

FRIENDSHIP REGATTA AT MENNO HAVEN

Sailing Instructions and Racing

The primary rule is the avoidance of collisions and groundings

Avoiding Contact: Boats shall avoid contact with another boat if reasonably possible.

Course Marks: Touching the start/finish line marks is not allowed. Because of eyesight/distance factors and the absence of mark observers touching the racing buoys shall be permitted.

Protests: All protests shall be reconciled on the water. There will be no formal protest committee. Infringements require a 360 circle (in the same direction, i.e. one tack and one gybe) as soon as practicable, but prior to the next mark. Offending boat MUST stay clear of all other boats, and has no rights once he begins his turns. The penalty turn for hitting a start/finish mark is the same: a 360 degree circle. Penalty must be completed prior to finishing.

Skipper Conduct: Good sportsmanship and fair play will prevail, and inappropriate conduct will not be tolerated. Penalties can include taking a penalty turn, withdrawing from (a) race(s), withdrawing from the Regatta. The decision of the Race Director is final.

Right of Way

Opposite tacks: A *port tack* boat shall keep clear of a *starboard tack* boat. **On same tack, Overlapped:** The WINDWARD boat shall keep clear of a LEEWARD boat.

On same tack, NOT Overlapped: A boat CLEAR ASTERN shall keep clear of a boat CLEAR AHEAD, including when overtaking it.

Passing Marks or Meeting Obstructions Giving Room, Keeping Clear:

❖ *When boats are overlapped at the four-length zone:* If the outside boat has right of way she shall give inside boat room to pass the mark, or if the inside boat has the right of way the outside boat shall keep clear.

❖ *When a boat is clear ahead when she reaches the four-length zone:* A boat clear astern shall keep clear even if an overlap is established later.

❖ *If there is reasonable doubt that a boat broke or established an overlap in time, it shall be presumed that she did not.*

❖ *When a close hauled boat hails for “Room to tack” to avoid grounding or an obstruction: the hailed boat may either tack as soon as possible or immediately respond “You tack”, and then give the hailing boat room to tack: and avoid her. On a small pond such a maneuver may involve the entire racing fleet! Avoid contact if at all possible and help prevent groundings!*

Perspective

All of you have traveled some distance for the fun of playing with toy sailboats and to enjoy the company of fellow Skippers by the pond. We are here to take in the beauty of the day and introduce others to our hobby. You only get one opportunity to make a first impression: may it be a good one!

Some thoughts on procedures and etiquette

Talk with each other: if you see you will need room to tack, anticipate it and say so: “room to tack”. Say so soon enough for the other skipper to respond.

If you have the right of way and perceive that another Skipper may have overlooked that fact, point it out: “Boat number ____” “I’m Starboard” or “I’m leeward”.

Some of our Skippers will remain stationary/in the vicinity of their chairs, please don’t stand still in front of them blocking their view. If you must pass between them and the pond do so expeditiously.

No dip starts. If you are over early, go around either end of the start line and begin again. Keep in mind that once you begin your turn to return to the start line for a restart you must avoid all other boats, even if you are on the starboard tack or the leeward boat!

We will generally use a two minute start tape for two reasons. It gives everyone ample opportunity to scope out the line and get into position; and it is a crowd pleaser.

The penalty turn for hitting a start/finish mark is the same as the penalty for fouling: a 360 degree circle that includes one gybe and one tack, in succession and in the same direction.

There will be one throw out for every 8 races.

Because we are here to have fun advice to a newer or less experienced Skipper shall be allowed.

Good sportsmanship, fair play and courteous behavior will be the order of the day.

Smooth sailing!!