

2026 Thistle LEFS MHYC Pinehill Derby

Thistle Class Association

August 29-30

Mentor Harbor Yachting Club

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Rules:

The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) and the rules of the Thistle Class will govern the regatta, except as altered by these Sailing Instructions.

2. Entries:

Eligible boats may enter by completing registration with the organizing authority. Skippers must be Active members of the Thistle Class Association (TCA), boats must have a valid measurement certificate on file with the TCA, and carry class-required safety equipment.

3. Notices to Competitors:

Notices to competitors will be posted on the online "Notice Board" on Clubspot

4. Changes in Sailing Instructions:

4.1 Any written change to the sailing instructions will be posted no later than 15 minutes after the conclusion of the competitor's meeting, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 2000 the day before it will take effect.

4.2 If required, changes to the sailing instructions may be made on the water. The Signal Vessel will signal "come within hail" by displaying Signal Flag L with one sound. The oral change will be announced on VHF 72 per RRS 90.2c.

5. Signals Made Ashore:

5.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed from the designated mast

5.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 30 minutes' in the race signal AP.

6. Schedule of Races:

6.1 The warning for the first race of the day on Saturday is scheduled for 1130. The warning signal for the first race of the day on Sunday is scheduled for 1000

6.2 No warning signal shall be made after 1400 on Sunday.

6.3 A pre-warning alert consisting of multiple sounds may be given approximately one minute before the warning.

7. Class Flag

The class flag will be a Thistle class burgee.

8. Racing area

The racing area the open waters of Lake Erie outside of the MHYC channel

9. The Course:

9.1 The diagrams in Illustration A show the courses, including the order in which marks are to be passed as well as the side on which to pass each mark.

9.2 No later than the warning signal the RC shall announce on VHF 72, and display from the committee boat, the course designation, distance and the approximate compass bearing of the first leg.

10. Marks:

10.1 Marks will be good old fashioned inflatables described in the skippers meeting

11. Check-in:

11.1 Boats are required to check in by sailing on starboard tack behind the stern of the RC signal boat while hailing their sail number before the start of the first race each day. Failure to check in will result in a 20% penalty for the first race of the day.

11.2 A boat that retires from a race or leaves the race area between races shall check in again before the warning signal of the next race in which she intends to race.

12. The Start:

12.1 Races will be started by using RRS 26.

12.2 The starting line shall be between the orange flag displayed on the RC signal boat and the course side of the port-end starting mark as described in SI 10.5.

12.3 Race Committee will attempt to hail OCS boats as soon as practical but failure to hail by the Race Committee, a competitor's failure to hear a hail, the timeliness of the hail, or the order of the hail are not grounds for redress. Such hail will be made via VHF radio. *This changes RRS rule 29.1.*

13. Change of Course:

13.1 The RC may adjust any leg of the course by moving mark(s) up to 015° in bearing and/or 0.1 nm in length without a signal or change of mark color. The race committee may, but is not required to, announce this change. *This changes RRS 33.*

13.2 Subject to 13.1, to change the next leg of the course for Mark 1, the RC will move the orange twt with a yellow tet. When a course change is signaled, the offset mark shall be disregarded.

13.3 The RC may shorten any course provided that the first two legs of the course have been completed (not including the weather mark to offset mark).

14. The Finish:

The finish line will be between a staff displaying a blue flag on the race committee boat and the course side of the finish mark as described in SI 10.1.

15. Time Limits and Target Times:

15.1 The target time for the first boat to finish each race is 35 - 45 minutes. This shall not be grounds for redress. *This changes RRS 62.1(a).*

15.2 If no boat has passed Mark 1 within twenty (20) minutes after their start, or if no boat finishes the race within eighty (80) minutes after their start, the race shall be abandoned.

15.3 Boats failing to finish within twenty (20) minutes after the first boat of the fleet sails the course and finishes, will be scored Did Not Finish (DNF), defined as the number of boats finishing within the time limit plus one (1), without a hearing. *This changes RRS 35, A4 and A5.*

16. Radio Communications:

16.1 Use of any electronic or communication device to enhance performance is prohibited while racing except:

- An electronic compass
- Clock or countdown timer or watch
- Heel indicator
- VHF radio for race committee communications, safety, and weather information
- Still or video cameras
- In an emergency

16.2 Cameras, position sensing devices, and other performance logging and tracking devices are permitted provided that the information that is recorded or output is not visible or not available on board while racing nor in any protest or redress proceeding. Cell phones or other devices capable of accessing the internet are permitted to check online Sailing Instructions, Notices of Race, or Results. (CMR 78)

16.3 Communication among RC vessels overheard by a competitor will not be an improper action, nor grounds for redress.

16.4 The RC will use VHF Channel 72 to communicate information including the location of the starting area, countdowns, general recalls, and postponements. These communications are a courtesy only. Failure of the RC to make, or failure of a boat to hear these broadcasts shall not be grounds for redress. *This changes RRS 62.1.*

17. Penalty System:

17.1 **US Sailing Prescription Appendix V will apply.**

V1: PENALTY AT THE TIME OF AN INCIDENT The first two sentences of rule 44.1 are changed to: 'A boat may take a One-Turn Penalty when she may have broken one or more rules of Part 2 or rule 31 in an incident while racing. However, when she may have broken one or more rules of Part 2 while in the zone around a mark other than a starting mark, her penalty shall be a Two-Turns Penalty.'

V2: POST-RACE PENALTIES A boat that may have broken one or more rules of Part 2 or rule 31 in an incident while racing may take a Post-Race Penalty for that incident. A boat takes the penalty by delivering a written notice to the race office that identifies the race number and when and where the incident occurred. The penalty shall be a 30% Scoring Penalty, calculated as stated in rule 44.3(c). However, rules 44.1(a) and (b) apply, and the penalty shall not be taken after a protest hearing involving the incident has begun.

17.2 Penalties for infractions within the zone of the windward mark or on the offset leg may be delayed and taken as soon as possible on the downwind leg. *This changes RRS 44.2.*

17.3 The protest committee may impose penalties less than disqualification (DPI), for violation of class rules and racing rules other than those in RRS Part 1 and Part 2 as permitted in rule 64.2.

18. Protests and Requests for Redress:

18.1 Request for Hearing or scoring review are available at the Spinnaker room inside the MHYC clubhouse. Protests and requests for redress or reopening shall be delivered to the designated representative of the Protest Committee at the Spinnaker room within the protest time limit.

18.2 The protest time limit is 45 minutes after the RC Signal Boat docks at the end of each day.

18.3 Requests for Scoring Review (including OCS) shall be filed within 45 minutes of scores being posted for the day. Such a request will be reviewed by the RC before being scheduled for a hearing by the PC. If unresolved, it shall be considered a request for redress and will be considered to have met the protest time limit. *This changes RRS 63.1.*

18.4 Notices will be posted within 15 minutes after the protest time limit has expired to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Hearings will be held in the Spinnaker room.

18.5 After a hearing, penalties for breaking rules other than those of Part 2 that do not specify a penalty, shall be at the discretion of the PC and may be less than disqualification.

19. Scoring:

Boats will be scored in accordance with Appendix A of the RRS as modified by the following statements.

- One race completed constitutes a regatta.
- No races will be excluded when calculating a boat's final score.

20. Fleet Liaison:

The fleet liaison for this event will be Evelyn Shedden and Tim Vining. Any comments or concerns regarding on-the-water issues should be directed to the fleet liaison. The fleet liaison is the only person authorized to discuss on-the-water concerns or issues with the PRO or Race Committee.

21. Safety Regulations:

21.1 A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee at the first reasonable opportunity.

21.2 Safety Boats will monitor and communicate using VHF 72.

22 Replacement of Crew or Equipment:

22.1 Substitution of crew(s) will not be permitted without the prior written approval of the Fleet Liaison. No substitution of skipper is permitted except as allowed by Thistle Class Rules.

22.2 Substitutions of equipment will not be permitted unless the replacement meets TCA specifications and is authorized in writing by the Fleet Liaison. Requests for substitution shall be made in writing to the Fleet Liaison at the first reasonable opportunity.

23 Disclaimer of Liability:

Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. See RRS 4, Decision to Race. The organizing authority shall not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the regatta.

Illustration A

Course 1: (One Lap): S- 1-1a-Finish

Course 2: (Two Lap): S-1-1a-2-1-1a-Finish

