



Portsmouth Boat Club  
2017 Barnacle Series Races  
Sailing Instructions – Revised 5/21/17

- 1. Rules:** The Barnacle Series Races will be governed by the rules as defined by the 2017-2020 US Sailing/ISAF Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) as modified by these Sailing Instructions. The following points are emphasized:
- These races are for FUN!
  - On opposite tacks, STARBOARD tack boat has Right Of Way.
  - On the same tack when overlapped, LEEWARD boat has Right Of Way.
  - Don't crowd marks during roundings.
  - Don't force another boat into an obstruction.
  - DO NOT INTERFERE with the safe navigation of commercial traffic on the River.** This means that you yield to tugs, tows, merchant ships, sightseeing vessels, etc.
  - When in doubt, YIELD!
  - See (a) above.

Competitors shall comply with all Federal, State, and Local laws and safety requirements. Appropriate navigation lights will be displayed after sunset. Specific attention is called to avoiding the areas between security/police boats and Naval Vessels and cruise ships. Do NOT get between a security boat and a protected vessel! Violations of these rules make the boat subject to disqualification. If required for safety, to avoid commercial traffic, or to avoid a protected vessel, a boat's engine may be used and the boat may maneuver perpendicular to the racecourse or backwards on the course. This provision is for legal and safety reasons and shall not be used to advance the boat's position on the race course.

**2. Boat Configuration:** These races are for monohull sailboats only, greater than 20 feet Length On Deck (LOD). The Spring and Fall Series are Non-Spinnaker (Single Headsail) races. Summer Series races allow spinnaker use at the skipper's discretion. The number of boats registered will determine the number of Classes to be sailed. The RC will publish a Scratch Sheet prior to the start of the first Series with Class divisions, with later updates as necessary.

**3. Schedule:**

**Spring Series**

Friday nights - April 14\*, 21\*, 28\*; May 5\*, 12\*.

Saturday morning - May 20\* (Series awards ceremony).

**Summer Series**

Friday nights - June 30, July 7, 14, 21, 28; Aug 4.

**Fall Series**

Friday nights – September 1\*, 8\*, 15\*; 22\*, 29\*.

Saturday morning – October 7\* (Series awards ceremony).

*Note: Dates with an \* indicate that a post-race dinner and social will be conducted at the PBC Clubhouse.*

**On Friday nights: Check-in with the Race Committee at the Starting Line no later than 5:55 pm. The Starting Sequence will commence at 5:55 pm. Races will start at 6:00 pm. Saturday morning races will be "Pursuit Style" with the first boat starting at 9:30 am. The time limit for Friday races is two hours, and for Saturday races is three hours, from the start time.**

**4. Handicapping:** "PHRF of the Chesapeake" ratings will be used. If a competitor does not have a current PHRF certificate, a courtesy rating will be assigned by the RC, valid for the whole year. The assigned rating is final and cannot be protested.

**5. Rounding Marks:** The courses to be sailed are all around government marks in the Elizabeth River, starting and finishing on a line defined by the Race Committee (RC) flag (a large Orange flag) on the Portsmouth side of the river (on the Seawall South of Tidewater Yacht Marina) and the **flag pole on the end of the ship repair pier northwest of the Berkley bridge at Washington Point** on the Norfolk side of the river. See NOAA Chart 12253 for mark locations. **All marks are to be rounded or left on the boats PORT side!**

**Note: Mark "WX" is the YELLOW NOAA Weather Buoy at the edge of the Crawford Bay anchorage area!**

## 6. Courses.

The course to be sailed by each Class will be posted by the RC at the starting line (on a large white tarp) and may be announced on VHF channel 72. The courses will not be shortened.

Course	Length (nm)	Marks:
1	1.4	Start, 2S (near NOAA), Finish
2	1.9	Start, 2S, R34, R36, Finish
3	2.3	Start, R36, R34, R36, 2S, Finish
4	3.3	Start, R36, R32, R36, Finish
5	4.3	Start, 2S, R34, R36, R32, R36, Finish
6	4.7	Start, R36, R30, R36, Finish
7	5.1	Start, R36, R30, R36, 2S, Finish
8	5.5	Start, R36, R30, R36, R34, R36, Finish
9	6.0	Start, R36, R30, R36, R34, R36, 2S, Finish
10	7.0	Start, R36, R30, R36, R32, R36, Finish
11	2.3	Start, 2S, WX, 2S, Finish
12	3.6	Start, 2S, WX, 2S, WX, 2S, R36, 2S, Finish

**7. Starting.** RRS 26 will be used. There will be one start for all fleets and classes. The class flag will be the “5” pennant (NS). The normal start sequence will be as follows:

Approximately 10 minutes to the race start – ATTENTION – short, repeated horn blasts.

5 Minutes before Start – WARNING Class Flag UP with 1 horn. All boats MUST have checked in at this point.

4 Minutes before Start – PREP "P" Flag (Preparatory) UP with 1 horn.

1 Minute before Start – "P" Flag DOWN with 1 long horn.

START Class Flag DOWN with 1 horn.

In the event a competitor is over the start line early (“OCS”), a second single horn blast will sound and the X flag will be raised per the RRS. The RC will attempt to hail that competitor and may make an announcement on VHF channel 72. Any boat that is OCS must turn back and restart or it will be disqualified for the race. General Recalls will be in accordance with the RRS.

**8. Abandonment.** If there is no RC flag on the seawall by 10 minutes from the Start time, the race is considered abandoned. If the race is abandoned after the RC is on station, the “N” Abandon flag will be displayed and three short horn blasts will be sounded.

**9. Postponement.** The RC may postpone starts to allow for commercial shipping or to deal with safety issues. The AP flag and two horn blasts will be used per the RRS. The start time will be delayed as necessary. The **start sequence** will resume one minute after the AP flag is lowered.

**10. Finishing:** Boats will finish the race by crossing the Start-Finish line heading in a Southerly direction. Boats retiring or unable to finish before the time limit are requested to hail the RC (callsign “Barnacle Race Committee”) on VHF channel 72. As boats finish, the RC will sound one short horn and say the boat’s name.

**11. Scoring:** Modifying RRS, paragraph A4.2. “Low Point” scoring shall be used under the PHRF Time On Distance system. Boats starting but not finishing and boats that show up for a race and check-in but do not start will be scored the total number of boats that started the race in the class PLUS one. Boats not showing up or not checking in for a race will be scored the total number of registered boats in the class PLUS one. Disqualified boats will be scored the total number of registered boats in the class PLUS two. Two completed races shall constitute a completed Series. If three or more races in a Series are completed, the boat’s low score will be dropped. Boats on a scheduled PBC Cruise will be scored for that one race based on the average of their scores for the Series. Results will be announced at the post-race dinner and posted on the PBC website: [www.portsmouthboatclub.org](http://www.portsmouthboatclub.org). Upon completion of the Spring and Fall Series, awards will be given to the top three competitors in each class.

**12. Protests:** Protests are STRONGLY DISCOURAGED. These races are for FUN. However, if a boat desires to file a protest, it must be announced at the finish line of the race. The protesting boat must turn in a written USSailing protest form (see the RRS) at the post-race dinner. A protest committee will be convened within the week to decide the merits of the protest.