

# Sailing Instructions

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## *Los Gatos Yacht Club 2014 Invitational Cup*

### **1. Rules**

- 1.1 The race will be governed by the rules as defined in the current version of Racing Rules of Sailing.
- 1.2 The goal of this event is to encourage club members to participate and enjoy the experience of friendly competition.
- 1.3 All competitors are required to wear lifejackets while racing.

### **2. Notices to Competitors**

- 2.1 Any changes to the sailing instructions will be provided to all participating skippers at the skippers' meeting on the day of the race.

### **3. Schedule of Races**

- 3.1 At least three races will be held in 2014. All three races will be held on Saturday, October 12. The 5 minute warning time for the first race will be 1155Hrs. The start times for the subsequent races will be approximately 15 minutes after the finish of the preceding race. All participating skippers should come within hailing distance of the race committee for the start time announcement.
- 3.2 Each club can enter one team in the regatta. The skipper of each team must be a member in good standing of the sailing club or yacht club that the team is representing. There is no minimum or maximum number of crew on each team.

### **4. Courses and Starting Sequence**

- 4.1 The courses for all three races and the method and location for switching boats between races will be announced at the skippers' meeting on the day of the race.
- 4.2 The starting line will be the same for all races and will be announced at the skippers' meeting on the day of the race.
- 4.3 The finish line will be the same as the starting line.
- 4.4 Races will be started using RRS 26 (5,4,1,0) sequence.
- 4.5 Restricted areas: All government marks must be observed and obeyed as obstructions, and are not marks of the course. A boat that breaks this rule may not correct her error by RRS 28.2, and shall retire.

## 5. Time limits

5.1 Boats failing to finish any given race within 1 hour of its start signal will be scored *Did Not Finish*. This changes RRS 35.

## 6. Race Committee

6.1 The race committee will monitor the starts and finishes of the races from land or boat (TBD) near the S/F line.

6.2 The race committee will attempt to hail boats for OCS. The inability of a competitor to hear a hail shall not be grounds for redress.

6.3 The race committee will blow a horn when each boat crosses the finish line.

## 7. Scoring

7.1 The Low Point Scoring System will be used. Each yacht finishing a race, and not thereafter retiring or being disqualified, will score points as follows:

First place - 1 point

Second place - 2 points

Third place - 3 points

Each place there after add one point.

7.2 Other yachts will score points as follows:

Did Not Finish - number of entries plus 1 point

Did Not Start - number of entries plus 1 point

Disqualified - number of entries plus 1 point

7.3 The team with the lowest score at the end of the final race, after the adjudication of all protests, will be declared the winner. Three races are necessary to complete the regatta. There will be no throw-outs.

7.4 In the event of a tie, the series winner will be decided based on rule A8<sup>1</sup>.

## 8. Results

8.1 Results will be posted on the Los Gatos Yacht Club web site.

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### <sup>1</sup> A8 SERIES TIES

**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 favour 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 their scores in the last race. Any remaining ties shall be broken by using the tied boats' 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.

## **9. Race Crew Qualifications**

9.1 The skipper must be a member in good standing of the sailing club or yacht club for whom the team is racing. Crew members do not have to be affiliated with any of the clubs.

9.2 This event is conceived in the spirit of amateur racing. Professional racers unaffiliated with the participating club will be perceived as introducing unfair advantage to a team.

## **10. Boats**

10.1 Boats will be selected from the fleet of Merit 25s available for charter at Spinnaker Sailing.

10.2 For the first race of the series, boats will be assigned to each team based on the order in which they submitted their entry forms. The first club to submit an entry form will be assigned the Merit with the lowest number. The next club to submit an entry form will be assigned the Merit with the next higher number, and so on. For example, if three clubs race, and the Merits are M2, M5, and M7, the first club to submit an entry form will be assigned to M2, the second to M5, and the third to M7.

For the second race in the series, the boats will rotate as follows: The team with the highest number boat will switch to the boat with the lowest number, and each other team will switch to the boat with the next higher number than the one they just sailed.

For the third, and subsequent races in the series, the boats will rotate in the same way, so each club will race a different boat each time.

10.3 Boats will be sailed without spinnakers.

10.4 Whisker poles may be used to stabilize the jib on the downwind legs, if desired (not required).

## **11. Safety Regulations**

11.1 Each boat will carry a mobile telephone or hand-held VHF radio as a means of emergency communication. The Race Committee will attempt to hail boats for OCS and other announcements on VHF Channel 78.

11.2 Each participant will wear a personal flotation device during racing.

11.3 Boats must carry ground tackle sufficient for anchoring offshore of hazards, a bucket, a flashlight, and a first aid kit.

## **12. Eligibility and Entry**

12.1 Teams may enter by submitting a completed entry form and liability waiver.

12.2 Each team will pay the charter fee and racing insurance fee for one Merit 25 to Spinnaker Sailing.

## 13. Protests, Arbitration, and Redress

13.1 In the spirit of friendly competition, protests should be avoided, if possible.

13.2 The protest time limit is 30 minutes after the last boat finishes the last race.

13.3 Protests shall be submitted in writing to the Race Committee.

## 14. Prizes

14.1 The first place team will receive a professional quality 11" x 14' photo, mounted, framed, and inscribed "Winner of the 2014 Los Gatos Yacht Club Invitational Cup." The trophy is the property of Los Gatos Yacht Club and will be returned on the occasion of the next running of the invitational race.

## 15. Disclaimer of Liability

15.1 Competitors participate in the race entirely at their own risk. See RRS 4, *Decision to Race*<sup>2</sup>. 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 race.

15.2 In the event of damage to a boat used by a competitor, the team using the boat will reimburse Spinnaker Sailing for necessary repairs, up to the deductible amount of the insurance coverage.

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<sup>2</sup> **4 DECISION TO RACE**

The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue *racing* is hers alone.