

PORT STEPHENS YACHT CLUB LTD**SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

October 2008

1. RULES

- 1.1. Port Stephens Yacht Club races will be governed by the rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing 2005-2008, Yachting Australia Prescriptions and Yachting Australia Special Regulations, as modified by these sailing instructions.
- 1.2. These sailing instructions may be altered, varied, deleted or added to by displaying a written notice in the form of an addendum on the PSYC Notice Board prior to 1100 hours on any race day, or orally on the water (RRS Rule 89.2(c))
- 1.3. These Sailing Instructions incorporate the following documents in the PSYC Yacht Racing Handbook:
 - 1.3.1. PSYC Summer and Winter Racing Programs
 - 1.3.2. PSYC Courses
 - 1.3.3. Pointscore Race Procedures
 - 1.3.4. Sternchaser Race Procedures
 - 1.3.5. Marathon Race Procedures
 - 1.3.6. Ocean Race Procedures
 - 1.3.7. Wednesday Twilight Procedures
 - 1.3.8. Sprint Race Procedures
 - 1.3.9. Handicap Start Procedures
 - 1.3.10. Race Handicapping and Scoring System
 - 1.3.11. Gate Start Procedures

1.4. SPECIAL YACHT PROVISIONS

- 1.4.1.1. All yachts must carry a serviceable motor in an accessible position.
- 1.4.1.2. Category 6 yachts may be fitted with a bilge pump of 25 mm diameter in lieu of a self draining cockpit.
- 1.4.1.3. The PSYC burgee may be flown during racing and is encouraged.
- 1.4.1.4. All yachts are to carry a radio, capable of transmitting and receiving on at least 27 MHz Ch 88 and Ch 94, in accordance with YA Special Regulation Part 1 3.24. VHF Ch 77 is an alternate.
- 1.4.1.5. All yachts are required to have a number on their mainsail (either class or registered number of the PSYC or another club).
- 1.4.1.6. Declared non-swimmers must wear a personal flotation device type 1 or 2 whilst racing.

1.5. SPECIAL EVENT PROVISIONS

- 1.5.1.1. Events will be cancelled when a Gale Warning is issued by the Bureau of Meteorology that is current two hours before the race and is applicable to Enclosed waters.
- 1.5.1.2. Ladies and Junior races will not be held in winds averaging 25+ knots.

1.6. OCEAN RACES

- 1.6.1.1. Ocean race entrants must have a valid safety certificate, at least Category 4 as prescribed by YA Special Regulations, if race is sailed in daylight hours. If a night race, then Category 3 is required.
- 1.6.1.2. The procedures for ocean races contain additional clauses for the conduct of those races. Those procedures have priority over these instructions where clauses conflict. In particular the start line, start and finish procedures, and courses are specifically covered.

1.7. ENTRIES**1.7.1.1. Eligibility**

- 1.7.1.2. PSYC events are open to keel boat, trailer sailer and multihull classes that are racing members of the PSYC and have a current safety certificate for at least Category 6; OR eligibility as defined in the relevant Notice of Race.
- 1.7.1.3. Eligible boats may enter by completing the Series Entry Form and sending it to the Vice Commodore, PSYC, PO Box 319, Nelson Bay NSW 2315, OR delivering it to the club before their first race.
- 1.7.1.4. Visiting keel boats, trailer sailers and multihulls may sail three (3) races without becoming racing members of the PSYC provided that they:
 - 1.7.1.4.1. Are at least a Silver member of the YA.
 - 1.7.1.4.2. Have insurance cover in accord with the insurance clause of these instructions.
 - 1.7.1.4.3. Have a current safety certificate of at least Category 6 for inshore races and comply with the ocean races clause for offshore races.

1.7.1.5. It is required that regular crew (ie. Persons sailing more than three races in a racing year) must be full members of the PSYC in the appropriate racing membership category or junior members. Loss of points will apply if a yacht is found to be in breach of this requirement at the discretion of the Race Committee.

1.7.2. **Ranking as a Starter**

1.7.2.1. To be accepted as a race entry a yacht must:

1.7.2.1.1. Have a valid Safety Certificate lodged with PSYC,

1.7.2.1.2. Comply with **safety regulations-log on/log off** clause of these instructions,

1.7.2.1.3. Have insurance coverage in accordance with the insurance clause of these instructions,

1.7.2.1.4. Have paid the appropriate membership fees, or

1.7.2.1.5. Be a visiting yacht and comply with the eligibility clause above.

1.7.2.2. A yacht that has been accepted as an entry and sails in the vicinity of the start line at the preparatory signal ranks as a competitor.

1.7.2.3. A yacht that is a competitor ranks as a starter when any part of her hull or equipment first crosses the start line in the direction of the first mark after her starting signal.

2. **NOTICES TO COMPETITORS**

2.1. Notices regarding amendments to Sailing Instructions and Race Program, and results of races will be posted on the official notice board located in the PSYC Clubhouse.

3. **CHANGES IN SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

3.1. Any changes to the sailing instructions and/or schedule of races will be posted on the club notice board at least two hours before the start of the first race affected on the day it will take effect, or, on the water, communicated to each yacht before her warning signal (RRS Rule 89.2(c)).

3.2. All changes to the Sailing Instructions will be deemed to be permanent changes, unless otherwise stated in the Notice.

4. **SIGNALS MADE ASHORE**

4.1. Signals made ashore will be displayed on the PSYC signal mast near the Soldiers Point boat ramp.

4.2. When flag Y is displayed ashore, RRS Rule 40 applies at all times while afloat.

5. **SCHEDULE OF RACES**

5.1. The race schedule is published in the PSYC Summer Sailing Program and PSYC Winter Sailing Program.

5.2. Abandoned races may be rescheduled.

5.3. Races will not be started more than 1 hour after the scheduled starting time.

6. **CLASS FLAGS**

6.1. All yachts will race in the one Division.

7. **RACING AREAS**

7.1. Racing areas are as per the PSYC Courses sheet.

8. **THE COURSES AND MARKS**

8.1. Courses and rounding marks are detailed in the published PSYC Course sheet.

8.2. The course to be sailed will be notified by the code flag/s designated for each course and flown from the PSYC signal mast located on the shore at the start/finish line for races starting at Soldiers Point, or from a Committee boat for gate starts or other start line locations.

8.3. Pass SOUTH of all starboard channel markers between Manton Bank and Shoal Bay.

8.4. Marks detailed in the courses are to be left to STARBOARD unless denoted by (P), in which case they should be left to PORT.

9. **START and FINISH LINES**

9.1. The club start/finish Line is a transit line through the PSYC signal mast and the yellow pole at the water's edge in the vicinity of the mast.

9.2. The northern limit to the start/finish line is the Middle Island isolated danger pole (marking Fly Rock) but not including the pole.

9.3. A yacht which touches the Middle Island isolated danger pole whilst racing may exonerate itself by performing a 360 degree turn as soon as possible after starting (RRS Part 3 Rules 31.2).

- 9.4. When yachts sail through the finish line from west to east, all yachts must keep Middle Island and the isolated danger pole to port. When finishing from east to west, Middle Island and the isolated danger pole must be kept to starboard.
- 9.5. The start/finish line is only a start line at the start of the race and a finish line at the end of the race. Course sheets for PSYC races prescribe which side of Middle Island and pole is to be used during a race.
- 9.6. In races where the club's start/finish line is being used, when a yacht is on the course side of the start line during the minute before its starting signal, it shall sail to the pre-start side of the line in such a manner as to keep clear of all other starting yachts and may start. An alternate time penalty of ten minutes may be incurred.

10. AREAS THAT ARE OBSTRUCTIONS

- 10.1. The following areas are designated as obstructions:
- 10.2. Yachts entering or crossing prohibited areas will be disqualified.

11. THE START

11.1. Signals

- 11.1.1. In races where the club's start line is being used, signals made ashore will be displayed on the PSYC signal mast the Soldiers Point boat ramp.

- 11.2. PSYC start procedures will be in accordance with the RRS system, Part 3, Rule 26, as follows:

SIGNAL	FLAG and SOUND	MINUTES to START
WARNING	White Flag, One Sound	5
PREPARATORY	Preparatory (P) Flag, One Sound	4
ONE MINUTE	Preparatory Flag Removed, One Long Sound	1
STARTING	White Flag Removed, One Sound	0

11.3. Recalls

- 11.3.1. **Individual Recall** (RRS Part 3 Rule 29.2)
- 11.3.1.1. When at the starting signal the hull, crew and/or equipment of one or more yachts are on the course side of the start line, the starter may signal an Individual Recall by displaying Code Flag 'X' until all infringing yachts are wholly on the pre-start side of the start line or four minutes after the start signal, whichever is the earlier. A single sound signal and/or a radio call on 27MHz Ch94 and VHF Ch77 may accompany the display of Code Flag 'X'.
- 11.3.1.2. Premature starters failing to return and start correctly will be scored as DNS.
- 11.3.2. **General Recall** (RRS Part 3 Rule 29.3)
- 11.3.2.1. When there is either a number of unidentified premature starters or an error in starting procedure, the starter may signal a General Recall by displaying the First Substitute Pennant and may draw attention to this signal by two short consecutive sound signals and/or a radio call on 27MHz Ch94/VHF Ch77.
- 11.3.2.2. The Warning Signal (5 min) for the restart will be made one minute after the First Substitute Pennant is lowered. One sound signal may be made on such lowering, and/or a radio call on 27MHz Ch94/VHF Ch77.

11.4. Postponement

- 11.4.1. The starter may elect to postpone the start for any reason by flying the Answering Pennant in accordance with RRS Part 3 Rule 27.3.
- 11.4.2. The Warning Signal (5 min) for the start of the race will be made one minute after the Answering Pennant is lowered. One sound signal may be made on such lowering, together with a radio call on 27MHz Ch94/VHF Ch77.

11.5. Start Time Limit

- 11.5.1. A boat starting later than 15 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start. This changes rule A4.

12. CHANGE OF THE POSITION OF THE NEXT MARK

12.1. If a mark is missing the race will be abandoned.

13. THE FINISH

13.1. The finish line is as per start and finish lines of these instructions.

13.2. Shortening and Abandoning

13.3. The course may be shortened by the starter displaying the Code Flag 'S' at the PSYC signal mast at any time prior to any yacht crossing the finish line after starting.

13.4. The flag signal may be accompanied by a sound signal and/or radio call. Yachts will then finish when they next cross the finish line.

13.5. If a Code Flag Numeral '1' is displayed below the Code Flag 'S', all yachts shall sail to the next designated mark for the nominated course, pass it on the required side and then proceed directly to the finish.

13.5.1 If the Code Flag 'S' is displayed from a Committee boat at a rounding mark, yachts will finish between the mark and the Committee boat.

13.5.2 The race may be abandoned by displaying Code Flag 'N'.

13.5. Finish Times

13.5.1. For races finishing at Soldiers Point, if the club burgee is not flying from the PSYC signal mast, a yacht shall take its own finish time, and notify the Vice Commodore, Starter or a sailing committee member before 2130 hours on the day of the race.

13.5.2. Failure to notify a finish time by 2130 hours on the day of the race will result in a DNF being recorded by the yacht.

13.5.3. For ocean races not finishing at Soldiers Point, a yacht shall take its own finish time and notify the finish time in accordance with the Ocean Race Procedures.

14. PENALTY SYSTEM

14.1. The 720 degree penalty turn prescribed in RRS Rule 44 applies for breaking rules of Part 2 of the racing rules and the 360 degree penalty turn prescribed in RRS Rule 31.2 applies for touching a mark.

14.2. Exoneration for hitting the above water part of the islands or marks, in the case of Middle Island and isolated danger pole, Snapper Island or oyster racks and One Tree Island and oyster racks, shall be a 360 degree penalty turn, as prescribed by RRS Rule 31.2 for touching a mark.

15. TIME LIMITS**15.1. Inshore**

15.1.1. If the leading monohull yacht (or leading yacht if no monohull is racing) fails to finish by 1800 hours for summer program races, 1700 hours for winter program races and 2000 hours for marathon races, official sunset for twilight races, the result for all yachts ranking as starters in this race shall be DNF.

15.1.2. Due to safety implications, failure to notify a finish time by 2130 hours on the day of the race may result in a DNF being recorded for the yacht.

15.1.3. All racing shall cease at official sunset except for programmed night races.

15.2. Offshore

15.2.1. There is no time limit for ocean races.

16. PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

16.1. Protests shall be in accordance with RRS Part 5.

16.2. Protests shall be written on forms available at the clubhouse and shall be delivered back to the Race Officer within 2 hours of the yacht finishing.

16.3. A protest may not necessarily be heard on the day that it is lodged.

16.4. A protest fee of \$10.00 will be paid by the protesting yacht and be refunded if the protest is successful.

16.5. Decisions of the jury will be final as provided in rule 70.4.

17. SCORING

17.1. See Race Handicapping and Scoring System.

17.2. HANDICAPPING

17.2.1. A yacht without a handicap will be allocated one by the handicapper or race officer.

17.2.2. See Race Handicapping and Scoring System.

18. SAFETY REGULATIONS**18.1. LOG-ON/LOG-OFF BY RADIO**

- 18.1.1. Prior to the race preparatory signal, all racing yachts are to log on with the Starter and advise the number of persons on board. Logging on may be done by radio to the "Club Starter", using 27MHz Ch94 or VHF Ch77 (unless otherwise advised).
 - 18.1.2. It is mandatory that yachts leave their radios on during the course of a race.
 - 18.1.3. Logging off after the finish is mandatory.
 - 18.1.4. A DNF yacht MUST log off. If radio contact with the Starter is not possible, then a member of the sailing committee must be advised by 2130 hours of the safe return of the vessel. A yacht failing to report will be awarded DNS points for the race.
 - 18.1.5. All communication is on 27MHz Ch94 or alternatively VHF Ch77 to the "Club Starter" unless advised otherwise.
- 18.2.** All yachts taking part must have a valid and current safety certificate (signed by an accredited Safety Auditor) to qualify as a starter in any race or participate in any PSYC event.
- 18.3.** YA Special Regulations (Addendum A Part 1) Category 3 is the minimum requirement for yachts entering PSYC ocean races if sailed during the night, Category 4 for ocean races and Category 6 for all other race categories.
- 18.4.** Yachts taking part in PSYC cruises must comply with NSW Waterways safety requirements and the International Rules for the Prevention of Collisions at Sea.
- 18.5.** A boat that retires from a race shall notify the Vice Commodore, Starter or a sailing committee member as soon as possible.
- 18.6.** Single handed sailors must wear an appropriate PFD at all times.

19. CHANGE TO SAILS AND/OR EQUIPMENT

- 19.1. Alterations or additions to a competitor's sail wardrobe, or alterations or removal of equipment must be notified to a member of the sailing committee prior to use in club races. Failure to do so may result in a percentage penalty or disqualification.

20. EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

- 20.1. A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules, sailing instructions and safety regulations. On the water, a boat can be instructed by a race committee member to proceed immediately to a designated area for inspection.

21. SUPPORT BOATS

- 21.1. No support boats will be provided.

22. ADVERTISING

- 22.1. All races shall be sailed under the prescriptions provided in Yachting Australia Rule Book Appendix 1 - ISAF Advertising Code. However, the PSYC board and race committee reserve the right to prohibit offensive or inappropriate advertising on yachts entered in PSYC races.

23. NOTICE OF WARNING TO SKIPPERS

- 23.1. Strong tidal influence may be expected at Dutchies Buoy.
- 23.2. Middle Island isolated danger pole is attached to Fly Rock, with less than two metres of water at low tide.
- 23.3. West Bank (starboard pole) is shallow (2m) for approximately 50m all round the mark and further to the north.
- 23.4. Manton Bank is shallow to the east and less than 2m to the west and North West.

24. NIGHT LIGHTING

- 24.1. Navigation lights are compulsory after sunset in accordance with the International Rules for the Prevention of Collisions at Sea and the NSW Waterways Regulations.

25. ASSISTANCE TO VESSEL/PERSON IN DISTRESS

- 25.1. Fundamental Rule 1.1 makes it the responsibility of skippers sailing PSYC races to respond to calls for assistance by another yacht or person in distress.
- 25.2. A skipper responding to a call for assistance may take a record of the time he leaves the race to provide the assistance and the time he resumes the race after providing assistance.
- 25.3. A Request for Redress must be lodged with the starter or a member of the sailing committee as soon as possible after the yacht finishes. An adjustment to the yacht's elapsed time for the race will be made in the calculation of results.

26. RADIO COMMUNICATION

26.1. A boat shall neither make radio transmissions while racing nor receive radio communications not available to all boats. This restriction also applies to mobile telephones.

27. PRIZES

27.1. Prizes will be awarded at the discretion of the PSYC.

28. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

28.1. All those taking part in PSYC races do so at their own risk and responsibility. The PSYC is not responsible for the seaworthiness of a yacht, the sufficiency or adequacy of its equipment or the competency of its crew.

28.2. The PSYC reserves the right to refuse entry to any yacht at any time.

28.3. Attention is drawn to the Fundamental Rule 4 – Decision to Race.

29. INSURANCE

29.1. All yachts participating in PSYC events, including cruises, are required to have valid and current third party liability insurance which includes indemnity for the PSYC.

30. MARITIME SERVICES ACT No.471935

30.1. Under the Maritime Services Act a skipper/owner must:

30.1.1. stop his vessel following an accident,

30.1.2. if the accident results in injury or damage effecting seaworthiness, provide any assistance necessary,

30.1.3. provide details of his boat licence, registration, address and any distinguishing numbers of his vessel,

30.1.4. provide the above details to any NSW Waterways Officer,

30.1.5. if the accident involves death, injury or damage exceeding \$100, report the accident to the NSW Waterways or Water Police within 24 hours.

30.1.6. Penalties for failure to comply are up to \$400. The International Rules for the Prevention of Collisions at Sea apply when a yacht is not racing and between sunset and sunrise. They also apply between a racing and non racing yacht.

31. FURTHER INFORMATION

31.1. For further information please contact:

Vice Commodore

Port Stephens Yacht Club

Phone 02 49886280

Email – jim.quinn@hunterlink.net.au