

Brown's Creek Sailing Association (BCSA)

2025 Sailing Instructions

Effective February 1, 2025

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS
Browns Creek Sailing Association (BCSA)
2025

1 Rules

Effective February 1, 2025, all races will be governed by the latest revision to the 2025-2028 World Sailing Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), the prescriptions of US Sailing, class rules (except as any of these are altered by these sailing instructions) and by these sailing instructions.

2 Entries

2.1 Eligible boats may be entered by

(a) completing registration, including sail declaration, at Brown's Creek Sailing Association clubhouse prior to the skipper's meeting or

(b) by notifying the Race Committee and making sail declarations prior to the skipper's meeting

(c) by notifying the Race Committee prior to the starting sequence. *This method is not allowed for pursuit races.*

2.2 Boats entering by 2.1(c) will be registered with 155% genoa and spinnaker. Boats with genoas greater than 155% will be registered with the appropriate genoa size.

2.3 Three or more boats must enter an event; or it will be canceled.

2.4 Each boat must belong to a fleet. BCSA Fleets:

- a) Dinghy
- b) Keelboat

2.5 If three or more Flying Scot or Melges 15 boats are entered, they will form a separate fleet. This fleet will be scored independently but will also be included in the overall Dinghy fleet scoring.

3 Notices to Competitors

Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located at the BCSA clubhouse.

4 Changes in Sailing Instructions

Any change in the sailing instructions will be posted on the notice board at the BCSA clubhouse or published on the BCSA website or in the Drifter with an effective date.

5 Skipper's Meetings

All skipper's meetings will be held one hour before the start of the first race or at the time and place noted in the race schedule.

6 Schedule of Races

6.1 The race schedule is located on the BCSA website.

7 Racing Area

Racing will be indicated by the Notice of Race of an event or designated at the skipper's meeting. Most racing held in the vicinity of LGL (lower Gunter'sville light)).

8 The Course

- 8.1 The course will be described in the Notice of Race or displayed on a signboard on the Race Committee boat. The Race Committee may choose to designate the course by the use of letter or shape signals.
- 8.3 A boat may cross the finishing line while racing even if she is not finishing. This is sometimes called an open gate. If no designation is made by the race committee, then the gate shall be assumed to be "open".
- 8.4 The Race Committee may shorten or alter the course. Code flag 'S' will be displayed from the Race Committee boat to signify a shortened course. The race committee will continue to display the S flag at the finish line of the shortened course. Boats shall finish between the Race Committee boat and the mark she is standing by in a natural way.

9 Marks

- 9.1 Marks will normally be yellow or orange inflatable tetrahedrons although the Race Committee may choose a Navigation Mark such as Lower Gunter'sville Light as one of the marks. Dinghy races will normally be conducted closer to North Alabama Sailing Marina. The starting and finishing marks will be the mainmast of the committee boat or a flag staff with an orange flag for start and finish and a pin with flag or one of the marks listed above.
- 9.2 The Race Committee may choose to place a barging mark close behind the committee boat. The purpose of the barging mark is to prevent boats from colliding with the committee boat prior to and during a race. This mark shall be considered an extension of the committee boat and therefore no boats may pass between the barging mark and the committee boat.

10 The Start

- 10.1 Races will be started in accordance with Rule 26 of the Racing Rules of Sailing. The Warning Signal (class flag) shall be a white flag or shape. The Preparatory Signal shall be code flag P or a blue shape with white squares, If more than one class is racing, additional class flags shall be designated.

Start Sequence

Time to Start	Visual Signal	Sound Signal
	Orange Flag is up the entire race to indicate the start and finish line	
6 Minutes	6 Minute Warning Signal – No Flag	5 sounds
5 minutes	Raise Warning Signal – white flag	1 sound
4 minutes	Raise Preparatory Signal – blue flag with white square	1 sound

1 minute	Lower Preparatory Signal – blue flag with white square	1 sound
0 minutes	Lower Warning Signal – white flag	1 sound

Except in series races identified in the race schedule, if a single class is represented by 5 or more boats, the race committee may provide separate starts for that class. Classes will start at 5-minute intervals and in the order specified by the race committee. Races with more than one fleet or class starting will be started in accordance with Rule 26.

- 10.2 Time is taken from the visual signals (flags/shapes). The failure of a sound signal shall be disregarded.
- 10.3 The start line is between a staff displaying an orange flag or shape on the committee boat at the starboard end and a mark at the port end. The port end of the starting line will be one of the following course marks A, B, C or D or a pin. The barging mark is an extension of the committee boat and not part of the starting line.
- 10.4 Boats whose preparatory signal has not been made will keep clear of the starting area and of all boats whose preparatory signal has been made.

11 Recalls

- 11.1 Individual recalls will be signaled in accordance with racing rule RRS 29.1.
- 11.2 When a general recall has been signaled a new warning signal for a new start of the recalled class will be made one minute after the lowering of the first substitute flag.

12 The Finish

The finishing line will be between the orange flag on the committee boat and one of the following the course marks A, B, C or D or a pin. Once finished, boats should clear the area of the finish line.

13 Time Limit

The time limit is two hours. When no boat finishes within the prescribed time limit, the race shall be abandoned. The two hours' time is at the discretion of the race committee.

14 Protests

- 14.1 Protests shall be written on forms available at the BCSA clubhouse and lodged there within 1 hour after the race committee or representative docks. The race committee will give a sound signal when they dock.
- 14.2 The protest committee will hear protests in approximately the order of receipt as soon as possible.
- 14.3 Protest notices will be posted within 30 minutes of the protest time limit to inform competitors where and when there is a hearing in which they are parties to a protest or named as witnesses.

15 Handicapping

- 15.1 The latest US Sailing Association 2001 Portsmouth Yardstick shall be used to determine handicaps to the extent that the handicaps are specified therein. Handicaps not specified

therein shall be the applicable numbers from the handicap sheet used in 2017.

15.2 The following allowance modification factors from Table VI shall be used with the D-PN and Wind Handicap to calculate handicaps:

- a) Class normally with spinnaker, not equipped with one
- b) Class normally without spinnaker, carrying one
- c) 155% and below or greater than 155% Jib/Genoa allowances

15.3 Corrected times will be calculated by dividing the elapsed time (in decimal minutes) by the handicap then multiplying by 100.

15.4 Boats will be scored in order of corrected time with the smallest corrected time first, the next larger corrected time second, and so forth.

16 Scoring

16.1 There must be two or more boats in a fleet to be scored.

16.2 Each fleet is scored separately.

16.3 Individual Races

Each boat starting and finishing a race, and not thereafter retiring or being disqualified, will be scored points equal to her finishing place, as follows:

<i>Finishing Place</i>	Points
First	1
Second	2
Third	3

Each place thereafter shall add 1 point. Except in series races, all other boats, including a boat that finishes and thereafter retires or is disqualified, will be scored points equal to one more than the total number of boats entered.

16.4 Day or Regatta Score

A. Each race will be scored according to 16.3.

B. Each boat's day or regatta score will be determined by finding the sum of her scores for all races held, excluding any throw-outs. Beginning with the lowest total sum, each boat will then be scored points equal to her relative standing [or rank], as follows:

Standing	Points
First	1
Second	2
Third	3

16.5 Series Scoring

- A. Each race will be scored according to 16.3 with the following modifications: The boats that do not finish (DNF), came to the starting area but retired (RET) or are disqualified (DSQ) get points for the place equal to the number of starters plus one. Boats that do not start (DNS) or do not compete (DNC) are not scored.
- B. The Spring and Fall series will be score with the Cox-Sprague scoring system. You must race at least 40% of the races that are held to qualify for the series.
- C. By being on a Race Committee, a participant will be credited with one race towards qualification.
- D. The Frostbite Series point system used for this series is based on the number of boats racing. For example, say 10 boats are racing. The first-place finisher receives 10 points, second place 9 points, third place 8 points, and so on. If you start the race and don't finish, you will receive one point. If there are 4 boats racing, 1st place receives 4 points, 2nd place receives 3 points, etc. Basically, you are rewarded more for beating 9 boats as opposed to beating 3 boats. If you are the only boat to complete the race out of 10 boats, you still get 10 points while everyone else gets one point.

16.6 Ties

- A. Day Races or Regattas – When there is a tie based on total points between two or more boats, the tie will be broken in favor of the boat with the most first place finishes in individual races, and if the tie remains, the most second place finishes, and so on for such races as count for total points. If a tie still exists it will be broken in favor of the boat with the better finish in the last race in which the tied boats competed and did not throw-out the race's score.
- B. Series Races – When there is a tie based on total points between two or more boats, the tie will be broken in favor of the boat with the most first place day's scores, and if the tie remains, the most second place scores, and so on, using only the scores for each boat that count for her series score. If a tie still exists it will be broken in favor of the boat with the better day's score for the last day on which the tied boats competed and did not throw-out the day's score.
- C. Rule A7 of the Racing Rules of Sailing, regarding sharing and equal prizes for ties, shall only apply when all other practical means of breaking the tie are exhausted.

16 Throw-outs

17.1 Throws-out are optional for all events and series. They will be designated by the Race Committee or Race Chair in a particular event sailing instructions.

17.2

18 Boat Number

A boat's identifying number shall be its mainsail number. No two boats of the same type shall possess the same mainsail number. In the event that two boats of the same type have the same mainsail number, the boat whose mainsail does not match that of the hull

shall be penalized, DSQ, unless there are other identifying features by which the race committee may easily distinguish between competing boats.

Appendix A - Pursuit Races

- 10 When this instruction is used it will replace instructions 10 and 15 of the sailing instructions.
- 10.1 Races will be started in accordance with Rule 26 (See section 10.1 of these sailing instructions.)
- Each boat's start time will be specified by the race committee as minutes and seconds after the starting signal.
- 10.2 The starting line will be between R3 and G3. Unless specified by Race Committee.
- 10.3 Boats whose are not within 5 minutes of the start time will keep clear of the starting area and of all boats that are starting.
- 10.4 The finish line will be between R3 and G3. Unless specified by Race Committee.

15 Handicapping

- 15.1 The US Sailing Association 2017 Portsmouth Yardstick shall be used to determine handicaps.
- 15.2 The following allowance modification factors from Table V shall be used with the D-PN and Wind Handicap to calculate handicaps:
- a) Class normally with spinnaker, not equipped with one
 - b) Class normally without spinnaker, carrying one
 - c) 155% and below or greater than 155% Jib/Genoa allowances
- 15.3 The Portsmouth handicap shall be converted to time-on-distance handicaps based on Table III in the Portsmouth Yardstick.
- $$\text{PHRF} = (\text{DPN} - 55) \times 6$$
- 15.5 The Portsmouth handicap of each boat shall be multiplied by the course length in miles to obtain the time allowance in seconds. The boat(s) with the largest time allowance will start at the white flag. The start time for each remaining boat is obtained by subtracting its time allowance from the time allowance of the scratch boat. This is the time in seconds after the white flag that a boat is allowed to start.
- 15.4 Boats will be scored in order of finish.