Grapevine Sailing Club
2018 Series Racing Instructions

Updated 22-Feb-18

1) The organizing authority is the Grapevine Sailing Club (GSC).

2) Rules

a) The 2017-2020 World Sailing Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), the prescriptions of the United States Sailing Association, and applicable class rules except for any of those that are altered by these sailing instructions will govern the races.

b) Written rules will take precedence over verbal rules.

3) Eligibility and

a) Series races are open to all GSC members in good standing who have achieved this status prior to the skippers' meeting. Series registration is available *only* online at the GSC website; http://grapevinesailing.org/

b) **Non-GSC members** may participate in one series per year.

c) **Single Race entry:** A skipper may participate in a single series race by registering before the scheduled race at the GSC office at Scott's Landing Marina. Single Race entries will not be scored in the series.

d) **Transgrape races** are open only to GSC members.

e) **The Season Ticket** will cover all 2018 series racing, including Transgrape races.

4) Season Pass Check-in:

a) It is highly recommended that a Season Pass holder register for each series event and adjust any declarations as necessary. Failure to do so and racing with a non-declared inventory could result in disqualification.

5) Fleets and Handicapping

a) **Handicaps** for boats will be based on the PHRF handicapping system.

b) **Handicap fleets** will be formed on the basis of displacement, PHRF rating, and One Design.

c) **Provisional ratings** will be given to boats which do not have a current GSC PHRF rating.

d) Three (3) or more **one-design boats** may sail as a fleet.

6) Fleet Assignments

a) Boats will be assigned to a fleet by the Race Captain and will be announced at the skippers' meeting.

7) Schedule of Events

a) The race dates, the time for the first signal and the date with time for the skippers' meetings are listed in the NOR for the event and in the GSC calendar.

b) **A Second Race** for a fleet may be started when:

i) every boat within that fleet has been finished or scored for the first race of the day and . . .

ii) The warning signal for the proposed second race can be made no later than two and a half (2 ½) hours after the scheduled first warning signal for the first race.

iii) **Transgrape:** There shall be only one (1) Transgrape race per day.

8) Notices to Competitors

a) Notices to competitors shall be posted on the official notice board located at the GSC office.

b) Any addendum to these sailing instructions will also be posted on line at http://grapevinesailing.org/ at least one day before the event. Paper copies will also be made available at the skippers' meeting for each event for anyone who needs them. All skippers are encouraged to check on-line to keep themselves abreast of late breaking changes.

9) Skippers' Meetings

a) A skippers' meeting will convene 2 hours prior to the scheduled start of the first race for each series and for each Transgrape race. The time for each skippers' meeting will appear in the NOR for the event and in the GSC Calendar.

10) Decision to Race

a) For all weather aps, the DFW Airport Tower will be used for weather determinations to calculate go/no-go chart.

b) Water temperature will be lowest number listed on tpwd.texas.gov for Grapevine Lake.

c) Races will not be started in less than an average of 4 knots of wind established over the entire course area.

11) Signals Made Ashore

a) Signals made ashore will be displayed at the official race board outside the GSC office.
b) Following a harbor postponement, the first warning signal will be made no earlier than forty-five (45) minutes after the harbor AP is lowered.

12) Racing Area (see the illustration at the end of these Sailing Instructions)

a) The series racing area for buoy fleets shall be the southeast quadrant of Lake Grapevine.
b) The "Rock Crusher" fleets and Transgrape circuit may utilize the entire lake.

13) Marks

a) Windward (W), Leeward (L) and reaching marks will be red/orange buoys.
b) The R ("Rock Crusher") mark may be a white hazard buoy maintained by the Corps of Engineers (COE) to mark the location of the rock washing (rock crusher) equipment at the bottom of the lake. In the event a GSC mark is placed in the vicinity of Rock Crusher, the GSC mark must be rounded in lieu of the COE mark.
c) The start and finish marks will be red/orange buoys
d) The L mark may be a gate.

14) Courses

a) No later than the warning signal for the first start for the first fleet, the signal boat (aka race committee boat) shall display the course and the approximate compass heading to the first mark for each fleet.
b) All marks or regular series racing shall be left to port. Transgrape races may have port or starboard roundings.
c) The course shall be selected from the table specified on Attachment A. The course selected will correspond to the direction of the wind. A different course may be selected for each fleet.
d) The course may be shortened to comply with time limits. This modifies RRS 32.2. Race committees are encouraged to shorten ("stop a race", code flag "S") races to avoid ABANDONMENT caused by a time limit.
e) The start line will be between the orange flag on the race committee boat and a mark.
f) A mid-leg start and finish line will be noted by placing an "M" at the end of the course description.
g) **The mid-leg start/finish line is proscribed**: Except when crossing to finish, any boat crossing the start/finish line after starting, shall be scored DNF. This modifies RRS 63.1 and A5.
    i) A boat may absolve itself from the penalty for crossing the restricted line by passing the string test for sailing a proper course (RRS28.1) or by. . .
    ii) making a 720° turn as soon as possible after the infraction.

15) Course Board

a) The course board will display course description (taken from Attachment A) to sail for each fleet.
b) The course board will display the magnetic heading to the first mark.
c) The course board at minimum will display "**offset**" if an offset mark is set.

16) Check-in

a) Before starting in the first race on each racing day, every skipper shall sail by the signal boat (aka race committee boat) on starboard, announce his/her sail number and say "checking-in".
b) The race committee is instructed to acknowledge each hail and record each check-in.

17) The Start

a) Races will be started by using RRS 26.
b) The starting line will be between the orange flag of the race committee boat and a red/orange mark.
c) **Keep clear of the starting line:** Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area, which is defined as fifty (50) yards from the starting line and its extensions.
d) The order of starts will be determined by flags.

e) The race committee may make several brief sound signals (**courtesy warning**) approximately one (1) minute before to the first warning signal for the first sequence.
f) **Rolling starts**: The race committee is instructed to use rolling starts where the start signal for a fleet starting is the warning signal for the next fleet. However, the race committee may break the sequence (for any reason deemed necessary) by not hoisting the fleet flag for the next start.

18) Changing Course

a) To change the position of the next mark the race committee will move the original mark to a new position or lay a new mark and remove the original mark.
b) The change will be signaled before the leading boat has begun the leg although the new mark may not yet be in position.
c) Any mark to be rounded after rounding the new mark may be relocated, without further signaling, to maintain a true course.

19) Shorten Course

a) The race committee shall shorten course at a mark in accordance with rule 32.2.
b) The race committee may shorten course for individual fleets by displaying code flag "S" and the fleet flag(s) and by making 2 sound signals. (This means that several but not all fleets may be shortened with the same signal by displaying "S" with the fleet flags). This modifies RRs 32.2.
c) The race committee is instructed to make the line between the signal boat (aka race committee boat) and the Shorten mark **PERPENDICULAR** to the rhumb line between the Shorten mark and the previous mark.
d) The race committee is further instructed to position themselves so that finishers moving along the rhumb line from the previous mark to the finish line can cross the finish line by leaving the Shorten mark to port.

20) Abandonment

a) After a start, the race committee may abandon a race by displaying code flag "N" with three sound signals for any reason (not giving signals at the proper time, a big change in wind direction, etc.) which could compromise the fairness of the race. The race committee may start a new race to replace the abandoned race.
b) **A race** may be abandoned for an individual fleet and will be signaled by displaying code flag "N" in conjunction with the fleet flag for which the race is being abandoned and by making three sound signals. This modifies RRS 32.1.

21) Time Limits

a) **The first warning signal of the day must occur no later than 1.5 hours after the scheduled first warning** or all races for that day will be abandoned (no more racing this day) The Race Committee is instructed to give the "N" over "A" signal.
b) **A race (for a fleet) shall be abandoned when no boat in that fleet completes the leg to the first mark within 1 hour.** The race committee is instructed to display the "N" over "H" plus the appropriate fleet flag(s). When more than one (but not all) race(s) is(are) being abandoned, the race committee will display code flag "N" and the flag for each fleet for which the race is being abandoned. This modifies RRS 32.1.
c) A race (for a fleet) will be abandoned **when the first boat** in that fleet **fails to finish within 3 hours** after the start signal for that fleet or, **5 hours for a Transgrape** race. When more than one (but not all) race(s) is(are) being abandoned, the race committee will display code flag "N" and a fleet flag for each fleet for whom the race is being abandoned. This modifies RRS 32.1.
d) Any boat in a race, **not Transgrape**, failing to finish within **45 min** after the first boat in her fleet has finished will be scored DNF.
e) Any boat in a **Transgrape** race failing to finish within **1.5 hours** after the first boat in her fleet has finished will be scored DNF.

22) The Finish

a) The finish line will be between the orange flag of the Signal Boat (aka race committee boat) and a red buoy.

23) Damaging Another Boat

a) Any injury or damage inflicted by an offending boat (one without right of way) will cause the offending boat to be disqualified for that race and retired from racing for the remainder of that day.

The damage must be recognizable and not superficial; e.g. a light paint rub would be considered superficial. This modifies RRS 44.1 (b)

24) Protests

a) A yacht intending to lodge a protest must notify race committee before leaving the race course.
b) Protests shall be written and submitted to the race committee on forms available in the GSC club office within one (1) hour after a representative of the race committee has opened the club office to receive protests. The race committee will post the filing deadline on the racing notice bulletin board as soon as possible after docking.

25) Scoring

a) The low point scoring system (RRS A4) will be used.
b) Ties for a series will be broken using RRS A8.1.
c) Skippers serving on race committee on their assigned race day will be scored as follows:
   i) First place (RDG 1) when they have attended one of the race committee seminars (see the GSC-Calendar) during or before the series for which they have served.
   ii) Their average score (after removing throw out races) for the series when they have not participated in a race committee seminar described above in 23)c.i.
   iii) A skipper reporting for race committee duty for more than one race day in a series will be assigned an average score after removing throw out races.
   iv) A non throw-out score of CMDF will be assigned to any skipper failing to fullfill her/his assigned Race Committee obligation and will not be eligible for a trophy in that series.
d) A throw-out formula will be used starting with race number five (5). The number of throw-outs = (0,0,0,0,1,1,1,1,2,2,2,2,3,3,3,3,4,4,4,4).
e) A boat that did not come to the starting area shall be scored points for the finishing place two (2) more than the number of boats that came to the starting area and checked in for its respective fleet in that race. This changes the last sentence in RRS A9.

26) Prizes

a) 1-4 Boat Fleet = 1 Trophy
b) 5-7 Boat Fleet = 2 Trophies
c) 8-up Boat Fleet = 3 Trophies

27) Disclaimer of Liability

a) Competitors participate in the regatta, series, or race entirely at their own risk. The decision to race or not race is the responsibility of each skipper and not the responsibility of the race committee. See RRS 4, Decision to Race.
b) 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 regatta, series, or race.

28) Further Information

a) GSC Race Captain: Victoria Hielscher 214-632-5227 RaceCaptain@GrapevineSailing.org
b) GSC Asst. Race Captain: Asa Potter 512-689-7878 RaceAssistant@GrapevineSaililng.org