

**HUMBOLDT YACHT CLUB  
STANDING RACE RULES  
FOR ANNUAL AND SEASONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS  
(Amended March 2024)**

**1. Race Rules**

The racing rules of the Humboldt Yacht Club are those of the international Sailing Federation (ISAF) as modified by the prescriptions of the United States Sailing Association (US Sailing), the rules of the individual classes concerned and the written Sailing instructions of which these Standing Race Rules constitute a part.

A. Races will be started as per Rule 26 with the following changes: Yellow flag or shape may replace class flag as Warning signal; blue flag or shape may replace P flag as Preparatory signal. Starting time and procedure may be changed by the Race Committee.

B. Coast Guard Navigation Rules will replace the corresponding rules of Part 2 between sunset and sunrise, and at all times between racing and non-racing boats.

C. Time limits where specified in the written Sailing Instructions will normally be based on an average speed of two knots over the course. The approximate distances and time limits are listed for most of the races.

D. A boat late for a start may use its engine or any other means of propulsion after the preparatory signal to proceed directly to the edge of the starting area. The boat shall not, however, start until five minutes (or other prescribed interval) after stopping engine or otherwise complying with Rule 42.

**2. Eligibility to Compete**

A. Membership in the Humboldt Yacht Club.

B. Compliance with applicable Class, Divisional and Special Equipment Requirements.

C. Non-members may compete in any regular club race with the approval of the majority of the members present.

D. Boats designed to sail with crew must compete with at least one crew when a race extends beyond the Bay, unless the race is designated as a single-handed event.

E. Each Skipper in a series will have the responsibility of performing as Race Committee for a minimum of one race to be considered for inclusion in the overall series results for the year. This requirement may be satisfied by acting as Race Committee in a series in which they are not competing.

F. Skippers must sign up for a race day either at the pre-race meeting or within 24 hours prior to the race day. These rules shall apply for any in-bay keel or dingy race. Failure to sign up will preclude the boat from inclusion in the race scoring conducted that day.

### **3. Classes to Sail**

A. One Design classes and/or rating divisions may be recognized where three or more similar boats petition to compete together. Maintenance of class or divisional standings requires that at least three boats rank as starters in no less than 50% of the races scheduled for a series.

B. Open Class-Boats not falling within an established class, and of insufficient number to warrant recognition as a separate division, may start and sail with an established class for Open Class and ranked according to their finishes in competition against boats in an established class.

C. There must be a minimum of two boats starting in each race for the race to be scored.

### **4. Ratings or Handicaps**

A. Ratings of handicaps shall be established annually based upon established US Sailing Average for each vessel as produced and posted by the club handicapper. Modifications from production standard for each boat shall be reported to the club handicapper for re-evaluation.

B. Dingy race series shall use the Portsmouth rating system.

C. Boats will be rated for using a spinnaker unless skipped declares no spinnaker for the season.

### **5. Scoring for Annual and Seasonal Point Championships**

A. Races will be scored as provided in Appendix A of US Sailing Racing Rules using the Low Point Average System with the exception of non-finisher will be scored as last place.

B. For series races, in order to be considered for inclusion in the overall series results, a boat shall compete in (i.e. come to the starting area for) a minimum of 60 percent of the series races completed.

C. Each boat finishing a race and not thereafter retiring or being disqualified will be scored as follows:

Finishing place	Score
First	1
Second	2
Third	3
Fourth	4
Each place thereafter	Add one point
DNF and DSQ will be scored as last place.	
Boats that do not compete in that race (DNC) will not be scored.	

D. The series score of each boat will be the sum of her race scores divided by the number of races for which she is scored (no exclusions shall be allowed). The qualified boat with the lowest series score is the winner and the others are ranked accordingly. Scores will be recorded to two decimal places.

E. A skipper abandoning a race to assist a vessel or person in distress may elect to receive, for that race, points equal to his/her average for all races in which he/she ranked as a starter in that series.

F. A skipper serving as Race Committee on a day on which he/she would otherwise have raced will receive, for that day, points equal to his/her average for all days on which he/she ranked as a starter in that series and that day counts towards the participation requirement.

## **6. Ties**

Race ties will be handled using US Sailing rule A7. Series ties will be broken using rule A8.1. Rules A3, A5, A6, A10, and A11 also apply.

## **7. Required Special Equipment for ballasted keel boats**

See SER's on the website racing tab. Skippers must complete the google form stating they have read the safety requirements.

## **8. Skipper Responsibility**

A. Each skipper must consider the conditions on the course, particularly wave conditions at the bar and probable conditions offshore, with respect to his/ her own capabilities and those of the boat and crew. The skipper must not infer that because a race will be sailed, the course is safe or without hazard. Nor should the skipper consider the minimum equipment requirements necessarily adequate.

B. The skipper must bear the ultimate responsibility for decisions affecting the safety of the boat, and should not commit to conditions that would jeopardize the boat, crew, or his/her sailing career.

C. All skippers and each boat crew must sign the HYC "Release of Liability & Waiver" form available at any pre-race Skippers' Meeting.

## **9. Miscellaneous:**

A. All keel boats shall carry VHF radio.

B. Personal floatation devices shall be worn at all times while racing.

C. All boats shall stay in the shipping channel while transiting Humboldt Bay entrance, and have a motor ready to run.

D. All keel boats with lifting or swing keels shall sail with the keel down and locked in down position.