

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS FOR OPTIMISTS

TEXAS SAILING ASSOCIATION YOUTH CIRCUIT REGATTA THE "Cannonball Run" REGATTA Palacios Yacht Club - 454B Main St. - Palacios, Texas 77465

16-17 August 2014

1. RULES:

- 1.1 The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing.
- 1.2 "The Texas Youth Racing Circuit Conditions" apply and are available on the web site at <http://www.txsail.org/>. A copy will also be available at the regatta site.
- 1.3 The rules for all classes are altered so that membership in a class organization is not required
- 1.4 Racing Rule 49.1 is changed to allow the use of hiking pants.
- 1.5 All boats shall have sail numbers which match the registration form and are identifiable and readable from both sides of the sail. Sail numbers meeting class standards are encouraged.

2. ELIGIBILITY:

- 2.1 Optimists are sailed in four fleets:
 - 2.1.1 Green Fleet: Open to all novice sailors under age 15 and through 12/31 of the calendar year in which they turn age 15
 - 2.1.2 White Fleet: Age 10 and under
 - 2.1.3 Blue Fleet: Age 11 – 12
 - 2.1.4 Red Fleet: Age 13 – 15
 - 2.1.5 For the White, Blue and Red fleets, the Optimist skipper's age on the first day of the regatta determines his or her fleet. Skippers move fleets on their 11th and 13th birthdays. Those turning 15 may continue in Red fleet through 12/31 of that year.
- 2.2 Lasers and 420s will sail on a separate line governed by a separate Racing Committee and courses will be different. Separate Sailing Instruction will be issued for these fleets.

3. **NOTICES TO COMPETITORS:** Notices to competitors will be posted on the Regatta Notice Board located at Regatta Headquarters - South Bay Park near the South Bay Boat Ramp.

4. CHANGES IN SAILING INSTRUCTIONS:

- 4.1 Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted on the Regatta Notice Board at least one hour before the first race of each day.
- 4.2 Oral changes may be made by the Race Committee on the water prior to the time of the warning signal of any race upon the raising of signal flag "L" with one sound.

5. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE:

- 5.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed at Regatta Headquarters or from the Race Committee Boat if docked in the nearby Palacios Navigation District Marina.
- 5.2 Code Flag "AP" with two sound signals means the race is postponed. DO NOT leave the beach area. The warning signal will not be made sooner than 30 minutes from the lowering of "AP", accompanied by one signal. This modifies "Race Signals".

6. SCHEDULE OF RACES:

- 6.1 Subject to the decisions by the Race Committee, six or more races are scheduled.
- 6.2 Completion of one (1) race shall constitute a TSA Youth Circuit Regatta.
- 6.3 Schedule:

Friday, Aug 15, 2014

Late afternoon – evening - The City park will be open to allow unloading of boats.

Saturday, Aug 16, 2014

0800-1000	Breakfast at Outrigger Event Center
0800-1045	Registration at Outrigger Event Center
1100	Skipper's Meeting at the South Bay Boat Ramp (Attendance Mandatory)
1115	Lunch will be served near the South Bay Boat Ramp
1230	First Signal, additional races to follow

Sunday, Aug 17, 2014

0800-0900

1000

Breakfast at Outrigger Event Center

Preparatory Signal for the first race, additional races to follow

6.4 No warning signal will be given after 1300 on Sunday.

7. **CLASS FLAGS & ORDER OF START OF FIRST RACE:** Numeral Pennants 1 and 2 will be used as fleet flags. Pennant 1 will be for Optimist fleets White, Blue and Red who will start at the same time. Pennant 2 will be for the Optimist Green fleet. Any changes will be announced at the Mandatory Skippers Meeting on Saturday morning. The order of starts will be at the discretion of the Race Committee.

8. **OPTIMIST FLEET IDENTIFICATION:**

8.1 Optimists will display a fleet streamer provided at registration while racing as follows:

<u>Age/Class</u>	<u>Streamer Color</u>
Novice	Green
10 or younger	White
11-12	Blue
13-15	Red

8.2 The Optimist Fleet streamer shall be displayed at the top of the sprit pole. Failure to display the fleet streamer in the proper location may result in a scoring penalty to be determined by the Race Committee. It is the Skipper's responsibility to insure the fleet streamer is properly displayed.

9. **RACING AREAS:** One racing area will be provided for all Optimists. At the discretion of the Race Committee this may be modified.

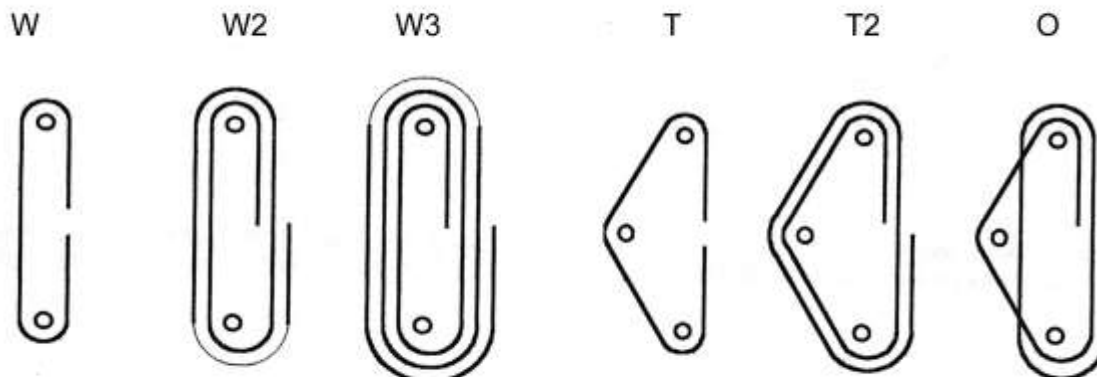
10. **CHECK IN ON THE WATER:** Prior to the first warning signal of the day, each competitor shall sail past the stern of the Race Committee Boat on starboard tack, hail its sail number and be acknowledged by the Race Committee. Failure to do so may result in a 20% scoring penalty for the first race of the day.

11. **RACE COURSES:**

11.1 There will be four types of race courses as follows: "W" (windward/leeward), "W+1", "T" (triangle), or "O" (Olympic) as described in the diagram below. Multiple times around the course will be designated by a number following the "T" or "W".

11.2 A different mark may be used as a weather mark for a shorter course for any fleet. Notice of use of such a mark in a race may be made by the Race Committee prior to the warning signal of the race.

11.3 The following diagrams show the courses to be sailed and the order in which the marks are to be rounded. For Optimist races the start / finish line will be in the middle of the windward / leeward leg and the start / finish line shall, at all times during a race, be considered an obstruction.



12. MARKS:

- 12.1** Marks will be orange tetrahedrons, tall cylindrical buoys or spherical buoys. More details will be announced during the mandatory skippers meeting.
- 12.2** 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. THE START:

- 13.1** Races will be started in accordance with Rule 26. A series of short signals may be made before any starting sequence begins in order to attract attention.
- 13.2** The starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the Race Committee boat and the starting mark.
- 13.3** A boat may not start later than 5 minutes after the starting signal for its class. Boats attempting to start after this time will be scored a DNS. This changes Rule A 4.1.
- 13.4** Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall keep clear of both the start line and all boats whose warning signal has been made.

- 14 RECALLS:** Recalls will be signaled in accordance with Rule 29. The race committee intends to hail the sail numbers of OCS boats after the starting signal. The failure of any boat to hear the hail, an untimely hail of OCS boats, failure to hail any boats, and the order of the boats in the hail shall not be grounds for granting redress. This changes rules 41 and 62.1.

- 15 THE FINISH:** The finish line shall be between a staff or flag line displaying an orange flag on the Race Committee boat and the finish mark.

16 TIME LIMIT:

- 16.1** The time limit for each race will be 60 minutes for the first boat to finish.
- 16.2** Boats failing to finish within 20 minutes after the first boat in their fleet will be scored two (2) points more than the last boat to finish within the time limit but in any case no more than a score of DNF; however, at its discretion, the Race Committee may finish any boat in place and it will be scored based on its position on the race course. This modifies Rules 32 & 35.
- 16.3** A race may be abandoned by the Race Committee if the leading boat has not rounded the first mark within 20 minutes of the start. This modifies Rule 32.

17 PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS:

- 17.1** A boat intending to file a protest for an incident occurring in the racing area shall inform the race committee on the finish boat of its intent to protest immediately after finishing. This changes Rule 61.1.
- 17.2** An Optimist boat intending to protest must fly a protest flag in accordance with 61.1(a). This changes Rule 61.1(a) (2).
- 17.3** Protests shall be in writing. Forms will be made available at Regatta Headquarters, and delivered to the Regatta Chair or their representative there within sixty (60) minutes after the race committee boat docks.
- 17.4** Before any protest is heard, a pre-hearing with one Judge, the Protester and Protestee may be conducted. If these three can unanimously agree on a resolution of the protest within 15 minutes, no protest hearing will be held. If the pre-hearing participants agree that the protested or protesting boat infringed a rule, that boat may take the scoring penalty set forth below by completing a report indicating acceptance of the penalty and submitting it to the protest committee. If the protest is not resolved during the pre-hearing, a full protest hearing will be conducted according to Racing Rules Part 5. The person who served as mediator may not serve on the protest committee. This modifies Rules 63.1 and 63.2.
- 17.5** Any boat accepting a penalty in a pre-hearing will receive a penalty score equal to the score for the place worst than her actual finishing place by the whole number (rounding .5 upward) nearest to 40% of the number of boats racing in the race in which the infringement occurred, except that it shall not be scored worse than DNF. The scores of the other boats in the race shall not be changed; therefore two boats may receive the same score.
- 17.6** The protest time limit and a list of protests will be posted on the official notice board within thirty (30) minutes of the end of protest time. This posting constitutes the notification required in Rule 61.1(b) and 63.2.
- 17.7** A boat is not permitted to protest another boat for breaking sailing instructions 8, 10, 19, 20 & 21. This changes Rule 60.1(a). The penalty for breaking these instructions may be less than disqualification at the discretion of the protest committee.

17.8 Parents, coaches, advisors, etc. not competing in the event will not be permitted to participate in or monitor pre-hearings. If the protest committee decides to hold open hearings these individuals will be permitted to monitor protest hearings within the constraints required by the RRS.

18 SCORING:

18.1 The Low Point Scoring System, Appendix A will apply, modified so that each boat's series score will be the total of her race scores with her worst score excluded if five (5) or more, but not ten (10), races are completed; if ten (10) races are completed her two worst scores will be excluded.

18.2 For Optimist red, white and blue fleets, the event shall be scored as a whole with all boats receiving scores according to recorded finish position. "Overall Scoring" shall be used to determine red, blue, and white awards.

19 DISPOSAL OF TRASH: Boats observed purposefully discharging trash into the water will either be disqualified from all races sailed on the day the infraction is observed or be subject to other suitable disciplinary action or both.

20 SAFETY:

20.1 A U.S. Coast Guard approved personal buoyancy device shall be worn by all competitors while on the water. Wet or Dry suits are not considered adequate buoyancy devices for this purpose. All buoyancy devices shall be worn on the outside of all clothing.

20.2 A competitor who withdraws from a race or does not intend to start a race shall inform the Race Committee as soon as possible. This may also be accomplished by the competitor returning to the beach and notifying the Race Committee by radio from the Regatta Headquarters or Beach Park Tent facility.

21 SUPPORT BOAT RESTRICTIONS:

21.1 Team leaders, coaches, parents and other support personnel shall keep at least Two Hundred (200') feet away from all competitors and shall not communicate with any racing competitor from the time of the preparatory signal for the first class to start a race until after the competitor has finished or the Race Committee signals a postponement or abandonment. The Race Committee, in its discretion, may deem a violation of this provision to be a violation of Rule 2 and may impose a penalty which will be a scoring penalty per Rule 44.3(c.) applied to the finishes in the next race sailed of all boats associated with the support personnel who have violated this provision.

21.2 Support boats shall neither create wakes nor otherwise interfere with competitors.

21.3 Optimist Green Fleet: Notwithstanding 21.1, coaching of Green Fleet Optimist skippers while racing is permitted, however coaching shall be limited to skippers in the bottom half of the fleet in any given race. Coaches shall provide fair and consistent support to all competitors, not just their team or sailor.

22 PRIZES:

Prizes will be awarded to the top finishers in each Class. Participation medals and certificates will be awarded to all Green Fleet participants.

Above all, be safe and HAVE FUN!