

2011 THISTLE MIDWINTERS WEST REGATTA

PRELIMINARY SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

RULES: This regatta will be governed by the Racing Rules of Sailing 2009-2012(RRS), the prescriptions of the United States Sailing Association and the rules of the Thistle Class, except as any of those are changed by these sailing instructions. This regatta is designated as Category A. In the event of a conflict between Rules, The Sailing Instructions will take precedence, then the Notice of race, then the Class Rules, then the RRS, in that order.

ENTRIES: This regatta is open to eligible competitors as defined by the Thistle Class Association.

NOTICES TO COMPETITORS: Notices will be posted on the official notice board near the flag pole on the south side of the clubhouse.

CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS: Any change to these sailing instructions will be posted no later than 10:00 AM of the day they are to take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 6:00 PM on the day before it will take effect.

SIGNALS MADE ASHORE: Signals made ashore will be displayed from the flagpole on the patio of the clubhouse. Flag AP when displayed ashore means "Boats shall not leave the club area until this signal is lowered."

SCHEDULE OF RACES: Nine races are scheduled; three on Thursday, three on Friday and three on Saturday. The warning for the first race of the day is scheduled for 11:30 AM. A pre-warning alert consisting of multiple sounds may be given approximately 1 minute before the warning. The Race Committee reserves the right to sail more or fewer races each day.

CLASS FLAG: The class flag will be a flag bearing the Thistle logo.

RACING AREA: The racing area will be in the Pacific Ocean approximately one mile northwest of the Mission Bay jetty entrance, or in Sail Bay adjacent to MBYC in the event of unsafe ocean conditions. The venue for each day's races will be posted by 10:00 AM.

CHECK-IN: In the interest of safety, when code flag L is displayed each boat is required to check in before the first start of the day by sailing past the committee boat on Starboard Tack and hailing its sail number. Boats withdrawing shall notify a race committee boat before leaving the course area, or if that is impossible, shall notify the Club office IMMEDIATELY upon returning to shore.

COURSES: The course number will be displayed no later than the preparatory signal; this rule changes RRS rule 27.1. In the course descriptions below, S is the start, F is the finish, W is the weather mark and L is the leeward mark consisting of two marks forming a gate. W shall be left to port followed by an offset mark also left to port. The offset mark will be placed at approximately a right angle to the weather leg and approximately 6-10 boat lengths to port of W. There shall be two leeward marks that will be known as gate marks. Boats shall sail between the gate marks from the direction of the previous mark and round either gate mark. In the event only one leeward gate mark is on station, boats shall round that mark to port. The start and finish line will be established windward of the leeward gate marks and roughly 1/3 of the distance windward of the leeward gate toward the weather mark.

Course 1: S - W - OS - L - F

Course 2: S - W - OS - L - W - OS - L - F

Course 3: S - W - OS - L - W - OS - L - W - OS - L - F

MARKS: Marks for the ocean venue are orange inflatable shapes; the offset shall be a small orange inflatable shape. If there is a course change, the new weather mark will be a yellow shape. In the event of a bay venue the marks are orange round balls.

THE START: Races will be started using Rule 26 with a 5-minute time space between warning and start. The start line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the Race Committee boat and a staff displaying an orange flag on the port end. All competitors will start together for all races. The start line is NOT restricted.

THE FINISH: The finish line will be between an orange flag on a race committee boat and an orange flag on a staff in the water. The Finish line is NOT restricted. The Finish line may be smaller than that of the start line.

TIME LIMIT: Boats failing to finish within 20 minutes after the first boat finishes will be scored DNF. This rule changes rule 35.

PROTESTS: Protests shall be written on forms available at the club office, and delivered there within one hour after the main Race Committee boat docks.

SCORING: Boats will be scored in accordance with Appendix A of the RRS as modified by the following statements. One race completed constitutes a regatta. After the first day of racing, the fleet will be divided equally. The upper half will be the Championship Division and the lower half the Presidents Division. In the event of a protest, or request for redress affecting the division splits, the decision of the protest committee will be final and is not subject to appeal.

The Championship Division will retain 50% of their scores from the first day's races. All races will count there will NOT be a throw out this is

a change to Appendix A

The Presidents division will lose their accrued points from the first three races. The Presidents division competitors will begin the remainder of the races with the highest placed boat in the lower division being given one point. The second highest boat being given two points and so on for each boat in the Presidents Division. They then will race the remaining races for their separate regatta. Although eventually there are two separate regattas being scored the competitors will start and race as one group. Only scoring will be separate. There will NOT be a throw out in the Presidents division this is a change to Appendix A. All rules apply to all competitors racing no matter what the competitors scoring division.

Course Chart

Course	Marks
1	S - W - OS - L - F
2	S - W - OS - L - W - OS - L - F
3	S - W - OS - L - W - OS - L - W - OS - L - F

