

Notice of Race

VRC Polar Bear Series 2022-2023



October 2022

Notice of Race (NoR)

Vancouver Rowing Club (VRC) Polar Bear Series 2022-2023.

The VRC Polar Bear Series 2022-2023 is organized and conducted by the Vancouver Rowing Club located at 450 Stanley Park Drive, Vancouver, BC, V6G 3E2, Canada. The club is located at the Georgia Street entrance to Stanley Park.

The online official notice board is located at <https://vrccracing.ca/polarbear/>

See also Section 15 “Further Information” in this Notice of Race.

All those participating in the Polar Bear Series do so at their own risk, and by completing this entry form, the skipper and crew of each entered yacht specifically agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the Vancouver Rowing Club (“VRC”), its members, its organizers and its respective agents, officials, servants and representatives from and against all claims, actions, costs, expenses and demands in respect to death, injury, loss or damage to any person or property, howsoever caused arising out of or in connection with such skipper or his crew or her crew taking part in this event, notwithstanding that the same may have contributed or caused or occasioned by the negligence of the same bodies, or any of them, or their agents, officials, servants or representatives

Contact Information

Vancouver Rowing Club

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PREAMBLE

The notation '[NP]' in a rule means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1(a).

1. RULES

- 1.1. The Series will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing ('RRS').
- 1.2. The Racing Rules of Sailing will be changed as follows:
 - 1.2.1. [DP] RRS 40.1 applies to all boats with two or fewer crew.
 - 1.2.2. The Scoring Penalty, RRS 44.3, will not apply. This changes RRS 44.3.
 - 1.2.3. Boats competing singlehanded are permitted the use of autopilot and/or wind powered self-steering gear. This changes RRS 52.
 - 1.2.4. [DP] During the event, boats shall not impede or obstruct commercial traffic. The penalty may be up to disqualification from the series and/or a Rule 69 hearing. This changes RRS 64.2.
 - 1.2.5. The race committee may attempt to hail the fleet by VHF radio. Failure to do so will not be grounds for redress. Failure to note a shortened course or other race instruction due to not monitoring your radio will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 41 and RRS 62.1(a).
 - 1.2.6. No finishes will be recorded after 15:00. If at least one boat finishes by 15:00 hours, the deadline will be extended to 15:30. Boats failing to finish (but still racing) after 15:30 will be scored 'Did Not Finish' (DNF). This changes RRS 35.
- 1.3. [DP] A boat that intends to fly sails that display numbers different than its registered sail number shall report those numbers to the race committee by email at raceofficer@vrcracing.ca at, or before 19:00 on the Saturday before each day of racing. Failure to comply may be subject to protest by the race committee.
- 1.4. All boats must comply with Transport Canada regulations and [Offshore Regulations Category 4 with Sail Canada prescriptions](#) amended as follows:
 - Section 3* Add "3.30 Boats designated as One Design by World Sailing or any MNA, whose one design class rule conflicts with Section 3 requirements (Structural Features, Stability, Fixed Equipment):
 - (i) shall not be penalized for non-compliance with Section 3 that is a result of conflict with their one design class rule,
 - (ii) shall have all crew wearing lifejackets or PFDs while racing,
 - (iii) shall carry at least two thermal protective aids or other devices for treating crew following a crew overboard incident,
 - (iv) in the absence of class rule compliance with OSR 3.14 (Pulpit, Stanchion and Lifelines), shall carry at least one harness and safety line (tether) and have attachment point(s) to reduce crew overboard risk when working forward of the mast."

- 3.18.2 Delete word “Permanently.”
- 3.19 Delete word “Permanently.”
- 3.28.1 Add “f) A boat shall have a mechanical propulsion system that is ready for immediate use. While racing, a boat shall also carry sufficient fuel for safety purposes such as crew-overboard recovery and to motor from the farthest point on the course to the host venue docks, the boat's home port, or a safe harbour, whichever is closer, in the forecasted conditions.”
- 4.01.1 Append “unless entered in Division 5, Cruising Division.”
- 4.05.1 Append “is highly recommended.”
- 4.05.2 Replace with “Fire extinguishers that meet Coast Guard/National Safety Authority requirements for the size of boat.”
- 4.10.1 c) Append “, or”; Add “d) A tubular radar reflector is acceptable if permanently mounted within 15 degrees of vertical.”
- 4.13.2 Append “is highly recommended.”
- 4.17 Append “is highly recommended.”
- 4.23 Replace with “A boat shall carry Coast Guard/National Safety Authority of the OA approved flares meeting day-night requirements at a minimum, not older than the expiration date, or if no stamped expiration date, not older than 4 years. SOLAS flares are recommended, but not required.”
- 4.26.2(a)(ii) Append “is recommended but shall not be required.”
- 4.26.2(a) Add “(iii) A roller furling headsail or smaller jib, suitable for heavy weather shall be considered compliant with OSR 4.26.2.”
- 5.01.1(a) Insert “or Lifejackets or PFDs meeting Canadian government requirements” after “UL 1180”; Append “or other measures to ensure the device does not ride up.” after “(ride up prevention system(RUPS))”
- 6.05.3 Append “is highly recommended.”

2. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1. The sailing instructions will be available before 20:00 on Wednesday November 2nd, 2022 at <https://vrccracing.ca/polarbear/>.

3. COMMUNICATION

- 3.1. The online official notice board is located at the VRC Polar Bear website at <https://vrccracing.ca/polarbear/>.

- 3.2. All boats shall carry a VHF radio.
- 3.3. On the water, the race committee may make courtesy broadcasts to competitors on VHF radio. Competitors may ask questions of the race committee by VHF for course clarification only prior to their warning signal.
- 3.4. From the first warning signal until the end of the last race of the day, except in an emergency, a boat shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats.

4. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

- 4.1. The Series is open to all boats that enter the following classes:

Division 0:	ORC GPH less than 600
Division 1:	PHRF BC Rating between 60 and 99
Division 2:	PHRF BC Rating between 100 to 149
Division 3:	PHRF BC Rating between 150 to 194
Division 4:	PHRF BC Rating equal to or greater than 195
Cruising Division:	PHRF BC Rating open: White Sails

- 4.2. All boats are reminded that full compliance with the prescriptions of their rating system is required.
- 4.3. For boats racing under a PHRF Handicap:
 - 4.3.1. All boats must have a valid 2022 PHRF certificate unless provided a Club rating. PHRF-BC ratings will be verified against the public BC Sailing PHRF-BC ratings database.
 - 4.3.2. Boats sailing in Divisions 1 to 4 that do not have a valid rating will be provided a club rating by the Race Committee. These boats are encouraged to seek a valid certificate from PHRF BC before the end of the first applicable series. Boats that do not receive a valid certificate by the conclusion of the Fall, Winter and/or Combined series will not be eligible for prizes or trophies. Boats that later receive a valid certificate will have their Fall, Winter and Overall series rescored using the valid rating. Boats may alternatively request to be included in the Cruising Division with a club rating with no further requirement for a valid rating. Club ratings shall not be subject to appeal.
 - 4.3.3. Boats with a valid PHRF rating from jurisdictions outside of PHRF-BC will be provided a PHRF-BC equivalent rating by the club measurer that will be considered valid for the purposes of the series. This rating shall not be subject to appeal.

- 4.4. For boats racing under an ORC handicap:
- 4.4.1. 2022 certificates will be used for the entire series (Fall and Winter Series) and will be considered valid for the duration of the series.
 - 4.4.2. All boats must have a valid 2022 ORC certificate. ORC ratings will be verified against the ORC Sailor Services database.
 - 4.4.3. Club-provided ratings will not be available for boats entering Division 0. Boats may enter the series if they intend to receive a 2022 certificate prior to the completion of the Fall Series. Boats will not be scored until their certificate is issued and valid.
- 4.5. Boats will be assigned to divisions with the following class flags based on handicap ratings or classification specified in NoR 4.1:
- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Division 0: | Numeral Pennant 0 |
| Division 1: | Numeral Pennant 1 |
| Division 2: | Numeral Pennant 2 |
| Division 3: | Numeral Pennant 3 |
| Division 4: | Numeral Pennant 4 |
| Cruising Division: | Numeral Pennant 5 |
- 4.6. Eligible boats may enter by completing the entry online and submitting payment for the full series, or applicable single race entry fee.
- 4.7. Boats may enter the event by registering online at the following webpage <https://forms.gle/jLRbDvsUGaAocrbE8>.
- 4.8. To be considered entered for the event, a boat shall complete all registration requirements and pay either the full series fee or applicable single race day fee. Boats that fail to register and pay the applicable fee will not be scored.
- 4.9. Late entries may be accepted at the discretion of the organizing authority.
- 4.10. A boat within three points of the edge of a PHRF rating band may request a switch of division at the start of a series with the permission of the race committee. If the new division is 'faster' than her rated division, she will adopt and race under the rating at the closest edge of the adopted band with no award/prize penalties if her rating certificate is otherwise valid. If the division is 'slower' than her rated division, her rating will remain unchanged from her certificate rating.

5. FEES

5.1. Entry fees for racing are as follows:

Full Series Entry Fee	Individual Race Entry Fee
<p><i>\$75.00 for all races in the Series</i></p> <p>Payment Link:</p> <p>https://checkout.square.site/merchant/ML3J5ZAB8M463/checkout/3FXETIOX5G_LJYYQOXJBOTXQP</p>	<p><i>\$25.00 for one individual race day</i></p> <p>Payment Link:</p> <p>https://checkout.square.site/merchant/ML3J5ZAB8M463/checkout/MKECKGGKNCH2_NU2YNREMVXZX</p>

6. ADVERTISING

6.1. Boats may be required to display advertising chosen and supplied by the organizing authority.

7. SCHEDULE

7.1. Dates of racing are described in the table below.

Fall Series	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Day #1: November 6, 2022 • Day #2: November 20, 2022 • Day #3: December 4, 2022 • Day #4: December 18, 2022
Winter Series	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Day #1: January 15, 2023 • Day #2: January 29, 2023 • Day #3: February 12, 2023 • Day #4: February 26, 2023 • Day #5: March 12, 2023

7.2. The warning signal and time limits are described below:

Warning Signal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First warning signal 10:55 each race day • No warning signals after 14:00 each race day
Time Limit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No finishes recorded after 15:00 unless, • Late finishes: See NOR 1.2.6

8. VENUE

8.1. The racing area is Howe Sound and English Bay extending West to a line formed by linking Starboard Hand Beacon Pac432 on Popham Island to the permanent mark QA West of Point Grey. Start lines will be near the QC Buoy.

9. COURSES

- 9.1. The course designations for each division will be communicated to competitors using a course board located on the race committee signal vessel prior to the warning signal for each division. Mark designations will be made in the Sailing Instructions.

10. PENALTY SYSTEM

- 10.1. Please see NOR 1.2.2.

11. SCORING

- 11.1. One race shall constitute a series in each of the Fall Series, Winter Series and Overall Series.
- 11.2. Races will be scored using Time on Time calculations.
- 11.3. Depending on the course orientation, Division 0 races will be scored using either ORC “All Purpose” or “Windward/Leeward” Triple Number ratings:
- “Low” (9 knots or less)
 - “Medium” (between 9 and 14 knots)
 - “High” (14 knots or greater)

The race committee will attempt to convey the wind strength to be used for ORC scoring via VHF radio prior to the start of each race. Please also note NOR 1.2.5.

- 11.4. RRS Appendix A5.3 will apply.
- 11.5. Fall Series: When fewer than four races have been completed, a boat’s Fall Series score shall be the total of her race scores. When four to eight races have been completed, a boat’s Fall Series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score. When nine or more races have been completed, a boat’s Fall Series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her two worst scores. This changes RRS Appendix A2.1.
- 11.6. Winter Series: When fewer than five races have been completed, a boat’s Winter Series score shall be the total of her race scores. When five to nine races have been completed, a boat’s Winter Series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score. When ten or more races have been completed, a boat’s Winter Series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her two worst scores. This changes RRS Appendix A2.1.
- 11.7. Overall Series: When fewer than five races have been completed, a boat’s Overall Series score shall be the total of her scores from both Fall and Winter Series. When five to nine races have been completed, a boat’s Overall Series score will be the total of her Fall and Winter Series scores excluding her worst score. When ten or more races have been completed, a boat’s Overall Series score will be the total of her Fall and Winter Series scores excluding her two worst scores. This changes RRS Appendix A2.1.

12. RISK STATEMENT

- 12.1. RRS 3 states: ‘The responsibility for a boat’s decision to participate in a race or to continue to race is hers alone.’ By participating in this event each competitor agrees and

acknowledges that sailing is a potentially dangerous activity with inherent risks. These risks include strong winds and rough seas, sudden changes in weather, failure of equipment, boat handling errors, poor seamanship by other boats, loss of balance on an unstable platform and fatigue resulting in increased risk of injury. **Inherent in the sport of sailing is the risk of permanent, catastrophic injury or death by drowning, trauma, hypothermia or other causes.**

13.INSURANCE

13.1. Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum coverage of \$2,000,000 per incident or the equivalent.

14.PRIZES

14.1. Series prize giving will be held during the 2023 VRC Awards and Volunteer Appreciation dinner.

15.FURTHER INFORMATION

15.1. For further information:

Vancouver Rowing Club contact information:
tel: 604.687.3400 fax: 604.687.6812 email: office@vancouverrowingclub.ca
Racing Officer:
email address: raceofficer@vrcracing.ca
Registration for the event:
https://forms.gle/jLRbDvsUGaAocrbE8
Payment for the event:
\$75 Full Series Payment: https://checkout.square.site/merchant/ML3J5ZAB8M463/checkout/3FXETIOX5GLJYYQOXJBOTXQP
\$25 Individual Race Payment: https://checkout.square.site/merchant/ML3J5ZAB8M463/checkout/MKECKGGKNCH2NU2YNREMVZX
Official Notice Board:
https://vrcracing.ca/polarbear/