

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS
Winchester Invitational
Winchester Boat Club 420 fleet, and Snipe Fleet 77

July 25-26, 2026
Winchester Boat Club
Upper Mystic Lake, Winchester, Massachusetts

1. Rules:

- 1.1. The Winchester Invitational is governed by:
 - a) The rules as defined in the *World Sailing Racing Rules of Sailing 2025-2028 (RRS)*
 - b) US Sailing RRS Appendix V (*explained in 13.2.1 and 13.2.2 on page 2*)
 - c) For Snipe fleet, the SCIRA Class Rules also apply
- 1.2. In case of conflict between the Notice of Race or Class Rules and the Sailing Instruction, these Sailing Instructions shall prevail.

2. Entry and Eligibility

- 2.1. This regatta is open to Snipe sailors and Club 420 sailors
 - 2.1.1. Snipes shall be SCIRA registered boats.
 - 2.1.1.1. Snipe sailors may join the class ahead of, or at, registration. While not required, all sailors are encouraged to join. Link to join: <https://members.snipe.org>
 - 2.1.2. 420 sailors shall sail Club 420. They need not be members of the Club 420 class.
- 2.2. All boats shall have unique sail numbers.

3. Notices to Competitors:

- 3.1. Notices to competitors will be posted on the official regatta notice board located inside the clubhouse ground floor lobby.
- 3.2. Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted: a) within 15 minutes after the end of the competitors' meeting on Saturday, b) before 1000 Sunday, except that any change to the schedule of races for Sunday will be posted by 1800 on Saturday.

4. Competitor's Meeting/Signals made Ashore:

- 4.1. There will be a competitors' meeting at 1100 on Saturday July 25th
- 4.2. Signals made ashore shall be displayed on an RC boat.
- 4.3. When flag "AP" is displayed ashore, "1 minute" is replaced with not less than 20 minutes after the "AP" is lowered.

5. Schedule of Races:

- 5.1. Racing for 420s will be only one day, Saturday. Snipes will race on both Saturday and Sunday.

<u>Fleet</u>	<u>Day and Date</u>	<u>Time of first Warning Signal</u>
Snipes and 420	Sat. July 25 th	1200 noon, Races to follow
Snipes	Sun. July 26 th	1100, Races to follow
- 5.2. The Race Committee shall attempt to complete as many races as possible.
- 5.3. On the last day of the regatta no start signal will be made after 1430.

6. Racing Area

- 6.1. The Racing Area location is Upper Mystic Lake.

7. Courses

- 7.1. Courses are defined in Appendix A. All marks are rounded as shown. W is the Windward mark, O is the offset mark, and L is a leeward mark. The starting and finishing marks are labelled "P", "SP", and "FP" as per the specific course diagram.
 - 7.1.1. The courses are named "W5", "W4", "W3", and "W2", and shall be signaled as such.
- 7.2. The course shall be signaled by hail, **or** flag, **or** placard, before the warning signal.

8. Marks

- 8.1. It is the intent of the race committee to use red portable marks (red balls) for the turning marks "W" and "L," and a green mark for the offset "O". However, to accommodate logistical issues, other colors may be used, and the lettered permanent marks may be used (see Appendix B for approximate letter mark locations)
 - 8.1.1. The color (or letter) of the turning marks will be hailed to the competitors from the RC.
- 8.2. If a course needs to be changed, marks may be changed either a) to a letter mark signaled at the previous mark, or b) by movement of / replacement of a drop mark, prior to the first boat rounding the previous mark, with no other notification other than hail. Failure for the hail to be heard, for any cause, shall not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 33.

- 8.3. Appendix B shows the approximate location of the fixed, lettered, cylindrical marks (though not all are currently in place)

9. The Start

- 9.1. Races will be started by 3-minute sound signals. This changes RRS 26.
- 9.2. The starting line will be between a staff displaying a yellow or orange flag (to be specified at the Competitors Meeting) on the Race Committee boat and a start pin buoy at the port end of the line, "SP", as illustrated in Appendix A.
- 9.2.1. It is the intent of the race committee to use a white drop mark for the starting pin buoy. However, to accommodate logistical issues, other colors, or a permanent letter mark may be used.
- 9.2.2. The color (or letter) of the start pin will be hailed to the competitors from the RC.
- 9.3. Fleet Order
- 9.3.1. Snipes will start first, followed by Club 420s (on Saturday only, when Club 420s are competing)
- 9.3.1.1. Snipe start will be indicated by flying the Snipe class flag prior to the sound signals. Club 420 start will be indicated by flag or hail prior to the sound signals
- 9.3.1.2. There is no set time between starts of the fleets. The delay between starts is at the discretion of the race committee who will attempt to minimize interference between fleets.
- 9.3.1.3. Each fleet will get an attention signal of a series of short sounds prior to the 3-minute horn starting sequence.
- 9.4. Rule 61 is changed such that the lack of a hail from the race committee for an individual recall, or timeliness of the hail, or the failure of the boat to hear the hail, or a boat's position in the sequence of hailed numbers, shall not constitute grounds for redress.

10. Check In

- 10.1. Before the warning signal of the first race of the day, each boat is required to sail past the stern of the Race Committee start boat and verbally check in.
- 10.2. When the Race Committee verbally acknowledges a boat's sail number, the check-in has been recorded.

11. The Finish

- 11.1. The finish line will be between a staff displaying a yellow or orange flag (to be specified at the Competitors Meeting) on a Race Committee boat and the finish pin buoy, as illustrated in Appendix A.
- 11.1.1. It is the intent of the race committee to use a white drop mark for the finish pin buoy. However, to accommodate logistical issues, other colors, or a permanent letter mark may be used.
- 11.1.2. The color (or letter) of finish pin buoy will be hailed to the competitors from the RC

12. Time Limits

- 12.1. Any boat not finishing within 10 minutes after the first boat finishes shall be scored Did Not Finish (DNF). This changes RRS 35, A4 and A5.

13. Protests and Penalties

- 13.1. Protests, if filed properly according to RRS 60.2, will be held in open format for all interested to listen
- 13.2. Taking a Penalty (provisions of RRS Appendix V):
- 13.2.1. The first two sentences of Rule 44 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."
- 13.2.2. After a race, 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 (no more than one hour after the RC docks at the end of the day) 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.

14. Scoring

- 14.1. RRS Appendix A 4 shall apply.
- 14.2. RRS rule A5.3 will apply. For the context of this rule, a boat has come to the starting area if it checks in.
- 14.3. One (1) race is required to constitute a series
- 14.4. A boat's score is the sum of all race scores (translation: no throw-outs).

15. Disclaimer of Liability

- 15.1. All competitors are required to sign a Release and Indemnification form prior to the competitor's meeting. Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. See RRS Rule 3, Decision to Race.

16. Disposal of Refuse

- 16.1. The discharge of refuse into the water is prohibited during the entirety of this event. Any boat observed to be in violation is subject to protest and penalty, at the discretion of the race committee.

Appendix A, Course Diagrams

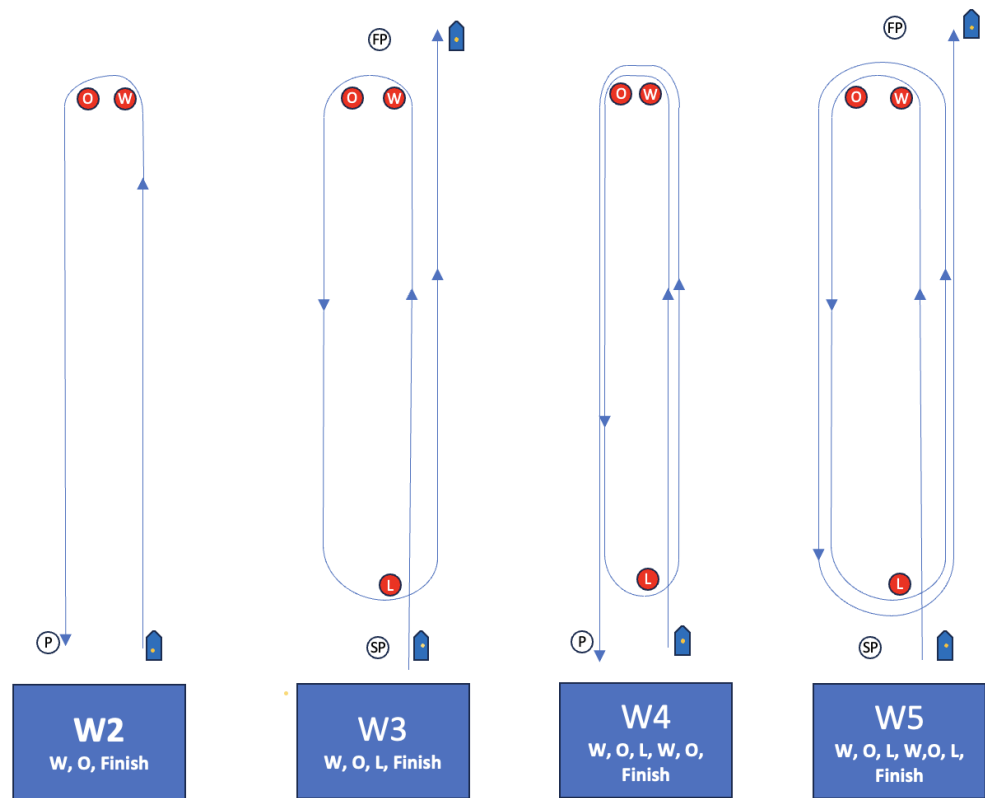


Figure 1 Windward-Leeward Courses W2, W3, W4, and W5

Appendix B, Approximate Fixed Mark Locations

