

**2024 DISC Mount Vernon Chase**  
**Sailing Instructions**  
**Daingerfield Island Sailing Club**  
**May 18, 2024**

**1 . Eligibility to Participate** – By participating and entering DISC races and regattas, the boat owner/skipper agrees to abide by the current Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), the Notices of Race, PHRF of the Chesapeake fleet rules, One Design rules (with exceptions for VHF radios and electronic timing devices), and these Sailing Instructions. Each representative must register online, pay the regatta fees, and all participants must sign a waiver to be scored. By entering an event, the boat owner/skipper agrees that there are inherent risks to competitive sailing and, as such, 1) they are solely responsible for the decision whether to enter or continue any race (RRS 3), and 2) they shall hold harmless DISC and the DISC officers for any damage or liability that may occur during a race or regatta. Each boat owner/captain is responsible for the safety of his/her crew, guests, and boat.

1.1 The entry fee for the Mount Vernon Chase 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.

**2 . Communication:** The race committee will 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

**3 . 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 best estimate, and may not be the same as a rating organization.

**4 . Schedules and Class flags** - Dates for 2024 DISC-sponsored racing and membership meetings are posted on [www.discsailing.org](http://www.discsailing.org). No class flags will be used for this event.

**5 . Course and marks** – DISC courses are listed on the Mount Vernon Chase NOR and under Racing Resources on the DISC website [www.discsailing.org](http://www.discsailing.org), . All marks serving as turning marks are to be left to Port unless that mark is a finishing mark. Courses for all classes will be available online under the event tab prior to the skippers meeting, and announced at the skippers meeting. Courses for spinnaker and non-spinnaker fleets may be different or may be the same. 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 (7.13mi)
- 2) GC 73 (11.12 mi)
- 3) GC 71 (12.86 mi)

6. **Starting and Finishing Lines** – 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](http://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 the day of the race at Potomac River “90”, FI R 4s as the east end of the start line and an imaginary line due west of “90”, FI R 4s. Each skipper is responsible for knowing their correct start time, and starting correctly.

7. **Time Limit** – The time limit for each race will be announced the day of the race. 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, cannot be worse than last place).

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

9. **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 time limit for submitting the protest form will be 0900 on the day after the race. Protest forms shall be sent by email to the Standing Race Committee at [officers@discsailing.org](mailto:officers@discsailing.org) The Protest Committee will determine the schedule and time for a protest hearing.

10. **Scoring** - Since the racing will be using the 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 and send to [officers@discsailing.org](mailto:officers@discsailing.org), as soon after finishing as possible. Competitors shall record the finish time of the boat 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. Scoring will be based on the "low point" system. (Appendix A4, RRS).

11. **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.

12. **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.

13. **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 learn of 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. 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.

15. **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 person. If a competing yacht is found to have violated this rule, 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.

16. 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 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](mailto:Officers@discsailing.org) upon finishing.

20. The Mount Vernon Chase 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](mailto:officers@discsailing.org) with any questions about DISC racing or these Race Instructions.