

GARDEN BAY SAILING CLUB

Racing Rules.

It is the start to a new series of races, and it is probably a good time to remind everyone about the basic rules of the road.

1. If you are on **Opposite Tacks** (booms on different sides), the boat on **Starboard tack** has the right of way over the boat on **Port tack**. (Rule 10)

2. If you are on the **Same Tack** (booms on the same sides), the **leeward boat** has the right of way over the **windward boat**, and a boat coming up from behind can't hit the boat ahead. (Rules 11 and 12)

3. If you are **Tacking**, you have to stay out of the way of a boat sailing in a straight line. (Rule 13)

4. Before the start of a race the organizing boat will announce the course and start sequence. There will be an imaginary line between the two marks called the "starting line", and a timing system to tell you when you can start the race. You must be completely behind the line at your start. If you are not, simply turn back and get behind the line. However, while you are returning, you must stay clear of all boats that started correctly. (Rule 20)

5. Anytime you have right of way and want to turn toward another boat, you must be sure that the other boat has enough time and space to get out of your way. (Rule 16)

6. When you are two boat-lengths from a *Mark* or *obstruction*, you have to give any boat between you and the *mark* or *obstruction* room to round or pass it. (Rule 18)

7. One large exception to number 6 (above) is at the starting *marks*, where you do not have to give *windward/inside* boats room to pass between you and the

starting *mark*. If the *windward/inside* boat tries to squeeze in between you and a starting *mark* (like a Race committee boat), they are "**Barging**", which is definitely illegal but unfortunately very common. (Rules 18 and 11)

8. You must avoid all collisions if possible. (Rule 14)

9. If you make a Right of Way boat **change their course** to avoid hitting you, you must take a penalty. Normally the penalty is to simply get away from the other boats immediately and sail two full circles (called a "720"). When you're done, get back in the race. (Rule 44)

10. If you **touch any mark**, the penalty is just one full circle. (Rule 31)

These are very simplified summaries of the basic rules, and are not meant to cover every situation. **The best advice is for the Skipper of the "Right of way" boat to hail the "Give-way" boat with his intent, and for the latter to verbally respond. This sets the stage, and clarifies the situation.**

Copies of the rules are available on request.

New Arrival.

On Thursday, 8th March, Tom Barker brought his new boat into Pender Harbour. It has been a long time and his choice of a C&C 99 will certainly add some flavor to the Saturday Races. We wish Tom well and would just like to remind him that the cries of "I've no steerage" or "tonnage" will no longer apply or be granted!

Summer Race Series.

This is a reminder to all members that the 2012 Summer Race Series starts officially on Saturday 7th. April.

Next After Race Gathering.

The next informal meeting will be held on Saturday 7th. April at the Garden Bay Pub. Please mark your calendars and I look forward to seeing you and your guests either after the race, or at 12 noon if there is no race.

Sail trim quiz.

What would be the settings you would use for the following main sail controls going to windward in 1-3 knots of wind. Answers will be provided next month.

1. Traveller - where is it placed on the track?

2. Mainsheet - how much tension and why.

3. Halyard - how much tension and why?

4. Outhaul - how much tension and why?

5. Cunningham - how much tension?

6. Vang - how much tension and what else could you do to help your sail shape?

7. Draft depth - what %?

8. Draft Position - what position on the boom? (30% - 60%)

9. Telltails - what are the leech telltails and centre mainsail telltails supposed to be doing?

10. Mast bend - How much? (If appropriate)

11. Batten - where should the top batten be pointing?

12. Leech line - How much tension?

13. Crew position - what side and where on the boat?

14. Twist - how much?

You will find out next month how you did, but 75% of sailors worldwide did not get them all right...so don't feel too bad!