

THISTLE FLEET 31 BY-LAWS

Established 1961
Revised 1962
Revised 1963
Revised 1965
Revised 1968
Revised 1969
Revised 2000

I. Purpose:

To guide Thistle Fleet No. 31 in their racing activities and assist them in promoting the sport of sailboat racing in accordance with the precepts of the Thistle Class Association and the United States Sailing Association.

II. Meetings:

The fleet shall have an annual business meeting and such other meetings as deemed necessary by the Fleet Captain. The annual meeting shall be held at the Pymatuning Yacht Club during the Labor Day weekend. The exact times and dates for all meetings will be chosen by the Fleet Captain. Rule changes and elections are to be decided by a majority of the members present. Each dues-paying fleet membership shall be entitled to a single vote.

III. Dues:

Yearly Fleet 31 dues of \$25.00 are payable at the same time as the National Thistle Class Association dues. Members joining Fleet 31 after August first will be assessed only \$10.00. These dues are used to defray the expenses of Fleet 31.

IV. Officers:

The Fleet shall have the following officers, and they shall take office on February 1 and serve until January 31 of the following year:

Fleet Captain shall direct and coordinate the activities of the fleet. He/She shall preside at all fleet functions, and shall attend, or appoint a representative to attend, all district meetings. The Fleet Captain shall appoint a Secretary-Treasurer, a Race Committee Chairperson, and any other committee heads which he/she deems necessary to operate the fleet. The Fleet Captain shall submit to the TCA the annual report covering the year in which he/she serves. Fleet activities should be reported to the Bagpipe.

Secretary-Treasurer shall collect the TCA, LEE District, and Fleet 31 dues. He/She shall send a dues statement to each fleet member well in advance of the due date for TCA dues.

Fleet Race Committee Chairman shall assist the Fleet Captain, working in conjunction with the Club Race Committee, in establishing the season's racing schedules. He/She shall record all race results. Results of each race shall be posted at least one hour prior to the next scheduled race in a given series. Results of each series are to be submitted in writing to the Fleet Captain for publication. He/She shall arrange for the hearing of all protests as soon after the completion of the race as possible, preferably within one hour. If possible, skippers from other fleets should be selected as a protest committee.

V. Racing Rules:

1. Unless otherwise specifically stated herein, Fleet 31 competition shall be governed by the TCA Constitution and By-Laws and *The Racing Rules of Sailing* published by US Sailing.
2. Each boat owner must be a paid-up member of TCA, LEE District, and Fleet 31. Co-owners may share dues for Fleet 31.

3. In a fleet race a boat must carry at least two persons.
4. In order to promote flexibility and training of new skippers, it is not necessary for the same individual to skipper in each race — even in one series. Co-owners and members of their immediate families (spouse, children, brothers, sisters, parents) may skipper interchangeably. Regular crew members who are not co-owners or members of the owner's immediate family may skipper and the points earned will be credited to the owner. "Regular crew" is to be stressed and the decision to allow a crew member to race the boat will be left up to the integrity of the owner. Others may skipper, but the points earned shall not be recorded. Prior to a race, an owner may petition the Fleet Race Chairman for points to be recorded or not recorded under the following circumstances:
 - (a). An owner whose boat is skippered by a member of the immediate family or a regular crew may request that the points earned not be recorded for the owner, but rather for the skipper.
 - (b). Owners sailing a boat other than their own may request to have the points earned be recorded as if they were sailing their own boat.
5. All protests must be submitted, in writing, to the Fleet Race Committee Chairman. He/She will arrange for a hearing.

VI. Racing Schedule:

There shall be three series making up the racing season: the Saturday Summer Series, the Sunday Summer Series, and the Fall Series.

1. The Saturday Summer Series shall run from Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day Weekend.
2. The Sunday Summer Series shall run from Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day Weekend.
3. The Fall Series shall be sailed on Saturdays and Sundays prior to Memorial Day Weekend and following Labor Day Weekend.
4. Fleet races which are scheduled at the same time as the district championship regatta will not count toward the series or seasonal scoring.

VII. Scoring:

Saturday Series, Sunday Series, and Fall Series Score

In any series the number of races scored shall be less than the number of races sailed in order to allow for absence.

<u>Races in Series</u>	<u>Raced to be Counted</u>
15	11
14	10
13	9
12	8
11	8
10	7
9	7
8	6
7	6
6	5
5	4

For each race, points will be awarded to the participants as follows: one point for making a qualified finish plus one point for each boat beaten.

The score for each series will be based on the total points earned during the series; however, the results of the total races sailed in a series if in excess of those required, shall not all be tallied in computing the series score. For example, in a six race series, the sum of the points earned in an individual's best five races is his score for the series.

In case of tie scores, the higher standing for the series will be awarded according to the following steps:

1. The skipper who beats the other the most times in all of the races they have sailed against each other in that series.
2. The skipper who beats the other in the last race they sailed against each other in that series.
3. The skipper with the better race in that series, as determined by taking the percentage of points awarded out of points possible. Each race is compared until a better race is found (best races first, then next best, etc.). For example, a second of three (2 points, or 66%) is equal to a fourth of nine (6 points, or 66%) and is between fourth and fifth of ten (7 points, or 70%; and 6 points, or 60%).
4. The skipper with the fewest races. (The assumption is that the skipper with the fewest races must have done better to get the same number of points.)

Seasonal Score

Boats sailing 50% or more of the total season's races qualify for awards based upon the individual's seasonal score, which is computed as follows:

$$\text{Seasonal Score} = 100 \times \frac{\sum \text{Pe}}{\sum \text{P max.}}$$

where $\sum \text{Pe}$ equals the sum of the points earned in all the races sailed during the season, and $\sum \text{P max.}$ equals the sum of the maximum points obtainable from all races sailed. The Seasonal Score, therefore, represents the percentage of the obtainable points, in the races sailed which a boat has earned. In case of ties the higher standing will be awarded to the boat which has beaten the other the most during races in which both have participated.

Credit toward the total number of races sailed will be given to a skipper who has served on the Committee Boat or Rescue Boat during regular fleet races; a maximum of two races sailed can be earned in this manner.

50% of an odd number of series races shall be rounded to the next lowest whole number. Example: If 15 races are held, $(50\% \times 15 = 7 \frac{1}{2})$ 7 races are required to qualify.

Method for Determining "Most Improved" Skipper

The Improvement Rating is used to determine the Most Improved Skipper for each season. This score is a measure of the improvement of a skipper's Seasonal Score from one year to the next. A skipper must have qualified for the Fleet Championship in both the current season and the previous season to be eligible for this award. If SS_c is the skipper's current Seasonal Score, and SS_p is that skipper's Seasonal Score from the previous season, then:

$$\text{Improvement Rating} = 100 \times \frac{SS_c - SS_p}{SS_c}$$

VIII. Trophies:

1. The first place winner of the Saturday Summer, Sunday Summer, and Fall series receives a perpetual plaque which he/she must have engraved.

2. A minimum of five places in the overall seasonal standings will receive keeper trophies which will be purchased out of the Fleet Treasury.
3. A trophy for the Most Improved Skipper will be purchased out of the Fleet Treasury. The method for calculating the most improved is described above.
4. A trophy designated as the "Fleet Captain's Trophy" will be given to a skipper of his choice. The selection of this skipper can be based on any number of things, such as:
 - (a) Most improved in the lower half
 - (b) Greatest desire to compete or greatest determination
 - (c) Greatest contribution to the advancement of fleet racing and/or activities