed. Use the current Course Sheet.

B. Start/Finish Line Restricted Area

The provisions regarding the restrictions around the start/finish line remain fundamentally the same: The line between the orange panel on the OYC race deck and the orange buoy off the OYC docks is restricted except for boats starting, restarting, approaching the end of the first “lap”, or finishing. This means that ***If you are approaching the start line in the opposite direction from how you started, you may not cross it; if you are approaching in the same direction you started, X is a Mark of the Course, and you must cross the line.***

Some of the references to X as a Mark of the course have been deleted from the Course Sheet. The start/finish line, including the buoy, is now an Obstruction for boats sailing in the opposite direction from the way they started, not a Mark of the course. The *Mark room* rules do not apply at this buoy between boats headed in the opposite direction from the way they started; for those boats the three-boat length circle has no application; and the proper hail if a boat is being forced into the restricted area is “Obstruction!”, not “Room at the Mark!” But for boats starting, ending the first lap, or finishing, the rules governing starting, rounding marks, and finishing apply as appropriate.

C. The Restricted Area at Coast Guard Island

The provisions for the restricted area off Coast Guard Island remain unchanged:

The area northwest of Coast Guard Island bounded by a line from day mark “S” to R“2” to R“4” and from each end of that line to the nearest point on Coast Guard Island is restricted.

The entire area defined by the restriction – not just the buoys – must be avoided; and the proper hail is “Obstruction!”; and the three-boat length circle has no application.

D. Violations of Restricted Areas

Because of the safety concerns, violations of the restricted areas cannot be exonerated by penalty turns, and the RC will disqualify boats observed violating the start/finish line restriction without a protest.