



"Making Sailing Exciting!"

## Notice of Race

VARC 2017 Championship Season

*The Vancouver Area Racing Circuit Society welcomes you to this year's racing season and invites you to participate in the series of racing events hosted and managed by local yacht clubs of the greater Vancouver area.*

### 1 RULES

- 1.1 VARC events will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing, unless otherwise stated or changed in the event Notice of Race or event Sailing Instructions.
- 1.2 For some events, the host yacht club will publish an event Notice of Race. For *all* events, the host yacht club will publish Sailing Instructions. In case of conflict, the provisions of the event documents will take precedence over this Notice of Race.
- 1.3 The rules for each division as applicable under section 3 include the rules of PHRF of BC, the rules for ORC Club, the Farr 30 Class Rules as amended by the BC Fleet, this Notice of Race, the event Notice of Race and the event Sailing Instructions.
- 1.4 All boats are required to check-in within 30 minutes prior to the start sequence of the first race each day and indicate their boat name, sail number and their compliance with displaying prescribed advertising.
- 1.5 Safety Requirements:
  - 1.5.1 VARC recommends that the Organizing Authority for each event assess whether these section 1.5 safety requirements are sufficient, and if appropriate, prescribe additional or alternative safety requirements.
  - 1.5.2 Boats shall carry the equipment required by law. Particular attention is drawn to Small Vessel Regulations.
  - 1.5.3 Boats racing in a one design class shall also comply with the safety requirements of their class rule.
  - 1.5.4 Boats racing in a handicap class (including one design boats not racing in a one design class) shall also comply with the World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations applicable to Race Category 4 Monohulls, 2016-2017 (OSR Race Category 4) with Canadian prescriptions, and as amended in this section. OSR Race Category 4 "*is intended for short races, close to shore in relatively warm or protected waters normally held in daylight*".
    - 1.5.4.1 A tubular type, commercially available radar reflector permanently mounted within 15 degrees of vertical and meeting the minimum effective height requirement shall be considered compliant with OSR 4.10.1.
    - 1.5.4.2 Compliance with 4.26.2(a)(ii) (alternative means to attach the luff to the stay) is recommended but shall not be required. A roller furling headsail or #3 or smaller jib, suitable for heavy weather, shall be considered compliant with OSR 4.26.2(a).
    - 1.5.4.3 Lifejackets or PFDs meeting applicable government requirements shall be considered compliant with OSR 5.01.1 (lifejacket specifications), provided that
      - a) inflatable devices are fitted with crotch or thigh straps (ride up prevention system (RUPS));
      - b) inherently buoyant devices are fitted with crotch or thigh straps (ride up prevention system (RUPS)) or if the user has taken alternative measures to ensure the device does not ride up;
      - c) lifejacket lights are fitted for races with finish time limits later than two hours before sunset.

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- 1.5.4.4 A propulsion engine is required. While racing, a boat shall also carry sufficient fuel for safety purposes such as crew-overboard recovery and to motor from the farthest point on the course to the host venue docks or to the boat's home port, whichever is closer, in the prevailing conditions.
- 1.5.4.5 Carriage of the pyrotechnic signals required by law shall be considered as compliant with OSR 4.23 (pyrotechnic and light signals). SOLAS flares are permissible but not required.
- 1.5.4.6 Designated one design boats whose one design class rule conflicts with OSR section 3 requirements (structural features, stability, fixed equipment) and who are racing in handicap classes:
  - a) shall not be penalized for non-compliance with OSR section 3 that is a result of conflict with their one design class rule,
  - b) shall have all crew wearing lifejackets or PFDs while racing,
  - c) shall carry at least two thermal protective aids or other devices for treating crew following a crew overboard incident,
  - d) in the absence of class rule compliance with OSR 3.14 (pulpit, stanchion and lifelines), shall carry at least one harness and safety line (tether) and have attachment point(s) to reduce crew overboard risk when working forward of the mast.
- 1.5.5 Competitors are reminded of the Fundamental Rules of the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS): Helping those in Danger, Life-Saving Equipment and Personal Buoyancy, and Decision to Race. Competitors are reminded of the Responsibility of Person in Charge as described in the Offshore Special Regulations. Competitors are reminded of the safe boating practices described in the Safe Boating Guide published by Transport Canada.

## 2 ADVERTISING

- 2.1 Boats racing in VARC events may be required to display advertising chosen and supplied by VARC and/or the organizing authority of each event as defined in the event documentation.
- 2.2 Boats not displaying advertising as required will be scored DNS by VARC without a hearing. This changes rule 63.1 and rule A5.
- 2.3 Boats may apply to VARC and/or the organizing authority of each event in advance of any event for an alternative method of displaying required advertising if special circumstances prohibit compliance with this section. A boat will be granted this alternative at the discretion of VARC or the organizing authority of each event, as applicable, and if granted, will not be penalized as prescribed in section 2.2.

## 3 ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

### 3.1 ELIGIBILITY

- 3.1.1 The VARC series are open to all boats that have a current valid PHRF of BC certificate with a rating no higher than 275 or a current valid ORC Club Certificate no higher than 610, or conform to the Farr 30 Class BC Fleet Rules. Other One Design classes are encouraged to apply to VARC for their own division.

### 3.2 DIVISIONS AND CLASSES

- 3.2.1 Boats will be assigned to divisions based on their handicap rating or classification as follows:
  - Div. 1 (pennant 1): ORC GPH 610.0 or less.
  - Div. 2 (pennant 2): PHRF rating of 60-99.
  - Div. 3 (pennant 3): PHRF rating of 100-173.
  - Div. 7 (pennant 7): PHRF rating of 174-275.
  - Div. Farr 30 (class flag): The Farr 30 division will race as a one design class.
- 3.2.2 Boats may race in division-sanctioned events as shown in the VARC Schedule - Races by Division available on the VARC website.
- 3.2.3 In the event that a boat's rating changes during the course of the season, such that its new rating falls within a different division, the boat shall continue to sail in the division which it began the season, with its amended rating.
- 3.2.4 VARC may modify division splits to accommodate new boats during the season.

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- 3.2.5 VARC may recognize additional one design fleets during the season.
- 3.2.6 All boats, with the exception of division Farr 30, must conspicuously display their division pennant on their backstay or a stern fixture. Boats failing to do so are subject to protest by the race committee but not by competitors.

### 3.3 ENTRY AND REGISTRATION

- 3.3.1 Eligible boats may enter individual events by completing the online registration and payment as described by the host yacht club of each event.
- 3.3.2 Boats are automatically entered in the applicable VARC series when they meet the series qualifications as described in section 10.
- 3.3.3 VARC does not accept registrations for any of the events, or any of the series.

## 4 FEES

- 4.1 Event fees are determined and collected by the host yacht club of each event.

## 5 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 5.1 VARC promotes many regattas and distance races hosted by local yacht clubs and groups them into several series including a Regatta Series, Distance Series, and the Boat of the Year series. A selection of these events is chosen *by each division* for their VARC Season Championship.
- 5.2 All the VARC events and series are listed chronologically in Table 1 – VARC Schedule of Events.
- 5.3 Boats may race in their ***division-sanctioned*** events shown in the VARC Schedule - Races by Division available on the VARC website.
- 5.4 Details of each event are provided in the event documentation as they become available from the host yacht clubs throughout the season, and made available on the host yacht club's website and the VARC website.
- 5.5 The annual year-end Awards Ceremony will be held following racing. Check the VARC website for details.

## 6 MEASUREMENTS

- 6.1 Each boat shall carry a current valid measurement rating certificate applicable to her division.

## 7 SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 7.1 Each event will have Sailing Instructions issued by the host club as listed in Table 1 – VARC Schedule of Events. The Sailing Instructions will be available on the host yacht club's website prior to the event with a link from the VARC website.

## 8 VENUES

- 8.1 The venue for each event will be the host yacht club and the waters near by, or as identified in the event Notice of Race (if provided by the host yacht club) and the event Sailing Instructions issued by the host yacht club.

## 9 COURSES

- 9.1 The courses to be sailed will be described in the event Notice of Race (if provided by the host yacht club) and the event Sailing Instructions issued by the host yacht club.

## 10 SCORING

- 10.1 Scoring Procedure - General:

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- 10.1.1 VARC scores several series as described in section 5, including the Regatta Series, the Distance Series, and an overall Championship Series of events **specific to each Division**, as well as the Boat of the Year (BOTY) Series.
- 10.1.2 Each division may score each event and series differently as described in section 10.2, and according to their **division-sanctioned event schedule** shown in the VARC Schedule - Races by Division described in section 5.3.
- 10.1.3 For the purpose of scoring all series, the results for each event will be the posted results from each host club. These results will not be modified by VARC except as noted herein.
- 10.1.4 If a host club does not use standard VARC division breaks boats will be scored in the division in which they raced at the event except as noted herein.
- 10.1.5 Where different courses are offered by a club, all boats within a VARC division must sail the same course to be scored in a VARC series if so stated for each division as noted in section 10.2.
- 10.1.6 For boats in a VARC division who are placed by the host club in different divisions on the same course, and with the same start time, the corrected times will be used for the purpose of scoring each boat regardless of the division assigned by the host club, if prescribed for that division per section 10.2. All boats racing at an event within the VARC division splits, including visiting boats, will be scored. Refer to each division for specific course info as noted in section 10.2.
- 10.1.7 If at any event, a host club creates a division which has a single boat, that boat will not receive an automatic first place score for that event. Instead that boat will receive a score that reflects the average of up to their best 5 scores in other events within that series (regatta or distance), not including DNC, to be calculated at the end of the season. The event may count towards series scoring for that boat, unless dropped as per division scoring procedures in section 10.2.
- 10.1.8 All series except for those specific to division 7 will be scored using the High Point Percentage Scoring System as per US Sailing scoring guidelines (US Sailing - Scoring a Long Series) with the following modifications:
  - 10.1.8.1 With respect to all series scoring, all events will receive an equal weight rather than assigning a higher weight to events that have higher attendance, and a lower weight to less attended events.
  - 10.1.8.2 There may be a maximum number of events that will count towards a series championship. This will vary by division as noted in section 10.2.
  - 10.1.8.3 There may be a minimum number of events required to qualify for a series championship. This will vary by division as noted in section 10.2.
- 10.1.9 Except for BOTY, Divisions 7 will be scored using a variation of the Low Point Scoring System with the following modifications:
  - 10.1.9.1 Two-day Regattas will be scored as two separate events; each day will be considered a separate event for the purposes of scoring the Regatta series.
- 10.2 Scoring Procedure - Each Division:
  - 10.2.1 Division 1 - Regatta series will score the best 3 Regatta events and Distance series will score the best 3 Distance events for each qualifying boat. To qualify for the Regatta series a boat must compete in at least 3 Regatta events and to qualify for a Distance series a boat must compete in at least 3 Distance events. Division 1 will not use the provision of section 10.1.6 (same course, same start) for scoring any event. For the Overall Series see 10.3. NOTE: Div 1 will include in the scoring one Wild Card event from the VIRS Vancouver Island Racing Series, in either the Regatta or Distance series.
  - 10.2.2 Division 2 - Regatta series will score the best 4 Regatta events and Distance series will score the best 4 Distance events for each qualifying boat. To qualify for the Regatta series a boat must compete in at least 3 Regatta events and to qualify for a Distance series a boat must compete in at least 3 Distance events. For the Overall Series see 10.3. Division 2 boats must sail the Medium Course in Southern Straits to be scored by VARC per 10.1.5. The corrected times will be used for the purpose of scoring each boat for VARC, regardless of the division assigned by the host club, as provided for in 10.1.6.

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- 10.2.3 Division 3 - Two-day Regattas will be scored as two separate events; each day will be considered a separate event for the purposes of scoring the Regatta series. Regatta series will score the best 6 Regatta events (days) and Distance series will score the best 3 Distance events for each qualifying boat. To qualify for the Regatta series a boat must compete in at least 5 Regatta events and to qualify for a Distance series a boat must compete in at least 3 Distance events. For the Overall Series see 10.3. Boats attending a 'no-wind' event (day) with no starts will get credit for attending a qualifying event toward the series. Division 3 boats must sail the Medium Course in Southern Straits to be scored by VARC per 10.1.5. Section 10.1.6 applies but is modified to include boats with different start times: Corrected times will be used for the purpose of scoring each boat for VARC, regardless of the start time and division assigned by the host club for that course.
- 10.2.4 Division 7 – One championship series - Division 7 will score the best 6 events (days) towards the championship series of 10 events consisting of VARC Distance Races and Regattas according to their division-sanctioned event schedule – see section 5.3. Two-day Regattas will be scored as two separate events; each day will be considered a separate event for the purposes of scoring the championship series. To qualify for the series a boat must compete in at least 6 events (days). Boats attending a 'no-wind' event (day) with no starts will get credit for attending a qualifying event toward the series.
- 10.2.4.1 DNF = Number of boats that competed +1. This changes rule A4.2.
- 10.2.4.2 DNC = DSQ = Qualified boats in fleet + 2, or Largest DNF of the year+1, whichever is greater. This changes rule A4.2.
- 10.2.5 Farr 30 - One championship series – The Farr 30 fleet will score the best four events towards the championship series of 5 events consisting of VARC Distance races, Regattas and Non-VARC events according their division-sanctioned event schedule – see section 5.3. There is no minimum number of races to qualify for the championship series. A Farr 30 may also compete in, and be scored in, a non-one design division at any event, and can qualify for a series championship within that division.
- 10.3 Overall Championship Series – All Divisions:
- 10.3.1 Qualifying Procedure for the Overall Championship Series:
- 10.3.1.1 Divisions 1, 2, 3: Boats must qualify for both of the Regatta Series and the Distance Series in their respective division to qualify for the Championship Series as noted in section 10.2.
- 10.3.1.2 Divisions 7: There are no Regatta or Distance series for Division 7 therefore qualifications for the Championship Series are those listed in section 10.2.
- 10.3.1.3 Farr 30 one design series: There are no Regatta or Distance series in the Farr 30 division therefore qualifications for the championship series are those listed in section 10.2.
- 10.3.2 Scoring Procedure for the Overall Series:
- 10.3.2.1 Divisions 1, 2, & 3: A boat's score for the Championship Series will be the sum of the best scores in each of the Regatta series and Distance series, scored as noted in section 10.2. If a boat does not race in all the events in each series, but has met the minimum number of qualifying events for each series, a score of zero will be assigned for events in which they did not compete.
- 10.3.2.2 Division 7: Only one series is scored. See above section: Scoring Procedure - Each Division.
- 10.3.2.3 Farr 30: Only one series is scored. See above section: Scoring Procedure - Each Division.
- 10.3.2.4 Ties will be broken using the Regatta and Distance Series broken down into the individual events and recombined into one overall series as per rule A8.
- 10.4 Boat of the Year Award
- 10.4.1 The Boat of the Year Award (BOTY) is open to all boats in all divisions and will score the best 3 events in each of the Regatta Series and the Distance series.
- 10.4.2 All VARC events are included in the BOTY award, however for each division, an event will count toward a boat's BOTY score only if a minimum of 4 boats from that division start racing at the event.
- 10.4.3 To qualify for this series a boat must compete in at least 3 Regatta events and 3 Distance events.

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10.4.4 The winner of the BOTY series shall be ineligible to win the Corinthian Award.

10.5 Corinthian Award

10.5.1 The Corinthian Award will be determined through peer nominations and an executive vote by the society for the boat with the best attributes including team spirit, participation, performance improvement, sportsmanship and sailing community contribution.

### 11 SUPPORT BOATS

11.1 Support boats shall not interfere with boats racing. Registered boats whose support boats break this rule are subject to disqualification from the race.

### 12 BERTHING

12.1 Boats shall contact the host yacht clubs for available moorage during each event.

### 13 HAUL-OUT RESTRICTIONS

13.1 Boats shall not be hauled out during the event except with and according to the terms of prior written permission of the race committee.

### 14 DIVING EQUIPMENT AND PLASTIC POOLS

14.1 Underwater breathing apparatus and plastic pools or their equivalent shall not be used around boats between the preparatory signal of the first race and the end of the regatta.

### 15 RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

15.1 A boat shall neither make radio transmissions while racing nor receive radio communications not available to all boats, unless required for safety. This restriction also applies to mobile telephones.

### 16 PRIZES

16.1 Prizes at each event will be awarded by the host club for each division as described in the event Notice of Race and/or Sailing Instructions.

16.2 Prizes for the Regatta Series, Distance Series and Championship series for each division, as applicable, will be awarded as follows:

- 1st place will be awarded if 2 or more boats qualify in a division,
- 2nd place will be awarded if 4 or more boats qualify in a division,
- 3rd place will be awarded if 5 or more boats qualify in a division.

16.3 For the Championship Series, Perpetual Trophies will be awarded for each division.

16.4 There will be a Boat of the Year Award, and a Corinthian Award.

16.5 The Championship Series Awards will be presented at the year-end Awards Banquet.

### 17 DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

17.1 Competitors participate in the races, regattas and race series entirely at their own risk. See rule 4, Decision to Race. The organizing authority, host yacht clubs, sponsors and suppliers will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with, prior to, during, or after an event.

### 18 INSURANCE

18.1 All boats must include with their entries a copy of the Certificate of Insurance indicating that their boat is covered with a minimum of \$2 million liability. A copy of this certificate must be carried on board at all times.

19 CONTACT INFORMATION

- 19.1 Correspondence with VARC shall be electronic via the contact information on the VARC website, unless otherwise specified. Mail that must be sent by post shall first be done by prior arrangement with VARC.
- 19.2 The VARC website with directions to on-line registration is at [www.VARC.bc.ca](http://www.VARC.bc.ca).
- 19.3 Insurance Certificate and notification of changes to the current Rating Certificate shall be emailed to the event contact which can be found on the host club or VARC websites.
- 19.4 Correspondence with VARC should first be directed to a Division Representative as noted on the website. The VARC committee will review concerns only when this process is followed, or when the concerns are addressed to VARC in writing.

See next page for: Table 1 – VARC Schedule of Events.

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**Table 1**  
**VARC Schedule of Events**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Host</i>	<i>Days</i>	<i>Series</i>
April 1 / 2	<b>Opener Regatta</b>	RVYC	Sat & Sun	Regatta
April 14 / 15	<b>Southern Straits Race</b>	WVYC	Fri, Sat, Sun	Distance
April 29	<b>Collingwood Channel Race</b>	WVYC	Sat	Distance
June 10	<b>Round Bowen Race</b>	BIYC	Sat	Distance
July 8 / 9	<b>Summer Regatta</b>	VRC	Sat & Sun	Regatta
July 28 - 30	<b>SOAR Regatta</b>	SYC	Fri, Sat, Sun	Distance
August 12	<b>English Bay Scramble Race</b>	TCYC	Sat	Distance
September 9 / 10	<b>Deep Cove Regatta</b>	DCYC	Sat & Sun	Regatta
September 16	<b>Howe Sound Regatta</b>	WVYC	Sat	Regatta
September 30	<b>Fraser River Lightship Race</b>	RVYC	Sat	Distance
October 21 / 22	<b>English Bay Championship Regatta</b>	RVYC	Sat & Sun	Regatta
After Racing (tbd)	<b>Awards Ceremony</b>	TBD	TBD	Awards

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