



U.S. SINGLEHANDED
CHAMPIONSHIPS



Laser Class U. S. Nationals
And
U. S. Singlehanded Championships
Hosted by The Houston Yacht Club
June 30 – July 3, 2018

Sailing Instructions

1. Rules

1.1 The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing*. If there is a conflict between the Sailing Instructions (Sis) and any other document governing the event, the Sis take precedence. This changes Rule 63.7.

1.2 RRS Appendix P, Special Procedures for Rule 42, will apply.

1.3 [**NP**] denotes a rule that shall not be grounds for protests by a boat. This changes Rule 60.1(a).

1.4 Rule 61.1 is changed to require a competitor to notify the race committee (RC) after finishing of any protests. See SI 17.1 for details on where to report your protest.

1.5 The US Sailing prescriptions to Rules 60 (other than 60.3), 63.2 and 63.4 are deleted.

1.6 If there is a conflict between languages, the English text will take precedence.

1.7 The **organizing authority is the Houston Yacht Club (HYC) and the ILCA-NA**. The event will be held at the Houston Yacht Club, 3620 Miramar Dr, La Porte, Texas 77571.

2. Eligibility and Entry

All competitors must meet the eligibility requirements and file valid entries in accordance with the Notice of Race.

3. Notices To Competitors

Notices to competitors will be posted on the Official Notice Board located in the breezeway on the ground level of the club house.

4. Changes In Sailing Instructions

Any change in these Sis will be posted before 0900 on the day it will take effect, except that any change in the schedule of races will be posted before the end of the protest filing period on the day before it will take effect.

5. Signals Made Ashore

5.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed from the flagpole on the front lawn of the club. When a signal is displayed over a class flag, it applies to that fleet only.

5.2 When Flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 45 minutes' in the race signal AP.

6. Additional Identification [NP]

For split fleets, each boat shall display, while racing, a colored band corresponding to the fleet to which she has been assigned. The colored band should be securely taped to the mast below the gooseneck, where it is clearly visible.

For the first day of racing, the bands will be distributed during registration. On subsequent days, the bands will be available at least two (2) hours before the first warning signal at the Regatta Table in the lower level of the club house.

7. Schedule of Races

7.1 Friday, June 29

1200 – 1800 Registration, Check in & Sail Measurement

TBD Welcome Social in the Tent

Saturday, June 30

0800 – 0900 Late Check in & Sail Measurement for registered competitors only

0930 Skippers Meeting in the Tent

1200 First warning signal, races to follow

Sunday, July 1

1200 First warning signal, races to follow

Monday, July 2

1200 First warning signal, races to follow

Tuesday, July 3

1200 First warning signal, races to follow

No warning signal will be made after 1600

Awards to follow racing.

7.2 No more than three (3) races per fleet will be scheduled for each day.

7.3 A total of eleven (11) races are scheduled.

7.4 To alert boats that a race or sequence of races will begin soon, the orange starting line flag(s) will be displayed with one sound not less than five minutes before the warning signal is displayed.

7.5 When code flag A is displayed, with no sound, while boats are finishing means, 'No more racing for this fleet today.'

8. Racing Area

The racing area will be on North Galveston Bay near the HYC property.

9. Courses

The diagrams in Attachment A show the courses, the included angles between legs, the order in which marks are to be passed, and the side on which each mark is to be left.

10. Marks

10.1 Original course marks 1, 2, gate marks 3 and 4 and turn mark 5 will be yellow tetrahedrons. In the event that only one mark is in place for a gate, it shall be left to port.

10.2 The starting marks for the **Laser Full Rig and Radial classes** will be a RC signal boat at the starboard end and a RC boat displaying an orange flag at the port end. The starting marks for the **Laser 4.7 class** will be a RC signal boat at the starboard end and the red-orange 'guide buoy' at the port end.

The finishing marks for the Laser Full Rig and Radial will be a RC boat displaying an orange flag at the starboard end and a **green** tetrahedron at the port end. The finishing mark for the Laser 4.7 class will be a red orange buoy on one end and the RC signal boat displaying an orange flag on the starboard end.

10.3 New rounding marks, when used in accordance with instruction 12, Change of Course will be orange tetrahedrons. The finish turn mark (mark 5) will not be changed.

11. The Start

11.1 The Class Flags will be:

Laser Full Rig – White flag with red Laser class insignia.

Laser Radial - Yellow flag with red Laser class insignia

Laser 4.7 – Red flag with black Laser class insignia.

For split fleets, the color corresponding to the fleet being started will be flown with the class flag as follows: Yellow/Gold Fleet – yellow, Blue/Silver Fleet – blue.

11.2 The starting line for the **Laser Full Rig and Radial classes** will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the RC signal boat at the starboard end and the staff displaying an orange flag on a RC boat at the port end. The RC may set a 'guide buoy' (a small red-orange buoy) near the middle of the starting line. This 'guide buoy' is not a mark of the course **for these classes**.

11.3 The starting line for the **Laser 4.7 class** will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the RC Signal boat at the starboard end and the course side of the red-orange 'guide buoy' at the port end.

11.4 The course to be sailed will be displayed on a white board located on the stern of the RC Signal boat.

11.5 The RC starting or finishing boat may set a yellow stand-off buoy. When present, this stand-off buoy, the line attaching it to the RC boat, and the RC boat are all part of the starting or finishing mark.

11.6 **[NP]** During a starting sequence, boats whose warning signal has not been made shall stay to leeward of the line of red-orange balls set approximately 100 meters below the start line. (See illustration in Attachment A.)

12. Change Of The Next Leg Of The Course

To change the next leg of the course, the RC will lay a new mark (or move the finishing line) and remove the original mark(s) as soon as practicable. Subsequent marks of the course may be relocated without further signaling to maintain the original course configuration. When in a subsequent change a new mark is replaced, it will be replaced by an original mark. Individual gate marks may be moved (without signal) to maintain the configuration of the course.

13. The Finish

13.1 The finishing line for the **O** and **I** courses will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the RC finishing boat on the starboard end and the course side of the port end finishing mark on the port end. For course W and WL (4.7 class) the finish will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the starboard side of the RC Signal boat and the course side the nearby orange ball.

14. Time limits

14.1 The time limit for the first boat to round the windward mark shall be 20 minutes. If no boat rounds the windward mark within this time limit the race will be abandoned.

14.2 The time limit for the first boat in each class/split to finish a race will be 90 minutes. In addition, any boat failing to finish within 20 minutes of the first boat in her class/split (which sails the course and finishes) will be scored TLE without a hearing. (See 18 Scoring.) This changes rules 35, A4 and A5.

14.3 Failure to meet the target time limits in this SI 14 shall not be grounds for redress. This changes Rule 62.

15. Measurement & Equipment

Each competitor is responsible for ensuring their equipment is in compliance with the ILCA rules. Failure to do so may result in disqualification from the regatta. Section 3 of the NOR will be enforced and other measurement and equipment checks may be made at any time during the regatta.

16. Appendix P

Appendix P - *Special Procedures for Rule 42*, will apply.

17. Protests and Requests for Redress.

17.1 Laser Full Rigs and Radials are to report any protests to the protest boat displaying a code flag **O** **immediately** after finishing. This boat will be at anchor and located to starboard of the finish boat for the Laser Full Rig and Radial courses. The Laser 4.7 fleet shall report any protests **immediately** after finishing to the RC boat on their finish line.

17.2 Protest and Scoring Inquiry forms will be available at the Judges Secretary's table located in the entry to the club house adjacent to the Official Notice Board.

17.3 As soon as practical after the docking of the RC finish boat, that docking time and a list of boats scored OCS, UFD, ZFP or BFD will be posted on the official notice board. Protests and requests for redress shall be lodged at the Judges Secretary's table within 45 minutes of that posted docking time. The PC shall post a list of boats that have been penalized under SI 16 for breaching Rule 42 on the official notice board.

17.4.1 Protests and requests for redress will be heard in the approximate order of posting. The time and place of the hearings will be posted on the official notice board within 30 minutes after the end of the protest filing time. This is the notice required by rule 63.2.

17.4.2 Requests for scoring reviews for possible scoring errors or for an OCS, UFD, ZFP or BFD are considered requests for redress per RRS 62.1. They shall be filed with the protest committee (PC) within the time limit in 17.4.3 and will initially be reviewed by the RC. If resolved by the RC, no hearing will be scheduled. If not resolved by the RC, the RC will request a hearing and the PC will proceed under RRS 63.1.

17.4.3 Requests for Redress based on scoring errors or for any boats posted OCS, UFD, ZFP or BFD by the RC shall be filed no later than the protest time limit for the day or within 30 minutes after the time such scores were posted on the official notice board by the RC, whichever time is later. This changes RRS 62.2 and US Sailing Prescription to Appendix L (16.9).

17.5 Rules 62 and 66 are changed so that on the last day of the qualifying series and the last scheduled day of racing a request for reopening a hearing, based upon a PC's decision or a scoring error, shall be delivered

- (a) within the protest filing time limit if the requesting party was informed of the PC's decision on the previous day;

(b) no later than 30 minutes after the requesting party was informed of the decision on that day.

17.6 Alleged breaches of Sis which are annotated **[NP]** will not be grounds for protest by a boat. This changes Rule 60.1(a). Penalties for breaches of these **[NP]** Sis are at the discretion of the PC.

18. Scoring

18.1 The series for **Laser Full Rig and/or Laser Radial classes** may consist of a qualifying round and then a final round of Gold and Silver fleets where boats are assigned to Gold or Silver based on qualifying round scores. Scores from races in **both** rounds will be used to determine a boat's final series score. There will be no qualifying round for the **Laser 4.7 class** series.

18.2 A minimum of three races must be completed to constitute a regatta for each class.

18.3 When fewer than five races have been completed, a boat's qualifying round or series score will be the total of her race scores. After five or more races have been completed, a boat's qualifying round or series score will be the total of her scores excluding her worst score.

18.4 Depending on the number of registrations, the **Laser and/or Laser Radial classes** may have split fleets; and then the following will also apply:

18.4.1 Boats will sail a qualifying round and during that round they will be assigned to fleets Yellow & Blue, of as nearly as possible equal sizes. The initial fleet assignments will be made by the organizing authority using ISAF World rankings and the 2017 North American Grand Prix ranking as guides. Any competitors who register on site, or for whom neither rankings are available will be assigned to alternate fleets in order of registration.

18.4.2 The qualifying round will last two days provided at least 4 races have been completed for each fleet of a class at that time. If 4 races have not been completed, the qualifying round for that class will last three days and the results will be based on the scores earned in the number of races then completed by both fleets. Rule A4.2 is changed so that the scores in the qualifying round are based on the number of boats assigned to the larger fleet.

18.4.3 During the qualifying series, after each day in which more than one race is completed, boats will be reassigned to fleets based on series scores to date. Reassignments will be made as follows:

<u>Rank in Series</u>	<u>Fleet Assignment</u>
First	Yellow
Second	Blue
Third	Blue
Fourth	Yellow
Fifth	Yellow
... and so on	

If both fleets for a split class have not completed the same number of races, the series scores for assignments will be calculated for those races (numbered in order of completion) completed by both fleets. These assignments will be based on the ranking available at 2000 that day. (The Protest Committee may extend that time limit.)

18.4.4 At the conclusion of the qualifying series, boats will be assigned to Gold or Silver final-series fleets based on their series scores to date. The two fleets will be of as nearly as possible equal sizes and the Silver fleet will not be larger than the Gold fleet. In the event that one fleet has completed fewer races in the qualifying series than the other, the assignment will be calculated using those races (numbered in order of completion) completed by both fleets. Any extra race(s) completed by one fleet to that point will not be included in the final series scores for either the Gold or Silver fleet.

18.4.5 From that point on, the Gold and Silver fleets will be scored separately and one fleet does not need to complete the same number of final series races as the other fleet.

18.4.6 The boats assigned to Gold fleet will be ranked higher in the regatta than boats assigned to Silver fleet.

18.5 Boats scored TLE will be scored points equal to the number of boats which sail the course and finish within the time limit plus two points by the RC without a hearing. The total shall not exceed the number of boats entered in that class. This changes rules A4.1, A4.2 and A5.

19. Safety and Accountability [NP]

19.1 Safety

Competitors shall wear a personal flotation device at all times while afloat, except temporarily while changing clothes. Such device shall verifiably meet the requirements of either the sailor's national authority or of the government regulations that apply in the racing area. All competitors from the US must use PFDs that are USCG approved. **This changes Rule 40.**

19.2 Accountability

19.2.1 On each day of racing, prior to proceeding on the water **and** when returning to shore, each competitor shall personally sign out/sign in with the Safety representative located on the lower level of HYC . The competitor shall also verify his/her sail number. These actions are to be done by the competitor himself/herself. **Sign out/sign in sail verification by family members, coaches, other competitors, or friends will not be accepted.**

19.2.2 If a boat retires before the end of racing for the day, such boat shall attempt to report their retirement to a RC or Safety boat on the racecourse. If they are unable to report on the water they shall find one of the regatta support personnel by asking the person at the HYC office for assistance. They must sign in that they have arrived on shore.

20. Coach and Support Boats [NP]

20.1 Support boats with team leaders, coaches, and other support personnel shall stay at least 100 meters outside the course and any racing sailboat and shall not be between the outer and inner trapezoid 'loops' from the time of the preparatory signal for the first fleet to start until all boats have finished or the RC signals a postponement or abandonment. Support boats intending to watch a start shall also stay to leeward of the line of buoys set approximately 100 meters below the start line (from the warning signal until the start or a postponement is signaled).

20.2 Support boats will be issued a numbered flag during registration. This flag will be clearly displayed at all times while under way. When the flag is returned, the \$20 flag deposit will be refunded.

20.3 **Unregistered boats will remain well clear of the entire racing area at all times.**

21. Radio Communications

21.1 The RC will monitor **VHF channel 72**. Coach/support boats are asked to monitor that channel and to respond to any reasonable request from the RC to stand by or otherwise assist in the safe conduct of this event.

21.2 In the interest of competitor safety, coach/support boats are also requested to report any potentially dangerous situations they observe to the Safety Committee on **VHF channel 71**.

22. Trash Disposal [NP]

As sailors, we seek to protect and restore our oceans and coastal waters. Trash may be placed aboard support and RC boats. The penalty for breaking Rule 55 is at the discretion of the PC.

23. Risk Statement

Rule 4 of the Racing Rules of Sailing states: "The responsibility for a boat's decision to

participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone.”

Sailing is by its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore inherently involves an element of risk. **By taking part in the event, each competitor and his or her support person and coach agrees and acknowledges that:**

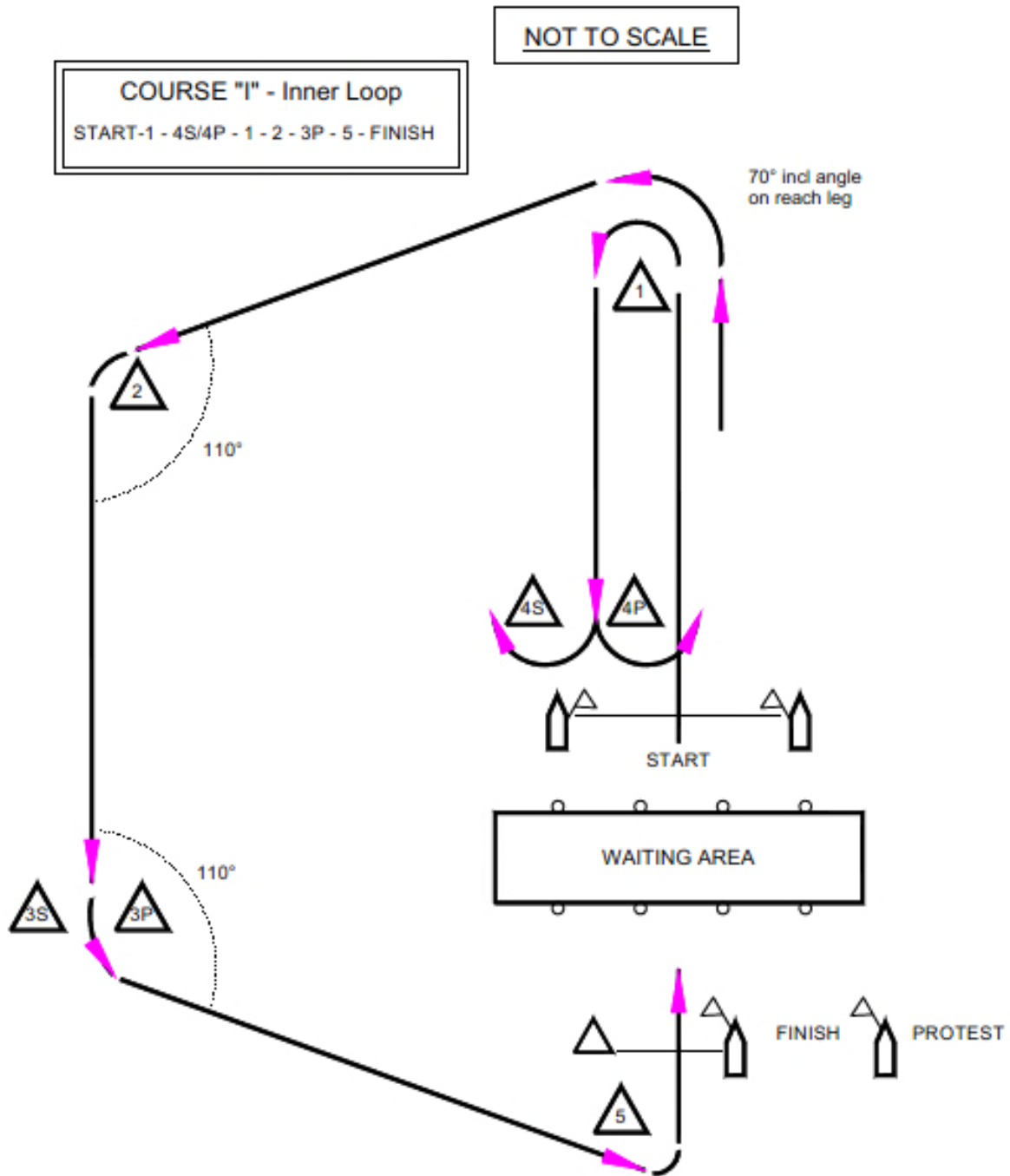
- a) They are aware of the inherent element of risk involved in the sport and accept responsibility for the exposure of themselves, their crew and their boat to such inherent risk whilst taking part in the event;
- b) They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore;
- c) They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omission;
- d) Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate;
- e) The provision of a race management team, patrol boats and other officials and volunteers by the event organizer does not relieve them of their own responsibilities;
- f) The provision of safety boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstance.

24. Awards

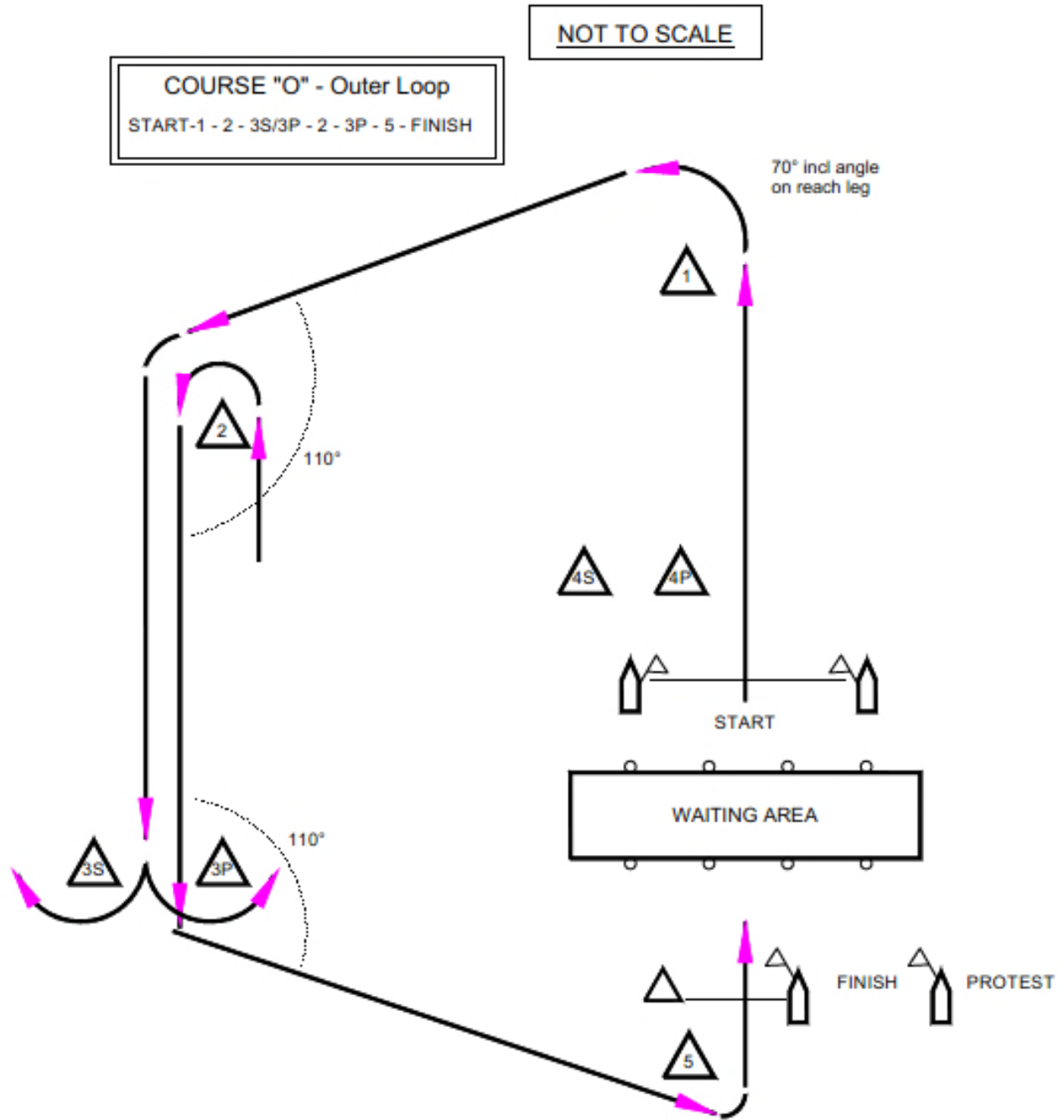
The Laser Class U.S. National: Prizes will be awarded to the top five (5) finishers in the Laser Full Rig Class and the top eight (8) in the Laser Radial Class and the top three (3) in the Laser 4.7 class.

US Sailing Singlehanded Championship: The George D. O’Day Trophy will be awarded to the overall highest placing male in the Laser Full Rig Class. The Helen Willis Hanley Trophy will be awarded to the overall highest placing female in the Laser Radial Class. The Peter J. Barrett Sportsmanship Trophy may be awarded. U S Sailing medals will be awarded to the top three finishers in each fleet.

Attachment A



Attachment A



Attachment A

