SAILING INSTRUCTIONS – 2020 SEASON Pursuit Races
Organized by the Northeast Harbor Fleet under the auspices of
The Northeast Harbor Fleet Cruising Class

1 RULES
Races will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing.

2 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS
2.1 Notices will be posted on the NEH Fleet site and available from RC Signal Boat Shearwater.
2.2 The Race Committee shall communicate with competitors on VHF CH 65.

3 CHANGES TO THE SAILING INSTRUCTIONS
Any change to the sailing instructions shall be made prior to 1000 on the day of a race. Starting times will be announced orally on VHF 65 by the RC. Slower boats are encouraged to hail whenever leaving a mooring or send an email the night before the race to the PRO. Participation by slower boats has a serious effect on everyone else’s start time so, communication in advance is greatly appreciated by all participants.

4 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE
On the day of a race, cancellations, postponements and changes to the starting area will be announced on VHF channel 65 between 1200 & 1300. Unless notified, the slowest boat will start on schedule.

5 SCHEDULE OF RACES
The schedule of races shall be as set forth in the Fleet Racing Schedule posted on the NEH Fleet calendar pages. This is the start time for the slowest entry in the race.

6 RACE AREAS
6.1 Racing will be conducted in the waters of the Great Harbor, the Western Way, the Eastern Way, Somes Sound, and the waters surrounding Mount Desert Island.
6.2 Races will normally start at Mark Q unless another location is identified and hailed by the RC.

7 COURSES
Courses will be displayed on a rack located on the Race Committee Signal Boat with the first mark to be rounded on the top of the rack and the remaining marks in descending order. Marks shall be rounded to port, unless the letter “S”, indicating “Round this specific mark to Starboard” is placed beside the mark letter. Courses may include turns around islands and shoals as well as government marks and/or NEH Fleet marks. See Mark Descriptions for Racing.
MARKS

Marks of the course may be Northeast Harbor Fleet letter designated buoys (white drum/orange top), portable yellow or orange tetrahedrons, government navigational buoys, a portable pole buoy, inflatable buoys, islands, or combinations thereof. The description of Marks and a Race Chart may also be found at the Northeast Harbor Fleet web site. NEHF

GOVERNMENT BUOYS AND AREAS THAT ARE OBSTRUCTIONS

All government navigational buoys except those shown as racing marks E, I, P, Q, and R must be observed unless they are posted as rounding marks of the course. EVERY PORSCHE IS REALLY QUICK

THE START

Starting times will be announced orally on VHF 65 by the RC. Slower boats are encouraged to hail on VHF 65 whenever leaving a mooring or send an email the night before the race to the PRO. Participation by slower boats has a significant effect on everyone else’s start time so, communication in advance is greatly appreciated by all participants.

Races will be started by synchronizing with GPS time and the corrected time based on course distance shall be rounded to the nearest minute.

The starting line will be between the Race Committee Signal Boat mast displaying an orange flag and the course side of the port-end starting mark.

A boat that does not start within 10 minutes after her starting signal may be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes RRS A4 and A5.

All boats shall check in with the RC prior to their start time by hailing boat name, helmsperson. Competitors should also identify if they are all one family and whether or not they intend to be flying a spinnaker. Luders entries shall identify if they have a wood mast or, are intending to use a genoa jib.

CHANGE OF COURSE

A change of course will be signaled by a Race Committee boat before the first boat begins the next leg of the course. The new course may be displayed by the RC or broadcast on VHF CH 65.

THE FINISH

The finishing line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on a Race Committee Boat and the course side of the nearby finishing mark.

PENALTY SYSTEM

Appendix T which allows for a 20% scoring penalty before the protest time limit expires or a 30% scoring penalty before the protest hearing is called to order shall be in effect for all races. US Sailing Appendix V Alternative Penalties shall apply.

TIME LIMITS

The time limit for the first boat to sail the course and finish shall be 1630 Eastern Daylight Time. Boats failing to finish within 45 minutes after the first boat sails the course and finishes shall be scored Did not Finish without a hearing. This changes RRS 35, A4 and A5.

PROTESTS

Protest forms are available to download online.
15.2 The protest time limit is 30 minutes after the RC boat docks at its mooring.

15.3 Notices will be emailed to the helmsperson listed on the contact tracing sheet no later than 15 minutes after the protest time limit expires arbitration hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Arbitration hearings and protest hearings will be held as soon as possible via video-conference.

16 SCORING

16.1 The Low Point System of Appendix A will apply. Boats will be scored in the order which they finish.

16.2 A boat that did not start, retired after finishing or was disqualified shall be scored points for the finishing place one more than the number of boats entered in the race. This changes RRS A4.2

16.3 A boat that started but did not finish and is not being protested shall be scored one point more than the number of boats which finished. Modifies RRS A9.

17 REQUIRED SAFETY EQUIPMENT

17.1 All competitors are required to carry on board a means of retrieval for a person overboard.

17.2 Only the Race Committee may initiate a protest for violation of SI 16.1

18 SAFETY EQUIPMENT TO BE WORN

All personnel shall wear a Type III or Type V PFD while racing.

19 RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

19.1 All competitors shall monitor US VHF CH 65 while racing or in the racing area.

19.2 Boats are advised that any RC radio communications are official and are made either for race management purposes or as a courtesy to the competitors. As such, the race committee's use, or lack thereof, of radio communications shall not be grounds for redress.

20 PRIZES

Championship and perpetual prizes may be awarded at the Northeast Harbor Annual Meeting on Saturday, August 24. Daily prizes will be distributed as soon as all competitors have completed the contact tracing document.