

SBCC NOTICE OF RACE: SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

I. QUALIFYING TO RACE

Sailboats eligible to race in accordance with the South Bay Cruising Club (SBCC) bylaws owned or chartered by SBCC members in good standing are encouraged to participate in club races.

A. INTENT OF PROGRAM

All sailboats are assumed to comply with manufacturers' standard hull and accommodation plans. It is the responsibility of the owner of any vessel that has been materially modified or is of a unique design to inform the Handicap Committee of the irregularity prior to racing. Such vessel will then be reviewed by the Handicap Committee and rated accordingly.

B. EQUIPMENT

All equipment required for the participating vessel is to comply with federal, state and local requirements. It is strongly recommended that all sailboats participating in a SBCC sanctioned race on the Great South Bay comply with US Sailing ISAF Category 4 & 5 equipment requirements. A vessel that races must have a working auxiliary engine capable of propelling her at hull speed upwind and sufficient fuel to return to home port.

C. INSPECTION POLICY AND PROCEDURES

With the permission of the owners or their representatives, the SBCC measurer or designated assistants may conduct random inspections to confirm compliance with equipment and handicap declarations of any SBCC sailboat racing in SBCC sponsored races. These inspections may also be requested to resolve protest issues.

D. HANDICAPS

The SBCC fleet includes many different types of sailboats. In order to make race participation attractive to as many members as possible, SBCC handicap racing is offered. Under this system every boat in the fleet is given a SBCC rating. Updated information on the SBCC Handicap process is available on the SBCC web site.

Handicap forms may be obtained from the SBCC web site (www.sbccracing.org) or by contacting the Handicap Committee. Boats that do not have a handicap form on file will be assigned a base handicap. In this case the committee may give a handicap that is less favorable than that which could be obtained by filing a handicap form. The form must be updated when a change is made to the boat.

E. HANDICAP APPEAL

A skipper who believes the boat's handicap might deserve correction may request a handicap review by submitting a written request to the Handicap Committee stating the reasons he or she believes a review is in order. The Handicap Committee will respond in writing within 10 days and the new handicap, if any, will take effect as of the date of the written decision. Skippers who are not satisfied with their decision have recourse by appealing directly to US Sailing. The appeal to US Sailing can only be done once in each calendar year. Contact the Handicap Committee or US Sailing for the procedure and current cost.

F. SBCC HANDICAP CLASSES

Spinnaker, non-Spinnaker and Pursuit classes are scored under the SBCC handicap system. Only one headsail may be flown in the fore-triangle at any one time. The Non-

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Spinnaker sail inventory is restricted to use of only those sails that can be correctly flown on all points of sail. Boats handicapped as having permanent double head rigs will be permitted to fly their staysail when racing in these classes.

Members may change classes as often as they desire, so long as it is done before the warning signal and they inform the Race Committee by displaying the proper streamer (See VI.A Class Streamers)

G. RACING NUMBERS

Racing numbers, either US Sailing or SBCC, are required on mainsails, spinnakers, and overlapping headsails with an LP of greater than 130% of J. Numbers shall be integer values with no leading zeros and have high contrast to the sail. This modifies RRS, 77.

H. MEMBERSHIP RESTRICTION

No boat shall race in an SBCC-sponsored event (except invitational regattas) unless skippered by an SBCC member or associate. However, a member's boat may be skippered by an associate without a member on board only twice in one season, and only once in any series.

II. RACING RULES

A. RULES

All SBCC races will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) except as otherwise specified in these instructions.

B. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any changes to the sailing instructions will be posted before 0900 on the day it is to take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 2000 on the day before it will take effect. Changes will be posted on the SBCC official notice board found at www.sbccracing.org.

III. RACE PROGRAM

A. RACE SCHEDULE

SBCC sponsors numerous races and participates in various invitational regattas as set forth in the race schedule. See schedule found at www.sbccracing.org for details and special notes.

B. COURSES

Courses used for SBCC races and some invitational regattas are set forth at the end of these instructions. They are grouped by starting area as Babylon, and Bay Shore and West Island. For each of these areas a variety of courses are described in Section X, "Race Courses," each bearing a distinguishing number. The course selected will be signaled from the committee boat by the appropriate numeric pennant. In addition, the RC may indicate a "Special" course. For "Special" see the RC for details. The Race Committee may designate different courses for each class, except for the West Island Race.

C. SERIES RACES

Bay Shore & Babylon Twilight Series – Four series are determined by the race schedule. These series will have one throw-out, provided the series is at least three races. In the

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event that only one race can be sailed, one race constitutes a series. Traditional racing will be held in Babylon while pursuit starts will be held in Bay Shore.

Great South Bay Yacht Racing Association (GSBYRA) Race Week - This is a multi-day event. All boats must register with the host club and pay a registration fee. Check the SBCC website for details or inquire with the GSBYRA.

D. SPECIAL RACES & EVENTS

Babylon Yacht Club 4th of July Invitational Series – The courses, starting sequence, and other race instructions will be provided by the Babylon Yacht Club (see www.babylonyachtclub.org) and may be available from the committee boat prior to the start. You must register with the Babylon Yacht Club to race this series.

Spring Race to Atlantique – This is an invitational, non-Spinnaker, pursuit race run by The South Bay Cruising Club. The race is held in May. The starting area is in the Bay Shore vicinity and finishes off the Atlantique dock.

Discoverer's Race – This is an invitational, non-Spinnaker, pursuit race run jointly by The South Bay Cruising Club and The Bay Shore Yacht Club. The race is held in October. The starting area is in the Bay Shore vicinity and finishes off the Atlantique dock with an after race gathering.

SBCC/BYC Babylon Cup – An event run jointly by the SBCC and the Babylon YC. A post race activity will be held at the BYC Clubhouse where trophies are awarded. Check the website prior to the event.

Creepstakes – A single handed race where only the skipper is allowed aboard during race. Two classes: 27 feet LOA and over; and under 27 feet LOA. This is a Non-Spinnaker race. Autopilots shall not be used. Skippers must wear life jackets during the race.

West Island Race – This race originates in Bay Shore, circumnavigates West Fire Island, and may be sailed in either of two directions. A reception hosted by a GSBYRA affiliated club will follow the race.

IV. RACE SCORING AND TROPHIES

A. SCORING METHOD

SBCC races will be scored using the time-on-distance method. A boat's corrected time will be based on its assigned handicap and the distance of the measured course. The boat with the lowest corrected time is the winner. To determine the winner of any overall races, the race scorer will apply an adjustment between the winners of the spinnaker class and non-spinnaker class. The following adjustments will be applied to spinnaker boats:

Wind speed in knots	Handicap reduction in seconds
< 10	30
10 to 19	24
20+	18

Preliminary race results are available to each participating skipper shortly after each race by e-mail. The official results are printed periodically in the Masthead and posted on sbccracing.org.

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Pursuit races also use the time-on-distance handicap method. The handicap is pre-calculated and incorporated into the assigned start time published prior to race start. Final results are determined by order of finish.

B. SERIES SCORING

The Twilight Season Championship Series and each of the individual twilight series will be scored using the Low Point Scoring system. Boats are assigned points according to their place at the finish line (1 point for first, 2 for second, etc.). Boats that do not finish the race, retire, or are disqualified score the number of boats in the race +1. The boat with the lowest total score wins.

For a series that is held over a period of time longer than a regatta, a boat that came to the starting area but did not start, did not finish, retired after finishing or was disqualified shall be scored points for the finishing place one more than the number of boats that came to the starting area. A boat that did not come to the starting area shall be scored points for the finishing place one more than the number of boats entered in the series (RRS A9).

C. SERIES TIE BREAKER

If there is a series score tie between two or more boats, each boat's race scores shall be listed in order of best to worst, and at the first point(s) where there is a difference the tie shall be broken in favor of the boat(s) with the best score(s). If a tie still remains between two or more boats, they shall be ranked in order of their scores in the last race. Any remaining ties shall be broken by using the tied boats' scores in the next-to-last race and so on until all ties are broken. These scores shall be used even if some of them are excluded scores (RRS A8).

D. SERIES SCORING FOR COMMITTEE BOATS

Boats that serve as the committee boat for one race in a series will receive a point for that race based on the average of the points earned in the other races in which it was a starter, as follows:

There must be at least two races available to compute average points. If the committee boat (CB) does not have at least two races in which it was a starter then the CB will not get an adjustment for the race and instead will get points equal to the number of starters in the race +1. However, if the CB has two or more races in which it was a starter, then all the races started (up to a maximum of the number of races used for computing the series score) will be used to compute the average points. Thus, for a four-race series in which one throw out is allowed, and if the CB did all the other three races, then the CB will receive an adjustment equal to the average points from the three races sailed. Or, if the series is the best seven out of nine, and the CB did all the other eight races, then the best seven races will be used to determine the average points for the CB adjustment.

The committee boat will only receive the adjustment for one committee assignment in a series. If a boat does more than one assignment, the adjustment will be given to that race which is most beneficial to it.

The points for the CB adjustment will be included in determining the series standing, just as if the CB had actually raced in that race with the average points adjustment.

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E. RACE TROPHIES

Trophies for individual SBCC races (when not part of a series) will be awarded to each class, according to the following schedule subject to the discretion of the Regatta Chairmen:

Number of Starters / Trophies for:

Starters	Trophies Awarded
1	None
2	1st place only
3 - 4	1st & 2nd place
5 -14	1st, 2nd & 3rd place
15 +	1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th place

In any SBCC series, the greatest number of starters in any race will govern the number of trophies awarded for that series.

V. COMMITTEE BOAT ASSIGNMENTS

A. SERVING AS COMMITTEE

The SBCC depends upon the cooperation of all members. Being the Committee Boat for a race is an important responsibility. Reliable, timely and accurate performance is essential. Prior to their race, Race Committees should contact Scoring to arrange reporting of results.

Race Chairpersons are assigned by the Regatta Committee, and listed in the Race Schedule. Assignments are obligatory.

B. CHANGES

A Race Chairperson may switch assignments with another Race Chairperson provided that the Regatta Captain is notified at least 24 hours before the race. Arranging such changes is the sole responsibility of the assigned skipper and does not relieve him or her of responsibility.

C. PENALTIES

Any Race Chairperson who willfully fails to do his or her assignment shall not be scored in any SBCC race for a period of one year from the date of his or her scheduled Committee Boat assignment. As an alternative penalty, a Race Chairperson who failed to do his or her race assignment for the first time in the racing season will be scored in SBCC races after payment of a \$100 fine payable to the SBCC.

VI. STARTING LINE and FINISHING LINE PROCEDURES and RULES

A. CLASS STREAMERS

Racing yachts are required to fly streamers from their standing backstays. Streamers should measure 4"x18".

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Streamer Color	Creepstakes	All Other Races
Red	27 ft. LOA and over	Spinnaker
Blue	Under 27 ft. LOA	Non-Spinnaker
Yellow	n/a	Cruising / Pursuit

Failure to display the appropriate streamer may be considered grounds for disqualification.

B. CODE SIGNALS

The code flags below are **special SBCC course flags**:

'R' Sail the designated course in the REVERSE direction. Leave or round a mark on the opposite side.

'T' Sail the designated course TWICE around **

'U' Sail the designated course THREE times around **

'V' Finish at the Babylon YC dock leaving 'X' to port if "9" is the last mark before finish, leave it to starboard.

** For 'T' and 'U' round the pin/X mark on the same side as the next mark of the course.

The following **RRS code flags** are some of the more common race signals used during SBCC conducted races. While not all signals are listed, racers are expected to know all of the race signals and their definitions.

'L' Come within hail for instructions.

'S' Course Shortened: When flown after the start, (accompanied by two signal sounds), finish between the Committee Boat and the mark.

'X' **Individual Recall:** This signal flag is accompanied with a hail of the sail number, and a single sound.

'Y' Life jackets are required to be worn by all persons onboard.

C. CLASS FLAGS

The following class flags shall be used and will generally be started in the order listed below. However, at the committee boat's discretion, this may change if only 1 class is present. Be mindful of the RC's starting flags. For 'Pursuit' race starting times, specific handicap based starting will be distributed prior to the race and posted at www.sbccsail.org.

Class Flag	Regular Start	Non-spin start	Creepstakes	Pursuit
Red	Spinnaker	n/a	27 ft. LOA & over	n/a
Blue	Non-Spinnaker	Non-Spinnaker	Under 27 ft. LOA	n/a
Yellow	n/a	n/a	n/a	All Boats

D. STARTING SEQUENCE

Spinnaker and Non-Spinnaker Races - will be started in accordance with RRS 26, as summarized below:

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Signal*	Flag and Sound	Minutes before starting signal
Warning	Class flag and 1 sound	5
Preparatory	P flag and 1 sound	4
One-minute	Remove P flag and 1 long sound	1
Starting	Remove class flag, 1 sound	0

*Approximately one minute before the warning signal for the first class to start, the RC may make 3 or more quick sound signals to bring your attention to the sequence commencing.

Pursuit Races - will start according to the instructions found online at www.sbccsail.org under Bay Shore Twilight Info.

The Race Committee may utilize a “keep-off” (anti-barging) buoy. If one is used, please note this is not a temporary or an accidentally attached object, and should be treated as part of the committee boat.

E. STARTING LINE ETIQUETTE

Racing skippers are reminded to stay clear of the starting line until the Preparatory Signal for their class. Classes not starting are to remain clear of all boats in the division before them. Failure to do so may result in a protest that may lead to a disqualification. No boat will be disqualified without first being given a direct and specific written warning.

F. RECALLS

A boat failing to heed its recall will be penalized by having 30 minutes added to their elapsed time. This modifies RSS 29. Boats over early will be notified by a sound and the “X” flag will be raised. It is the skipper’s responsibility to properly start.

G. STARTING / FINISHING

The start and finish line is determined by the “X” mark (or buoy) and an orange flag on the Committee Boat or Committee Platform.

H. VHF COMMUNICATIONS

It is recommended that VHF channel 72 radio watch be maintained during a race. Radio communications may be utilized to relay information on unusual situations during races such as postponements, recalls, withdrawals, etc. However, Race Committees may not always use VHF radio so it should not be relied on as the sole means of communication. Racers are requested not to initiate communications with the Race Committee from the time of the warning gun to the time that the last class starts.

I. OTHER INFORMATION

- No boat may make use of an autopilot during any SBCC race.
- For last minute race information, contact the Race Committee or consult the website at: www.sbccsail.org.

VII. TIME LIMIT

The time limit for each race is stated in the notes to the Racing Schedule. The time limit for all classes starting after the first class will be extended so as to allow all classes to have the same amount of racing time. If any boat finishes within the time limit for her class, it is a race for her class. **Yachts finishing after the Committee Boat has left its station should record their time and report it to the Race Committee as soon as possible.**

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VIII. PROTESTS AND REDRESS

The Protest Committee will only entertain protests and requests for redress made in conformity with RRS section 'A' and submitted on a valid US Sailing protest form (available online).

The time limit for protesting or requesting redress is one (1) full business day after the last boat in the race finishes, except where the rules provide otherwise. The protest/request for redress is to be mailed, showing a postmark by the postal service, or e-mailed to the Protest Chairman within the time limit. The Protest Committee will attempt to hold a protest/redress hearing by the second Monday after the time limit has expired. If a party to the hearing of a protest or request for redress does not come to the hearing, the Protest Committee may nevertheless decide the protest or request. A party may appear at a hearing through its representative by telephone conference provided arrangements to do so are made with the Protest Chairman 24 hours prior to the scheduled hearing date.

IX. SAFETY

It is the exclusive responsibility of each skipper to decide whether or not to start, continue, or drop out of any event. South Bay Cruising Club does not assume any liability for the decision of any participant. The Board of Governors of the South Bay Cruising Club recommends that all owners and skippers carry liability, as well as hull insurance, to protect all parties from the financial consequences of an accident.

Common sense should be used to determine whether to venture out. This applies to racers and the RC. Listen to USCG and/or NOAA updates to guide your decision as well. If gale warnings are posted, lightening is in the forecast, or other severe weather is imminent, check your email, text messages, phone, VHF 72 to see if there are attempts to announce a cancellation. Ultimately, as indicated in RRS 1.4, it is your decision to participate.

For answers to questions regarding minimum U.S. Coast Guard equipment requirements, see the Coast Guard Safety Info web site at www.uscgboating.org.

