

# ***LMSA Cruiser Sailing Instructions - revised 04/30/2021***

## **THE CRUISER FLEET ORGANIZATION**

- 1.1 Members of LMSA may join the Cruiser Fleet organization provided they have a sailboat weighing at least 750 pounds, is at least 18 feet long and the skipper has paid the established fleet dues of \$25 for the year.
- 1.2 The Cruiser Fleet Flag Officers (CFFO) will be the Commodore, Vice Commodore and Scorekeeper. They will be in charge of fleet racing schedules, Group Me App notices, season standings, RC assignments, fleet rules and other activities as may be required.
- 1.3 Any LMSA skipper with a proper cruiser can race but they must be a member of the Cruiser Fleet to be scored and to receive awards. Each racing boat must have at least one crew member in addition to the skipper.
- 1.4 Each boat racing must have a sail number, a PHRF handicap (as may be adjusted) and the proper safety equipment.
- 1.5 Scoring will be by teams rather than individuals. Skippers will designate a team name when signing up. Skippers can change crew and boats.
- 1.6 The assigned Race Committee (RC) will conduct the scheduled races when a minimum of 3 more boats are racing and the weather conditions permit.
- 1.7 The Cruiser Fleet Races will be governed by the latest issue of the US Sailing *The Racing Rules of Sailing* as may be modified or appended by the Flag Officers

## **SCHEDULE OF RACES and Race Committees**

- 2.1 The CFFO will develop and publish the racing schedule and RC assignments for the season and have them posted on the club bulletin board and on the LMSA Website.
- 2.2 Race days for the season will be scheduled twice a month at 1:30 pm on Sunday afternoons or as specified on the Racing Schedule. Cancelled races due to weather or less than 3 boats racing will be rescheduled the next Sunday or as soon as practical.
- 2.3 The RC for each race will be assigned from the Cruiser Fleet membership or from other qualified LMSA members. Fleet members are obligated to serve as RC for at least one race day during the season to be eligible for season awards. Each member selected for the RC will be responsible for finding helpers.

## USE of the "GROUP ME" APP

- 3.1 On each racing day, using the Group Me App for cell phones, a selected member by the CFFO shall notify the Cruiser Fleet membership by 9:00 am on the Sunday race day asking for a response by members intending to sail that day.
- 3.2 Following the notification above, members intending to sail that day should use the Group Me App on their cell phone to acknowledge their intention to sail least two hours prior to the scheduled start times. (i.e., by 11:30 am on Sundays). Those not racing should not reply.
- 3.5 The selected member by the CFFO will notify the membership using the Group Me App whether or not three members have declared to sail and therefore whether or not races will be held that day.

## NOTICES TO COMPETITORS & SKIPPERS MEETINGS

- 4.1 In the normal course of any race day, a skipper's meeting prior to the first race will not be called by the Race Committee (RC).
- 4.2 If the RC wishes to call a skipper's meeting for any reason, they will ring the bell on the shelter prior to the boats leaving the docks.
- 4.3 Skippers should approach the RC boat prior to the beginning of the race to obtain the number of fleet starting, the race course number or any special instructions for the day.
- 4.4 If there is heavy weather, very light wind, or only two boats, the skippers should meet with the race committee prior to the RC leaving shore and declare their intentions to race or not race.

## FLEET AND PREPARATORY FLAGS

- 5.1 The RC blue flag will be flown when the RC is on station for the race.
- 5.2 The starting flag for the Cruiser Fleet will be a yellow pennant with a black capitol letter "M".
- 5.3 The "I" flag (a yellow square with a black dot in its middle) will serve as the preparatory flag for all classes, and indicates also that rule 30.1 is in effect. Rule 30.1 prohibits dip starts by requiring a boat with any part on the course side of the starting line during the last minute of the starting sequence to sail from the course side across an extension of the start line to the pre-start side before starting.

## COURSES

- 6.1 Courses will to be used will be as listing in Appendix A.
- 6.2 All marks left to port. The course to be sailed will be displayed by the RC by posting the course number on the RC boat before the warning signal.
- 6.3 For the Cruiser Fleet races there will be no penalty for crossing the starting line during the races prior to the finish.
- 6.4 The RC should design the courses to take between 30 and 45 minutes to complete. This is to allow for more races during the race day.
- 6.5 Clarification of the course design may be obtained by approaching the RC boat prior to the start of the race.

## MARKS

- 7.1 Marks A, B, C will be large orange inflatable buoys. An offset mark, if used, will be a smaller buoy a few yards distant from the upwind (A) or weather mark.
- 7.2 The starting and finishing marks will be the port side flag stanchion on the committee boat and an orange ball on the other end of the line. The blue flag should be flown when the committee boat is on station at the finish line.

## THE START

- 8.1 Prior to the starting sequence of the first race of the day, each skipper should hail the RC with their type of boat, their sail number and team name to facilitate score keeping for committees unfamiliar with boat types.
- 8.2 Races will be started with the warning signal (horn and flag) given 5 minutes before the start preceded by an attention sound signal (four short blasts) one minute prior to the flag sequence normally using the LMSA Pro-Start device.
- 8.4 The starting line will be between the port flag stand on the RC boat and the mark offset to the RC boat's port side.
- 8.6 A boat starting later than 4 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start.
- 8.7 No race will be started if there is insufficient wind, as determined by the race committee. The race committee is expected to signal that the race is abandoned if conditions are or will soon become, hazardous.

## CHANGE OF POSITION OF THE NEXT MARK

- 9.1 The RC may change the position of a mark to shorten or lengthen the course. The change will be signaled before the leading boat has begun the leg, although

the mark may not yet be in position. Any mark to be rounded after rounding the new mark may be relocated without further signaling to maintain the course configuration.

- 9.2 Boats shall pass between the RC boat signaling the change of course and the nearby mark, leaving the mark to port and the race committee boat to starboard. This changes rule 28.1
- 9.3 The RC may shorten the course by using two audible signals and the display of the code flag "S", a white square flag with a small blue square within it.
- 9.4 The RC may change the course using two audible signals and the display of the code flag "C", a blue, white, red, white and blue alternating striped flag.

## THE FINISH

- 10.1 The finish line will be between the finishing marks as described in instruction 7.2 except when, for any reason, the RC boat is absent, then the finishing boats will leave the last mark to port as close as practicable and at a 90 degree angle of the last leg. Boats finishing in this manner shall report their finish order to the committee on the honor system.
- 10.2 When the course is shortened at a gate, a RC boat near the gate will display flag "S" and boats shall finish by sailing through the gate from the direction of the previous mark. In this case, the finish line is between the gate marks. This changes race signal "S".
- 10.3 Each boat crossing the finish line should receive an audible signal at the moment of crossing.

## TIME LIMIT

- 11.1 Boats failing to finish within 20 minutes after the first boat of its class finishes, or sooner at the discretion of the RC, will be scored in place according to the judgment of the RC. This changes Rule 35.
- 11.2 For any race to be counted for point scores, the first boat must have completed the first leg in 25 minutes and have completed the entire course in less than 60 minutes. Any race not completed in this length of time will be abandoned.

## PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

- 12.1 Protest forms are available in the LMSA office. Protests shall be delivered to the race committee chair within 15 minutes after the RC boat has come ashore after the last race. This changes Rules 61.3 and 62.2.

- 12.2 The boat intending to protest shall notify the other boat at the first reasonable opportunity.
- 12.3 Notices to protested boats/skippers will be made within 10 minutes of receipt of a protest to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Hearings will be held by the race committee chair and protest committee immediately following the protest notice period.

## SCORING

- 13.1 The Cruiser Fleet Scoring System using PHRF handicap corrected times will apply for all boats. See Appendix B.
- 13.2 Scoring will be by boat/team rather than who is helming.

## SAFETY REGULATIONS

- 14.1 A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee unless in the judgment of the skipper, it would be safer to retire directly to the dock area or the shore.
- 14.2 State and federal regulations pertaining to personal flotation equipment shall be followed.
- 14.3 PFD's should be worn while racing by all skippers and crew members racing. They are required when the RC flies a life jacket from the RC boat before the race.
- 14.4 If wind, wave, water, equipment or traffic conditions make you doubtful of your ability to handle the conditions, please retire from the race.
- 14.5 All boats must sail with at least 1 crew person. No single handing.

## AWARDS

- 15.1 Awards for the Cruiser Fleet season standings will be presented to the three top finishing places provided they have completed at least five races.
- 15.2 Individual awards for skippers/teams may be presented for achievements as determined by the Cruiser Fleet Flag Officers.

## DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

- 16.1 Competitors participate in the races entirely at their own risk. The LMSA organizing or any of its fleets will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with, prior to, during, or after the races.

## INSURANCE

17.1 Each participation boat is encouraged to have valid third-party liability insurance of at least \$100,000.

## SPECIAL NOTES

- 18.1 Race committee support boats (if any) shall rank as obstructions.
- 18.2 On the water, questions about the course may be answered by the race committee.
- 18.3 Any boat receiving 'hands on' assistance from the RC boat or race committee support boat will be scored Did Not Start if assistance was provided before the race start signal, or Did Not Finish if assistance was provided after the race start signal and during the boat's race.
- 18.4 The RC may decide when a boat or crew needs assistance.
- 18.5 Sportsmanship and safety. Racers are expected to exhibit sportsmanship during the races, attempt to avoid dangerous situations, and assist sailors in danger. The race committee may provide redress to sailors whose race results were adversely affected by actions made in accordance with this paragraph.

## APPENDIX A LMSA RACE COURSES

| No. | Course Name            | Course     | Finish |
|-----|------------------------|------------|--------|
| 2   | Up and Back            | S A F      | DW     |
| 3   | Windward/Leeward 1 Lap | S AC F     | UW     |
| 4   | One Triangle           | S ABC F    | UW     |
| 5   | W/L 2 Laps             | S ACAC F   | UW     |
| 6   | Olympic                | S ABCAC F  | UW     |
| 7   | Two Triangles          | S ABCABC F | UW     |
| 8   | W/L, Then Up and Back  | S ACA F    | DW     |

W/L = Windward/Leeward S = start A = weather mark B = reaching mark  
C = leeward mark F = finish DW = downwind UW = upwind

## APPENDIX B CRUISER FLEET SCORING

1. There must be at least three boats racing to score a race.
2. Skippers/Teams will be scored on a corrected time high-point basis using the latest adjusted PHRF handicap on record with the RC (see paragraph 5).
3. After applying the handicap to determine the corrected elapsed times, each skipper/team will be awarded points for each race equal to the number of boats in his or her fleet that he or she beats plus one.
4. Skippers/teams must participate in 5 races in any one fleet to become eligible for a season award in that fleet. Season standings for each skipper/team will be determined from the total score of his/her best 10 individual races for the season.
5. A "Golf Style" handicap adjustment will be used throughout the racing season for each boat racing. The PHRF handicap of each sailor will be adjusted by 10% of the average differences that race day of the corrected sec per mile from the median boat's corrected time of finish. The calculations of the handicap adjustments will be made by the scorekeeper (George Rood) from the scoresheet data from the previous race day.
6. The RC will be provided a scoresheet before the races with the last adjusted PHRF/Time Correction Factor entered in the appropriate columns as calculated by the scorekeeper. The RC will enter the real and corrected elapsed times and calculate the order of finish for each boat for each race that day.
7. After the races that day, the RC will place the scoresheet (or a copy) in the Club office. The scorekeeper will collect the scoresheets and ensure the scores, handicap adjustment and season standings are properly calculated, recorded and made available to racing members via the website.