



2023 Smallboat Thursday Evening Racing Series

Southern Maryland Sailing Association
14490 Solomons Island Rd, Solomons, MD 20688

NOTICE OF RACE

DATE

Thursdays; 27 April through 14 September 2023.
First signal will be made on the water at 1830.

REGISTRATION & FEE

Included in Annual Smallboat Race Fee. All individual SMSA Members who pay the fees are considered registrants and no other registration actions are required. Boats that have not paid race fees may compete for three Thursday races at \$10 per night. Entering a 4th day of races constitutes acceptance of the burden of paying the balance to Smallboat season race fees. Check in before the first race is required, see SI's for check in procedures.

Send questions to: smallboatrace@smsa.com.

CLASSES:

Anticipated classes are: 420, ILCA, Buccaneer 18, and Portsmouth. The RC may, before the first race of the day, depending on the number and type of entries, combine classes, elect to score additional classes.

SOCIAL

There is a gathering at the SMSA clubhouse after racing for a results presentation. Availability of refreshments and snacks for purchase is planned. Please see SMSA website under the Race column, Smallboat Racing link for schedule, RC information, and possible social activities and food planning.

<https://www.smsa.com/>



SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

1. RULES

1.1. The series will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing 2021-2024.

2. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

2.1. Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located in the middle room by the double doors to the front room in the SMSA Clubhouse.

3. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

3.1. Any change to the sailing instructions will be hailed in the starting area from the RC boat prior to the first race of the day.

4. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

4.1. Signals made ashore will be displayed on the flagpole at the rear of the SMSA Clubhouse

4.2. When the flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 30 minutes' in the race signal sequence for AP.

5. SCHEDULE OF RACES

5.1. Thursday evenings from 27 April through 14 September, first Warning: 1830. Additional races to follow at the discretion of the RC. RC will inform participants of the intention to run additional races, change the course, or conclude racing for the day.

6. RACING AREA

6.1. The racing area will be located on the lower Patuxent River on the southern side of Area C, southeast of the tip of Solomons Island. See Attachment A for race areas.

7. COURSE

7.1. The course will be determined by the RC after taking into account the types of boats, the number of competitors, and weather conditions in the race area.

7.2. The RC will select one of the four courses listed in Attachment A and may announce a shortened course prior to the start.

7.3. Competitors will be notified as to the course while in the Starting Area by hail from the RC prior to the start of each race.

8. CHECK IN

8.1. Each boat shall sail by the race committee boat and hail their; sail number, class, last name of helm and crew members, and be acknowledged by the race committee with a return hail of her sail number. This must be done before a boat starts its first racing for the evening.

8.2. A boat failing to comply with the check-in procedure shall receive, without a hearing, a 20% scoring penalty in the first race in which the boat competes, calculated in accordance with RRS 44.3(c). This changes rule 63.1 and A4.

8.3. A boat normally equipped with a spinnaker may elect to sail a race as non-spin and be scored in that race with a rating credit for not having a spinnaker. The skipper must notify the RC before the start of each race and receive an acknowledgement from the RC. All boats normally equipped with a spinnaker that fail to notify RC of their intent and receive an acknowledgement will be assumed to be racing with a spinnaker and scored as such.



8.4. All SMSA 420's are assumed to be non-spin.

9. THE START

9.1. It is anticipated that all Classes will start separately with rolling starts but the RC may modify this and split class starts at its discretion. The RC will hail the starting order prior to each race.

9.2. Appendix S – Sound Signal Starting System, will replace Rule 26, Starting Races.

9.3. The starting line will be between a yellow flag on the RC boat and the designated adjacent race mark.

9.4. Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area during the starting sequence for other races.

9.5. It is incumbent on the competitor to time the start correctly. If any part of a boat's hull, crew or equipment is on the course side (OCS) of the starting line at immediately prior to her starting signal and she is identified, the race committee will hail her sail number in accordance with Appendix S. Failure of the competitor to hear the hail or failure of the race committee to time it accurately will not be grounds for a request for redress. This changes rule 62.1(a).

10. THE FINISH

10.1. The finish line will be between a yellow flag on the RC boat and the designated adjacent race mark.

11. PENALTY SYSTEM

11.1. The penalties are as follows: One-Turn Penalty (1 tack and 1 gybe in same direction), RRS Appendix D1.3 (a), will apply. This changes Rule 44.1.

12. TIME LIMITS

12.1. The time limit for each race is 1 hours per class. If no boat has completed the course within the time limit, the race will be abandoned.

12.2. Boats failing to finish within 20 min after the first boat in her class sails the course and finishes will be scored Did Not Finish (DNF) without a hearing. This changes rules 35, A4 and A5.

13. PROTESTS

13.1. Protests shall be hailed to the Race Committee immediately following the race in which the infraction occurred. The protest shall then be lodged with the Race Committee at SMSA within one hour of the finish time of the last boat in class or at the time of Race Committee arrival, whichever is later. If the Three Minute Justice process is being used, protests will be heard the Thursday evening of the race or the following Thursday if either the protesting or protested boat, or appropriate PC members cannot attend a Protest Hearing the same day.

13.2. If the incident includes damage to a boat and/or injury to crew, a formal protest must be filed and hearing held by three qualified club members.

13.3. Appendix Rule T, Arbitration, will be offered at the discretion of the Protest Committee.

14. SCORING

14.1. Races will be recorded for daily results and will be computed for the day's racing using the Low Point scoring system of RRS Appendix A. Classes scored shall be 420, ILCA, Buccaneer 18, and Portsmouth. All finishers, including designated classes, will have recorded times for the purpose of scoring an overall winner.

14.2. Rule A5.3 will be used for scoring boats that did not compete, did not start, did not sail the course, did not finish, retired, or is disqualified.



- 14.3.** Rule A5.3 is further changed to read:
If the notice of race or sailing instructions state that rule A5.3 will apply, rule A5.2 is changed so that a boat that did not come to the starting area, did not start, did not sail the course, did not finish, retired, or was disqualified shall be scored points for the finishing place one more than the number of boats that finished the race.
- 14.4.** For the races sailed on the months of May, June, July, and August, a series score will be computed using the High-Point Percentage System. Reference:
<https://www.ussailing.org/competition/rules-officiating/racing-rules/scoring-a-long-series/>
- 14.5.** Points for the series High-Point Percentage System score are awarded to the registrant. A registered boat may participate without the registrant onboard, with the permission of both the registrant and the Smallboat Chair or Vice Chair. A registered boat sailed without the registrant on board will be scored for the day's racing but will not accrue points for the series high point score.
- 14.6.** To qualify for inclusion in the final series results a registrant shall compete in at least 51% of the races completed as per SI 13.2, and the registrant shall have served as race committee or yard volunteer days for at least two times during the club year. The requirement to serve as race committee can be waived by the Smallboat Race Chair if a good-faith effort was made to meet the requirement (e.g., weather cancellations, alternate club duties, etc). Junior members and Summer Camp members are exempt from this requirement.
- 14.7.** Three races are required to be completed to constitute a Series.
- 14.8.** A boat that sails the series with a spinnaker rating and a non-spin rating will be counted as one boat throughout the series and be eligible for High Point scoring.

15. SAFETY REGULATIONS

- 15.1.** Check in is required as described in section 7.
- 15.2.** A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee as soon as possible.
- 15.3.** A boat shall carry all equipment required by her class rules. If not so specified, she shall also carry one USCG approved PFD, of the appropriate class, for each person on board.
- 15.4.** All boats shall have available an appropriate line, not less than 25 feet long, which can be used for towing. Violation of this provision is not subject to protest or cause for redress.
- 15.5.** All Competitors under the age of 18 are required to wear USCG Approved Personal Flotation Devices at all times while on the water except briefly while changing or adjusting clothing or personal equipment. This includes the time from when the boat leaves the club pier or other launch point until she returns to that launch point. This changes the Part 4 preamble and Rule 40. Competitors that do not comply with this regulation will be scored DNC.
- 15.6.** Competitors aged 18 or older should always be alert for a code flag Y displayed from any Race Committee boat invoking Rule 40. Competitors that do not comply with rule 40 when Code Flag Y is displayed shall be scored DNC.
- 15.7.** Evening races can easily result in boats remaining on the water after sundown. Competitors are hereby reminded to have and employ legal night lighting aboard their vessels.

16. TRASH DISPOSAL

- 16.1.** Boats shall not put trash in the water. Trash may be placed aboard support and race committee boats. A boat failing to follow this rule may be subject to protest by the Race Committee.

17. RADIO COMMUNICATION

- 17.1.** Except in an emergency, a boat shall neither make radio/phone transmissions while racing nor receive radio/phone communications not available to all boats. Electronic communications for the



purpose of checking weather forecasts is permitted providing the service is one available to the general public with no fees.

18. PRIZES

18.1. Prizes will be given at the conclusion of the series.

18.2. Awards will be determined by the number of boats per class: 3/1st, 5/2nd, 7/3rd.

19. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

19.1. Sailboat Racing is an inherently dangerous activity that may result in injury or death.

Competitors participating in the series entirely at their own risk. See rule 4, Decision to Race. The organizing authority and its volunteers will not accept any liability for material damage, personal injury, or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after this event.



Attachment A – Courses & Areas

Designation	Description
W	Windward/Leeward (5 legs, windward finish)
L	Windward/Leeward (4 legs, leeward finish)
O	Olympic triangle (6 legs, windward finish)
G	Triangle (5 legs, leeward finish)

Course W

Course L

Course O

Course G

