

Simple Heat Racing System

Version 2026-1

5TH February 2026

These rules will apply when the Notice of Race and/or Sailing Instructions state that racing will be run using the Simple Heat Racing System.

1. GENERAL

- 1.1 When each race will consist of two or more heats the series will consist of a Qualifying Series and a Final Series otherwise the event will be sailed as a single fleet as if it were a Qualifying Series. Except that sections 2 to 4 will not apply.
- 1.2 **Qualifying Series**
Boats shall be assigned to heats in accordance with **3. QUALIFYING SERIES**
- 1.3 **Final Series**
Finals fleet assignments shall be in accordance with 4.2 below.
- 1.4 The number of races in the Qualifying Series, or the method of determining when the Qualifying Series will end and the Final Series will start, shall be stated in the Notice of Race and/or in the Sailing Instructions
- 1.5 If no races are completed in the Final Series boats will be ranked according to their series score in the Qualifying Series.
- 1.6 RRS T1, Post-Race Penalties applies.

2. NUMBER AND SIZE OF HEATS

- 2.1 The number of heats shall be as few as possible.
- 2.2 The number of boats in each heat shall be as equal as possible.
- 2.3 The maximum number of boats in a heat shall be 20.

3. QUALIFYING SERIES

The Notice of Race will state whether assignments for the Qualifying series will be either progressive assignments (3.1) or pre-assignments (3.2) below.

The Notice of Race or Sailing Instructions will state how boats will be seeded. If no ranking or seeding list is available boats will be ranked first by alphabetical order of their national letter, then by numerical order of their sail number.

3.1 **Progressive Assignment**

The Race Committee shall inform boats in writing which Heat Movement Table shall apply.

The Race Committee will assign boats to heats.

- i) For Race 1 boats will be assigned to heats starting from the top ranked boat in the order 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1
- ii) Following Race 1 boats will be assigned to heats based on their finishing position in the previous race and heat using the Heat Movement Table from Part II.
- iii) Boats that have no finishing position shall be assigned to heats based on their scores determined by the race committee under RRS A5 in the following order: DNF, RET, NSC, OCS, DNS, DNC, UFD, BFD (and then DSQ, but only when a boat is disqualified in the race by an umpire).
- iv) When boats are tied in a heat, boats shall be assigned in alphanumerical order of national letter and sail number.
- v) Protest committee decisions shall not change heat assignments.

3.2 **Pre-Assignments**

- i) For all races, boats will be assigned, as far as possible to heats of equal size and ability.
- ii) Heat assignments for the entire qualifying series will be published before racing.

4. FINAL SERIES

- 4.1 There will be the same number of fleets in the Final Series as heats in the Qualifying Series. However, if the number of boats that have withdrawn from the event allows, the number of Final Series Fleets may be reduced.

Boats shall compete in the same Fleet throughout the Final Series. Fleets will be designated as Fleets Gold, Silver, Bronze and Copper, unless otherwise indicated in the sailing instructions. The Fleets shall, as far as possible, have an equal number of boats. Silver Fleet shall be no larger than Gold Fleet the Bronze Fleet no larger than Silver Fleet and Copper Fleet no larger than Bronze Fleet.

- 4.2 Boats will be assigned to Finals Fleets based on their ranking in the Qualifying Series, with the best ranked boats being assigned to Gold Fleet, except that boats withdrawn from the event at the time of division will be placed in the lowest heat.
- 4.3 If the Qualifying Series consists of more than five but less than eight completed races, then a boat's second worst race score shall be temporarily excluded but only for the purpose of establishing a ranking for assigning boats to fleets in the Final Series.
- 4.4 In the Final Series a race for each fleet shall consist of one heat. The Race Committee may change the heat schedule in the Final Series to run two or more consecutive races for the same fleet.
- 4.5 In the Final Series fleets may not all sail the same number of races.

5. SCORING

- 5.1 RRS Appendix A Low Point Scoring System shall apply for the Qualifying and Final Series except as changed by 5.2 to 5.6 below. In the Finals Series each fleet shall be scored separately.
- 5.2 In RRS A5.2 replace "the number of boats entered in the series" with "The number of boats in the largest heat".
- 5.3 Boats shall be recorded in the order of their finishing place in the heat and then, for each heat, in the order DNF, RET, NSC, OCS, DNS, DNC, WTH (DNC - withdrawn from series), UFD, BFD, DSQ or DNE. Ties will be recorded in alphanumerical order of national letter and sail number.
- 5.4 **Discards:**
A boat's series score in the Qualifying and Final Series will be the total of her race scores in that series, except that:
 - After 4 races have been completed in that series a boat's score will be the total of her race scores in that series excluding her worst score in that series;
 - After 8 races have been completed in that series, a boat's score in that series will be the total of her race scores in that series excluding her two worst scores in that series.
 - In each series 1 additional race score will be excluded for every 8 additional races completed.The Race Committee may change this rule before the warning signal for the first race in a series.
- 5.5 A boat's overall event score will be the total of her series scores in the each of the Qualifying and Final Series. The boat with the lowest overall event score in Gold Fleet wins. Other boats will be ranked accordingly with boats in Gold Fleet ranked before boats in Silver Fleet, boats in Silver Fleet before boats in Bronze Fleet and so on.
- 5.6 **Redress:**
If the protest committee decides to give redress based on average points, averages shall be calculated separately for each of the Qualifying and Final Series.
- 5.7 **Ties:**
Event ties shall be broken as follows:
 - i. Single heat events - RRS A8.1 and A8.2
 - ii. Multiple heat events - RRS A8.1 and A8.2 except that:
 - 1) Only scores for races in which the tied boats competed in the same heat shall be used to break ties.
 - 2) For the purposes of breaking ties excluded scores shall be used. This changes RRS A8.1
 - 3) If more than 2 boats are tied the higher place tie shall be resolved before the lower placed tie.
 - 4) If the tied competitors did not sail against each other in any heat RRS 8.1 and 8.2 shall be used without modification.

Heat Movement Tables (Progressive Assignment Qualifying Races Only)

Be aware that when there is a difference in the number of boats in heats (e.g. 16 in heat 1 and 15 in heat 2) at the start of the event, the largest heat size could move from one heat to another.

***: In 2 heat events it is possible to change the movement to "odd places to 1 and even places to 2". However, be aware that with entries of 10, 14, 18, 22, 26, 30, 34 and 38 every second race will result in Heat 1 having 2 more boats than Heat 2.