

Proposal for “Social Distancing” Sailing

To keep within the COVID mandate of social distancing, racing, whether in club events, open regattas, or any other format has been forbidden because the event cannot guarantee that the mandate can be met. Such events require gatherings of people in groups larger than five and outside the immediate household.

The following is a proposal for a “social distancing” sailing competition. This does not involve a race committee, protest committee, mark set or finish boat; all the things that we took for granted for years. It does put every boat and every person on an honour system: See Basic Principle.

The boats are not racing under the Racing Rules of Sailing but sailing under the COREGS.

1. Registration for this must be done by email or other non-contact method. If in person, all the social distancing requirements must be met.
2. The boats and the crew must be living in the same household. This might change if the province allows a “family bubble.” The crew should be listed so there can be no questions that the COVID conditions are being met.
3. The boats are to be sailed with main and jib only. The handicap for the participating boats that would normally sail with a spinnaker would be adjusted to reflect the lesser sail area.
4. Suggest using Time on Distance to calculate the adjusted time.
5. Set a fixed course – club marks and / or government marks. Such marks are expected to be “permanent.” A suggested course length might be five nm. The starting point and finishing point are also fixed. The course should be set for a port rounding.
6. The course would be sailed once per week by all participating. The time at which the boat sails is of the skipper’s choosing. The skipper (or crew) will record their start time, each mark rounding time, and their finish time. It would be helpful to create a form for the ease of collecting the data. This information is to be sent to the scorer, preferably soon after the completion of the sail (one might suggest within an hour).
7. The boat’s start, rounding and finish times as well as the course adjusted time should be posted for all participants to see.
8. The lowest total time would establish the final position – might suggest four.