

Rio Grande Sailing Club  
Elephant Butte Lake, NM  
Fall Series 2009

NOTICE OF RACE

1 RULES

The fall series, and each regatta, will be governed by the rules as defined in the *Racing Rules of Sailing 2009-2012*. Class weight limits will be enforced. Handicap races will be scored on PHRF time-on-distance (TOD) (Performance Fleet) or Portsmouth D-PN (Cruising/Random Leg Fleet).

2 ELIGIBILITY, ENTRY, AND FEES

2.1 Each regatta in the fall series is open to monohull sailboats with a minimum 16' hull length. Eligibility for other types of boats may be offered depending upon sufficient demand, available facilities, and safety.

2.2 Eligible boats may enter by sending a representative to attend the competitor meeting at the time and location designated for each regatta in Elephant Butte, pay the \$10 registration fee, and sign the registration sheet and liability release. A discounted fee of \$5 applies for paid-up RGSC members or members of US Sailing.

2.3 Eligible boats will be divided by the race committee into the following classes for purposes of scoring and awards: (1) Etchells Class, (2) J/24 and Performance Fleet, (3) Cruising (random leg) Fleet, and (4) Dinghy (MC Scow) Fleet.

3 SCHEDULE

3.1 Scheduled dates of racing are September 12-13, 26-27, October 24-25, and November 14-15, 2009. Registration is

11:00 to 11:30 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 12, at Casa Taco (Desert Class/Fall Series 1)

11:00 to 11:30 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 26, at Casa Taco (Rhodes Cup/Fall Series 2)

11:00 to 11:30 a.m., Saturday, October 24, at Hodges Corner (Bristol Cup/FS 3)

10:00 to 10:30 a.m., Saturday, November 14, at Hodges Corner (Comm. Cup/FS 4)

3.2 Starting Time: The scheduled time of the warning signal for the first race on each Saturday is 2:00 p.m. (1:00 p.m. for Comm. Cup. Nov. 15 during Standard Time/MST), and 11:00 a.m. each Sunday. No warning signal will be made after 5:00 p.m. (4:00 p.m. MST) on Saturday or 3:00 p.m. (2:00 p.m. MST) on Sunday.

## 4 SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

The sailing instructions will be available during registration periods.

## 5 VENUE

5.1 Attachment A shows the racing area, including the marker buoys to be used in racing, designated by number.

## 6 THE COURSES

For each race, the race committee signal boat will display flags to indicate the course configuration, as designated by letter on the chart of Olympic courses, and the first mark of the course, as indicated by number on the race area map. When temporary marks are used, the signal boat may designate the course with a marker board. Dinghy races may be signalled separately from shore on separate courses.

## 7 SCORING

The scoring system will follow the low-point system in Appendix A of the Racing Rules of Sailing except as follows. This changes Appendix A of the Racing Rules of Sailing.

7.1 The number of throw-outs for the series will be set by the race committee, which will allow approximately one throw-out (from scores eligible for a throw-out) for each five races completed by a boat.

7.2 One race is required to be completed to constitute a regatta for each fall series regatta.

7.3 A boat must compete in at least two regattas to be eligible for series awards. A boat serving as committee boat shall be counted as participating in that regatta and shall have average scores computed for series awards. A boat failing to fulfill committee duty may be penalized. This changes Appendix A, Scoring.

7.4 Performance fleet boats will be scored on PHRF time-on-distance handicap and Cruising (random leg) fleet boats will be scored on base Portsmouth handicap (D-PN).

7.5 Overall awards, if given, will be scored based on races in which all boats were able to start at the same time. Depending upon how starts are scheduled, this number may be smaller than the number of races that is used for scoring within each class or fleet.

## 8 PRIZES

Prizes will be given as follows. Each regatta: trophies for the top two yachts in each fleet. Series: top three yachts in Etchells, J24/Performance, and Cruising fleets; top two for other fleets. The number of awards given for each regatta and for the series may be modified based upon

participation at the Race Committee's discretion.

## 9 DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. See rule 4, *Decision to Race*. The Rio Grande Sailing Club, and its officers and volunteers, will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the regatta.

## 10 INSURANCE

Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum coverage sufficient to meet New Mexico State Parks requirements.

## 11 CONTACTS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Larry Jessee, Race Committee Chair, 915 577 0456, ljessee44@hotmail.com  
Barbara Hawn, Carol Anne Byrnes, Rick Keffer, race committee  
Pat Byrnes, Commodore, 505 265 6741, rgsc@zianet.com

Rio Grande Sailing Club  
Elephant Butte Lake, NM  
Fall Series 2009

## SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

### 1 RULES

The fall series, and each regatta, will be governed by the rules as defined in the *Racing Rules of Sailing, 2009-2012*. Class crew weight limits will be enforced. Handicap races will be scored on PHRF TOD (PHRF/Performance Fleet) or Portsmouth D-PN (cruising/random leg fleet).

### 2 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

If a change to the Sailing Instructions is to be made, the race committee signal boat will fly flag L, and competitors are to come within hailing distance. Any concerns about starting lines or courses or requests to adjust marks should be referred to the race chair or designee prior to the start of a race.

### 3 CLASS FLAGS

When each fleet is to be started separately, the following flags may be used to designate the fall series fleets:

Etchells: Etchells flag (plain yellow flag or green Etchells logo on white flag)

J/24 and Performance: red and white checkered J/24 flag or red flag with J/24 logo

Cruising (random leg course): blue RGSC cruiser flag

Dinghy/MC Scow: pirate flag or green MC Scow flag

A plain yellow flag may be used as the flag for a combined start of multiple fleets.

### 4 RACING AREA

Attachment A shows the racing area, including the buoys to be used as marks.

### 5 THE COURSES

5.1 The diagrams in Attachment B show the Olympic courses, including the order in which marks are to be passed. All marks are to be left to port.

5.2 No later than the warning signal, the race committee signal boat will display flags for the letter designating the course and the number designating the first mark as shown on the race area map. When temporary marks are used, the signal boat may designate the course with a marker board. Dinghy races may be signalled from a separate location and dinghies may be given separate courses from other fleets.

## 6 MARKS

6.1 Turning marks are numbered, designated buoys as shown on the race area map. The race committee may use temporary (“drop”) marks in place of channel marker buoys.

6.2 The start and finish marks will be a staff displaying an orange flag on the race committee signal boat to starboard end, and a round buoy to port, looking upwind.

## 7 START

7.1 The scheduled time of the warning signal for the first race is 2:00 p.m. (1:00 p.m. MST/ Standard Time for Commodore’s Cup on Nov. 14) on Saturdays and 11:00 a.m. on Sundays. No warning signal will be made after 5:00 p.m. (4:00 MST) Saturday or 3:00 p.m. (2:00 MST) Sunday.

7.2 The area within three (3) boat lengths of the starting line and race committee signal boat is an *obstruction* to all boats that have not yet begun their starting sequence. A boat that has not started a race and that interferes with others by entering the starting area during another fleet’s starting sequence will be deemed to have started improperly and shall be scored as DNS, did not start, without a hearing. This modifies Rule 26 and Appendix A.

## 8 TIME LIMITS

A boat failing to finish within 45 minutes after the first boat in her fleet or class sails the course and finishes will be scored Did Not Finish. This changes rules 35 and A4.

## 9 PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

Protest forms are available from the race committee chairman. Protests shall be submitted to the race committee chair within the protest time limit, which is 90 minutes after the race committee signal boat reaches the dock. The same time limit applies to protests by the race committee and protest committee about incidents they observe in the racing area and to requests for redress. This changes rules 61.3 and 62.2. The race committee chair shall form committees to hear protests (those alleging gross misconduct [RRS 69] or in which the race chair is a *party* will be referred to the club board).

## 10 SCORING

Scoring will follow the low-point system in Appendix A of the Racing Rules of Sailing except as described in the Notice of Race:

## 11 PRIZES

Prizes will be given as described in the Notice of Race.

## 12 SAFETY, DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY, AND INSURANCE

The race committee may take any appropriate actions to ensure the safety and fairness of competition. When the race committee hoists the code flag R (Romeo) before boats reach a free leg of the course, no spinnakers may be flown on that leg.

Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. See rule 4, Decision to Race. The Rio Grande Sailing Club, and its officers and volunteers, will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the regatta. Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum coverage sufficient to meet New Mexico State Parks requirements. Competitors agree to follow all applicable rules and laws.

Rio Grande Sailing Club  
Elephant Butte Lake, NM  
March 2009

## RACE COMMITTEE CHARTER

### 1 AUTHORITY

Authority for governing the sport of sailing in the United States is vested under U.S. laws and international agreements with United States Sailing (US Sailing), a member national authority (MNA) of the International Sailing Federation (ISAF).

As a member of US Sailing, the Rio Grande Sailing Club (RGSC) is authorized to conduct races in accordance with the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS). (See Rules 85 and 89. An organization must be affiliated with ISAF or an MNA such as US Sailing to organize regattas under the RRS.)

The RGSC operates in accordance with its By-Laws, which vest authority in the Board of Directors to govern club policy and in the Commodore to appoint a race committee chairperson.

The RGSC, including its officers, board, and volunteers, are responsible for conducting regattas in accordance with government laws and with the rules, which include the Racing Rules of Sailing (including definitions, signals, introductions, and preambles), national prescriptions, ISAF regulations, class rules, Notices of Race (NORs), and Sailing Instructions (SIs).

### 2 RESPONSIBILITIES

Board of Directors:

- Approve club budget submitted by commodore, including the race committee budget and budgets for stand-alone regattas such as the Sunrise Regatta.
- Resolve any other matters brought to the board by the officers, board members, committee chairs, fleet captains, club members, or outside organizations.
- Appoint a protest committee in the event of a protest alleging (*italics*) *gross misconduct* (RRS 69), or in which the race committee chair is a (*italics*) *party*.

Commodore

- Appoint the race committee chair.

- Resolve day-to-day issues.
- Refer significant issues to the Board of Directors and provide information to the club and board.

#### Race committee chair

- Propose an annual budget for approval by the Board of Directors.
- Submit an annual calendar of events for approval by the Board.
- Name three to five members to the race committee.
- Provide Notices of Race (NORs), Sailing Instructions (SIs), course maps, and documents that comply with the RRS, government laws, and club guidance.
- Supervise skipper/crew meetings, provide appropriate race and safety information.
- Ensure that skippers sign race forms and pay race fees.
- Supervise race committee volunteers during regattas and give race management direction to volunteers prior to race starts as needed.
- Provide for racers to assist with race committee signal duty on an equitable basis.
- Provide for training of race committee members, committee boat crews, and race crews in the areas of race management, racing rules, and racing skills.
- Maintain race committee equipment, supplies, training materials, forms, rule books, and other items.
- Obtain suitable trophies and awards.
- Supply race results for publication in the Foghorn and club web site.
- Provide an end-of-year report to handicap organizations.
- Convene protest committees in accordance with the RRS and club guidance, referring *protests* alleging gross misconduct (RRS 69) or protests in which the race chair is a *party* to the club board.

#### Principal Race Officer

- Conduct on-the-water activities in accordance with the RRS and race documents. A principal race officer (PRO) is a US Sailing-trained and certified race officer appointed by the board or race committee chair to manage races during a particular regatta.

#### Race committee members

- Assist the race committee chair in carrying out the above responsibilities as directed by the chair and in accordance with the rules and club guidance.

- Carry out assignments from the race committee chair.
- Review race documents.

#### Race committee boat crews and volunteers

- Serve on the race committee signal boat crew when scheduled by the race committee.
- Conduct regattas under the direction of the race committee chair and in accordance with the Racing Rules of Sailing, government laws, club documents, and the objectives of fairness and safety.
- Record all necessary information correctly, including start and finish times/orders, wind speeds, courses selected, and any unusual conditions or occurrences.

#### Race skippers and crews

- Submit correct information to the race committee on regatta or other forms.
- Observe the rules in the RRS, NORs, SIs, class rules, and other race documents.
- Make note of information provided in skipper/crew meetings.
- Obey applicable laws and insure boats as required by state regulations.
- Assist on the race committee boat and with regattas as scheduled and directed.
- Maintain, equip, crew, and operate boats in a safe, seamanlike manner and train crew in seamanship, safety, and boat handling.
- Be solely responsible for deciding whether to participate in a regatta.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR RACE COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS AND COMMITTEE BOAT CREWS

The crew of the race committee signal boat sets and signals races and records race information under the guidance of the race committee chairman (or designee or principal race officer if a PRO is appointed).

Specific duties vary by type of regatta (buoy racing, distance races, specialty races), number and types of boats entered, weather and lake conditions, and other factors. More information is available from the race committee chair, US Sailing-certified race officers and judges, and club and US Sailing publications such as the *Race Management Handbook*, *Judges' Manual*, and *Safety, Rescue, and Support*. Detailed equipment checklists are also available on the internet.

The general sequence of work is as follows:

Before and during the Skipper/Crew Meeting:

- Confirm your duty date and your/your crew's availability with the race committee chair
- Prepare the signal boat as needed for any conditions that may happen on the lake. Be sure the boat has enough anchor line (rode) for anchoring in the middle of the lake.
- Check out race committee equipment and notify the race chair of any missing equipment before the skipper/crew meeting.
- Attend the skipper/crew meeting and make note of special instructions, safety guidance, radio channel, and other information. Pay particular attention to the designated flag sequence and course signals.
- Receive the race committee portfolio/notebook with race forms from the race committee chair and ensure that you have a copy of the latest approved race course map.

Before the first start:

- Be sure the signal boat is in position at least 30 minutes before the first scheduled warning signal. The boat is usually positioned for mid-course buoy-racing starts/finishes in the center of the lake between Rattlesnake Island and Long Point (roughly 32 deg. 12.5' to 12.75' N latitude, – 107 deg. 11.3' to 11.6' W longitude) or at the center pin if it is available.
- When dropping the pin buoy, coil up most of the excess pin buoy anchor line or place a small weight to limit the chance of the line catching a boat keel or rudder.
- Ensure that the signal boat is anchored properly, with adequate anchor and rode to prevent drifting, and with the pin buoy in position (to port [left] of the signal boat).
- Ensure that all signaling equipment (flags, horns, marker boards, regatta forms, timers) is

ready.

- Ensure that the first rounding mark is as directly upwind as possible and that the starting line is square to the wind. The start line is generally about 100 yards long, but may be varied according to the number and type of boats and weather conditions. Request assistance in moving marks as needed.
- Consider weather, boat performance, and fairness in setting courses and follow guidance provided by the race committee chair in setting courses and starting lines.
- Display flags and signals in accordance with the NOR, SIs, and race documents.
- For multiple fleet starts, conduct starts in the sequence directed by race documents or the race committee chair. Start faster classes before slower classes.
- Make an attention signal before making the first warning signal. The preferred attention signal is made by dropping the answering pennant (AP, red and white vertical stripes) with a horn signal one minute before the first warning signal. If the AP pennant is not available, multiple horn signals may be made one minute before making the first warning signal.
- Follow the RRS 26 start sequence and club guidance for the five-minute starting sequence:
  - 5 minutes before start: raise class flag with horn,
  - 4 minutes before start: raise preparatory (white square on blue) flag with horn,
  - 1 minute before start: lower prep flag with longer horn sound,
  - at start: lower class flag with horn.
- Raise the AP pennant (with two sound signals) to postpone a race if needed during the start sequence (because of an incorrect or missed flag signal or a mis-timed horn signal, or significant change in wind, for example). The sequence may be continued if a horn signal is not made, but not if it is made at the wrong time.
- Record all start times along with wind and weather conditions, courses signaled, and any unusual occurrences (for example, collisions, boats retiring, boats intending to protest, hazardous situations, races shortened or abandoned, equipment failure).

#### After the start

- Raise the “X” flag promptly if any boats cross the line before the start signal and hail the “over early” boats.
- Monitor the progress of the race, the wind and weather, and other conditions.
- Record any changes in conditions.
- Be prepared to shorten or abandon a race in accordance with the rules.
- Adjust the start/finish line as needed to account for changes in conditions.
- Record finish times and orders for all races.

Note that a boat finishes when the first part of the boat or equipment in normal position crosses the finish line and the boat does not have to completely cross the line.

- Record wind speeds (particularly required for Portsmouth handicapping) and courses (particularly required for PHRF handicapping)
- Continue race starts and record start times for each fleet.

After the day's racing

- Retrieve the pin buoy and any temporary marks and leave the signal boat and equipment in ship-shape condition and secure.
- Report any unusual occurrences to the race committee chair.

After the last day of racing

- Make note of any lost, broken, missing, or used-up equipment.
- Make note of any suggestions, requests, or unusual occurrences.
- Complete all forms and return the race committee portfolio and forms to the race committee chair.
- Return all race committee equipment to its storage location.
- Submit any receipts (for support boat fuel or air horn refills, for example) to the club treasurer.