

## **Hudson River Yacht Racing Association**

### **Race Management Guidelines for HRYRA Regattas**

#### **Rationale and Purpose of Document**

HRYRA is the local representative of US Sailing. As such, HRYRA seeks to improve the quality of race management for both HRYRA events and sailboat racing in general on the Hudson River. This document is intended to inform both member clubs and visiting PROs of the expectations for HRYRA qualifying events.

Several of HRYRA's six member clubs have extensive experience conducting regattas, but using their own personnel means losing racers to staff the Race Committee boat. Other clubs have less experience and may need someone to help guide their Race Committee.

The HRYRA member club hosting the Regatta is the Organizing Authority (OA) for their specific regatta. As such, the (OA) is responsible for the equipment, administration and running of the regatta. Where a (OA) elects to have HRYRA provide an external PRO, the OA still maintains the ultimate say in the running of the regatta including any changes to the Sailing Instructions during the regatta.

#### **Notice of Race/Sailing Instructions**

The NOR must specify the dates and times when racing will take place. In order to give the RC flexibility based on the prevailing conditions during the regatta, the schedule should avoid specifying an exact number of races to be held on a particular day. As an alternative, the NOR can indicate multiple races and specify a time for the first gun as well as a time after which no races will start.

HRYRA has established a set of "Common Sailing Instructions" (CSI's) which are used by all of our member clubs. These instructions cover many aspects of racing including (but not limited to):

- The requirement that boats have a current PHRF Certificates
- Racing classes
- Time limits
- Scoring
- Penalties and hearings

In addition, each club has its' own Sailing Instructions applicable to their respective regattas. Both sets of instructions need to be consulted. These instructions were compiled with much thought and after many years of experience racing on the Hudson

River. The regatta sailing instructions should not be changed or amended without consulting the OA. The HRYRA “Common Instructions” (CSI’s) should **not** be changed.

## **Race Courses**

The HRYRA fleet consists of a wide variety of boats that race using the PHRF system. The fleet is divided into three classes; two spinnaker (PHRF <130 and PHRF>130) and one non-spinnaker class that covers all PHRF Handicaps.

Each club has established race courses appropriate for their racing areas. HRYRA uses Time on Time PHRF scoring so knowing the exact distance is not necessary.

In general, races should be between forty-five and sixty minutes in length. HRYRA uses a two hour time limit for races. Even with twenty knots of wind, a fourteen nautical mile race might be too long to finish. Always be prepared to shorten a race, especially if the winds are light and fluky which is quite common on the Hudson River. On windward/leeward courses, remember that these are cruising PHRF boats, and short legs often make for hectic sail handling. Longer legs with fewer numbers of times around the course are always better.

Do not start a race when the sustained and forecasted wind is less than 5kts. The only thing worse than not racing is starting a race and having to wait for the time limit to expire. Consider abandoning a race if only a few boats might finish, or if an entire class has no chance of finishing within the time limits.

## **Number of Races**

With a goal of one hour per race and allowing for approximately 4 hours of racing, it is not unreasonable to have 3 races per class. If the race instructions provide for a shorter race day (typically on Sundays) fewer races would be in order.

## **Starting Lines**

In many areas on the Hudson River, the winds can be quite shifty due to geological features (similar to sailing on a lake). While having a start line that is perpendicular to the wind is highly desirable, it might be difficult to achieve. It may be preferable to have a less than perfect start line, get off a short race, and then deal with the starting line rather than postpone a race for a lengthy period while trying to establish a “perfect” line.

## **Communications**

The most important aspect of communication is to remember that the sailors are your customers! Always strive to communicate with the fleet. There should be no surprises. The competitors should know what is happening especially while waiting to get a race off. Always use two radio channels, the one prescribed in the sailing instructions for announcements to the fleet and another one for all of the inter race committee communications (e.g., RC to chase boats). This helps insure that the competitors keep their radios on without distracting chatter.

Consider announcing a “lunch break” around mid-day/early afternoon. A fifteen to twenty minute pause in the action allows crews to take a break and makes it easier to enjoy a quick bite to eat.

HRYRA boats are all cruising yachts usually raced with between three to eight crew members. Even with a fleet of six boats that’s a lot of people on the water. So always remember many people are depending on your actions to have an enjoyable day of racing.

