



Race Instructions for 2024

Rules

Races will be governed by “The Racing Rules of Sailing” (RRS) 2021-2024, except as modified by these sailing instructions. <https://www.ussailing.org/competition/rules-officiating/the-racing-rules-of-sailing-2021-2024/>

Eligibility

- All skippers shall be **Members** of BLSA. All skippers shall have a current, completed, and signed 2024 BLSA Racing Registration form on file with the Race Director.
- **Non-members** wishing to race must attend the skippers meeting and fill out and sign the Racing Registration form and the Liability waiver.

Disclaimer of Liability

- All skippers shall have a current, complete, and signed liability waiver form on file with the Race Director.
- Brookville Lake Sailing Association members and/or volunteers shall not be held liable for material damage or personal injury sustained in connection with or prior to, during, or after the races.

Safety

Boat owners/ participants shall have onboard, all the legally required and appropriate safety equipment.

Communications

- Notices to competitors or changes to sailing instructions will be announced at the skippers’ meeting prior to the races each day.
- RRS 27 is amended to allow for on-the-water radio communications between the racing boats and committee on **VHF channel 68**.
- If you miss the skippers meeting and intend to race, please hail the committee boat via VHF radio ch 68 or sail by the stern of the boat to let the race committee know you intend to race.
- Likewise, if you leave the racecourse early or do not participate in all races let the race committee know your intent.

Decision to Race

As stated in RRS Rule 4, a boat’s skipper and/or crew are solely responsible for deciding whether or not to start or to continue racing, for example, when there is threatening weather in the area.

Schedules: BLSA Racing Program – 20 races planned for 2024

Rounds the buoys - traditional races

- The schedule of races will be posted on the BLSA website: www.blsa.us.
- The skippers meeting will begin at approximately 1200 hours (noon) EDT at the Hanna Creek Dock.
- The first race will begin at approximately 1300 hours (1:00PM) EDT.
- If possible, cancelled races will be rescheduled on designated make up days as outlined in the BLSA schedule of events.
- The time-on-time handicapping system used will be the Portsmouth Yardstick (D/PN) without corrections for wind speed. Modification factors and adjustments for unique boats will be at the discretion of the Race Director. All Portsmouth numbers and modifications for each boat will be posted on the website and agreed upon prior to a boat's participation in the BLSA racing program.

Non-traditional course' races – 'Bridge to Bridge or Distance races'

- The schedule of races is provided on the BLSA website: www.blsa.us.
- The skippers meeting will begin at approximately 1200 hours EDT at the Hanna Creek Dock or at the discretion of the BLSA Race Director.
- The race will begin at approximately 1300 hours (1:00PM) EDT or as announced by the BLSA race director.
- Instructions for the races and specific course details will be given prior to the start of the race.

Schedule: BLSA Pig Regatta

- The "Notice to Competitors" for this event will be published no later than one month prior to the event.
- The Pig Regatta will not be scored as part of the overall season racing series.
- The Pig Regatta may be open to boats outside of the BLSA membership.

Racing Area

The racing area will be determined by the Race Director and announced at the skippers meeting.

Race Course

- The specific race course for each race day will be determined by the Race Director (or by an appointee). The courses planned will be discussed at the skippers meeting and/or announced via VHF channel 68 to boats arriving at the race course and not attending the skippers meeting.
- Diagrams of the standard courses are available through the Race Director.
- The start/finish line is off-limits or 'sacred' while racing; boats shall not cross through the line on any leg of the course except at the start and finish of each race. A boat doing so must 'unwind the string' by sailing back across the line in the direction they came from and then sailing around either end of the line and continuing the race.

Starting Sequence

The race committee will control the starting sequence and whenever possible provide an announcement via VHF channel 68 that they are about to initiate the starting sequence. When initiated the automatic timing/horn system will provide a warning consisting of several short horn blasts that will occur 15-20 seconds before the actual starting sequence begins. This is when skippers should be prepared to start their own stopwatch/timer. The first long horn blast after this warning series will be the start of the five-minute sequence. Subsequent horns blasts will sound at the following intervals.

| <u>Minutes before Start</u> | <u>Signal designation</u> |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 5:00 | Countdown start |
| 4:00 | Preparatory signal |
| 1:00 | One Minute signal |
| 0:00 | Start Signal |

Recalls

- Individual Recall: When the Race Committee can identify any boats that are on the course side of the starting line at the starting signal (known as over-early), the race committee may offer a courtesy call to over-early boats via VHF radio or by hail. However, lack of a hail or inability to hear any hail does not release the over-early boat from its penalty. The penalty requires the offending boat to re-round either end of the starting line to exonerate themselves and restart the race as noted below. Note that during this exoneration period that boat must stay clear of all other boats and has no right of way over boats properly starting. Any boat not returning and properly starting will be scored DNS.
- General Recall: When the race committee is unable to determine the boats that are over the start line early, a general recall will be announced via radio by the committee and accompanied by several horn blasts. After allowing boats to recognize the general recall, the committee will again initiate the starting sequence.

Starting Penalties- Rule 30: Rule 30.1 Round-an-End Rule - Any boat being over the start line within one minute before the start shall round outside either the committee boat or the starting pin to return to the start (no dip starts, i.e. you can't cross the starting line after the one minute signal and then just 'dip' back below the line to start, you must re-round either end of the start line.

Time Limits

- To avoid 'drifting contests', the race committee at its discretion may restart the race if no boat rounds the first mark within 25 minutes. Announced via VHF radio CH 68 and several horn blasts.
- Once boats return to the starting area the race will be restarted, again at the discretion of the race committee.
- The time limit for each race will be 1.5 hours (unless otherwise announced at the skippers meeting) for the first boat of each fleet to finish.
- At the discretion of the race director, or his appointee, a boat actively racing, but not finishing, more than 30 minutes after the first properly finishing boat of her fleet will be finished in place (FIP)

Scoring

- The time-on-time handicapping system used will be the Portsmouth Yardstick (D/PN) without corrections for wind speed. Modification factors and adjustments for unique boats will be at the discretion of the Race Director. All Portsmouth numbers and modifications for each boat will be posted on the website and agreed upon prior to a boat's participation in the BLSA racing program.
- After adjusting finish times by boat type Portsmouth handicaps (corrected time) boats will be scored: 1st place – 1pt, 2nd place 2pts, etc.
- The following 3 letter codes are used to address scoring adjustments for the various reasons defined.

| Adjustment code | Scoring Adjustment |
|--|--|
| DNC (Did Not Compete) DNS (Did Not Start) | # of boats in <u>series</u> +1 |
| DNF (Did Not Finish) FIP (Finish in place) NSC (Did not sail course) | # of boats <u>finishing</u> +1 |
| DSQ (Disqualification) | # of boats in <u>series</u> +1, and cannot be thrown-out |
| RCD (Race committee duty) | Average of that skippers' points for all completed races |

Scoring Committee Duty - RCD

- Those boats whose skippers perform committee duty will receive a score for each completed race in which they perform committee duty of the average of that skippers' points for all completed races in which they competed.

BLSA Regatta and Season Series Racing Format

- The BLSA first half of the season winner will be determined based on the best finishes in 6 of the 10 planned races, same process will be used for the winner of the second half of the season.
- The BLSA Club Champion will be determined based on the best finishes for the entire season which should be 12 of the 20 planned races.
- Breaking a Tie: Race ties will be decided by using RRS A7. Series ties will be decided using rule RRS A8.

Penalties and Protests

- A boat intending to protest another boat for a perceived rule infraction shall inform the other boat at the first reasonable opportunity by attempting to inform the offending boat of the perceived rule infraction by hailing "Protest" and as much as possible describing the protested action to the other boat.
- In accordance with RRS 44.1 and 44.2 the 720-degree (two circles) penalty shall apply for a rule of Part 2 while racing, and a 360 degree (one circle) when breaking rule 31 (touching a mark).

Awards

- Awards will be given for the top three places for both the first and second half seasons as well as the full season for club champion.
- Championship awards will be presented at the annual fall dinner