***SAILING INSTRUCTIONS***

***2016 American M National Championship Regatta***

***REMEMBER, we race to enjoy the occasion***

***as good sportsman.***

**1. Rules**

1.1 The 2013-2016 Racing Rules of Sailing including Appendix E and the rules of the American M class will govern the regatta except as noted in section 2.2 and by this notice.

2.2 The RRS and class rules are amended as follows:

(a) Rule 2 FAIR SAILING Add: Participants in this regatta shall exhibit sportsmanlike behavior. A “zero tolerance” policy will be in effect. Competitors or race officials may bring behavior complaints to the judges. A first violation will be a warning. For the next violation a jury of three will determine if the penalty is disqualification from a race or the entire regatta.

(b) Rule 30.1 (Round-an-End Rule) is amended: Any yacht over the start line within one minute of the start gong must return to the proper side of the start line around the ends of the start line. (No “dip” starts.)

(c) Rule 31.1 A boat may touch turning marks of the course without penalty. A penalty still applies for touching a start/finish mark while starting or finishing.

(d) Rule E3.2 is amended: Course Boards will not be used.

(e) Rule E3.3 is amended: **Control Area** is the entire ***walkway*** along the NW edge of Redd’s Pond. Rock ledges along the walkway cannot be used. To avoid collisions between skippers walk on the right half of the walk. **Launching Area** is the entire shoreline of Redd’s Pond

(f) Rule E3.5 is amended: the length of the starting sequence will be sixty seconds preceded by an audible Warning signal.

(g) Rule E4.2 b is amended: (Outside Help) Boats ashore, aground or entangled may be freed by anyone.

(h) Rule E4.5 (b) is amended: While ashore or at the water's edge, boats may be adjusted, drained of water or repaired, have entangled objects removed, or have batteries changed. **Boats shall not change, reef or unreef sails during the regatta.**

(i) Rule E5.3 is amended: A written protest is not required for a protest while racing. Boats shall notify Race Officials immediately at the finish of a heat if it intends to protest or request redress.

(k) A boat without a class-approved bow bumper will not be permitted to race.

(l) Relocating any boat parts during the regatta, including batteries, or changing boat weight is not permitted. Failed parts may be replaced.

**2. Notification of Changes to \***

**.the Sailing Instructions**

Any changes to the Sailing Instructions will be discussed at the “Skipper’s Meeting” or orally as required.

**3. Racing Format**

The Low Point System will be used for the entire regatta.

**4. Courses and Marks**

Courses will be windward/leeward with **possible** offset marks at windward and leeward marks. All marks will be rounded to port. Although rarely used, if needed there could be gate marks in lieu of the offset marks. Start/finish marks are not marks of the course. Race officials will announce the course orally. The course will be changed only between races.

**5. Start-Finish Line**

Only the line judge will call a boat over the line early. No racing skippers shall call the line. An early starter who fails to restart is a DNS.

The start-finish line will be the course side of mark edges. After finishing boats must immediately clear the start-finish area to prevent confusion recording finish places.

**6. Protest Protocol**

***THERE WILL BE NO ON-COURSE DISCUSSION OF PROTESTS.*** A boat shall ***TWICE*** hail **PROTEST**, its sail number and the sail number of the protested boat. The protested boat may respond that he will or will not do a penalty turn. ***No further dialogue is permitted.*** *It is the responsibility of the protestor to notify the race director and the boat being protested immediately after all boats finish that Heat.* ***Protests will be heard at the conclusion of that heat.***

**7. Race Officials and “Proactive Judging”**

There will not be “proactive judging”. Race officials can be witnesses in protest hearings. Race officials may protest a boat.

***If a competitor’s behavior at the regatta is inappropriate, race officials will give the competitor a warning. If the competitor’s unacceptable behavior continues, a three-judge panel may disqualify the competitor from a heat or further participation in the regatta.***

**8. Request a “Hold” for repair**

Prior to the Preparatory Signal (the initiation of the one-minute starting sequence) a boat may ask to delay the starting sequence for five minutes for the repair. A boat will be granted only one such five-minute ‘hold’ per day. Holds for tuning, battery changing, etc. are not permitted.

**9. Redress** RRS E5.5 is amended***:***

***Entanglement*** shall be 5 seconds or longer to qualify for redress.

**Scoring** for redress shall be average points of all races completed at the time of the redress event. Request for redress will be addressed following the race in which the event occurred.

**10. Amendments to Sailing Instructions**

The Race Committee may amend these sailing instructions orally or in writing in accordance with RRS 88.2(c). Changes to the sailing instructions will be at the regularly scheduled skippers’ meetings or when required.

**11. Protests**

It is in the best interest of all competitors to resolve protests on the water. If not resolved, the Protest Committee will resolve protests immediately after a heat in which the protest(s) occurred. ***Protests will be heard at the conclusion of that heat.*** *If protest is complicated or involves multiple boats that issue cannot be immediately resolved, the Protest Committee will be hear the protest at the end of the days racing if necessary. Protest shall be presented by protestor and protested boat owner to Protest Committee with reason (rule #) for infraction to be identified and drawings if appropriate*

There shall be no appeal of a Protest Committee decision if that appeal affects a boat’s promotion or relegation.

**12. Scoring**

RRS Rule A4.1 Low Point System shall apply for the HMS. Score for DNF, DNS, OCS (early start) and RAF (Retired After Finishing) shall be the number of boats in the largest heat of Race 1 plus 1 and may be discarded. DSQ cannot be discarded. ***Do your turns, or RAF, unless you have an ironclad defense with witnesses.*** DSQ boats shall be scored as the number of boats entered in regatta plus 1.

**13. Number of Races**

One race is required to constitute a regatta.