



2014 USODA National Championship

July 24-27, 2014

California Yacht Club

Marina del Rey, CA



SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

1 RULES

- 1.1 The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing (2013-2016)*.
- 1.2 “Conditions for USODA Events”, including the USODA ‘Code of Conduct’, will apply, and can be found at www.usoda.org. Competitors, Coaches, Parents, and Guardians shall abide by the USODA ‘Code of Conduct’. This includes behavior both on and off the water including respect for all other persons, personal property of others, California Yacht Club, and the Marina del Rey.
- 1.3 Rule 61 is changed as follows: After the second sentence in rule 61.1(a), add, “The red protest flag shall be attached to the boom in a manner that conceals it until displayed.” Rule 61.1(a)(2) is deleted, and the following new rule is added to rule 61:
 - 61.5 Informing the Race CommitteeIn addition to meeting the requirements of rule 61.1, a boat intending to protest another boat concerning an incident in the racing area that she is involved in or sees shall, at the first reasonable opportunity after she finishes, call the measurement boat’s attention to her displayed red flag and inform them of the sail number of the boat she is protesting.
- 1.4 Appendix P, "Special Procedures for Rule 42", will apply. P2.2, “Second Penalty” is changed to, “Second and Subsequent Penalties”. Also, at the end of the first sentence add, “unless her penalty is signaled after she finishes, in which case she shall promptly notify the measurement or race committee finish boat that she is retiring.” P2.3 is deleted.
- 1.5 Rule A5 is changed to allow measurement penalties to be given in accordance with SI 16.14 without a hearing.

2 FORMAT OF THE CHAMPIONSHIP

There will be a Championship Fleet and there will be a Green Fleet. The Green Fleet is intended for less experienced sailors and will include opportunities for learning and competition. Separate Sailing Instructions apply to the Green Fleet.

2.1 National Championship

(a) The National Championship Series will have a Qualifying Round followed by a Medal Round. The Qualifying Round will be used to split the Championship Fleet placing in the top 33% into the Gold Fleet and the remainder into the Silver Fleet for the Medal Round. There will be three divisions of approximately the same size in the Qualifying Round. However in the Medal Round there will be only one division in the Gold Fleet and two divisions of approximately the same size in the Silver Fleet. Competitors will only sail against competitors in the same division each day.

(b) The process for assigning competitors to divisions is described below for each round, and the duration of each round is described in SI 2.4.

2.2 Qualifying Round

(a) Race Format: Boats may race in sets of races where a set is a group of scored races in which all divisions have competed. The race committee will endeavor to run complete sets of races each day, and at its discretion may abandon incomplete sets.

(b) Division Assignment: Assignment to a division for each day of Qualifying Round racing will be a combination of 'seeding' by final standings from the 2014 USODA Team Trials and by random assignment for competitors who did not attend the Team Trials. The following system will be used. Day One: Team Trials final standings seeded 1-2-3-3-2-1, etc. plus random for all others. Day Two: Team Trials final standings seeded 2-3-1-1-3-2, etc. plus random for all others. If the Qualifying Round is extended beyond two days, Day Three seeding is 3-1-2-2-1-3, and Day Four is 1-2-3-3-2-1. The race committee's decision on division assignments will be final and cannot be grounds for a boat to request redress. This changes rule 62.1(a).

2.3 Medal Round

(a) Race Format: Gold Fleet (as a single division) will sail races while Silver Fleet will sail sets of races for its two divisions. Boats will race only in their assigned division.

(b) Division Assignment: Assignment to the Gold and Silver Fleets will be based on a competitor's cumulative fleet position at the end of the Qualifying Round, including the outcome of all scoring inquiries, requests for redress and protests. Assignment to Silver divisions will be for the entire Medal Round, using a sorting system applied to Qualifying Round final standing; 1-2-2-1 and so on for all boats. Silver divisions will be called Silver-A and Silver-B and will be approximately the same size depending on unbroken tie scores. Division assignment will be at the discretion of the organizing authority and race committee whose decision will be final and cannot be grounds for a boat to request redress. This changes rule 62.1(a).

2.4 Racing Schedule

There will be four days of racing. The Qualifying Round will begin on the first day of the regatta and will conclude at the end of the day on which the fifth (5th) set of races is completed. This may result in sailing more than five sets of races in the Qualifying Round when the fifth set is completed early enough in the day and the race committee at its discretion decides to run more sets. However, no more than 10 sets of races will be sailed in the Qualifying Round. The Medal Round will begin on the day after the final day of the Qualifying Round, will conclude on the last day of the regatta, and will be comprised of as many races (Gold) and sets of races (Silver) for each fleet as practical. In the unlikely event that the Qualifying Round is not finished until day four of the regatta, there will be no Medal Round.

2.5 While on the water, each boat shall at all times display the colored streamer corresponding to her daily division assignment. The streamer shall be attached securely to the sprit loop at the top of the sail, and its size shall not be changed.

3 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located on the outside windows of the Gallery Room, downstairs in the CYC clubhouse.

4 CHANGES TO THE SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted on the official notice board before 0930 on the day that it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 1900 on the day before it will take effect.

5 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 5.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed on the flagpole located on the CYC front lawn.
- 5.2 When code flag AP is displayed, “1 minute” is replaced with “not less than 60 minutes” in race signal AP.
- 5.3 All boats shall be kept at the California Yacht Club in their assigned boat spot and launch as directed when flag O (Half each red and yellow on a diagonal) is displayed with one sound signal. Boats shall not launch prior to this time. Boats will launch by division starting rotation.

6 SCHEDULE OF RACES

Wednesday, July 23

1000-2000 Measurement, Competitor Check-in, and Coach/Spectator Flag Registration
1030 USODA Coffee Talk – Progression in the Opti Presentation – Fireside Room

Thursday, July 24

0800-0900 Late Competitor Check-in, Coach/Spectator Flag Registration
Continental Breakfast
0800-0900 **Measurement by appointment only** upon written request to the Race Committee by
Tuesday, July 22
0930 Opening Ceremonies – CYC Front Lawn / Flagpole
1000 Skippers, Coaches, and Parents Meeting (Mandatory)
1155 First Warning Championship Fleet
Lunch on the Water
After Racing Welcome Dinner – CYC Pool Patio

Friday, July 25

0800-0900 Continental Breakfast
0930 Skippers, Coaches, and Parents Meeting (Mandatory)
1125 First Warning Championship Fleet
Lunch on the Water
1 hour after USODA Annual General Meeting – Gallery Room
Signal boat docks

Saturday, July 26

0800-0900 Continental Breakfast
0930 Skippers, Coaches, and Parents Meeting (Mandatory)
1125 First Warning Championship Fleet
Lunch on the Water
After Racing Dinner and Entertainment – CYC Pool Patio

Sunday, July 27

800-0900 Continental Breakfast
0930 Skippers, Coaches, and Parents Meeting (Mandatory)
1125 First Warning Championship Fleet
Lunch on the Water
1430 No Warning Signal for the start of a new “set” after this time
After Racing Awards for National Championship – CYC Front Lawn

Code Flag A displayed, with no sound, while boats are finishing means ‘No more racing today’. The race committee will run as many races as practical.

7 RACING AREA

The racing area will be located one (1) nautical mile northwest of the Marina del Rey breakwater.

8 THE COURSE AND CHANGE OF COURSE

- 8.1 SI Addendum 1 illustrates the course, including the approximate angle between legs, the order in which marks are to be passed, and the side on which each mark is to be left. The course length and configuration will be based on sailing conditions.
- 8.2 The position of marks may be adjusted slightly for small shifts in the mean wind without signaling a change of course. Any adjustments will be made before the first boat is on the leg of the course to the affected mark. This changes rule 33.

9 MARKS

- 9.1 Rounding Marks 1, 2, and Gate 3S/3P will be yellow inflatable tetrahedrons.
- 9.2 Rounding Mark 4 will be an orange inflatable tetrahedron. It is not a mark of the course on leg 3.
- 9.3 Change marks will be orange inflatable tetrahedrons.
- 9.4 The starting marks are two race committee boats on either end of the starting line, and if present, any keep off buoys and all their means of attachment to these boats, all of which are defined as starting marks. A boat may not pass between a keep-off starting mark and the boat to which it is attached.
- 9.5 The finishing marks will be a race committee finish boat at the starboard end of the finish line and a race committee pin boat at the port end of the line.

10 RESTRICTED AREAS (see also SIs 8 and 20)

- 10.1 The **racing area** is the space encompassing the course, the starting area, and the finishing area. It extends 100 yards beyond any racing boat and marks 1, 2, 3S/3P, 4, the finish marks, and the measurement boat. Except as permitted by SI 20, only competing boats and official boats (designated by the race committee) may enter the racing area while boats are racing.
- 10.2 The **waiting area** is the area to leeward of the racing area below the starting line. Its windward edge and its extensions to starboard of the starting line will be marked by a series of small orange balls or marks below the starting line. Coach and support (parent or spectator) boats are to anchor with their anchors at or behind the line formed by the row of balls or marks.
- 10.3 The **corridor** is a lane between the finish line and the starting line outside the bounds of the race course. It will be bounded by small orange balls or marks.

11 THE START

- 11.1 The starting rotation for a set of races will always be by division in the following order: Pink, Purple, Yellow.
- 11.2 The class flags will be the division flags (colored streamers).
- 11.3 The starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on a race committee signal boat at the starboard end and a staff displaying an orange flag on a race committee boat at the port end.
- 11.4 At least one minute prior to the first warning signal of a set of races, the race committee will hoist its orange starting line flags with a sound signal. All boats not in the next start shall proceed immediately to the waiting area and remain there until the race committee flies flag F (red diamond on a white field) or lowers the orange starting line flags.
- 11.5 Shortly after the first start of a set has been made, the race committee will display flag F, indicating that boats in the next start may leave the waiting area.

- 11.6 A boat starting later than five (5) minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes rule A4 and A5.
- 11.8 If flag “U” has been displayed as the preparatory signal, no part of a boat’s hull, crew, or equipment shall be in the triangle formed by the ends of the starting line and the first mark during the last minute before her starting signal. If a boat breaks this rule and is identified, she shall be disqualified without a hearing, but not if the race is restarted or resailed or postponed or abandoned before the starting signal. This changes rule 26.
- 11.9 If flag I and/or Z, U flag, or the black flag has been displayed, the race committee may make general announcements regarding the approximate number of boats on the course side of the starting line, but will not hail individual sail numbers. Failure of the race committee to hail, failure of the amplification system, the order of the hails, or failure of a boat to hear a hail will not be grounds for a boat to request for redress. This changes rules 41 and 62.1.
- 11.10 Any starting penalties from races that are abandoned after the starting signal and not re-sailed on the same day will not carry over to those races if they are re-sailed on another day in the regatta. This changes rules 30.2 and 30.3.

12 THE FINISH

- 12.1 The finish line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on a race committee boat on the starboard end and a staff displaying an orange flag on a race committee boat on the port end.
- 12.2 All boats that have finished shall immediately sail beyond the finish line and any race committee boats and promptly return directly to the leeward side of the starting area via the corridor shown in SI Addendum 1, except those boats subject to SI 13, below.

13 MEASUREMENT CHECKS/RETURN TO THE STARTING AREA

The first 10 boats to cross the finish line of each race shall report immediately after finishing to the measurement boat anchored just beyond and slightly upwind of the finishing line and displaying the USODA measurement boat flag (white M on red background). They shall stay in the vicinity until measured or released by verbal instructions from the measurement boat. No adjustments to the rigging of the boat may be made between the times the boat finishes and this measurement. Boats in doubt as to whether they finished in the top 10 finishers should report to the measurement boat. After being measured or released, boats shall promptly return to the waiting area via the corridor shown in SI Addendum 1.

14 ON-WATER PROTEST COMMITTEE

On-water protest committee boats will fly code flag J. A protest committee member may also be aboard the race committee signal boat, and if so, that boat will display code flag J.

15 TIME LIMITS

- 15.1 The time limit for the first boat in a race to sail the course and finish is 90 minutes.
- 15.2 Boats failing to finish within 20 minutes after the first boat in a race sails the course and finishes will be scored Did Not Finish without a hearing. This changes rules 35, A4 and A5.

16 PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

General

- 16.1 Protest and scoring review forms are available at the protest committee desk in the Judges’ Area located on the Junior clubhouse deck. Protests and requests for redress or reopening shall be delivered there within the appropriate time limit.

- 16.2 The protest time limit is 45 minutes after the race committee signal boat docks. The protest time limit (filing deadline) will be posted on the official notice board as soon as practical.
- 16.3 The protest notices required by rule 63.2, and the notification of protests by the race committee or the protest committee required by rule 61.1(b), will be posted on the official notice board as soon as possible after a protest has been delivered, but not later than 30 minutes after the protest time limit.
- 16.4 A breach of SIs 5.3, 11.4, 13, 18, 19 and 21 will not be grounds for a protest by a boat. This changes rule 60.1(a).
- 16.5 Hearings will be held at the protest room located in the Junior clubhouse. The helmsman shall represent the boat. This changes rule 63.3(a). Representatives of boats who are parties to a hearing and their witnesses shall remain on call in the vicinity of the Judges' Area.

Redress Requests

- 16.6 Requests for scoring reviews for possible scoring errors are considered requests for redress as per rule 62.1. They shall be filed with the protest committee within the time limit and will initially be reviewed by the race committee. If resolved by the race committee, no hearing will be scheduled. If not resolved by the race committee, the race committee will request a hearing and the protest committee will proceed per rule 63.1.
- 16.7 If the race committee posts a list of boats scored OCS, ZFP, UFD, or BFD on the official notice board before the protest time limit, a request for redress based on such a posted score shall be made no later than one hour after the protest time limit. This changes the first sentence of rule 62.2.
- 16.8 Requests for redress relating to an OCS or starting penalty shall state the procedural error the competitor believes the race committee may have made. Further, the competitor will be expected to establish that he or she started properly. This changes rule 62.2.
- 16.9 Any competitor who may wish to become a party to a scheduled redress hearing should: 1) Check the daily schedule of protest and redress hearings that the protest committee will post on the official notice board describing the nature of the redress request and time of the hearing, and 2) submit a written request to participate in the hearing to the protest committee before the hearing begins. Redress requests that are filed regarding an incident that occurs after the day's protest time will be posted as soon as practical on the official notice board. Competitors who want to become a party to any of these hearings shall submit a written request to the protest committee 15 minutes prior to the next day's harbor start, or on the last day of the regatta within 15 minutes of the redress request posting.
- 16.10 On the last scheduled day of racing a request for reopening a hearing shall be delivered
- (a) Within the protest time limit if the requesting party was informed of the decision on the previous day;
 - (b) No later than 30 minutes after the requesting party was informed of the decision on that day. This changes rule 66.
- 16.11 On the last scheduled day of racing a request for redress based on a protest committee decision shall be delivered no later than 30 minutes after the decision was posted. This changes rule 62.2.

Penalties

- 16.12 A list of boats penalized for breaking rule 42 will be posted as soon as practical after racing.
- 16.13 The penalty anytime a boat breaks SI 18.1 (Safety Bracelet Check-Out or Check-In) will be a 10-point scoring penalty assigned without a hearing. The organizing authority will report all infractions of SI 18.1 directly to the scorer by protest time limit. This changes rules 63.1 and A5. A boat with multiple

infractions of SI 18.1 may be protested by the race committee and the penalty will be at the discretion of the protest committee, and may be less than or greater than DSQ.

- 16.14 The penalty for the first time a boat breaks any of SIs 5.3, 11.4, 13, 18, 19 and 21, or for failing an on-water measurement inspection for the first time, shall be a 10-point scoring penalty. The penalty for subsequent occurrences will be at the discretion of the protest committee and may be less than or greater than DSQ.
- 16.15 A boat that has taken a penalty under rule 44.1 shall complete and sign the alternative penalty acknowledgment log at the protest committee desk in the Judges' Area.

17 SCORING

- 17.1 The Low Point Scoring System of Appendix A will apply as revised by these sailing instructions.
- 17.2 In the Qualifying Round only complete sets of races will be scored. A boat's scores from races in incomplete sets of races will not be counted. This changes rule A2 and 90.3(a).
- 17.3 One completed set of races will constitute the Qualifying Round and the National Championship Series. One completed race for the Gold division and one completed set of races for the Silver divisions will constitute the Medal Round.
- 17.4 Qualifying Round Scores: When 5 or more sets of races have been completed, a boat's final Qualifying Round score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.
- 17.5 Medal Round Scores: When 4 or fewer races or sets of races have been completed a boat's final Medal Round score will be the total of her race scores plus her final Qualifying Round score. When 5 or more races or sets of races have been completed, a boat's final Medal Round score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst Medal Round score, plus her final Qualifying Round score. If no races are completed in the Medal Round, then the rankings from the Qualifying Round that were or would have been used to assign boats to the Medal Round divisions will be the basis for Medal Round prizes.
- 17.6 National Championship and Age Group (Red, White & Blue) Series Scores: The combined scores from the Qualifying and Medal Rounds will determine the National Championship and Age Group Series Scores. Gold Fleet boats will be ranked above Silver Fleet boats. If there is no Medal Round, the final Qualifying Round scores will determine these series scores.
- 17.7 Rules 30.2, 44.3(c), and A4.2 are changed so that the scores are based on the number of boats registered for the event divided by three rounded up to the nearest whole number.

18 SAFETY REGULATIONS

- 18.1 Participants will receive a safety bracelet at registration, for which they will be responsible throughout the duration of the event. Upon launching, sailors shall take their corresponding safety bracelet number off of the "safety board". Upon returning to shore, sailors shall place their safety bracelet on the corresponding number on the board indicating a safe return to CYC.
- 18.2 A competitor retiring from a race shall notify a race committee boat or patrol boat before leaving the course, or notify the race committee immediately upon returning to shore.
- 18.3 A condition of entry and participation in this regatta is the wearing of a US Coast Guard approved non-inflatable PFD properly secured at all times while on the water, except for brief periods while removing or adding clothing, or for international sailors only, a PFD approved by their country's corresponding authority. Failure to wear one will result in a penalty up to and including disqualification at the discretion of the protest committee. This changes rule 40.
- 18.4 Each competitor shall have a whistle attached to their PFD at all times while on the water.
- 18.5 Each boat shall have a secure loop in the end of its bow line.

19 EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT

- 19.1 Boats are allowed only one hull, dagger-board, rudder (including tiller and extension), mast, boom, sprit, and sail during the regatta. The race committee must approve any substitution of damaged equipment as soon as practical.
- 19.2 Measurement may be made of boats at any time during the regatta by the measurement boat or at the direction of the race committee. See also SI 13 regarding mandatory measurement checks after finishing.

20 COACHING REGULATIONS

- 20.1 Coaches are expected to be good role models for young sailors and conduct themselves accordingly ashore and on the water.
- 20.2 Parents who are on the water either in spectator or coach boats are considered coaches for the purpose of SI 20. Those parents who serve on race committee boats (including patrol and safety boats) may be in a unique position to provide information that may create competitive advantage. These parents may not communicate in any way with their sailors or their coaches from the time the orange line flags are displayed until their sailor has finished his or her race (this will be referred to as the “No Communication Period”). The only exception to this rule is when the PRO directs them or they are involved with safety and rescue. During periods of time when communication with coaches and/or sailors is permissible, these parents shall not transfer any strategic or tactical information (including audio or video recordings) gained due to, among other things, their advantageous location on the race course or their access to race committee communications, unless such information is made available to all sailors, coaches and other parents/supporters. Communications of a personal nature (e.g., ‘great race’, ‘get something to drink’, ‘go see your coach’, etc.) are always permissible outside the “No Communication Period”.
- 20.3 General coach and support (including spectator) boat requirements
- (a) Coach boats shall fly a numbered blue flag provided by the race committee at all times while on the water. Coach boats shall carry a VHF radio and monitor the race committee channel (VHF 72), particularly in windy/threatening weather.
 - (b) Support (parent and spectator) boats shall fly a green flag with a number provided by the race committee at all times while on the water.
 - (c) No ‘team’ flags, private signal flags, or any object that might be construed as a signal shall be flown from coach or support boats while racing is underway.
 - (d) Coach and support boats shall follow the instructions of race committee, patrol, safety, and protest committee boats at all times.
 - (e) No coach or support boat shall tie up to or congregate around any aid to navigation, such as buoys or channel markers, or tie up to any fixed fishing gear, crab, lobster pots or oyster stakes.
- 20.4 Restrictions
- (a) All coach and support boats shall stay out of the racing area while boats are racing and at least 100 yards away from any racing boat, and move slowly and with minimal wake, except where permitted in this instruction.
 - (b) Certain coach boats may be designated as rescue craft by the Principal Race Officer (PRO) or Safety Officer and given permission to enter the racing area for the purposes of rescue operations only.
 - (c) When the race committee hoists (or is displaying) its orange starting line flags, all coach and support boats in the starting area shall proceed immediately to the waiting area and shall remain there

until the race committee lowers the orange starting line flags with a sound signal, except that, after the first and subsequent start(s) of a set of races, coach and support boats may exit the waiting area and proceed slowly with minimal wake to the weather mark. The race committee may close the starboard side of the course to coach and support boats.

(d) Coach boats and support boats may only wait in the corridor as boats are finishing and briefly talk to sailors provided they stay well clear of any racing boat and do not delay the start of the next set of races.

20.5 Penalties

(a) Competitors affiliated with any coach, parent, or support boat that breaks SI 20 may break rule 41 even when boats are not racing. This changes rule 41 (Outside Help).

(b) Coaches, parents, or support boats that break SI 20 may be subject to disciplinary actions by the Organizing Authority in accordance with the USODA Code of Conduct.

21 ENVIRONMENT

Competitors and Coaches are expected to comply with rule 55. Trash may be placed aboard support and coach boats.

22 PRIZES

Prizes will be awarded according to the notice of race.

23 DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. See rule 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. All competitors and their parent/guardian must sign a waiver.

24 SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS - ADVERTISING

Boats are required to display advertising chosen and supplied by the organizing authority.

SI ADDENDUM 1 - Race Course and Restricted Areas
 (see also SI 9, 10, 11, 12, and 20)

