



2018 DISC Mount Vernon Chase
Sailing Instructions
Daingerfield Island Sailing Club
May 5, 2018

1. **Eligibility to Participate** – By participating and entering DISC races and regattas, the boat owner/skipper agrees to abide by the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) 2017-2020, the Notices of Race, and these Sailing Instructions. By entering an event, the boat owner/skipper agrees that there are inherent risks to competitive sailing and, as such, 1) they are solely responsible for the decision whether to enter or continue any race, and 2) they shall hold harmless DISC and the DISC officers for any damage or liability that may occur during a race or regatta.

Each boat owner/captain is responsible for the safety of his/her crew, guests, and boat.

2. **Rules-** This race will be governed by the rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing 2017-2020. RRS 63.7, Conflict between Rules, is modified by, "*If there is a conflict between the Sailing Instructions and the Notice of Race, the Sailing Instructions shall apply.*"

3. **Entries** - Competitors must enter by delivering a completed Mount Vernon Chase Entry Form on-line at <http://discsailing.org/membership-and-racing-registration-form/>, by 1930 hours 5/3/2018. DISC racing is based on the PHRF handicap system. Handicaps will be assigned by PHRF of the Chesapeake (www2.phrfchesbay.com). All boats that qualify for a 4-P, 5-P or 6-P PHRF rating are invited to participate. Boats must have a valid PHRF of the Chesapeake rating certificate or must show that a certificate has been applied for. The DISC Race Director will be pleased to answer any questions regarding the process for applying for a PHRF certificate. New racers may be assigned a courtesy PHRF rating for this race.

The entry fee for the Mount Vernon Chase will be outlined in the Notice of Race (NOR) for the event. The NOR will be circulated by e-mail and will be posted on the DISC web site.

4. **Notices to Competitors** – Notices to competitors will be posted on the DISC website www.discsailing.org, or be sent to the DISC sailing community via the DISC email system. In the event there is no time to notify the fleet, the Race Committee will present notification on the water by VHF radio on channel 69. All radio communications will be a courtesy. Failure to receive or understand a radio transmission will not be considered as grounds for Redress. This modifies RRS 62.1

5. **Handicapping** – DISC uses the Performance Handicap Racing Fleet of the Chesapeake (PHRF) rating system to foster competition between dissimilar boats. All boats participating in DISC events shall have a valid 2018 PHRF rating issued by PHRF of the Chesapeake. The CR (Circular Random) rating for each boat will be used.

Time-on-Distance (TOD) shall be used to determine start times, as well as corrected finish times and to score yachts racing in this DISC event.

6. **Schedules and Class flags** - Dates for 2018 DISC-sponsored racing and membership meetings are posted on www.discsailing.org.

There will be two classes scored for the 2018 Mount Vernon Chase, one Spinnaker class and one Non-Spinnaker class. No class flags will be used.

7. **Course and marks** – DISC courses are listed on the Mount Vernon Chase NOR under Racing Resources on the DISC website www.discsailing.org. All marks serving as turning marks are to be left to Port unless that mark is a finishing mark. Courses for spinnaker and non-spinnaker fleets will be announced prior to the start of the first boat. Courses for spinnaker and non-spinnaker fleets may be different or may be the same. Except for course 1 rounding GC 81, GC 79 will be rounded on the channel side as a mark of the course in both directions. All courses will begin at “90”, FI R 4s, South of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge, and will round 1 of the following 6 marks:

- 1) GC 81 (7.24 mi)
- 2) GC 77 (9.20 mi)
- 3) GC 73 (11.38 mi)
- 4) GC 71 (13.08 mi)
- 5) GC 69 (14.10 mi)
- 6) GC 67 (15.36 mi)

8. **Starting and Finishing Lines** – A pursuit start format will be used. A starting schedule will be provided based on boats registered to compete via the registration form on the DISC website www.discsailing.org. The start times for each of the courses will be posted on the DISC website. The first boat will start no earlier than 1100 hours the day of the race at Potomac River “90”, FI R 4s as the east end of the start line and an imaginary line due west of “90”, FI R 4s. If there is a Race Committee boat the start line will be between the mast of the race committee boat, or an orange flag on the Race Committee boat and “90”, FI R 4s. Each skipper is responsible for knowing their correct start time, and starting correctly.

9. **Time Limit** – The time limit for each race will be announced the day of the race. A boat in each class must finish within the time limit to score the race for that class. After one boat in a class has finished, all other boats in that class will have 30 minutes to finish or be scored TLE.

10. **Shortening Course** – There will be no shortened courses for this race.

11. **Protests** - Protests must be made in accordance with the RRS to be considered a “Valid Protest”. A protested competitor may be able exonerate themselves from a foul by performing 1 tack and 1 gybe in the same direction or 2 tacks and 2 gybes in the same direction, in accordance with rule RRS 31 or RRS 44.1, 44.2 or by taking a 20% scoring penalty on the water in accordance to rule RRS 44.3. Unless her penalty is to retire. The

Race Committee (if available) must be notified of the intent to protest. The time limit for submitting the protest form will be 60 minutes after the last boat finishes. Protest forms can be handed to the Race Committee, or sent by email to the Standing Race Committee at officers@discsailing.org The Race Committee will determine the schedule and time for a protest hearing.

12. **Scoring** - Since the racing will be using the pursuit format the finish order will decide the race scoring. All participants are required to announce their finish times on VHF 69 at the time of finish as well as record their finish time using GPS time and send to officers@discsailing.org, as soon after finishing as possible. Competitors are also required to record the boat that is ahead and the boat that is behind at time of finishing. Starting times of individual yachts will be based on the PHRF certificates on file with the Race Director. All DISC boats must have a valid PHRF certificate to be scored in any DISC racing series or event.

Scoring will be based on the "low point" system. Under this system the first yacht to finish, based on corrected time, will receive 1 point and each succeeding yacht will receive points equal to his/her finishing position. That is, the second place yacht will receive 2 points, the third place yacht, 3 points, etc.

The race will be scored as soon as possible. Awards will be given at the party in the grove after the race.

13. **MANAGEMENT:** The races shall be under the management of the DISC Officers, and DISC Standing Race Committee, which shall have the full power to interpret the rules, decide protests and to reject entries of any yacht at any time. DISC accepts no responsibility for accidents occurring during these series.

- **RACE COMMITTEE:** The Standing Race Committee is comprised of Peter Fanta (Race Director) Henry Cheng (Non-spin Fleet Captain), Craig Ekman (Spin Fleet Captain), Nelson Pemberton (Vice Commodore and Protest Chair) and Bob Brady (Commodore)

14. **SAFETY:** All safety equipment required by the Coast Guard must be onboard. A minimum crew of two (skipper plus one crew) is mandatory. All yachts must meet all local regulations, which include lights for night sailing (this will be strictly enforced). Any yacht found negligent of Coast Guard safety regulations will be disqualified. Boats must be self-righting at all times while racing.

15. **All crewmembers shall wear Personal Floatation Devices (PFDs) when instructed by the Race Committee or Standing Race Committee, except for the removal or addition of clothing. The Race Committee or Standing Race Committee may Protest under this instruction if they observe a crew member without a PFD, or it is reported to them, even from a person with a**

***conflict of interest.* This modifies RRS 22.1, 40, 61.1b. DISC encourages all competitors to wear PFD's at all times.**

Sailing is an all weather sport. It is the responsibility of individual skippers to decide, based on conditions at the time of the race and their own assessment of their boat and crew's ability, whether or not to race. The Standing Race Committee is charged with determining if a race will be held. Such decisions will be made on the day of the race, based on conditions at that time. In the case of lightning, dangerous wind or other extreme conditions, the Standing Race Committee may decide to postpone or cancel a race.

The exception to the determination on race day by the Standing Race Committee will be in the case of certain irregular races in which the NOR for that race states that the date may be altered or postponed in advance of the race day. These irregular races may have to take additional factors into consideration such as cooperation with sponsoring organizations.

16. **Commercial Traffic:** A boat shall not exercise right of way over, cross in close proximity to, or interfere with reasonable transit of the race area by commercial freighters, tugs and tows, or other commercial vessels. A boat charged under this rule has the burden of proof that she did not interfere with the commercial vessel. Boats must take evasive action well in advance of any potentially dangerous situation.

The Race Committee or Standing Race Committee may protest under this instruction based on information received from competitors or persons with a *conflict of interest*. If a competing yacht is found to have violated this rule, the yacht shall be scored DSQ for that race. The Protest Committee may impose more severe penalties if they determine that gross negligence on the part of skipper or crew of the yacht in question endangered the safety of their yacht, other DISC yachts, or commercial traffic transiting the racecourse. This changes RRS 60.2(a).

The Mount Vernon Chase may be sailed in the dark. All skippers are required to have required lighting on their boats.

Please contact DISC Officers via officers@discsailing.org with any questions about DISC racing or these Race Instructions.