



Sharing the Sailing Community

Center Sound Series

Blakely Rock Race – March 3, 2018
 Scatchet Head Race – March 10, 2018
 Three Tree Point Race – March 24, 2018

Notice to Competitors: Casual Class Information

as of February 27, 2018

The following information is for the Casual Class boats only and is for information purposes.

PURPOSE

The Casual Class offers a more relaxed, less intimidating entrée into sailboat racing – and also offers a racing alternative for boats that are more cruisers than racers and/or may have older sails, less experienced crews, etc., and still want to have a fun sailing experience on a course with other boats. Membership in CYC or PHRF-NW is not required to participate, though welcomed and encouraged.

Awards will be provided for the top Casual Class finishers in each race. The Casual Class will be scored independently and is not combined with the racing classes for series overall or permanent awards.

The entry fee for each boat is \$30 per race, half the normal amount, or \$90 for the series. Registration is available on the CYC website at www.cycseattle.org/racing. Register for each race or the series and indicate “Casual Class” along with the appropriate entry fee.

HANDICAP RATINGS

We anticipate that the Casual Class will attract a wide variety of boats, and so each boat will need a handicap rating. If you have a rating, you may use that. If your boat does not have a handicap rating, please email Matthew Wood at matthewewood@outlook.com and provide him with the following information:

- Your name and best contact information (phone and email)
- The name of your boat
- The make, model (if applicable) and length of your boat (for example, Morgan 33 or Roberts 37 Steel Cutter)
- Whether you will be using a flying sail (typically a spinnaker)
- Briefly describe your headsail arrangement and if your largest sail is less than 155% (for example, “roller furling jib” or “two headsails, 150% and 110%”)
- Is your prop fixed or folding
- Is your anchor mounted on the bow on an anchor roller or capstan
- General condition of your boat’s bottom (for example, recently painted, brushed what I could reach in the last 6 months, hasn’t been touched for about two years, etc)
- Any cruising gear that may impair the boat’s performance



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Matthew will contact you if he needs any further information and will let you know your rating for these races. Please contact Matthew as early as possible.

CASUAL CLASS COURSES

See the sketch chart of Puget Sound and approximate location of marks in the CYC *Race Book* available at the CYC Shilshole clubhouse and at www.cycseattle.org/racing.

The start and finish will be from the red CYC committee boat in Shilshole Bay, west of the Shilshole Marina. Depending on the winds and tides and other considerations, the committee boat may head either north or south to provide fair starts and good racing, so provide enough time to get to the starting area. Go near the committee boat to check in by hail and then clear the starting line area once the starting sequences have started until your start is next.

The Casual Class will start after the classes sailing the longer courses. While the number of classes will be determined based on the number of boats registered, the Casual Class starting time will likely be around 10:30 to 11:00 am. The list of classes will be posted by the Friday before the first race at the CYC clubhouse and on the CYC website. To anticipate your starting time, consider that the warning signal for the first class is scheduled for 10:00 am and it takes five minutes to run the starting sequence for each class before yours.

Blakely Rock Race – Approximately 12 nautical miles

The course for this race depends on the direction of the wind to make the start upwind.

North Wind Course (signal “NORTH”): Start by leaving the starting mark buoy to port, round mark “N” to port, round mark “W” to port, and finish by leaving the finishing mark buoy to port.

South Wind Course (signal “SOUTH”): Start by leaving the starting mark buoy to starboard, round mark “W” to starboard, round mark “N” to starboard, and finish by leaving the finishing mark buoy to starboard

Mark “N” is a large yellow or red inflatable buoy located 1.0 nautical mile east of Traffic Separation Lane Lighted Buoy “SF” (a “mid-channel buoy”) south of Richmond Beach County Park, approximately mid-way between Buoy “SF” and the east coast of Puget Sound.

Mark “W” is the permanent buoy just off West Point, just south of the Shilshole Marina.

Scatchet Head Race – March 12, 2016 – Approximately 13 nautical miles

There is one course, which does not depend on the wind direction, for this race. This means that the start of the race, which heads north, may be either upwind or downwind. **Note that this course is different from what was originally published in the CYC *Race Book 2016*.**



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Course: Start by leaving the starting mark buoy to port, round mark “U” to port, round mark “M” to starboard, round mark “U” to port, and finish by leaving the finishing mark buoy to port.

Mark “U” is a white spar buoy near the east coast of Puget Sound located 2.9 NM bearing 6 degrees from the Meadow Point Buoy and located just north of Spring Beach in the Highlands. Mark “M”, the Meadow Point Buoy, is a green buoy located just north of the north entrance to Shilshole Bay Marina off Meadow Point.

Three Tree Point Race – March 26, 2016 – Approximately 12 nautical miles

There is one course, which does not depend on the wind direction, for this race. This means that the start of the race, which heads south, may be either upwind or downwind.

Course: Start by leaving the starting mark buoy to port, round mark “D” to port, and finish by leaving the finishing mark buoy to port.

Mark “D” is the Duwamish Head Light, an offshore piling structure located just off Duwamish Head at the south end of Elliot Bay off West Seattle.

COACHES

If you want to participate but feel unsure about starting, the race rules, or have other concerns, we will try to find experienced sailors to sail on your boat as a coach. The coaches are just that, and are not to steer or handle lines or sails – that is the fun and learning part of sailboat racing. But to the extent requested, a coach can suggest tactics and answer questions. If you would like to have a coach on board, let the CYC office know as soon as possible.

GUIDANCE ON SAILING RULES

All the applicable sailing rules apply to the Casual Class races and nothing here changes those rules. However, the following principles will get you safely around the course in practically all situations.

1. **Fair Sailing – No Contact.** The purpose of the sailing rules is to provide safe and fair competition. There are to be no surprises or “gotcha’s.” Key concepts are that boats compete with “recognized principles of sportsmanship and fair play” and that boats “shall avoid contact with another boat if reasonably possible.”
2. **Port / Starboard.** A port tack boat shall keep clear of a starboard tack boat in almost all situations.
3. **Same Tack – Windward / Leeward, Ahead / Behind.** When boats are on the same tack (both on starboard or both on port), a windward boat shall keep clear of a leeward boat and, if one boat is clear behind the other, a boat that is behind shall keep clear of a boat clear ahead.

The windward/leeward situation often happens at the start, and if you are windward of another boat, you must keep clear of them, even if you must go over the starting line early. (And an over-



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early boat heading back to the starting line must keep clear of other boats, even when on starboard tack, to leeward, or behind.)

Another common windward/leeward situation is when one boat is sailing downwind and meets a boat sailing upwind. The boat sailing downwind is the “windward” boat, and, if both boats are on the same tack, either both on starboard or both on port, then the boat sailing downwind must keep clear of the boat sailing upwind. If the two boats are on different tacks, then the port boat must keep clear.

4. **Going Around a Mark.** At marks, an outside boat should provide an inside boat space to round the mark.
5. **Changing Course.** A boat that is changing directions, such as tacking from port to starboard, must give other boats that are close-by the opportunity to keep clear. That is, make no sudden changes of course that surprise another boat. While “hailing” another boat is not required by the sailing rules, it is common practice to let other boats close to you know that you are changing directions.
6. **Penalty Turns for Right of Way Rules.** In sailing, we have the honor to enforce the rules on ourselves and take our own penalties. You may have broken a rule if you did not keep clear of a right of way boat, and there was contact or the other boat could not sail her course without reasonably needing to avoid you. If there is no injury or serious damage, you may be able to exonerate yourself and then keep racing by taking a two-turns penalty: as soon as possible, get clear of other boats and take two full turns in the same direction (each turn is like a circle including one tack and one gybe). If you touch a mark, then the penalty is one-turn. A boat taking penalty turns must keep clear of other boats, so be sure to take your turns out of the way.

Remember, the races are long and any minor advantage gained by pressing the rules is not worth the cost of possibly causing a great deal of damage or serious injury to any participant. Good sportsmanship and developing mutual respect often means saying “sorry,” taking the relatively small amount of time to do your turns and buying beverages for the crew of the other boat after the race.

These general principles will get you around the course safely in almost all situations so you can enjoy a fun day of racing.