

Lorain Harbor Boat Club

2017 Racing Rules

Handicap and One-Design Fleets

Revised September 2000 Revised May 2001 -Compliance with 2001-2004 US Sailing Rules Revised June 2001 -Modify Course Designation Information / added fleet flag descriptions Revised May 2002 – Changed Penalty Turns/added Cruising Class Revised May 2005 based upon 2005-2008 US Sailing Rules Update Revised April 2010 based upon the 2009 – 2012 US Sailing Rules Update Revised March 2011 - Revised June 2015 – Revised February 2016 – Revised May 2017 – Revised July 2019 for club merger

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1. General

1.1 Status of Rules

These Rules rank as Sailing Instructions as described in RRS Appendix J2. Information included in *Italics* is intended to be explanatory in nature and is not part of these Sailing Instructions. The section entitled Committee Boat Duty is a Club rule and not part of the Sailing Instruction.

1.2 Applicability of Rules

These Rules apply to regular series races sponsored by the LHBC. Additional or amended rules for specialty races and Regattas will be distributed prior to the applicable race.

1.3 Order of Precedence of Rules

All races sponsored by LHBC will be governed by (a) these Sailing Instructions; (b) the rules of the individual classes designated as participating; (c) the prescriptions of US Sailing (Racing Rules of Sailing – RRS); (d) the International Yacht Racing Rules, in this order of precedence. The SI's take precedence over class rules and down that order

1.4 Applicability of PHRF-LE

The handicap racing fleet(s) will be guided by the PHRF-LE handicap system and associated rules as they may from time to time be modified.

In the event of conflict among these Rules, protest and other matters will be decided by (a) these Sailing Instructions; (b) the PHRF-LE Rules and/or applicable one design class rules; (c) the prescriptions of US Sailing; (d) the International Yacht Racing Rules, in this order of precedence.

1.5 Changes in Sailing Instructions

Any changes in these Sailing Instructions will be communicated in accordance with US Sailing Rule 86. Any changes to these Sailing Instructions will be posted at least two hours ahead of the Warning Signals for races to which they apply. Any changes made on the water shall be communicated by hail (oral, radio or both) to affected yachts. The Official Notice Board is located at the LHBC Club House on the front window and clearly identified as "Official Notice Board."

2. Responsibilities

2.1 Owner / Skipper

A yacht must be owned by or under full season charter by an active LHBC or other club approved competitor to regularly compete in LHBC club races or be granted permission to compete (approved clubs must be recognized members of US Sailing).

2.2 LHBC Responsibility

LHBC assumes no responsibility for damage to or loss of your yacht or any loss of life or personal injury resulting from your racing or intention to race in an LHBC sponsored event.

3. Entries

3.1 LHBC Membership

Only a yacht owned by or under full season charter to a: LHBC or other approved club member (as designated in section 2.1) or approved competitor in good standing may race without the invitation or permission of the LHBC race committee. Only Active members may qualify for discounts on the published series/seasonal racing fee. However, non-members may pay a “three-race” package fee for limited competition.

3.2 PHRF -LE Rating Card

Yachts competing in a LHBC series race, other than designated specialty races and racing yachts competing in their first season of organized racing, must be current members of PHRF -LE. A PHRF -LE rating certificate or statement of PHRF rating which is typical of your class will be accepted for club racing. Any exceptional rating request will require a current PHRF-LE certificate.

Any yacht competing without a rating certificate will be assigned a rating by the LHBC race committee based on the available ratings in the PHRF -LE rating data bank.

3.3 Safety Equipment

Each participating yacht shall have on board at least the minimum USCG approved safety equipment required for a vessel of that size. Plus any additional safety equipment required by PHRF – LE, one design class and US Sailing.

3.4 Additional Equipment for Short Handed Sailing

A yacht may have on board and utilize properly installed and functioning mechanized self-steering equipment. When such equipment is in use the skipper is still fully responsible for following all racing rules. The PHRF -LE requirement of three (3) people on board is modified to a minimum of one (1) people on board.

Note: It is strongly recommended that self steering equipment be fully disengaged at the start, mark roundings and any other time that prudent seamanship would dictate manual steering is the only safe method of operating the vessel.

3.5 Fleet Declaration

Each yacht must designate prior to the first race of a series in which class it will participate in. JAM, Spinnaker or One-Design (by class)

4. Schedule of Races

A complete calendar of races will be distributed prior to the season and posted at the LHBC Club House and on the LHBC website. All first start times by day will be included with the schedule.

5. Racing Area

Spin/JAM: The racing area will generally be east of the Lorain Harbor break-wall and may be announced at least 30 minutes prior to the first warning gun.

One Design: The race area will be designated prior to the RC leaving the dock. The one-design course will be setup using inflatable or spar movable buoys.

6. Fixed Mark Course

6.1 Starting on the Fixed Mark Course

The course is an area to the immediate east of the Lorain harbor denoted by six fixed marks with letter designation as found in the LHBC Fixed Mark Course Diagram. The start line use the central "S" mark as one end of the line with the movable start pin buoy locate to form a right angle between the first leg's bearing and the bearing between "S" and pin marks.

The distance traveled around the course for purposes of calculating a PHRF handicap will be provided on the LHBC Fixed Mark Course Diagram. Distance away from or toward the start/finish line (at the RC boat location) will be calculated and added to the final

course length by the RC crew. But any sailor can roughly calculate the additional distance from any fixed mark to the RC boat by recognizing that the RC boat will always locate within the confines of the course's fixed marks.

6.2 Order of Rounding the Fixed Marks

The order of rounding the marks of the Fixed Mark course will be displayed by their designated mark "letter" from the RC boat. In addition to single letter mark designations the course list displayed may also include the following designations:

1. "LT" – The Lorain Light – white tower at the NW end of the sheet-pile, detached breakwall.
2. "RC" – The RC Boat. Given limited space to display course designator board the "finish" of the course at the RC boat may not be included but is assumed to end the list.

6.3 Starting with a Harbor Start

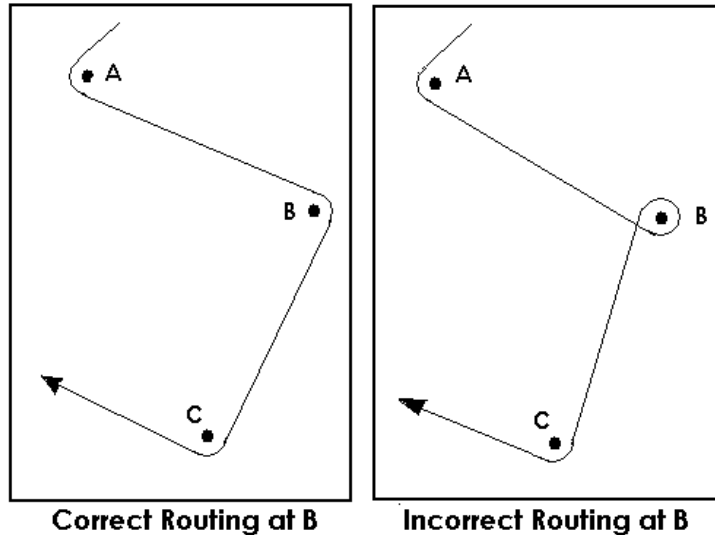
When a "Harbor Start" is used the start/finish line will be between the RC boat and the green "5" government buoy in the Lorain outer harbor anchorage area. All harbor starts will run out around the main Lorain (white) light always leaving this tower to your east both outbound and upon return. Other marks of the course, using the fixed mark course, will be displayed by the RC boat before the race as prescribed here. Assuming sufficient room on the course board the "LT" designation will be included. But if absent it remains a requirement of any Harbor Start course that yachts leave the Lorain Light to their east both outbound and on return. The two eastern entrances to the Lorain harbor are off-limits.

6.4 RC Boat not on Station at finish line – Harbor Finish

RRS Rule 34 is extended to state that if the RC boat is off-station at the finish line then racers are instructed to proceed around the Lorain Light and finish between harbor markers green "5" and red "6" (navigational aids at the Black River opening) and take their own time using GPS or Cell Phone when the boat passes between these two navigational aids. Obviously if the RC has decided to shorten course the finish will be at an earlier mark.

6.5 Side of yacht to leave mark to

Fixed marks should be left to the side of the boat such that the yacht's course into that mark (from the previous mark) does not cross the yacht's course leaving that mark (toward the next mark of the course) assuming a line is drawn tought from the preceding mark, this mark and the succeeding mark.



7. One-Design/Movable Course

7.1 Side of yacht to leave mark to

The one-design fleet will race on a movable course established on one side or the other of Lorain Harbor based upon that day's weather conditions. The marks of the course consist of inflatable or spar buoys. Typically a windward/leeward course plan will be used, but it is possible that a triangle course will be implemented. The RC may elect to use a fixed mark buoy as a windward mark and will inform the fleet.

7.2 Course Designation

The designated course to use will be displayed from the aft port quarter of the RC boat.

One-design Courses are as follows:

- “1” – Windward/Leeward, once around
- “2” – Windward/Leeward, twice around using the start line pin as the leeward mark
- “3” – A Windward/Jibe-Mark/Finish course, once around

Marks will be rounded as designed by the Red or Green flag displayed at the aft starboard quarter of the RC boat. Red means round marks leaving each mark to port, green means all marks left to starboard.

7.3 Relocation of Finish Line during Race

In the interest of speeding up the days racing schedule the RC boat may elect to relocate the RC boat's location and thus the leeward mark or finish line if sufficient time is

available. The RC boat may not relocate if there are any racers on approach to the finish/leeward mark from the windward mark of the course.

The RC boat will provide a radio announcement of its intention to move the finish. The RC boat may provide an audible signal as it moves to its new location. But given that wind direction such a horn may not be heard. So it is the responsibility of all competing crews to identify if the RC boat has moved when starting any leg that leads to the RC boat or start pin. This modified RRS rule 33 “change of course” requirements.

8. Signals

Signals and flags will follow US Sailing Rules.

9. Official Finish Time

The Race Committee boat will be the designated official timekeeper. On the time-handicapped course, if the RC boat must leave station at the finish then each boat is responsible to take their own finish time using ONLY GPS “local” time.

A boat is considered finished when any portion of hull or rig (while in normal position) crosses the finish line.

10. Starting

10.1 Starting Sequence – Five Minute System

The starting sequence will be as described by the US Sailing Rules. LHBC uses the five minute sequence and may, optionally, provide a “wake-up” call one (1) minute prior to the five (5) minute sequence.

The five-minute sequence used consists of:

Start minus 5 minutes – Display of Class flag(s) for class in the next start

Start minus 4 minutes – Display of appropriate preparatory flag

Start minus 1 minute – Removal of selected preparatory flag

Start minus 0 minutes – Removal of Class flag [rolling start: display of next class flag(s)]

When using a rolling start the class flag(s) of the next start will be displayed when the class flag of the preceding start are removed. The “wake-up” call is designated by five horn blasts in quick succession – no flags

10.2 Starting Sequence – Three Minute System

A three-minute sequence is a horn-only system, no flags will be displayed.

Start minus 3 minutes – Three short horns are sounded

Start minus 2 minutes – Two short horns are sounded

Start minus 1 minute – One short horn is sounded

Start – One prolonged horn is sounded.

Wake-up call should be provided using either five horns blasts and/or radio

announcement.

10.2 Starting Order/Designation

The starting order will be displayed by the RC boat using one of the following flags which designates your class.

<u>Fleet</u>	<u>Flag</u>
PHRF Fleet	Light blue with a "P" – May be started with the JAM fleet
Jam Fleet	Pink with a "J"
Interlake	Blue “interlake” sail plan
Star	Blue “star” insignia
Jet 14	Black “jet” insignia
One Design Fleet	to be determined, if needed

10.3 Check -In

Each yacht shall pass by the RC Boat and check-in before starting to race.

10.5 Auxiliary Power

Auxiliary Power must be off from a yacht's Preparatory Signal and until she finishes or withdraws.

10.6 Sufficient Competitors to run a race

A scheduled race will not be run unless at least one class competing that day has at least three (3) boats starting. If at least one class scheduled to race that day has at least three boats starting then the RC will also start any other class scheduled that day even if the other class(es) do not have the three (3) boat minimum on that day.

10.7 Rabbit Start

A Rabbit Start may be used on the auxiliary course to facilitate a race when an RC boat is not available. The start sequence for a Rabbit start will be either three (3) or five (5) minutes long (as announced by the “rabbit” boat). The Rabbit boat will blow a horn at each minute mark of the countdown including “zero time” at the start. At the start the Rabbit will pass the starting mark on port tack heading to the right and perpendicular to the course of the first, upwind leg. Boats may start by heading upwind, on startboard tack and passing between the start mark and the rabbit. No competitor may tack after starting until the rabbit has tacked off its initial port tack. Finishes will use a “harbor finish” method as described in rule 6.4 above. Each competitor must record and report their finish time.

11. Time Limits

A race will be abandoned if the leading yacht in a particular fleet or division does not

round the first mark within one (1) hour of the start of the race. If the course has been shortened to one (1) leg the race committee, at its discretion, can finish the race beyond the one (1) hour time limit.

A race will be abandoned if the leading yacht in a particular fleet or division does not finish the race within two (2) hours of the start of the race.

12. Scoring

12.1 Points System

Any protest made shall follow all US Sailing prescriptions. If a protest is turned in and is not properly filled out no protest hearing will be convened.

The two turn penalty shall remain in full force and effect.

The low point system will be used for scoring races with 1 points awarded for first, 2 points for second, and 3 points for third, etc. Scores and ties will be handled per the Racing Rules of Sailing appendix A.

12.2 DNF Points

A DNF yacht will receive points equal to the total number of yachts starting in their division in that particular race. A yacht dropping out of a race must notify the Race Committee and receive acknowledgment. Failure to notify the RC will add two (2) positions to the yachts race score as a penalty.

12.3 DSQ Points

A DSQ yacht will receive points equal to the total number of yachts started in their division in that particular race plus (1) one.

12.4 DNC/DNS Points

A DNC yacht will receive point's equal the largest number of yachts competing in their division for the DNC race plus one (1) point

12.5 Counting Races – Throw-outs

A race must have three (3) starters per division for the race to be counted for the division and series. The highpoint race(s) will be used as the throw out(s). It may include but is not limited to DNC or DNF races. This modifies RRS A2.1 regarding Throw-outs.

Throw-out Schedule for Auxiliary Races by Series:

Number of Races	Races Counting	Throw-outs
1	1	0
2	2	0
3	3	0
4	4	0
5	4	1
6	5	1
7	5	2
8	6	2
9	7	2

Throw-out Schedule for One-Design Races by Series:

As the one-design classes race multiple races per day of racing there are a higher number of races in the series and seasonal schedule and therefore there will be a higher number of throw-outs allowed.

One-design classes will be allowed one (1) throw-out for every five (5) individual races the class completes.

12.6 Committee Boat Points

A yacht serving as Committee Boat will receive points equal to an average score of her races in that series. Calculations for yachts average score will be done after throw outs are removed.

- a) For class overall award calculations, a yachts committee boat score will remain the same as it was in a series.
- b) Only one Committee Boat score will be counted in any series unless:

- 1.) the boat is assigned the 2nd duty as a result of the Lottery ... no other date options are available
- 2.) The boat is assigned that date as alternate duty by the fleet captain.

12.7 Race Credits

In addition to the normal throw-outs, a boat that will miss a race day may qualify for a race credit if:

They notify the Fleet Captain or scorekeeper 1 week prior to the race date. The 1-week prior notification is waived for emergencies where the *situation is not known in advance*. For example: death in the family, unexpected work travel etc. The Fleet Captain or scorekeeper must still however be notified prior to the race. The race credit will be

calculated the same as a committee boat average.

A boat may receive a maximum of 2 race credits per year. A committee boat duty and 2 race credits cannot be utilized in 1 series.

13. Radio Communications

13.1 Channel 71 will be used as the official LHBC radio channel. Please hail the LHBC Committee boat as "LHBC -RC". The RC boat may also, optionally, attempt to contact a competing boat using its registered cell phone number, should the need arise.

13.2 VHF Radio use and one-design class rules. One-design competitors will be allowed to carry a VHF radio for the express purpose of 1) receiving instructions from the RC boat and 2) reporting emergency situations. This changes any one-design class rule that may prohibit the use of VHF radios.

14. Awards

14.1 Class Series Awards

Each Class will receive First, Second and Third place awards for the yachts with the three lowest scores in each of the series provided 5 or more yachts have participated. First place award for 3 or 4 yachts.

14.2 Class Overall Awards

Each Class will receive First, Second and Third place awards for the yachts with the three lowest overall scores provided 5 or more yachts have participated. First place awards for any class with less than 5. Each yacht's class overall score will be determined by adding the totals of all her series scores. Throw-out and committee boat duty scores will not be changed.

14.3 Class Awards may be Optional

Each Class may optionally vote to opt-out of receiving awards from LHBC at the end of the season.