

# 2026 MASSA TEAM RACING CHAMPIONSHIP

Hosted by

**Gibson Island Yacht Squadron/SSA/Severn**

1703 Skippers Row, Gibson Island, MD 21056

April 25-26

## SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

### 1. RULES:

- 1.1. The regatta will be governed by the current Racing Rules of Sailing, including Appendix D. The [ISSA Procedural Rules](#), [the Scholastic Dinghy Class Rules](#), [The MASSA District Supplemental Rules](#) and [Code of Conduct](#), this NOR and the Sailing Instructions. In the event of a conflict between the governing documents and the Sailing Instructions, the latter shall take precedence. This modifies RRS 63.7.
- 1.2. RRS Appendix D 1.1(d) will be in effect.
- 1.3. On-the-water umpire decisions are final and not protestable.

### 2. NOTICE TO COMPETITORS:

- 2.1. Official notices will be posted on the official notice board located on Tech Score.
- 2.2. Changes to the sailing instructions shall be approved by the protest committee and the MASSA representative and posted no later than one half hour prior to the first warning signal on the day it will take effect.
- 2.3. Changes may be made at the Competitors meeting.

### 3. SCHEDULE and INTENDED FORMAT:

- 3.1. Report times each day are listed in the NOR.
- 3.2. The number of races each day will be at the discretion of the PRO.
- 3.3. Rotation schedules and boat assignments will be posted on Tech Score after the skipper's meeting.
- 3.4. PLAN A: One full qualifying round robin of all 10 teams followed by a Top 6, Bottom 4 will be attempted. All scores will carry over between each round.
- 3.5. In accordance with ISSA **PR 11.3**, if conditions make the PLAN A format unmanageable, the PRO and Chief Umpire may alter the format at any time as they deem fair to ensure an equitable determination of the winner. If it is necessary to change the format, the priority protocol is as follows:
  - 3.5.1. Plan B: One full round robin and a Final 4.
  - 3.5.2. Plan D: If only the Qualifying Round has been completed, the results will stand as the championship. If any of the subsequent round robins (Championship, Silver, or Bronze) have been completed, the results of completed round robins will stand. Results from incomplete round robins may be used in tiebreakers. This changes ISSA **PR 11.1(c)**.
  - 3.5.3. Plan G: If the PRO, Chief Umpire, and ISSA Representative deem that it is unmanageable to complete the Qualifying Round in the time allotted, they will discuss and find the best solution to complete the regatta.

### 4. COURSES AND MARKS:

- 4.1. Courses will be in accordance with ISSA PR Appendix 6 (Digital N Course)
- 4.2. All marks will be Yellow cylinders. Starting and Finishing pins will be orange.

**5. START/FINISH AND SIGNALS:**

- 5.1. Races will start in accordance with ISSA PR 7.9.
- 5.2. The start/finish lines will be between an orange staff on the race committee boat and an orange pin.

**6. BREAKDOWNS:**

- 6.1. Breakdown requests shall be filed in the same manner as protests.
- 6.2. Breakdowns shall be scored in accordance with ISSA PR 11.2. Compensation shall be consistent with ISSA PR Appendix 5.
- 6.3. Competitors are responsible for inspecting their assigned boats before each race for possible breakdowns and missing equipment.
- 6.4. Competitors shall report any damage, breakdown, or loss of equipment, however slight, to the regatta representative managing rotations on the changing dock immediately upon arriving on shore and to the race committee finish-boat on the water immediately after all boats in their race have finished. Compliance with this instruction is required regardless of whether a scoring change for a breakdown is being requested. Failure to make this report will be subject to such penalty as the protest committee may impose, including loss of one or more race wins. This changes **RRS 63.5(a)**.

**7. UMPIRING:**

- 7.1. RRS Appendix D2 shall apply for all races.

**8. PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS:**

- 8.1. Protests procedure will be in accordance with ISSA PR Part VI and RRS Appendix D2.
- 8.2. An umpire shall signal a decision with long sound and the display of a flag for no penalty as follows: a green flag or a green and white flag. This changes RRS D2.4(a).
- 8.3. In lieu of displaying a black flag, an umpire may hail, "black flag" or "report incident to the protest committee". This changes ISSA PR Appendix 7.
- 8.4. For protests not involving a rule listed in rule D2.2, competitors shall inform an umpire or the race committee at the finish or at the first opportunity prior to rotating boats or going ashore.
- 8.5. The protest time limit for requests for redress on an incident in the racing area that is to be heard on shore and for a breakdown request to be heard on shore is 15 minutes from the time the team rotates out of boats and shall be submitted in writing to the scorer.
- 8.6. Should a redress, or scoring change hearing be necessary ashore, the time, place and nature of the hearings will be posted on the Official Notice Board no later than 30 minutes after the race committee signal boat docks.
- 8.7. The umpires will, when appropriate, attempt to hear protest, requests for redress, and requests for scoring changes while afloat.
- 8.8. Video, data and/or photographs taken from any source shall not be presented by the competitors as evidence at protest hearings. This changes RRS 63.4.

**9. SCORING:**

- 9.1. Scoring will be in accordance with ISSA PR 11, with the exception as noted in 3.5.3 above.

**10. SAFETY:**

- 10.1. A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee either before leaving the course, or if that is impossible, immediately after arriving ashore.

- 10.2. At its discretion, the Race Committee or Organizing Authority may require a competitor to accept assistance and/or retire from racing if the progress of the regatta is affected or if the competitor is determined to be a risk to their own or others' safety
- 10.3. Competitors should wear a drysuit or a wetsuit at all times while in a boat after departure from the dock until return to the dock when the combined water and air temperature is less than 120°F or the water temperature is less than 50°F. The OA reserves the right to require drysuits/wetsuits when the water temperature is less than 60°F and will announce it at the competitors meeting.
- 10.4. Competitors shall wear USCG approved Type III personal flotation devices (PFDs) at all times while in a boat after departure from the dock until return to the dock. Inflatable type PFDs are not permitted.

**11. SEAMANSHIP:**

- 11.1. Contestants are expected to handle boats and equipment in a safe and seamen like manner. Sailing the boats up to the fixed pier or floating docks at more than a dead slow speed will be considered unseamanlike. The Race Committee, afloat or ashore, will protest such actions. Violation of this provision may be grounds for disqualification from the last race sailed or for excluding a team from any or all of the remaining parts of the event.
- 11.2. Contestants are expected to roll sails on the grass and not drag them on the dock at any time.

**12. TRASH DISPOSAL:**

- 12.1. Boats shall not put trash in the water. Sailors ashore shall place trash in the appropriate receptacles. There are recycling and trash bins on the brick patio, inside the clubhouse, and near the front gate.
- 12.2. Breach of this rule will be grounds for disqualification.

**13. SUBSTANCE ABUSE & BEHAVIOR:**

- 13.1. Participants are expected to act in a sportsmanlike manner at all times on and off the water throughout the entire event.
- 13.2. Immediately before, during, and immediately after, no contestant shall use, either on or off the water, alcoholic beverages (beer, wine, or distilled spirits, each as defined in Chap 51 of the US Internal Revenue Code and intended for beverage use), or marijuana, cocaine, or any other controlled substance (as defined in 21 US Code 802), the possession of which, by that contestant is unlawful under 21 US Code 841. Infringements of this regulation or other discipline expectations occurring during the event may be the basis for a hearing under RRS 69.1. The protest committee for such a hearing shall be the regatta chairperson, a member of the MASSA Board of Directors, and the protest committee chairperson. This protest committee shall, at a time and place selected by them, meet to hear said protest, and their decision to impose scoring penalties, or other sanctions they alone deem appropriate, including summary removal from the regatta, shall be final, without appeal.

**14. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY:**

- 14.1. Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. See RRS Part 1 – Fundamental Rules, #3, Decision to Race. 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. or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the regatta.

**15. RIGHTS TO USE NAME AND LIKENESS:**

- 15.1. By participating in this event, competitors automatically grant to the Organizing Authority and the event sponsors the right, in perpetuity, to make, use and show, at their discretion, any photography, audio and video recordings, and other reproductions of them made at the venue or on the water from the time of their arrival at the venue, until their final departure, without compensation.