



2025 BAHAMAS SUNFISH JUNIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP



Great Exuma, The Bahamas
November 15-16, 2025

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

The notation [DP] in a rule of the Sailing Instructions means that the penalty for breaking the rule is at the discretion of the race committee or the jury. The notation [NP] in a rule of the Sailing Instructions means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1(a) - No red flags will be used.

1. RULES

- 1.1. The championship will be governed by the 'rules' as defined by The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS).
- 1.2. The following prescriptions of Bahamas Sailing Association (BSA) shall apply: a) Racing Rules of Sailing PART 4 – Add under preamble: “BSA prescribes that Part 4 rule 40 shall also apply to boats sailing to the racecourse from the launching area and vice-versa.”
b) Rule 40 – Add: “BSA prescribes that competitors racing in single-handed dinghies shall wear personal flotation devices at all times while afloat except as provided in rule 40.”
- 1.3. RRS 33 will be changed as follows: Legs of the course will not be changed after the preparatory signal. The sailing instructions may also change other racing rules.
- 1.4. The first three sentences of RRS 61.1(a) are changed to “A boat intending to protest shall inform the other boat at the first reasonable opportunity. When the protest shall concern an incident in the racing area that she was involved in or saw she shall hail “Protest”. She shall inform the Race Committee at the finishing line immediately after finishing of the boat she is protesting, or as soon as practicable after she retires.”
- 1.5. RRS Appendix T (Arbitration) will apply
- 1.6. RRS Appendix P (RRS 42) will apply with special procedures for Rule 42 with changes to include a point penalty for a penalty given after finishing a race. Appendix 2.3 is deleted, and Appendix 2.2 is changed to “When a boat is penalized for a second and subsequent times during a regatta, she shall promptly retire. If she fails to do so she shall be disqualified without a hearing and her score shall not be excluded.”
- 1.7. In all rules governing this event where applicable:
 - 1.7.1.[DP] denotes a rule for which the penalty is at the discretion of the Jury; and
 - 1.7.2.[NP] denotes a rule that shall not be grounds for protests by a boat. This changes RRS 60.1(a).

2. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

- 2.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located at the Exuma Sailing Club (ESC) notice board.

2.2 On the water the Race Committee (RC) intends to monitor and communicate with Support Persons on VHF channel 69.

3. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted before 0900 on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 2000 on the day before it will take effect.

4. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

4.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed at ESC Flag pole.

4.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 30 minutes' in the race signal AP.

4.3 Flag D with one sound means 'The warning signal will be made not less than 30 minutes after flag D is displayed. Boats shall not leave the ESC beach area until this signal is made.

5. FORMAT

5.1. The Bahamas Sunfish Junior National Championship is comprised of a Gold Fleet and an Emerald Fleet, as follows:

★ Gold Fleet – Those who have competed in major national events earlier in the year and/or wish to be considered for the international race team, plus those assigned by coaches to be sailing in this fleet.

★ Emerald Fleet – Sailors who have been sailing for less than a year; sailors that are new to racing and have never raced at a competition before, plus those assigned by coaches to be sailing in this fleet.

5.2 The two fleets, Gold & Emerald, will be raced simultaneously on the same course, and scored separately.

5.3 Seven races are planned for this event with a maximum of four races a day. A minimum of three races is required for the series to stand and the worst score will be dropped if six or more races are completed.

6. SCHEDULE

Saturday, November 15th

9:00- 9:30am – Registration at Exuma Sailing Club cove

9:30am – Skippers Meeting

10:30am – First Race Warning Signal

Race 2 to follow

Lunch on the water

Race 3 & 4 to follow

5:00pm – AGM Meeting (available on zoom as well) at the Augusta Bay pool deck

Sunday, November 16th

12:00pm – First Warning Signal

3 races (back to back)

5:00pm – Prizes, Presentation & Dinner at Augusta Bay Hotel

7. CLASS FLAGS

7.1 Sunfish Class Flag with red Sunfish Insignia

8. RACING AREA

8.1 The general racing area will be in the Elizabeth Harbour near the Augusta Bay hotel and Fish Fry

8.2 The exact locations of the course will depend on the specific wind and sea conditions and are at the discretion of the Race Committee.

9. THE COURSE

9.1 The course will be an up/down windward/leeward course as shown in diagram below *Exhibit 1*. The Gold Fleet and the Emerald Fleet will use the same course simultaneously. *Exhibit 1* shows the course including the approximate angles between legs, the order in which marks are to be passed and the side on which each mark is to be left. The course length and exact configuration will be based on the sailing conditions.

9.2 When there is a gate, boats shall sail between the gate marks from the direction of the previous mark and round either gate mark.

9.3 Legs of the course will not be changed after the preparatory signal. This changes RRS 33.

10. MARKS

10.1 The Start Mark for both fleets will be an orange teardrop buoy.

10.2 Marks 1, 2s and 2p for both Fleets will be yellow tetrahedron buoys.

10.3 The Finish Mark for both Fleets will be an orange teardrop buoy.

11. THE START

11.1 Start will be pursuant to RRS 26.

11.2 The starting line is between a staff displaying an orange flag on the signal vessel at the starboard end and the course side of the port-end starting mark.

11.3 A boat starting later than 5 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start (DNS) without a hearing.

12. THE FINISH

12.1 The finish line is between a staff displaying a blue flag on the finishing boat at the starboard end and the course side of the port end finishing mark.

12.2 Boats that have finished shall keep clear of all boats racing.

13. PENALTY SYSTEM

13.1 Appendix P will apply

13.2 Any competitor using a one/two turn(s) penalty shall report that use to the Race Committee promptly upon finishing that race.

13.3 The Jury Boat will be identified by displaying the code flag J.

13.4 In addition to the application of Appendix P, the jury will observe racing for other rule infringements. When a Jury member sees such an infringement, and no boat hails protest or takes an appropriate penalty, the Jury member may make one sound but no yellow flag will be pointed and no sail number will be hailed. This signal means that one or more members of the Jury believe a boat should take an appropriate penalty. The jury may protest a boat or boats under RRS 60.3(a) if no boat takes a penalty.

13.5 RRS P2.3 will not apply and RRS P2.2 is changed so that it will apply to any penalty after the first one.

14. TIME LIMIT

14.1 The time limit shall be 60 minutes for the first boat in a race to finish.

14.2 Boats failing to finish within 30 minutes after the first boat sails the course and finishes will be scored Did Not Finish (DNF) without a hearing. This changes rules 35, A4, and A5.

14.3 There will be a 30 minute time limit for the first boat in a race to finish the first leg of the race.

15. HEARING REQUESTS

15.1 Competitors in both fleets are able to request a hearing

15.2 Protests shall be written on forms available at the Jury Desk Beach area of the ESC. Completed protest forms shall be delivered to the Jury Desk no later than 60 minutes after the Race Committee's Finish Boat docks. This time limit will be posted on the Official Notice Board.

15.3 Notice of hearings will be posted on the Official Notice Board. Hearings will be held as soon as possible after the end of the protest time limit.

15.4 Reopening a Hearing - On the last day of racing a request for reopening a hearing shall be delivered:

- (a) within the protest time limit if the party requesting reopening was informed of the decision on the previous day;
- (b) no later than 30 minutes after the party requesting reopening was informed of the decision on that day. This changes RRS 66.

14.7 A list of boats that have been penalized under instructions 12.4 and 14.2 or have been disqualified by the Jury or race committee will be posted before the protest time limit.

16. SCORING

16.1 Three races shall constitute a regatta.

16.2 When fewer than 6 races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores. When 6 or more races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.

17. SAFETY

17.1 Before the warning signal of the first race (morning and afternoon) all competitors must check-in with their respective (Gold or Emerald Fleet) Race Committee boat at the starboard end of the start line by sailing past the stern of the Committee boat on a starboard tack, by hailing her sail number and being acknowledged by the Race Committee with a return hail of her sail number. The penalty for a violation of this instruction will be a 20% penalty applied as in RRS 44.3(c) to the competitor's best finish on the day of the violation.

17.2 A boat retiring from a race shall notify the RC boat or safety boat before leaving the course area or notify the RC immediately upon returning to shore.

17.3 There is no restriction on the use of waterways by vessels not associated with the regatta. Any attempt by a boat to exercise right of way, to cross in close proximity to, or to interfere with the reasonable transit of the race area by commercial freighters, tugs and tows and other vessels which are unable to respond readily or which are bound by navigation restrictions will be grounds for a protest by the RC or the Protest Committee. If such a protest occurs, the burden of proof is on the boat allegedly interfering. Boats shall take evasive action well in advance of any potentially dangerous situation.

17.4 It is the responsibility solely of the parent(s) or the adult representative of the competitor to decide if the child should sail in the weather and sea conditions that might arise during the event. Parents not personally attending any part of the event must ensure that another adult is prepared to act as the Support Person for their sailor and to make these decisions for their sailor. This changes RRS 4.

17.5 Only the race committee or jury may protest a competitor for a violation of this section (Section 16) of the sailing instructions. This changes RRS 60.1.

18. REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT

18.1 Substitution of competitors will not be allowed.

18.2 Substitution of damaged or lost equipment is not allowed unless authorized by the Race Committee.

Requests for substitution shall be made to the race committee at the first reasonable opportunity which may be after the race.

19. EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules and sailing instructions.

On the water, a boat can be instructed by a race committee equipment inspector or jury to proceed immediately to a designated area for inspection.

20. SUPPORT BOATS

20.1 [NP][DP] Team leaders, coaches and other support personnel shall stay outside areas where boats are racing from the time of the preparatory signal for the first class to start until all boats have finished or retired or the race committee signals a postponement, general recall or abandonment unless specifically authorized by the Race Committee as a matter of safety.

20.2 All boats associated with the infringing Support Vessel may be penalized at the discretion of the Jury for the race in which the Support Person failed to comply with this instruction. This changes RRS 64.5(b).

21. TRASH DISPOSAL

This event is a Clean Event to promote environmental awareness and ocean conservation by the participants in this regatta. All sailors, coaches, families and friends are asked to help protect the environment on and off the water and to keep surroundings clean. Efforts will be made to limit plastics and non-biodegradable materials.

Trash may be placed aboard support or official boats.

22. PRIZES

Trophies shall be awarded to:

- a) Top three finishers in Gold Fleet without gender distinctions regardless of nationality or place of residence
- b) Top finisher who is a citizen of or resident in the Commonwealth of The Bahamas will be awarded the "Jimmie and Lori Lowe Floating Trophy"
- c) Top three finishers in Emerald Fleet without gender distinctions, regardless of nationality or place of residence
- d) Top Female Finisher regardless of fleet
- e) Other awards will be given at the discretion of the organizing committee

23. VIDEO AND PHOTO DISCLAIMER AND RIGHT TO USE NAME

By participating in the event, competitors give absolute right and permission in perpetuity to the organizing authority and the sponsors of the event for any photograph and video footage taken of themselves or the boat they are sailing during the event to be published in any media whatsoever, for either editorial or advertising purpose to be used in press information without compensation and without the competitor's approval of such images or any use of them.

24. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. See RRS 4, Decision to Race. The organizing authority will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death

sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the regatta.

25. FURTHER INFORMATION

25.1. All information regarding this event is to be found on the ESC website at www.exumasailing.club and communications may be sent to exumasailingclub@gmail.com.

25.2. Telephone/WhatsApp contacts for the Exuma Sailing Club (host club) are:

Dallas Knowles - 242-524-8246 and/or Tamara Knowles - 242-524-8247

