

HYC Wednesday Night Race Notice – 2011 Season

Schedule: Racing is every Wednesday evening from May 25 through August 24. The tune up race is May 25th for everyone. The PHRF and Sonar Classes will have a 12-race series from June 1 thru August 17. The Sonar class will also have two 6-race series during that period. The traditional Helmsman Race ends the season on August 24th.

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 a HYC member to race. This is intended to be a fun series, but please observe all the current right-of-way rules. Protest guidelines are outlined below to make this a great learning experience for all.

There will be two classes, each with its own start: Sonars 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 hail before the start.

Timing and signals:

5:59PM – Attention horn blown several times to signal one minute to Warning
6:00PM – Warning horns for Sonar and PHRF, White Flag up
6:03PM – Sonar Start horn
6:04PM – White Flag down
6:05PM – PHRF Preparatory horn, Blue Flag up
6:09PM – Blue Flag down
6:10PM – PHRF Start horn, Red Flag up

Sonar 3-minute start sequence in detail:

3 minutes to Start: 3 long horn/whistle blasts and White Flag up
2 minutes to Start: 2 long horn/whistle blasts
1 minute 30 seconds to start: 1 long, 3 short blasts
1 minute to Start: 1 long horn/whistle blast
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 (2 minutes to PHRF Prep horn)

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.

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

Protests:

A boat intending to protest shall inform the other boat(s) 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 protest. The offending boat may take three actions:

1. 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. Please note that if your boat hits a mark, it is a one turn penalty including 1 tack and 1 gybe in the same direction (per Rule 31). If your boat violates a rule of Part 2 of the RRS(port/starboard, windward/leeward, etc.), you must do a two turn penalty to exonerate yourself including 2 tacks and 2 gybes in the same direction.
2. Fly a yellow flag and take a 40% scoring penalty as outlined by RRS 44.3. The race score for the boat taking the scoring penalty shall be the score she would have received without that penalty plus 40% of the fleet. The penalized boat shall not be scored worse than a DNF. The scores of other boats shall not change and two boats may receive the same score.
3. Do nothing and go to the protest room.

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. Decisions will be swift and just. 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.

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 RRS (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. 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: 3/4 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 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 $\frac{3}{4}$ 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 $\frac{1}{2}$ 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 Sonar 6-race series, the best 5 out of six races for each boat will be counted. If less than 6 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: 1 out of 5 races, 0/4, etc. For the PHRF and Sonar overall 12-race 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.

Trophies: Will be presented for the top three finishers in each class.

Helmsman Race: The final race of the season (August 24) 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 race.

Good Luck and Safe Sailing!

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