



The Vallarta Race

February 21 – March 1, 2008

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

1. RULES

- 1.1 This race will be governed by The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS); 2006-2007 US Edition of the ISAF Offshore Special Regulations (OSR) w/ US SAILING Prescriptions for a Category 2 Race; the 2007 PHRF of Southern California Rules for a Category 1 Race as augmented by the 2006-2007 US Edition of the ISAF Offshore Special Regulations (OSR) w/ US SAILING Prescriptions for a Category 2 Race; the procedures and guidelines referenced in the Skippers Handbook; the rules of any class racing as a class; except as any of these are altered by the Notice of Race or by these Sailing Instructions.
- 1.2 All vessels are required to carry a supplied FIS Race Tracker. It shall be the responsibility of the Person-In-Charge of the vessel to ensure that the transponder remains as installed or is installed according to supplied directions, and must make every effort to ensure it is functional for the entire race.

ALTERATIONS OF RACING RULES

- 1.3 **RRS 62** Redress: RRS 62.1 is modified by adding the following: (e) being directed by a Government Authority to deviate from her proper course."
- 1.4 **RRS 64.1**, Penalties and Exoneration is modified by adding: (d) When the Protest Committee decides a boat that is a *party* to a protest hearing has broken a *rule*, it may assign a time penalty to be added to the boat's corrected time."
- 1.5 **RRS 77 and Appendix G**, Identification on Sails are modified so that National letters, Class letters and insignia are not required.
- 1.6 **RRS 54** Forestays and Headsail Tacks, is modified to allow the temporary removal of the forestay to facilitate a gybe. The forestay shall be reattached at the first opportunity after the gybe is complete.
- 1.7 All yachts shall comply with **RRS 51** and **RRS 52** except as modified by section 1.8.
- 1.8 **RRS 51** (Movable Ballast) and **RRS 52** (Manual Power) are modified as follows:
 - 1.8.1 The movement of sails not in use while racing is allowed. However all gear and sails not being flown must remain within a boat's lifelines.
 - 1.8.2 **RRS 51** Movable Ballast and **RRS 52** Manual Power are modified to permit the positioning of hull appendages, specifically adjustable keels, or water ballast by hydraulic or electric power on boats so designed and so rated by the Rating Authority. All movable ballast systems shall be capable of manual operation if powered systems are inoperable. All other boats shall comply with **RRS 51** and **RRS 52**.
 - 1.8.3 Movable ballast systems designed and rated for the boat (excluding canting ballast strut and bulb) including reservoirs, pipes, tubes, tackle, etc. shall be positioned inside the hull and shall be firmly and indefectibly integrated with the structure of the boat. Movable ballast shall only be used within such systems and shall be seawater only, to the exclusion of all other liquids.
- 1.9 There is no limitation on the number of spinnakers and staysails carried. This modifies Offshore Racing Rule regulation 10.02.1.
- 1.10 The use of PFD's (personal flotation devices) at the Start and Finish is not required. This alters the US SAILING Prescriptions of the **OSR Section 5 - Personal Equipment**.

ALTERATIONS FOR CRUISING DIVISION ONLY

- 1.11 **RRS 42** Propulsion is amended to allow the Performance Cruising Division to permit the use their engine for propulsion by paying an Engine Time Allowance penalty. The Engine Time Allowance Penalty is: Engine Hours * 1.4 * sq rt of LWL / sq rt of 25.8 and this time will be added to the yachts elapsed time.
- 1.12 The skipper must record both the position of the boat and the time (in Pacific Standard Time) at which the motor was started, and the position of the boat and the time at which the motor was turned off. This information will constitute a yacht's Propulsion Log and must be submitted to the RC after finishing.
- 1.13 Yachts racing in the Performance Cruising Classes are restricted from using their engine for propulsion for (one) hour after crossing the start line.
- 1.14 **RRS 52** (Manual Power) is modified for yachts racing in the Performance Cruising Classes to allow the operation of sail furling gear, auto helms and running rigging by power winches.



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2. ADVERTISING

This race is classified as a Category C Event in accordance with and must conform to ISAF Reg. 20.

3. ENTRY

- 3.1 Eligible yachts may be entered by completing the entry requirements as specified by Paragraph 7 of the Notice of Race.
- 3.2 Competing yachts shall check in and be acknowledged by the Race Committee at the starting line prior to the Warning Signal for her start.

4. INSPECTIONS

All yachts may be subject to inspection prior to and after the race. Resolution of any problems regarding required safety equipment, minimum accommodations, eligibility of crewmembers etc., will be made by the Organizing Authority. Resolution of any discrepancy between a yachts configuration and its submitted rating certificate will be processed in accordance with **Part 5 of the RRS**.

5. CLASSES, START TIMES

<u>Class</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Warning</u>
Performance Cruise	Thursday, February 21	11:55
Division 4	Thursday, February 21	11:55
Division 3	Saturday, February 23	11:55
Division 2	Saturday, February 23	12:05
Division 1	Saturday, February 23	12:15

Division assignments are listed in Attachment 1.

6. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

- 6.1 Prior to starting, notices to competitors will be posted on the Official Regatta Notice Board located on the Spinnaker Deck located on the northeast side of the San Diego Yacht Club.
- 6.2 After finishing, notices and results will be posted at the Official Race Headquarters located at the Vallarta Yacht Club, Nuevo Vallarta MX.

7. CHANGES IN SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 7.1 Any questions regarding the Notice of Race, Entry, Eligibility or Sailing Instructions including interpretations of published rules and amendments must be made in writing to:
Vallarta Race Organizing Authority, 1011 Anchorage Lane, San Diego, CA 92106
Or send e-mail to: sailing@sdyc.org.
Above may be submitted until Friday, February 15, 2008 at 1700 hrs.
- 7.2 Any change to the Sailing Instructions will be posted on the Official Regatta Notice Board prior to 1000 on the day it will take effect. Any change to the Schedule of Races, as stated in Section 5, will be posted prior to 1600 on the day before the change will take effect.
- 7.3 In accordance with **RRS 89.2**, if a change to the Sailing Instructions is required after some boats have started, the change will be announced verbally via radio at morning roll call (0830 PST on SSB 4146 mHz (4A)).

8. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

Signals made ashore will be displayed from the flagpole near the front dock of the San Diego Yacht Club. Code flag L followed by a numeral pennant indicates the latest Official Notice that has been posted.



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9. THE START

- 9.1 The starting area will be located between San Diego Channel buoys 17 and 19 along Shelter Island.
- 9.2 The starting line will be between a yellow inflatable cylinder on the port end and a staff with an orange flag aboard the Race Committee Boat at the starboard end.
- 9.3 For the purpose of Starting - **RRS 26**, Class Warning Flag for each start will correspond to the appropriate International Numeral Pennant (e.g. Div 1 = #1, Div 2 = #2, etc.) All boats starting on Thursday will start under the numeral pennant #4.
- 9.5 The Warning Signal time for each group will be as stated in Section 5.
- 9.6 Individual recalls will be signaled in accordance with **RRS 29.1**. The Race Committee will broadcast the sail number of 'On Course Side' yachts on **VHF Radio Channel 68**.
- 9.7 A Race Committee Boat displaying a blue R/C flag may be stationed off the port end of the starting line. If so positioned, this Committee Boat is authorized to identify boats On Course Side at the start.

10. COURSE

- 10.1 **IMPORTANT NOTE:** *All distances are approximate. All bearings are magnetic and approximate. GPS coordinates listed in these Sailing instructions are in WGS 084 format and are actual, observed coordinates for intended points. Caution should be exercised in reading data from or plotting data to any published chart of Mexican Waters. Exercise all due caution when making land fall.*
- 10.2 Boats shall start in accordance with Section 9 above and finish in accordance with Section 11 below.
- 10.3 For handicap purposes the course distance shall be 1000 nm.

11. THE FINISH

- 11.1 The Finish is located approximately 0.5 nm east of the Pta. Mita Light. The finish line will be between an Orange Flag on the Race Committee Finish Boat and an orange inflatable buoy. The Race Committee Finish Boat will be located at approximately **20° 45.37 N 105° 31.47 W**. The orange inflatable buoy is located approximately 50 yards east of the Race Committee Finish Boat.
- 11.2 At night, the Race Committee Finish Boat will attempt to show an orange rotating light when notified of a competitor's proximity to the finish per 11.4
- 11.3 At night, the Race Committee will attempt to illuminate the orange inflatable finish buoy with a searchlight.
- 11.4 Yachts shall attempt to contact the Race Committee approximately 5 nm from the finishing line on **VHF Channel 16 and switch as directed**.
- 11.5 Yachts finishing at night shall attempt to light their sail numbers if they have not otherwise made contact with the finish vessel.
- 11.6 The Race Committee Finish Boat will give finishing yachts a confirmation of their finish time shortly after the yacht finishes. Contact will be made on **VHF Channel 16 and switch as directed**.
- 11.7 Finish Times for competitors will be declared to the fleet at the next available A.M. roll call and at the Official Notice Board located at Race Headquarters at Paradise Village Resort.
- 11.8 If the Race Committee Finish Boat is not on station when a yacht finishes but the finish buoy is on station, the yacht shall take her own finish time in hours, minutes, seconds, PST when crossing the line between Pta. Mita Light and the Finish Buoy.
- 11.9 If the finish buoy is not on station, the yacht shall take their own finish time when an orange flag on the RC vessel bears 280° magnetic at a range of not more than .03 nm.
- 11.10 If neither the Race Committee Finish Boat nor the finish buoy are on station, the yacht shall take their own finish time from GPS (Pacific Standard Time) when Pta. Mita Light bears 280° Magnetic at a range of .5 nm.

12. TIME LIMIT

- 12.1 RRS 35 Time Limit: Yachts not finishing by 1600 Pacific Standard Time on Saturday March 1, 2008 shall be scored as Did Not Finish unless the Race Committee extends this time limit. If the finish time will be extended, it will be broadcast by the communications boat during the 0830 Roll Call (SSB 4146.0 kHz (4A)) and all subsequent fleet communication channels, not later than February 29, 2008.



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13. COMMUNICATIONS

- 13.1 Skippers should reference the Communications Section of the Skippers Handbook for a complete Communication Protocol and Schedule of Frequencies.
- 13.2 Commencing February 22 at 0830 PST, COLEY D, the communication vessel, will proceed with morning roll call on **SSB Channel 4-A (4146.0 MHz)**, for yachts who have started. All yachts are requested to provide relay in the event the communication vessel is unable to receive the report.
- 13.3 When answering roll call a yacht shall give the yacht's name followed by the Latitude and Longitude of her 0800 position rounded to the nearest full minute.
- 13.4 Commencing at 0930 PST, COLEY D will broadcast to the fleet the unofficial boat positions and distance to go on **SSB Channel 4-A (4146.0 MHz)**.
- 13.5 All yachts racing are required to participate in the morning roll call. **The Protest Committee may assess a fifteen-minute time penalty to be added to a yachts corrected finish time, for each failure to participate in A.M. roll call.**
- 13.6 Yachts in any Class unable to make contact by SSB should reference **Communications Section of your Skippers Handbook, Part 2**, for a complete schedule of alternative communications channels and times for missed station Roll Call. All yachts are requested to provide relay assistance as necessary.
- 13.7 Access to the FIS Race Tracking website by any means, and the information contained therein is not available to competitors for the duration of the race. Use of the website or information contained on the website is considered outside information and use of said information is a violation of RRS 41.

14 WEATHER COMMUNICATION

- 14.1 With respect to RRS 41 – Outside Help, attention is drawn to USSA Question 93 from the USSA Appeals Committee. This interpretation clarifies the application of RRS 41 and governs competitor's actions during the race. It is available on the US SAILING website at http://www.ussailing.org/appeals/supplements/05-08/Question_93.pdf
- 14.2 Except during an emergency, boats are restricted from receiving any data with respect to the performance or location of competitors other than that acquired by scheduled roll calls and transmissions from race committee. Boats are specifically prohibited from accessing the race tracking website or information derived there from. This modifies RRS 41.

15 PENALTIES

A yacht On Course Side at the Start, that does not restart correctly, shall be penalized by having her elapsed time increased by 2 hours in lieu of disqualification. **This is a modification of RRS 28.** A yacht crossing the starting line before her Warning Signal, who does not restart correctly, will be disqualified.

16. PROTESTS

- 16.1 A yacht intending to protest shall fly her protest flag for at least one hour after the incident and again upon finishing. **This modifies RRS 61.1.**
- 16.2 Yachts intending to protest shall, immediately upon finishing, inform the Race Committee at the finish line of the yacht being protested and receive confirmation from the Race Committee. **This modifies RRS 61.1**
- 16.3 Protest shall be written on a US Sailing Protest Form, available from the Race Committee or at Race Headquarters and shall be submitted to Race Headquarters at Vallarta Yacht Club within 4 hours of finishing. If the Race Headquarters is unmanned the protest form may be turned in to the Race Chairman, Co-chairman, or the Registration Desk at Paradise Village Resort.
- 16.4 The time of protest hearings will be posted at Race Headquarters on the Official Notice Board at the Vallarta Yacht Club in accordance with Section 6.2.



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17 SCORING

- 17.1 Trophies will be awarded based on the yachts corrected time using ORR ratings. Corrected Time will be a boat's elapsed time x Time on Time factor based on the Vallarta Race Wind Matrix.
- 17.2 Yachts in the Performance Cruising Classes will be scored using their 2007 PHRF Southern California Off Wind Course Ratings for a course distance of 1000 nm and will have their corrected time computed as follows: [Elapsed Time for the course + Engine Time Penalty] - [1000 (Southern California PHRF Off Wind Course Handicap + Applicable Allowances)]

18. TROPHIES

- 18.1 Trophies for performance in the race will be awarded at the Awards Dinner and Fiesta to be held at Paradise Village Resort on Saturday, March 1, 2008.

19. SAFETY

- 19.1 A yacht which retires from the race shall notify a vessel in the escort fleet as soon as possible. Contact the Communication Vessel Coley D per the Communication schedule established in the Comm Plan section of the skipper's handbook. Boats so equipped may dial the Vallarta Race Escort vessel **M/V Coley D via Sat phone @ 1-8816-2146-6641**; or may call the **Race Manager at 1-619-933-9922**. Failing all other means of notification, a notification shall be made to the **San Diego Yacht Club via telephone to 1-619-221-8400** or email to **sailing@sdyc.org** as soon as possible.
- 19.2 RENDERING ASSISTANCE - At the discretion of the Protest Committee, an elapsed time credit may be given to a yacht rendering assistance to, or standing by a vessel in distress. To receive such credit, the captain of the yacht rendering assistance shall submit to the Race Committee, immediately upon finishing, a detailed statement as to the circumstances involved, time spent and the distance and direction traveled while rendering assistance. **This modifies RRS 62.**
- 19.3 If any use of the engine is made to propel a yacht not in the Performance Cruising Class, an affidavit signed by the owner, or skipper, citing the complete details connected with the use of the engine, including the purpose, time involved, distance traveled and all other pertinent conditions shall be given to the Race Committee as soon as the yacht finishes.

Vallarta Race Organizing Committee