



2019 Downeast Challenge Sailing Instructions



1. **Event:** Marblehead Yacht Club (MYC) and Boothbay Harbor Yacht Club (BHYC) invite sailors to participate in the Downeast Challenge, an exciting overnight sailboat race of 100 nautical miles from Marblehead, MA to Boothbay Harbor, Maine August 2-3, 2019.
2. **Handicap System:** PHRF Time on Distance will be used. Boats without a current PHRFNE certificate will be issued a non-contestable rating by the race committee.
3. **Rules:** This event will be governed by the Mass Bay Sailing Association General Sailing Instructions except as changed this event sailing instructions.
 - (a) Shorthanded boats (Single/Doublehanded) may use self-steering devices. This modifies RRS 52.
 - (b) Boats shall adhere to the US Sailing Safety Equipment Requirements (USSER) for Coastal Races as defined in USSER #1.0.2. The safety of a boat and her crew is the sole and inescapable responsibility of the "person in charge", as per RRS 46, who shall ensure that the boat is seaworthy and manned by an experienced crew with sufficient ability and experience to face bad weather. S/he shall be satisfied as to the soundness of hull, spars, rigging, sails and all gear. S/he shall ensure that all safety equipment is at all times properly maintained and safely installed or stowed as appropriate, and that the crew knows where it is kept and how it is to be used.
4. **Notices to Competitors:** Sailing Instructions and notices will be posted on www.regattaman.com page for this event. MYC Race committee will monitor VHF channel 69 at the start. Changes to the Sailing Instructions will be provided at the Skippers meeting and at the same time be posted on www.regattaman.com
5. **Mandatory Skippers Meeting:** Will be held on Thursday August 1 at 1900 hrs at the Marblehead YC, 4 Cliff, St. Marblehead, MA to discuss the course, finishing protocol, and arrival information. Rumson's Rum will be hosting a rum tasting from 6pm-8pm with live music on the deck. Skippers and crew are welcome to dine at the Marblehead YC (BYOB). Scratch sheets and any changes to the Sailing Instructions will be available and posted on www.regattaman.com event page.
6. **The Start:** Start line shall be between either G"3" or RN"6" (alternate start location) and yellow Q flag aboard the power boat named 'Eider'. The first warning signal will be August 2 at 1000 in the vicinity of **G"3" FIG 4s** which is NW of Children's Island. Rather than delay the start due to lack of wind or other reason, the fleet will follow the RC boat to the alternate start location, Gales Ledge **RN "6"** located about a mile NE of Bakers Island. The warning signal for the Alternate start will be 1100 and starting sequence delayed by one hour.
 - 6.1 **Checking In:** Each boat shall check in with the race committee before her first warning signal by sailing past the race committee boat stern and stating her boat name and number of people aboard. Checking in by VHF channel 69 is allowed.
 - 6.2 **Starting Sequence:** Start sequence will be as follows, all GPS time. The MYC Race Committee will sound one signal at each of the times show below, and attempt to hail start sequence via VHF 69. This modifies RRS 26. RC will attempt to notify OCS (over early) boats via VHF 69. OCS boats that do not restart will be assessed a 10 minute penalty.
 - 1000 Warning for Shorthanded Class
 - 1005 Start for Shorthanded Class AND Warning for Racing & Cruising classes (Fully Crewed)
 - 1010 Start for Racing & Cruising Classes (Fully Crewed)

6.3 Radio Monitoring: After each yacht starts they are required to monitor Ch 16 at all times during the race.

7. Marks: Marks of the course will be US Coast Guard Navigational Buoys

- (a) The start line will be between the MYC Race Committee boat flag & **G"3" Fl G 4s** which is NW of Childrens Is, Marblehead.
- (b) The alternate start line will be between the MYC Race Committee boat flag & Gales Ledge **RN "6"** NE of Bakers Is, Beverly
- (c) Thatcher's Island to be left to port.
- (d) Dry Salvages (NE of Thatchers Is.) Lighted Bouy G"1" Fl G 2.5S to be left to port
- (e) Bell G "1C" to the south of the Cuckolds and the Cuckolds (western Boothbay approach) must be left to port.

7.1 Restricted Areas: Boats shall not traverse the area bounded by a line connecting the following in the sequence listed: Bell G"9" (Powers Rock), Salem Channel Cans: "7" & "3", Nun "2" (near Newcombs Ledge), South Gooseberry Island, Can "5" (Pope Head), Bell G "9" (Powers Rock). Yachts entering this area must leave between the same two boundary markers that they passed when entering.

7.2 Course Distance: The course distance is:

Normal Start (G"3" NW of Childrens Is) course 109.8 nm

Alternate Start (RN "6" NE of Bakers Is) course 106.1 nm

8. The Finish: The finish line is the line extending true west from **R"4" Fl R 2.5s** (R"4" kept to starboard) which is NW of Squirrel Island.

8.1 Finishing Times: Skippers shall take their own finish time (GPS time) and immediately contact race organizers via Text message instructions below. Additionally, skippers shall complete the finishing time 'paper certification' distributed at the Skippers meeting and attached to the SI's, with their finish time and deliver to BHYC dock house by 1700 August 3rd.

Text Message to **207-841-2612:**

Finish Text Message: 'Yacht Name' HH:MM:SS

Withdraw Text Message: 'Yacht Name' withdraws HH:MM:SS

Exceeding Time Limit Text Message: 'Yacht Name' time limit

Please Note: Do not use the Text Number to call or ask race organizers questions. If you do not notify your finish or withdrawal by Aug 3 1600, race organizers will try to locate you, and if unsuccessful, will notify the Coast Guard.

9. Time Limit: Shall be 1600 hrs Saturday August 3. Yachts that have not finished at this time shall record their 1600 latitude/longitude position to be reported on their finishing time certification.

10. Protests: Must be delivered to BHYC front desk within 1 hour of boat's finish.

11. Prizes: All skippers and crew are invited to the Awards Party starting at 1700 on August 3rd BHYC. The awards party may start sooner if all boats are in. Sailors are invited to relax at BHYC (relax, eat, drink). Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in each class. There will be special prizes awarded for noteworthy events, so share your stories.



