



**74th<sup>rd</sup> DOWN THE BAY RACE  
(For the Virginia Cruising Cup)**

**SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

**Starts: Friday, May 24, 2024**

**CBYRA Region IV Sanction # 403**

**Organizing Authorities:  
Hampton Yacht Club (HYC), Hampton, VA  
Storm Trysail Club (STC), Chesapeake Station**

The Down the Bay Race is a 120 nautical mile distance race from Annapolis to Hampton. It is open to all monohull and multihull sailboats meeting the requirements listed below:

- 1 Rules** – Refer to NOR 1
- 2 Changes to Sailing Instructions**  
Notices to Competitors and any changes to the Sailing Instructions will be available at Severn Sailing Association (SSA) on Thursday, May 23 after 1800 and will also be posted on the official notice board.
- 3 Communications with Competitors**
  - 3.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located at:  
<https://yachtscoring.com/emenu.cfm?eid=16412>
  - 3.2 On the water, the race committee intends to communicate with competitors via VHF radio on channel 72.
- 4 Code of Conduct**  
Competitors and support persons shall comply with reasonable requests from race officials.
- 5 Schedule**

- 5.1 The first warning signal is scheduled for 10:00, Friday May 24, 2024, in the Bay near Severn River R "2".
- 5.2 A Welcome Party for skippers and crew will be held at Severn Sailing Association, 311 First Street, Annapolis, MD 21403 on Thursday, May 23, 2024, at 1730. 17:30 – 20:30. Food and Beverages will be provided
- 5.3 A post-race awards ceremony will be held on Saturday, May 25 at 1830 hours in the upstairs HYC Commodores dining room. Food and beverages will be provided.

## 6 Class Flags

Class flags will be as follows:

ORC Open	Numeral Pennant 1
ORC Performance Cruiser	Numeral Pennant 2
J/105	Numeral Pennant 3
PHRF-A	Numeral Pennant 4
PHRF-B	Numeral Pennant 5
PHRF NON-SPIN.	Numeral Pennant 6
CMA (Multihull)	Numeral Pennant 7
CHESSS Doublehanded	Numeral Pennant 8

All boats, except multihulls, are required to fly their class flag from their backstay at least 6 feet above the deck, for the duration of the race.

## 7 The Course and Marks

See NOR 7

## 8 The Start

- 8.1 Order of Starts will be posted and made available at SSA on Thursday, May 23 after 1800.
- 8.2 All boats are required to check-in before the start by passing close to the RC Signal Boat stern, motoring or on starboard tack, hailing her sail number until acknowledged by the race committee.
- 8.3 The RRS 26 Starting system will be used, **with horns and VHF only**. No signal flags will be displayed. Boats observed as OCS will be hailed on VHF 72. No X flag will be flown.
- 8.4 At the start line, the race committee will be broadcasting on and monitoring, VHF 72.
- 8.5 In the event of light air, the race committee may, at its own discretion, move the starting line south to a new location. Once in the new position, the race committee will drop a mark, anchor and either begin a starting sequence or await developments. The race committee will not begin moving the starting line south until all boats are present in the starting area or 1000 hours, whichever comes first.

## 9 The Finish

- 9.1 The finish line will be off Fort Monroe, between "Q" (R-22) and a staff displaying a blue flag on the seawall at Fort Monroe bearing 285°M from R-22. "Q" (R-22) is located at 37° 0.169 N - 76° 17.866 W.
- 9.2 When each boat is approximately 200 yards from the finish line, they shall contact the race committee on VHF 72 and announce their boat name and sail number. After finishing, they shall again contact the race committee on VHF 72 to insure they have been properly identified and their finish time recorded.
- 9.3 After the finish, before entering the Hampton River, you may encounter anchored construction vessels (tugs, barges, cranes) as you cross over the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel (HRBT) and enter the Hampton River Channel. The following changes are recent and may not be shown on your charts and/or navigation electronics. Red buoy "1" is no longer visible. Hampton River Channel Light "1HR" green quick flashing (1 sec) light (37° 0.006 N 76° 19.278 W) is now the most visible limit marker. Go between "HR1" and the HRBT construction site, to enter the Hampton River.

## **10 Penalty System**

Appendix V will be in effect.

## **11 Time Limit**

The time limit for all boats is 2200 hours on Saturday, May 25. Boats not finished by that time will be scored DNF. All boats still on the course MUST make contact with the Hampton Race Committee (VHF 72, or phone 757-773-6292 to ensure you are safe and report your intentions, otherwise the provision of section 14.4 shall apply.

## **12 Hearing Requests**

Written Protests shall be delivered to the Scorer table in the HYC lounge within 90 minutes of the boat crossing the finish line. Protests will be heard as soon as possible, once all parties are present.

## **13 Scoring**

13.1 ORC classes will be scored Time-on-Time All Purpose single number, unless conditions for the race dictate another scoring option. Race Committee decisions on an alternate scoring option, shall not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 62.1 (a).

13.2 PHRF classes will be scored Time-on-Time using Circular Random Handicaps.

## **14 Safety Regulations**

14.1 A boat may not exercise right of way over, cross in proximity to, or interfere with reasonable transit of the racecourse by commercial freighters, tugs and tows, or other commercial vessels. Any boat protested under this rule will have the burden of proof that she did not interfere with the restricted vessel. Boats are encouraged to contact commercial traffic on VHF 13 if they are uncomfortable with their proximity to such vessels. A protest may be filed by any competitor or race committee person who observed an incident. In addition, the race committee, protest committee, or Organizing Authority may file a protest based on a report received from the offended vessel or from a local military or civilian port authority. The penalty for breaking this rule shall be disqualification.

14.2 As provided in RRS 42.3(i), if a boat is without way in a shipping channel and a dangerous situation develops, she may use her engine, provided she does not gain a significant advantage in the race. Details of such use of engine shall be logged and filed with the race committee after the race.

14.3 A boat withdrawing before the start shall notify the Storm Trysail Race Committee Signal Boat either by VHF 72, or by cell phone 410-353-0477. Please do not leave a message but, leave a text message and if possible, continue to attempt to speak with the race committee.

14.4 A boat withdrawing after she has started shall notify the Hampton YC race committee by calling 757-773-6292. Please do not leave a message but, rather, continue to attempt to speak with the race committee. If you are unable to connect by phone, please text 757-773-6292 and/or e-mail [rjwilcox@cox.net](mailto:rjwilcox@cox.net) and seek acknowledgement of your withdrawal. Boats not complying with this instruction by 2300 hours Saturday May 25 or earlier, will be assumed to be in distress, and the USCG will be contacted.

14.5 Between sunset and sunrise, the following will replace RRS 17: "When a boat is about to pass another boat and they are on the same tack and within three overall lengths (of the longer boat) of each other, the boat being overtaken shall maintain her proper course and the overtaking boat shall pass no closer than three of her boat lengths from the overtaken boat. Both boats shall maintain their proper course while overlapped."

## **15 Equipment and Measurement Checks**

A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with class rules, notice of race and sailing instructions.

**16 Prizes** – refer to NOR 12

**17 Special Limitations**

During the race, competitors may not receive weather, current, or navigational information except from publicized sources available to all competitors. Subscription services such as Sailflow and PredictWind are allowed. However, private forecasts or tactical advice or information customized for a particular boat is not allowed.

**18 Risk Statement**

RRS 3 states: "The responsibility for a boats decision to participate in a race or to continue to race is hers alone". By participating in this event each competitor agrees and acknowledges that sailing is a potentially dangerous activity with inherent risks. These risks include strong winds and rough seas, sudden changes in weather, failure of equipment, boat handling errors, poor seamanship by other boats, loss of balance on an unstable platform and fatigue resulting in increased risk of injury. Inherent in the sport of sailing is the risk of permanent, catastrophic injury or death by drowning, trauma, hypothermia or other causes.

**19 Insurance**

Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third party liability insurance with a minimum coverage of \$500,000 per incident or equivalent.