



Vancouver Rowing Club

Polar Bear Series

Sailing Instructions

2020 – 2021

1. Rules

- 1.1. The series will be governed by the rules as defined in *The 2017- 2020 Racing Rules of Sailing*. (RRS) and the rules of PHRF-BC except where they are modified by these Sailing Instructions (SI's).
- 1.2. The RRS will be changed or modified as follows:
 - (a) Boats with two or fewer crew, including skipper/registrant, shall ensure every person on board is wearing a personal flotation device (PFD) at all times when afloat, except when changing clothing. This modifies the preamble to RRS Part 4 and RRS 40. [DP]
 - (b) Boats with two or fewer crew, including skipper/registrant, are permitted the use of autopilot and/or wind powered self-steering gear. This modifies RRS 52.
 - (c) A breach of RRS 48.2, RRS 49.2, NOR 7.1 and SI 13.2 shall not be grounds for protest by a boat. This modifies RRS 60.1(a).
 - (d) While Racing, a boat that is identified by the Port, Traffic or a commercial vessel as impeding or obstructing commercial traffic shall be disqualified from the race. A boat that is identified as the subject of five horns from commercial traffic shall be subject to protest and disqualification. This modifies RRS 60.2(a).
 - (e) The notation of '[DP]' in a rule in these SI's means that the penalty for a breach of that rule may, at the discretion of the protest committee, be less than disqualification.
- 1.3. All boats must comply with Transport Canada and Canadian Coast Guard regulations, and Offshore Regulations Category 4 with Sail Canada Prescriptions (OSR), as amended in NOR 1.3.
- 1.4. Boats that intend to fly sails that display numbers other than her official sail number shall report those numbers to the Race Committee (RC) by email at racing@vancouverrowingclub.ca at or before the scheduled first warning signal for the day. Failure to comply may be subject to protest by the Race Committee.



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2. Notices to Competitors

- 2.1. Notices will be posted on the notice board at the east gate of the VRC.
- 2.2. Notices will also be posted to the Polar Bear page on the VRC web site <https://vrcracing.ca/polarbear>.
- 2.3. Notices that apply to racing will be posted before 0900h on race days.

3. Communication

- 3.1. Communication will be on **VHF channel 68**. Boats are strongly encouraged to monitor this channel for communications from the race committee.
- 3.2. Except in an emergency, a boat shall neither make radio transmissions while racing nor receive radio communications not available to all boats. This restriction also applies to mobile phones.
- 3.3. Boats may ask questions of the race committee, via VHF radio or other means, for course clarification only prior to their warning signal. This modifies RRS 41.
- 3.4. The Race Committee may attempt to hail boats that are On Course Side (OCS), however failure to do so will not be grounds for redress. This modifies RRS 41 and RRS 62.1(a).
- 3.5. **A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee at the time of retiring by radio VHF communication or other means and must confirm that the race committee has received their notice of intent to retire.**

4. Changes to Sailing Instructions

- 4.1. Any change to the Sailing Instructions shall be posted on the Notice Board and the VRC Racing website before 0900h on the day of the race. If any changes have been posted, the race committee will also make an announcement on VHF channel 68 before 1045h.
- 4.2. Changes to the Sailing Instructions may be communicated orally on the water pursuant to RRS 90.2(c) to each boat before her warning signal via VHF radio, no less than one minute after displaying flag "L" with one sound.

5. Signals Made Ashore

- 5.1. Signals made ashore will be delivered to the fleet via email to the email address supplied to VRC during registration. When an email is delivered to the fleet signaling a postponement in lieu of raising an "AP" signal flag, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 45 minutes'. This modifies RRS Race Signals.



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6. Schedule

6.1. Races are scheduled for the following days:

Fall Series: **October 25, 2020**
 November 8, 2020
 November 22, 2020
 December 6, 2020

Winter Series: **January 3, 2021 (exhibition)**
 January 17, 2021
 January 31, 2021
 February 14, 2021
 February 28, 2021
 March 14, 2021

6.2. The first warning signal of the day is scheduled for 1055h.

6.3. Additional races may be started for any divisions at the discretion of the race committee, provided that any additional races will start before 1400h and the time limit for the day's racing will not be changed.

6.4. Any additional races that are completed will be scored as part of the series.

7. Divisions

7.1. Boats are assigned to divisions based upon their PHRF rating and the division splits are as follows:

Division 1 – less than or equal to 99

Division 2 – 100 to 149

Division 3 – 150 to 194

Division 4 – greater than or equal to 195

Division 5 – PHRF open: Cruising Division (White Sails Only)

7.2. A boat may apply to be moved up or down by one division at the discretion of the Race Officer. The Race Officer will assign that skipper a PHRF rating within the range for the new division.

7.3. The division flag for each division will be the numeral pennant equal to the division number.



8. Racing Area

- 8.1. Racing will be conducted in English Bay, and may include portions of Howe Sound and Georgia Strait.

9. The Courses

- 9.1. The Marks are to be rounded in the sequence they appear on the course board, which shall be displayed on the race committee signal vessel.
- 9.2. The race committee may fly signal flag “TANGO” indicating the course is to be sailed twice around, using the start line as a gate beginning the second lap around the course.

- 9.3. The letters/marks will be as follows:

“A”	Point Grey Bell Buoy	N 49°17.3' W 123°15.9'
“B”	Kits Barge Buoy	N 49°16.9' W 123°09.8'
“C”	QC Buoy	N 49°18.2' W 123°10.0'
“D”	QB Buoy	N 49°19.0' W 123°12.1'
“E”	VRC Anchored Mark	Committee shall communicate position
“F”	Separate Finish Line	On course between two staffs w/blue flags
“G”	Race Start Pin	On course as a floating staff w/orange flag
“H”	Start Line Gate	On course between Signal Boat and Race Start Pin
“K”	VRC Windward Inflatable	Committee shall communicate position and colour
“W”	VRC Windward Inflatable	Committee shall communicate position and colour
“Y”	VRC Leeward Inflatable	Committee shall communicate position and colour
“X”	Anchored Freighter	Committee shall communicate position
“Z”	Anchored Freighter	Committee shall communicate position

- 9.4. Please note that some letters/marks in SI 9.3 have changed this year. Participants should ensure that they have the current list of letters/marks listed in SI 9.3 available before and during racing.

10. Marks

- 10.1. The start pin will be a floating staff displaying an orange flag.
- 10.2. The finish pin will also be the above start pin unless a Separate Finish Line is explicitly denoted with an “F” on the course board, in which case the finish pin is a floating staff displaying a blue flag.
- 10.3. VRC Anchored, Windward and/or Leeward Marks will be yellow, red or green inflatable tetrahedrons.
- 10.4. All marks shall be left to port unless a green flag is flying indicating that the marks are to be left to starboard.



11. The Start

- 11.1. Races will be started using RRS 26 with the warning signal made 5 minutes before the starting signal.
- 11.2. The Starting line will be between a staff on the race committee signal vessel displaying an orange flag and a staff displaying an orange flag on the start pin.
- 11.3. A boat starting later than 15 minutes after the starting signal may be scored “Did Not Start”. This modifies RRS A4 and A5.

12. The Finish

- 12.1. Unless explicitly denoted with a letter “F” on the course board, the finishing line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the race committee signal vessel and a staff displaying an orange flag on the finish pin.
- 12.2. When the letter “F” is used on the course board, the finishing line shall be between a staff displaying a blue flag on the race committee signal vessel and a staff displaying a blue flag on the finish pin.

13. Penalties

- 13.1. A boat that may have broken a rule of Part 2 while racing may take a One-Turn Penalty. However, if a boat breaks a rule of Part 2 within the Zone of any rounding or finishing marks; her penalty shall be a Two-Turns Penalty. This amends Rule 44.1.
- 13.2. Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall keep clear of the starting area and of all boats whose warning signal has been made. The starting area is defined as a 75 metre radius in all directions from the Start line. [DP]
- 13.3. The Scoring Penalty, RRS 44.3, will not apply.

14. Time Limits

- 14.1. No finishes will be recorded after 1500h. If one boat in a division finishes within the time limit, there will be a 30 minute extension to 1530h for boats in that division.
- 14.2. Boats failing to finish within the time limit and extension, if applicable, will be scored “Did Not Finish” (DNF) without a hearing. This changes RRS 35, A4 and A5.

15. Protests

- 15.1. The protest time limit is 1800h.
- 15.2. A boat wishing to protest, shall, prior to the race committee signal vessel leaving the finish area, notify the Race Committee of its intent to protest and receiving confirmation from the Race Committee that the Race Committee has received the boat’s intent to protest by radio on VHF



- 68 or by hailing the Race Committee. This modifies RRS 61.
- 15.3. Notices of Protests will be posted at <https://vrcracing.ca/2020-2021-polar-bear-protests/> on the VRC Racing website and will be heard as soon as possible. Parties to a protest will be informed by telephone or email on the Monday after the race and at least 24 hours before the hearing, to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties. Parties are responsible for informing their own witnesses and ensuring their witnesses' attendance.
 - 15.4. Protest forms can be obtained from the race committee signal vessel while it is on station in the finishing area, or may be downloaded from Sail Canada's website: <https://www.sailing.ca/protests-appeals/>. Protests must be submitted in person to the Race Officer or by email to racing@vancouverrowingclub.ca.
 - 15.5. Hearings may be held by video conferencing on Zoom or, at the discretion of the Chief Judge, may be heard in person using strict PPE and physical distancing protocols.
 - 15.6. Whenever possible, protests will be heard in the approximate order in which they were received.
 - 15.7. Notices of protest by the Race Committee or Protest Committee will be posted and parties notified as in SI 15.3, under RRS 61.1(b).

16. Scoring

- 16.1. One race shall constitute a series in each of the Fall Series, Winter Series and Overall Series.
- 16.2. Races will be scored using PHRF BC Time on Time handicap calculation.
- 16.3. DNF, OCS, RET, DSQ, & DNS boats will be scored one more than the number of boats that come to the start area in that boat's division. DNC boats shall be scored points for the finishing place one more than the number of boats entered in the series.
- 16.4. In the Fall Series: When fewer than four races have been completed, a boat's Fall Score will 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 A2.1.
- 16.5. Due to the proximity to the holiday season, the race scheduled for January 3, 2021 in the Winter Series is considered an exhibition race day. Race results from this day will not be counted in the series scores.
- 16.6. In the Winter Series: When fewer than five races have been completed, a boat's Winter Series score will 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 A2.1.



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- 16.7. In the Overall Series: When fewer than five races have been completed, a boat's Overall Series score will be the total of her race 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 A2.1.

17. Safety

- 17.1. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, boats shall follow the series health and safety protocols until further notice. These protocols are documented in NOR 7.1.
- 17.2. **All participants are strongly encouraged to review these protocols prior to each race day.**
- 17.3. All boats shall check-in with the race committee prior to 1055h on each racing day. Failure to do so may result in the boat being scored "Did Not Compete" (DNC) for that day. This changes RRS A4 and A5.

18. Prizes

- 18.1. Prizes are detailed in NOR 12.

19. Insurance

- 19.1. 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.

20. Disclaimer of Liability

- 20.1. Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. See RRS 4, Decision to Race. The organizing authority will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the regatta. The decision to race or not to race resides solely with the owner and operator of each vessel and any advice received or the failure to provide any particular advice from VRC or the race committee shall not result in any liability to the organizing authority.



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