

SSA 2016 General Sailing Instructions

Rules:

Racing will be governed by the rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing for 2013-2016

Membership:

Membership in the Sandpoint Sailing Association (SSA) is required for competing in the Weekend Races. Non-members can participate in individual races, but their scores will be excluded from the Weekend Races. A two race-grace period is allowed. Scores during the grace period will be counted if memberships are later obtained.

Entries:

Competitors may enter by delivering a completed entry form and paying the appropriate fees prior to the committee boat leaving the dock at the beginning of each race.

Fees:

- SSA Membership – Household: \$60.00, Individual: \$35.00, Junior \$15.00
- Weekend Races – Entry Fee for a series race is \$10.00/race or \$50.00 for the series

Schedule of Races:

The number of races and scheduled time of the warning signal for the first race will be announced at the skippers meeting preceding the race. When there has been a long postponement the warning signal for the first race and each succeeding race will be made as soon as practicable. Once a starting time has been determined, please proceed as quickly as possible to the starting area. Taking extra time to “sail” to the starting line, while other wait, is inconsiderate of other racers. The Race Committee is committed to getting races started on time.

Fleet and Fleet Flags:

Boats will be assigned to classes based on prior performance. Prior to racing, a boat may request to be assigned to an alternative fleet. Boats that have not raced in prior events must contact the Race Committee, and are encouraged to make their request before race day.

1st Fleet (typically a yellow flag) – Boats not intending to fly a spinnaker

2nd Fleet (typically a green flag) – Boats intending to fly a spinnaker

If more fleets are added, the flags for those fleets will be announced at the skippers meeting preceding the race.

Racing Areas and Courses:

The location of racing areas and courses will be announced at the skippers meeting preceding the race.

- Weekend Races – Courses will be described at the Skipper’s Meeting. Some long distance races may not have a windward mark set at the start of a race. Competitors in these races will be given a general description of where marks may be found, but it is the responsibility of the racers to locate and round the marks correctly.
- Thursday Night Races – Courses will be described at the Skipper’s Meeting. The racing area will typically be north of the Windbag Marina and far enough off shore to maintain good winds.

Restricted Start/Finish Line:

The start/finish line typically is not restricted. If a restricted start/finish line is established, it shall be announced at the skipper’s meeting or designated on the course map. If the line is restricted, a boat shall not sail through the start/finish line after starting and before finishing. If restricted, the Race Committee shall disqualify any boat crossing a restricted start/finish line while racing.

Marks:

Marks are typically large orange inflatable buoys. If different marks are used, they will be identified at the skipper’s meeting preceding the race. Unless otherwise designated at the skipper’s meeting, marks shall be passed on the port side of the boat (port roundings).

Signals Made Ashore:

Signals made ashore will be displayed at the place where the skippers meeting is held.

Areas that are Obstructions:

No areas are designated as obstructions, except a restricted start/finish line and the shoreline (to include the jetty).

The Start:

Races will be starting using Rule 26. The starting line will be between the course side of the starting mark and the staff of the orange flag on the committee boat. Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area. A boat starting later than 15 minutes after her starting signal shall be scored a Did Not Start (DNS). See rule A4.2.

Shortening the Course:

If the race committee signals a shortened course (display flag S and two sounds) and displays the flags of one or more classes, the finish line for those fleets whose class flags are displayed shall be at the next mark (a rounding mark or the pin end of the start/finish line), between the mark and a staff displaying flag S. If the race committee signals a shortened course and no class flags are displayed, the finish line for all fleets shall be at the next mark, (a rounding mark or the pin end of the start/finish line), between the mark and a staff displaying flag S. This changes rule 32.2

The Finish:

The finish line will be between the course side of a finishing mark and the staff with the orange flag on the race committee signaling boat. All boats shall clear the finish area as soon as they have crossed the finish line.

Time Limits:

Unless changed at the Skippers Meeting, the finishing time for the first boat in a class boats shall be two hours after that class's starting signal. If one boat finishes in the time allowed, the rest of the boats in the fleet shall finish within 45 minutes of the first boat or they shall be scored DNF. This changes RR35.

Scoring:

Shall be per the Racing Rules of Sailing. If a minimum of six weekend races are completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores, less one throw-out. The throw-out will be the first occurrence of her highest score.

Fleet Assignments:

A boat may choose to sail with the spinnaker fleet or the non-spinnaker fleet for each race. If a boat races in both fleets in the same season, she shall be scored Did Not Compete (DNC) for each race in each fleet that she did not participate in.

In the event a designated race steward is not available, a volunteer race steward may be required. If this requirement precludes a boat from racing in that race, the boat will be scored Officer Of the Day (OOD). The score will be equal to the average of that boat's other scores in a series.

Protests:

Protest Forms are available at the location of the skipper's meeting preceding the race. For all classes, the protest limit is 30 minutes after the race committee boat has returned to shore.

Serious Collisions:

A collision causing damage requiring more than normal maintenance is regarded as a serious incident. When such damage occurs, the Protest Committee shall hold a hearing under RRS 60.2, 60.3, & 63 to determine the facts and consider whether those involved exercised reasonable care in handling their boats. When the Protest Committee finds that either or both boat(s) did not exercise reasonable care, one or both shall be disqualified, regardless of any alternative penalty(ies) accepted under RRS 44.1. In extreme cases, either or both boat(s) may be excluded from the rest of the regatta or series. (Changes RRS 64.1).

Ties and Other Rules:

In accordance with the Racing Rules for Sailing, series scoring shall include the following: (A8.1) if there is a series-score tie between two or more boats, each boat's race scores shall be listed in order of best to worst, and at the first point(s) where there is a difference the tie shall be broken in favor of the boat(s) with the best score(s). No excluded scores shall be used. (A8.2) if a tie remains between two or more boats, they shall be ranked in order of the scores in the last race. Any remaining ties shall be broken by using the tied boat's scores in the next-to-last race and so on until all ties are broken. These scores shall be used even if some of them are excluded scores.

Safety Regulations:

A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee as soon as possible. Competitors participate in racing 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 prior to, in conjunction with, or after racing.

Radio Communication:

Without limiting the application of Rule 41, the transmission or receipt while racing of any communication for the direct or indirect benefit of an individual boat is prohibited. This includes fee-for-service weather information and all routing information or advice. This does not include communication, including electronic communications required in order to comply with the notice of race and sailing instructions or for personal messages not related to a boat's performance in the race.

VHF Channel 72 is designated for communication between the race committee and competitors.

Prizes:

Trophies or medals will be awarded as soon as possible (typically 12 days) after the race. Prizes will be awarded for the top three boats in each fleet for the Weekend Races. No prizes will be awarded for Thursday night races. Traveling trophies will be awarded at the fall BBQ.

Video and Photography Rights:

All pictures, audio and video recordings, graphic logos, and service names contained herein or produced during the season by or on behalf of the SSA are the properties of the SSA. No rights are granted to use pictures, graphic logos, and service names without permission. Competitors give absolute right and permission for video footage or photographs of themselves or their boats to be published in any media for press, editorial or advertising purposes.

Insurance:

Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance.