**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT RACING**

**AT WAYZATA YACHT CLUB (WYC)**

Q1: Is swearing, foul, intimidating or abusive language permitted in WYC races?

Q2: What do I do if I get hit by another boat?

Q3: Why did the SI’s change in 2014?

Q4: How does WYC Race Committee score finishes?

Q5: How do I make sure my boat is scored?

Q6: What do I do I am not scored or scored incorrectly?

Q7: When must I file request for redress to change a score?

Q8: What is the 6 Race Requirement for determining WYC marina mooring priority?

Q9: What is this 15 Race Requirement for WYC marina mooring rates?

Q10: What races and activities count toward the 15 Race Requirement?

Q11: How do I make sure I receive attendance credit?

Q12: What if I fail to satisfy the 15 Race Requirement?

**Q1: Is swearing, foul, intimidating or abusive language permitted in WYC races?**

**A: NO. Any competitor or boat may be penalized under Racing Rule of Sailing (RRS) Rule 2 “Fair Sailing” and/or RRS Rule 69 “Gross Misconduct” for violating recognized principles of sportsmanship and fair play or for gross breach of a rule, good manner or sportsmanship.**

**Swearing, foul, intimidating or abusive language or conduct is PROHIBITED in WYC races as a violation of sportsmanship, fair play and good manners, which may lead to disqualification of a competitor and/or boat from a race(s), series or season(s) per the RRS.**

**Q2: What do I do if I get hit by another boat or someone breaks a rule?**

A: In order to be heard at a Protest hearing, the Racing Rules of Sailing generally requires:

#1 - At time of incident, immediately hail “PROTEST!” and say the other boat’s sail number.

#2 - Fly a red protest flag ASAP (within seconds) from a place on your boat that can be seen by the other boat.

#3 - Inform the Race Committee (RC) of the Protest at the finish line by verbal hail.

#4 - File Protest Form at WYC Protest Filing Box within 1 hour of RC Official Dock Time.

#5 - Decline arbitration.

#6 - Attend protest hearing with your witnesses – others who saw the contact or rules violation.

#7 - Obtain written decision from Protest Committee (PC) to provide to insurance company.

Learn the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS). While there may be exceptions to process described above, it’s hard to go wrong if you do all of the steps listed above. In any event, failure to follow US Sailing’s required protest procedures may cause the protest to be invalid and close the hearing, without the PC reaching the merits of the alleged rules violation. Also, insurance may not accept arbitration decisions or other “handshake agreements.”

**Q3: Why did the SI’s change in 2014?**

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| I see the ‘I’ flag is not automatically in effect for all starts. So, can I dip start? | RC intends to use the ‘I’ flag as the preparatory signal for WYC in accordance with RRS 26. |
| SI’s no longer define starting zone and require boats keep clear of boats in the starting zone that are racing. Is this a ‘game changer’? | **NO,** This SI is redundant with RRS 24.1. RRS 24.1 states: “… a boat not racing shall not interfere with a boat that is racing”. |
| Why is each boat required to carry an operating VHF radio? | Our Principal Race Officers historically have communicated over the VHF radio (such as OCS, postponement, Attendance points as well as weather conditions). For full enjoyment as well as safety (e.g., boat retirement, bad weather, etc.), all boats must carry an operating VHF radio. |

**Q4: How does WYC Race Committee score finishes?**

A: WYC Race Committee (RC) audio records the finishes and the times. With 130+ boats participating in WYC races, it is possible RC may miss recording your finish.

**Q5: How do I make sure my boat is scored?**

A: Note (and if possible write down) your finishing position, the time when you finish (e.g., actual or elapsed time) and the other boats around you at the finish. After the race, Race Committee will post the raw score sheets and place them into WYC’s scoring computer.

**Q6: What do I do I am not scored or scored incorrectly?**

A: File a written request for redress *in accordance with Racing Rule of Sailing (RRS) Rule 62* and note “Scoring Inquiry” on the top of the form. Protest Committee (PC) will provide your written request to the Jury Secretary to listen to Race Committee finishing tape(s) to establish your finish. If an administrative scoring error is found, Jury Secretary will revise scoring, noting change in the race scoring comments. If an administrative scoring error is not found, Jury Secretary will post a notice of the time and place for the redress hearing held by PC.

**Q7: When must I file request for redress to change a score?**

A: If the request is based on an incident in the racing area, request for redress shall be delivered to WYC Protesting Filing Box within 1 hour of RC Official Dock Time. Other requests shall be delivered as soon as reasonably possible after learning of the reasons for making the request.

**Note:** If you do not hear your boat finished at the finish line when you were in the racing area, the boat has an hour RC Official Dock Time to file a request for redress. If you get home and check the WYC website and find out your score is omitted or wrong, then you must file for redress as soon as reasonably possible.

**Q8: What is the 6 Race Requirement for determining WYC marina mooring priority?**

A: If you finish 6 races in a year and are in the WYC marina that year, you are guaranteed a dock or buoy in WYC marina the following year, assuming you pay your fees timely and the water is deep enough.

**Q9: What is this 15 Race Requirement for WYC marina mooring rates?**

A: On an annual basis, WYC Board of Directors establish “WYC Racer Rate” and “WYC Commercial Market Rate” mooring fees. WYC charges the WYC Commercial Market Rate to members who moor powerboats in the WYC marina and members who race their sailboat less than 15 races. New members to WYC who declare their intent to be active racers (at least 15 races) are automatically granted “WYC Racer Rate” fees for their first year of mooring.

**Q10: What races and activities count toward the 15 Race Requirement?**

A: There are 4 ways towards meeting the 15 Race Requirement:

#1 - All WYC keelboat races held on Lake Minnetonka in a calendar year shown on WYC Racing Schedule may be counted toward the 15 Race Requirement.

#2 - WYC sailboats moored in WYC’s Lake Minnetonka marina which are taken to Lake Superior and sailed in Bayfield Race Week may receive up to three race credits.

#3 - WYC boats that show up for a race that is cancelled, abandoned or receives a DNF or any other scoring abbreviation noted in RRS Rule A11 (excluding DNC) are entitled 1 point for attending a race.

#4 - Members may substitute for **up to 3** of the 15 Race Requirement by participating in any of the following WYC activities:

a. Provide a boat for the “WYC On the Water Training”

b.  Be a Certified Guest Instructor for “WYC On the Water Training”

c. Participate in “Spring Cleanup Day”.

d. Participate in another WYC event approved in advanced by the WYC Board of Directors as recorded in the minutes.

Organizers of the above events will keep lists of those qualifying for participation credit and enter the data into the WYC computer for the member’s credit.

**Q11: How do I make sure I receive attendance credit?**

A: When a race is cancelled or abandoned, RC will make efforts to collect sail numbers (by hail and by radio) from boats who showed up for the race. RC will input sail numbers as “ATT” into WYC scoring computer, which will give the boat credit for that race even no race was sailed.

**Q12: What if I fail to satisfy the 15 Race Requirement?**

A: A member who misses the 15 Race Requirement due to *mitigating circumstances* or *extraordinary circumstances* may appeal to the WYC Board of Directors at seasons end.

*Mitigating Circumstances.* Mitigating circumstances can be a change in employment or special family circumstances, which temporarily hinder the member’s ability to participate in WYC racing. The Board of Directors may rule that the member must pay the commercial market rate for the forthcoming season, but upon meeting the 15 Race Requirement, receive a refund for the difference in rate. This exception will not be granted for 2 consecutive seasons.

*Extraordinary Circumstances.* Extraordinary circumstances can be: prolonged illness or death, severe accident, or natural disaster, or severe boat damage, which precludes participation in races for an extended period of time. Board of Directors may grant an outright exception to the 15 Race Requirement and permit the member to pay the “WYC Racing Rate” for the forthcoming season.

Appeals which do not fall within the above guidelines will be denied.