

2024 DISC Fall High Point Series, Race 1
Mt. Vernon Chase
Sailing Instructions
Daingerfield Island Sailing Club
October 5, 2024

1. **Rules** - This race will be governed by the rules as defined in the current Racing Rules of Sailing and PHRF of the Chesapeake class rules. US Sailing Prescriptions will apply except where modified by the NOR and these SI's. RRS 63.7, Conflict between Rules, is modified by, "*If there is a conflict between the Sailing Instructions and the Notice of Race, the Sailing Instructions shall apply.*" Competitors are reminded that their decision to enter, race, or continue racing is at their sole discretion, RRS 3.

2. **Entries** - Competitors must enter by delivering a completed Fall High Point Race 1 Entry Form on-line at www.discsailing.org under the event tab by 10/04/2024 at 1600. DISC racing is based on the PHRF handicap system. PHRF entries must have a current PHRF of the Chesapeake rating certificate or must show that a certificate has been applied for. The Organizing Authority will be able to answer any questions regarding the process for applying for a PHRF certificate. New racers may be given a courtesy PHRF rating for this event.

2.1 The entry fee will be outlined in the Notice of Race (NOR) for this event. The NOR will be circulated by e-mail and will be posted on the DISC web site.

3. **Notices to Competitors** – Notices to competitors, including changes to the Sailing Instructions will be posted on the DISC website, www.discsailing.org until 0800 on 10/05/2024 under the event tab for this race. After 0800 on race day the official Notice Board will be outside the marina office.

4. **Communication** - The race committee may make courtesy announcements on VHF channel 69. All radio communications will be a courtesy. Failure to receive or understand a radio transmission will not be considered as grounds for redress. This modifies RRS 62.1. Except in an emergency, competitors shall not make or receive electronic communications not available to all competitors (this includes cell phones).

5. **Handicapping** – DISC uses the Performance Handicap Racing Fleet of the Chesapeake (PHRF) rating system to foster competition between dissimilar boats. The CR (Circular Random) rating for each boat will be used. Time-on-Distance (TOD) shall be used to determine start times. Courtesy ratings will be based on the base ratings, and may not be the same as PHRF of the Chesapeake rating.

6. **Schedules and Class flags** – There will be a mandatory skippers meeting at 0900 outside the marina office, first start will not be before 1100. No class flags will be used for this event.

7. **Course and marks** – The courses are listed below; All marks serving as turning marks are to be left to port unless that mark is a finishing mark, or changed by these Sailing Instructions.

Courses for spinnaker and non-spinnaker fleets may be different or may be the same. Course section will be announced at the Skippers meeting. Except for course 1, rounding GC 81, GC 79 will be rounded on the channel side as a mark of the course in both directions. All courses will begin at Potomac River "90", FI R 4s, South of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge, and will round 1 of the following 6 marks:

- 1) GC 81 (7.24 mi)
- 2) GC 77 (9.20 mi)
- 3) GC 73 (11.38 mi)
- 4) GC 71 (13.08 mi)
- 5) GC 69 (14.10 mi)
- 6) GC 67 (15.36 mi)

8. **Starting and Finishing Lines** – The Start/finish line will be an imaginary line using Potomac River "90" FI R 4s as the East end of the line, and a line projected due West at 270 deg. magnetic. A pursuit start format will be used. A starting schedule will be provided based on boats registered to compete via the registration form on the DISC website www.discsailing.org. The start times for each of the courses will be posted on the DISC website. The first boat will start no earlier than 1100 hours. It is not planned to have a Race Committee boat on station. Each skipper is responsible for knowing their correct start time, and starting correctly, and recording their finish time using GPS time.

9. **Time Limit** – The time limit for each race will be 5 hours. A boat in each class must finish within the time limit to score the race for that class. After one boat in a class has finished, all other boats in that class will have 45 minutes to finish or be scored TLE (the score of the last finisher plus 2, but not worse than last place).

10. **Shortening Course** – There will be no shortened courses for this race.

11. **Protests** - Protests must be made in accordance with the RRS to be considered a "Valid Protest". A protested competitor may be able exonerate themselves from a foul by performing 1 tack and 1 gybe in the same direction or 2 tacks and 2 gybes in the same direction, in accordance with rule RRS 31 or RRS 44.1, 44.2 or by taking a 20% scoring penalty on the water in accordance to rule RRS 44.3, unless her penalty is to retire. The Race Committee (if available) must be notified of the intent to protest. The time limit for submitting the protest form will be 0900 on the day after the race. Protest forms can be handed to the Race Committee, or sent by email to the Standing Race Committee at officers@discsailing.org The Protest Committee will determine the schedule and time for a protest hearing.

12. **Scoring** - Since the race will use a pursuit format, the finish order will decide the race scoring. All participants shall announce their finish times on VHF 69 at the time of finish as well as record their finish time using GPS time. Each competitor shall send their finish time to officers@discsailing.org as soon after finishing as possible. Competitors shall record the finish time of the boat finishing ahead and the boat behind them when possible. Starting times of individual yachts will be based on the PHRF certificates on file with PHRF of the Chesapeake. This is race 1 of a 3 race High Point series. There are no throw outs for the series.

13. **Management:** The races shall be under the management of the DISC Officers, and DISC Standing Race Committee, which shall have the full power to interpret the rules, decide protests

and to reject entries of any yacht at any time. DISC accepts no responsibility for accidents occurring during these series.

- **Race Committee:** The Standing Race Committee is comprised of David Eidsmoe (Vice Commodore) Steve Clement (Non-spin Fleet Captain), John Tucker (Spin Fleet Captain), or a person appointed by the Standing Race Committee for this event.

14. **Safety:** All safety equipment required by the Coast Guard must be onboard. A minimum crew of two (skipper plus one crew) is mandatory for all PHRF boats. All yachts must meet all local regulations. Any yacht found negligent of Coast Guard safety regulations will be disqualified. PHRF Boats must be self-righting at all times while racing.

14.1 All crewmembers shall wear Personal Floatation Devices (PFDs) when instructed by the Race Committee or Standing Race Committee, except for the removal or addition of clothing. The Race Committee or Standing Race Committee may Protest under this instruction if they observe a crew member without a PFD, or it is reported to them, even from a person with a *conflict of interest*. This modifies RRS 40, 61.1b. DISC encourages all competitors to wear PFD's at all times.

14.2. Sailing is an all weather sport. It is the responsibility of individual skippers to decide, based on conditions at the time of the race and their own assessment of their boat and crew's ability, whether or not to race. The Standing Race Committee, Executive Committee, and Race Committee are aides in determining the safety issues that may arise, to include weather changes, increased commercial traffic, floating debris, etc. They do not, by any means substitute for the judgment of the skipper or the crew in their decision to participate in the event as each boat and crew has differing characteristics, skill levels, and abilities. The Standing Race Committee will assist with determining if a race will be held. Such decisions will be made on the day of the race, based on conditions at that time. In the case of lightning, dangerous wind or other extreme conditions, the Standing Race Committee may decide to postpone or cancel a race.

The exception to the determination on race day by the Standing Race Committee will be in the case of certain irregular races in which the NOR for that race states that the date may be altered or postponed in advance of the race day. These irregular races may have to take additional factors into consideration such as cooperation with sponsoring organizations.

14.3 **Commercial Traffic:** A boat shall not exercise right of way over, cross in close proximity to, or interfere with reasonable transit of the race area by commercial freighters, tugs and tows, or other commercial vessels. A boat charged under this rule has the burden of proof that she did not interfere with the commercial vessel. Boats must take evasive action well in advance of any potentially dangerous situation.

The Race Committee or Standing Race Committee may protest under this instruction based on information received from any source. If a competing yacht is found to have violated this

rule by a protest committee, the yacht shall be scored DSQ for that race. The Organizing Authority may impose more severe penalties if they determine that gross negligence on the part of skipper or crew of the yacht in question endangered the safety of their yacht, other DISC yachts, or commercial traffic transiting the racecourse. A written statement from the US Coast Guard, DC Police, or a ship captain, will be accepted as evidence without the author present. There will be no protest time limit for this violation. This changes RRS 60.2(a), 61.3.

14.4 If a boat without way in a ship channel infringes RRS 42.1 by using her engine or other propulsion to clear the channel, she may continue racing but, at the finish line, must inform the Race Committee (if available) of the incident and, if required at a subsequent hearing, must satisfy the Protest Committee that she did not gain an advantage as a result of using normally prohibited methods of propulsion. Detailed information of the incident must be provided to Officers@discsailing.org upon finishing.

14.5 This race may be sailed in the dark. All skippers are reminded to have the required lights for their boats.

[NP] in a rule means that another boat cannot protest under this rule.

Please contact DISC Officers via officers@discsailing.org with any questions about DISC racing or these Race Instructions.