

Wilson Harbor Yacht Racing Association
Tuesday Evening Races
Competitor's Handbook
Revised May 6, 2009

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the WHYRA Tuesday Evening series! This series is designed for fun, casual racing. The following information will help you understand the racing procedures we use for this series. More information can be found in the Sailing Instructions, which are posted on the WHYRA web site (www.whyra.org).

THE RACING RULES OF SAILING

The RRS is the document that governs sailboat racing. You can obtain an official copy inexpensively direct from US Sailing at www.ussailing.org. There are also many annotated versions available through most bookstores.

A brief introduction to the rules is posted on the WHYRA web site (www.whyra.org). This covers most of the situations that arise in our Tuesday series. Please take a minute to look through it.

HANDICAP SYSTEM

In an attempt to account for differences between various types of boats, WHYRA uses a handicapping system. The handicapping system that we use is the Performance Handicap Racing Fleet-Lake Ontario (PHRF-LO). This is a system used to handicap racer/cruiser types of sailboats based on observed performance. Under this system, each boat is assigned a rating: slower boats have higher numbers. In the WHYRA Tuesday Series, boats start in the reverse order of their handicaps, giving slower boats a "head start".

If you do not have an handicap, the WHYRA handicapper will assign one to you.

ARRIVING AT THE START AREA

The start area for WHYRA races is slightly north-east of the Wilson Harbor piers. It is marked by a fixed buoy, labeled P on the course diagrams.

WHYRA starts for Tuesday races are always at approximately 7:00pm (1900). It is best to get to the start area as early as possible. This allows you time to get used to the weather conditions and to get your boat ready for racing. The race committee (R/C) boat will usually arrive about 30 minutes before the start. When the R/C arrives, they will drop a

buoy near the P mark and post the course to be sailed. Use the course diagrams posted on the web site to determine the order for rounding the racing marks, the bearing to the first mark, and the side of your boat the marks should be on when you round them. Tuesday courses will always be a three-leg triangle (the courses listed with a –S on the diagrams).

STARTING

The start line is the imaginary line between the P mark and the buoy dropped by the R/C. You always start in the direction toward the first mark. The R/C will make the following sequence of signals to begin a race (note that no flags will be displayed):

Starting Sequence
Example times are for a 7:00pm start time (ST)

<i>Nominal Time</i>	<i>Example Time</i>	<i>Signal</i>	<i>Sound</i>	<i>Minutes before start</i>
ST-3 min.	6:57pm	WARNING	3 sounds	3
ST-2 min.	6:58pm	PREPARATORY	2 sounds	2
ST-1 min.	6:59pm	One minute	1 sound	1
ST	7:00pm	START (each boat may start after the time interval indicated on the scratch sheet has elapsed from this point in time)	1 long sound	0

Once the start signal is made, you may cross the starting line after the time interval corresponding to your handicap has elapsed. The time intervals are posted on the web site. For example, if your handicap is 204, you may cross the start line 140 seconds (2 minutes and 20 seconds) after the white flag is removed.

POSTPONEMENTS AND ABANDONMENTS

If there is some reason that a race cannot start on time (light or variable wind, for example), the R/C will signal a postponement by raising the **AP flag (red and white vertical stripes)** and making **two sound signals**. You should wait in the start area for further information. Postponements can only be made before a race is started.

If racing cannot occur (thunderstorms or fog, for example), the R/C will signal abandonment by raising the **N flag (blue and white checkerboard)** and making **three sound signals**. Once a race is abandoned, it will not be restarted. *[Note the RRS do allow for a restart in some circumstances.]* Abandonment can occur at any time, even after a race has started.

Postponement or abandonment signals may be made from on shore near the TYC gas dock.

Races are automatically abandoned if a mark is missing and the R/C does not know about it before the start, or if the time limits expire (the time limits can be found in the SI).

FINISHING AND SCORING

The finish line is the same as the start line. You finish when any part of your boat crosses the finish line in the direction of the course from the last mark. Once you finish, you should promptly get clear of the finish area and other boats.

You are responsible for noting your finish position and reporting it to the R/C or scorer. Please also note (if possible) which boat finished directly in front and behind you. This will help clear up any confusion. Results will be posted on the WHRYA web site.