

37th Annual MC Blue Chip Championship Regatta September 22nd - 24th, 2023

Spring Lake Yacht Club
17500 West Spring Lake Road
Spring Lake, MI 49456

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

1 RULES

1.1 - The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in the current Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS). In case of conflict, these Sailing Instructions (SI) will prevail. No advertising may be displayed.

1.2 - Rule 41 Outside Help is modified so that boats, who capsize, may receive outside assistance, without penalty, and may continue to race.

2 ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

The regatta is an **invite only event** and restricted to designated skippers sailing boats of the MC class. Skippers must be current members of the MC Sailing Association with the exception of the Mystery Guest and sailors from other classes invited to this event. Non-MCSA members will be scored DNC for all races. Entries must be completed and all fees paid by close of registration for a boat to be scored. All boats must comply with the MCSA scantlings prior to the preparatory signal of the first scheduled race. A boat may sail with a different sail number from its hull number if it registers with that sail number, and must compete with that number for the entire event.

3 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

Notices to competitors will be posted on the Official Notice Board located at the Spring Lake Yacht Club (SLYC: Regatta Headquarters).

4 CHANGES IN THE SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any changes to the Sailing Instructions will be posted at the completion of the Competitors Briefing Meeting on the first day or two (2) hours before the scheduled time of the warning signal of the first race on subsequent days, except that any change in the schedule of races will be posted no later than 7:00pm the day before it will take effect.

5 COMPETITORS' BRIEFING MEETING

Saturday, September 23rd, 2022, 9:30 am, at the SLYC Clubhouse. Channel 72 will be used for all competitor notifications.

6 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

6.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed at the SLYC Clubhouse or a docked signal boat.

6.2 Approximately 45 minutes prior to the scheduled warning signal, the signal boat will fire a gun, or make another sound signal when it is leaving the dock to set-up the course.

6.3 When a postponement is signaled ashore, the next warning signal will be made not less than 30 minutes after the lowering of flag 'AP'. One sound signal will be made when 'AP' is lowered.

7 SCHEDULE OF RACES

Warning signal for first race of event: Saturday, September 22nd, 2023, at approximately 10:15 am. A maximum of 6 races are scheduled over two days. Races may be sailed back-to-back. The time of the warning signal for subsequent races will be posted except when races are sailed back-to-back. On the last day of the regatta no warning signal will be made after 12:30 pm hours. There are no throw-outs.

8 RACING AREA

The racing area will be the waters of Spring Lake.

9 ABANDONMENT AND SAFETY

9.1 When the safety of a race is threatened due to weather or other concerns after at least one boat has sailed the course and finished within the time limit, the RC may abandon the race. In this situation, flag 'N over H' means 'discontinue racing and find safe harbor'. Any boats that have not finished may be scored at the discretion of the PRO who may also order the race abandoned. This changes RRS 32 and 35 and the Race Signal for flag 'N over H'.

9.2 No race will be started when the wind registers below 5 mph steady or at and above 21 mph steady or gusts 21 mph and higher as measured on the Race Committee boat. If, after a race has started, the wind registers above 21 mph the RC should shorten or abandon the race at its discretion; if a gust registers above 23 mph the RC will abandon the race for the safety of the contestants.

10 THE COURSES

10.1 The following diagram illustrates the components that comprise potential courses. All marks shall be rounded as indicated in the diagrams.

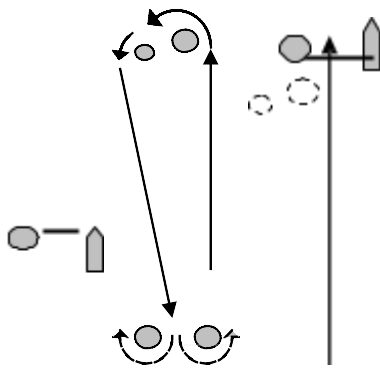
10.2 The RC Signal Boat will display the course to be sailed with a letter and numbers. As an example, the letter "W" indicates the course configuration (Windward/Leeward). The first number indicates the number of complete and partial laps to be sailed. The remaining figures indicate the approximate compass heading to the first mark from the starboard end of the starting line.

10.3 Course length will be a distance such that a race can be completed in 55 minutes +/- 10 minutes.

10.4 No race will be started in wind conditions under 5 mph.

10.5 A boat observed by the RC to violate rule 28.1 (Sailing the Course) shall be scored DNF by the RC without a protest or hearing. This changes RRS 61.1, 63.1, and A5.

W 3 WITH GATE



11 MARKS

11.1 Original marks will be large orange spheres and the offset mark will be an orange sphere.

11.2 New marks, when used in accordance with RRS 33 (Changing the Next Leg of the Course), will be large orange spheres and the offset mark will be an orange sphere.

11.3 After the start, minor adjustments in a mark's location will not be signaled. This changes RRS 33.

12 THE START

12.1 Races will be started in accordance with RRS 26.

12.2 The Class flag will be an MC class burgee.

12.3 The starting line will be:

12.3.1 Between a staff displaying an orange flag on an RC boat at the starboard end and the port end starting mark, or

12.3.2 Between staffs displaying orange flags on two RC Boats, or

12.3.3 From a staff displaying an orange flag on an RC boat at the starboard end, to a staff displaying an orange flag on an RC boat in the approximate center of the start line, and thence to a staff displaying an orange flag on an RC boat at the port end.

12.4 If the RC boats that encompass the starting line attach a buoy to the boat, then the boat, the buoy, and the connection between them shall be treated as a single mark that is subject to RRS 31.

12.5 If a mid-line boat is in place in accordance with SI 12.3.3, a boat may return to the pre-start side of the line around the mid-line boat, leaving it to port, before starting. This modifies RRS 30.1

12.6 A boat attempting to start more than 5 minutes after her starting signal shall be scored DNS.

13 RECALLS

Following the display of the individual recall signal, the RC will attempt to announce by VHF radio the sail numbers of all boats identified on the course side of the starting line at the start signal and boats that must comply with Rule 30.1. Such announcements are a courtesy and failure by the RC to make the announcement, or of boats to hear and/or understand it, shall not constitute grounds for redress. This supplements RRS 62.1(a).

14 PENALTY SYSTEM

14.1 A boat may take a One-Turn Penalty when she may have broken one or more rules of Part 2 or RRS 31 while racing. However, when she may have broken one or more rules of Part 2 while in the zone around a mark (other than a starting mark), her penalty shall be a Two-Turn Penalty. This changes RRS 44.1

14.2 Protest committee may opt to apply a scoring penalty instead of a disqualification. This may be added time, a percentage penalty, DNE (Disqualified Not Excusable) per RRS 90.3(b), or other action deemed equitable. This changes Rule 64.2.

15 THE FINISH

The finishing line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on a race committee boat and a nearby mark, or between staffs displaying Blue flags on two race committee boats

16 TIME LIMIT

16.1 The time limit shall be 90 minutes.

16.2 Boats still racing 20 minutes after the first boat sails the course and finishes will be scored FFW (Failed to Finish within Window), the position of the last boat to finish plus 2. This changes RRS 35, A4.2, and A11.

16.3 Any race in which no boat has rounded the first mark within 30 minutes of the starting signal shall be declared abandoned.