

HYC Wednesday Night Race Notice - 2017

Schedule: Racing is every Wednesday evening from May 24th (tune-up race) through August 23th (Helmsperson Race) as follows: The tune up race is for all boats. The PHRF and Sonar Classes will have a single 12-race series with 4 throw outs. Please check the HYC calendar for details on the races, which traditional races and pursuit races finishing at both Chebeague Island and the HYC dock. The Helmsperson Race ends the season. A Make-up date for Helmsperson Race will be announced, if necessary.

Results will be posted on bulletin board at HYC and on the HYC website: www.hyc.cc

General Information: You do not need to be an HYC member to race. This is a competitive and fun series. Please observe all the current right-of-way rules. The 720 rule will apply for all infractions of right-of-way rules. Protest guidelines are simplified to make this a great learning experience for all. See below.

There will be two classes, each with its own start: Sonar's and PHRF. All boats larger than dinghies are invited to race in the PHRF series. The race courses may be different for the two classes; the race committee will decide and notify racers as they come within hailing distance before the start.

Sonar 3-minute start sequence in detail: (begins one minute after attention horn)

"Attention Horn; watch for white flag"

3 minutes to Start: 3 long horn/whistle blasts and White Flag up

2 minutes to Start: 2 long horn/whistle blasts

1 minute to Start: 1 long horn/whistle blast (white flag down)

30 seconds to Start: 3 short horn/whistle blasts

20 seconds to Start: 2 short horn/whistle blasts

10 seconds to Start: 1 short horn/whistle blast

Loud verbal count down last 5 seconds: "5,4,3,2,1" – Sonar start with one long horn blast and Red Flag up (WHEN LINE IS CLEAR LOWER FLAG)

NOTE: Do not signal attention horn for PHRF until all Sonar have cleared the line; this includes boats that may be over early going around to start again.

PHRF start sequence in detail: (SAME SEQUENCE AS SONAR)

"Attention Horn; watch for white flag"

3 minutes to Start: 3 long horn/whistle blasts and White Flag up

2 minutes to Start: 2 long horn/whistle blasts

1 minute to Start: 1 long horn/whistle blast (white flag down)

30 seconds to Start: 3 short horn/whistle blasts

20 seconds to Start: 2 short horn/whistle blasts

10 seconds to Start: 1 short horn/whistle blast

Loud verbal count down last 5 seconds: "5,4,3,2,1" – PHRF start with one long horn blast and Red Flag up (WHEN LINE IS CLEAR LOWER FLAG)

NOTE: RC shall verbally announce the name/number of boat over early!!

Other Flags:

Postponement Flag - Red and white vertical stripes races not started are postponed.

The start warning signal will be made 1 minute after postponement flag removal.

Abandonment signal flag - Blue and white checkered. All races started are abandoned.

Return to the starting area. The start warning signal will be made 1 minute after

Abandonment signal flag removal.

Individual recall flag - White with blue cross. Signals a boat was over early. An attempt

will be made to notify the infracting vessel by hailing number.

Course Change flag - White with Blue Square in the center. The course has been changed, sometimes shortened as well.

720 Rules:

A boat intending to protest shall inform the other boat at the first reasonable opportunity and must fly a red flag off the back stay immediately and until finishing the race. This will notify the race committee and an offending boat of the need to do a 720. The boat that may have broken a rule should take the penalty after getting well clear of other boats as soon after the incident as possible. The 720 is two turns in the same direction including two tacks and two gybes.

Protest Committee HYC Simplified:

To improve compliance and offer more chances to learn the rest of the rules, we have created a Wednesday Night Series protest procedure for these casual races. You never learn a rule better than when in a protest hearing. It follows, then, if we can make fast, open protest hearings the norm for Wednesday Night races, legitimate protests would be filed, not dropped, and everyone would learn the rules better by listening to the proceedings.

We will limit protest hearings to no more than 5 minutes and encourage everyone in the fleet to observe, silently. We will choose a judge both parties accept and give each person a minute to tell their side of the story and another minute for cross examination. Then make a decision and, to take the sting out of losing such a protest, use a percentage penalty (20% see USSA rule 44.3c) if there was no collision with damage. This will provide a refresher for those who haven't reread the rulebook since junior sailing class, and new racers won't feel so intimidated by all the rules they have not learned.

A general discussion of the situation and applicable rules after the hearing would be entirely appropriate and healthy. On a day with no protests, a mock hearing or discussion of hypothetical incidents could also be fun and useful. Justice might not be served up perfectly in these instances, but progress toward an overall goal of deciding races on the water would be advanced as, gradually, the more advanced rules would be unveiled.

Allegations of breach of rules, good manners or sportsmanship:

Sometimes we need to be reminded what Wednesday Night Racing is all about. We wish to keep the honor and integrity and most of all appreciation of all sportsmanship at a high level. Please see USSA Racing rules (69.1) for advice on conduct. The Race Committee Chair has the HYC Board's support of the following; it is the RC Chair's decision that a crew or skippers arguing race results to any degree will receive a warning; and prolonged or chronic arguing will result in being excluded from the next race or race series at the discretion of the RC Chair. Proper race management by the committee and adherence to the rules by participants are equally important to maintain the relaxed and fun atmosphere of Wednesday night races.

Scoring and Handicapping:

PHRF Class: You do not need a PHRF certificate to race. We will use the PHRF number for your boat in the New England region. If your actual PHRF certificate is different from the book number, the actual certificate number will be used. Boats without certificated ratings or book ratings will be assigned provisional ratings by the Scorer, which are subject to change during the season. In order to more equitably handicap those boats that race without spinnakers, and to promote family participation, we will increase (improve) their "racing" handicap number by 12 seconds per mile. If you decide to race under this "cruising" handicap and will not use a spinnaker, you must notify the committee of that fact before the race, at the starting line. Those who do not notify the committee boat before the race will be presumed to have raced with and used their spinnakers during the race, and "racing" handicap numbers will be used in scoring.

Sonar Class: The Sonar class will race as a one-design class with no "racing" or "cruising" handicaps.

If your boat is new to the scene, please identify your boat name and boat type to the race committee before the start of each race.

A race will be held for each class even if there are only two boats on the line. If there are less than 2 boats on the line for a class, there will be no race that day.

Scoring: We will use Low Point Scoring for both classes: 1 point for 1st place; 2 points for 2nd; 3 points for 3rd; etc. PMS, DSQ, DNF = 1 point more than the number of boats in a class for that race. DNS = 1 point more than the greatest number of boats in the class for the series. (This means that DNS points assigned early in the series may change as more boats join the series during the season.) Lowest score at the end of the series wins.

The on water race committee may elect to run 2 or more shorter races on any Wednesday for either class if the conditions are favorable. If this happens, those races will be scored individually as described above. And then the lowest combined score will place first and receive 1 point for the night; 2nd lowest combined score will receive 2 points, etc. This may lead to some ties for the night, and they will be scored appropriately as if it was a tie in one race. (E.g. two boats tied for 2nd would receive 2 ... points for the night).

For purposes of a series tie and throw outs, the combined results of a multi-race evening will count as one race.

Throw outs: For the 12-race series, the best 8 out of 12 races for each boat will be counted. If less than 12 races are run by the committee, or if the committee abandons one or more races during the series, the following throw out schedule will apply: 4/12, 3/11, 3/10, 2/9, 2/8, 2/7, 1/6, 1/5, 0/4.

Ties: If a tie results at the end of the series, the winner will be the boat or skipper with the greatest number of 1sts, 2nds, 3rds, etc. in races counted for each boat. Further ties are decided by the best head-to-head results in all races in which both boats rank as starters (the winner is the boat which beats the other the greatest number of times regardless of actual finish position). Further ties will be decided by the greatest number of 1sts, 2nds, 3rds, etc. in all of the races of the series. If necessary, the final tiebreaker (PHRF only) will be the lowest combined corrected times for all races in which both boats race and count in the scoring.

Helmsperson Race: The final race of the season is not part of the regular series. The regular skipper should not be at the helm; this is to allow a deserving crewmember to take the helm for a fun (competitive) race. Make-up date for Helmsman Race will be announced, if necessary.

Annual HYC Women's Cup: This race will be held annually and will be run the same as the Weds. Night series; Sonar Class and PHRF Class (1800 start time). Each boat's skipper must be a woman. Trophies will be presented at the annual meeting for the 1st place finish in both classes. If there is not a woman on your boat, please invite a friend or club member to take over the helm for the race.

Trophies: Will be presented as follows: Weds. Night series top three finishers in each class – Helmsperson Race first place in each class – HYC Women's Cup first place in each class.

Good Luck and Safe Sailing!

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