

Massachusetts Bay League Procedural Rules

*Adopted October 21, 2001
As Amended January 29, 2007
As Amended January 28, 2008
As Amended March 21, 2013
As Amended January 29, 2016
As Amended January 30, 2023
As Amended January 29, 2024*

1. Sailing Rules

- a. Rules and regulations established by the host authority, the New England Schools Sailing Association (NESSA), the Interscholastic Sailing Association (ISSA), and US SAILING shall be followed except as any of these are changed by these Procedural Rules.
- b. These Procedural Rules may be supplemented by any Notice of Race (NOR) or Sailing Instructions (SI) in effect.

2. MBL Divisions

- a. The sailing teams of the member schools may be divided into separate divisions. b. The active member schools shall approve annually the nature and composition of the divisions.
- c. The nature of competition in each division, including the type of racing and the scoring system, shall be pursuant to mutual agreement of the teams within each division, subject to these procedural rules. The nature of competition for the regular season shall be decided before the start of each competitive season. The type of racing may include fleet racing, team racing, or a combination of both.
- d. Additional procedural rules and requirements for teams in each division are detailed in Section 9 of these Procedural Rules.

3. Competition

- a. The regular season of the MBL shall begin no earlier than April 1 and end on the last weekend prior to the scheduled date of the MBL Championship Regatta(s), no later than May 31.
- b. Competition between MBL teams is defined as a meet consisting of a series of races held in a single day. For a team racing meet, a minimum shall be the best of three races. For fleet racing meets, there shall be a minimum of three races
- c. Each school shall compete with each and every school in its division once during the regular season for division standings.
- d. MBL member schools are encouraged to participate in races with schools outside of the MBL. While the MBL encourages these races, the results shall not be counted in any MBL standings.

4. Competition Management

- a. Each sailing team is responsible for the scheduling of races and practices, subject to any framework and scheduling template adopted by the MBL for such scheduling. Scheduling priority shall be given to races that will be counted in the divisional standings.
- b. The coaches of the participating teams are responsible to organize a race committee, to arrange the committee boat, and to set the race courses with the concurrence of the other coaches of the participating teams.
- c. The coach of the winning team or designee shall tabulate the scores and report the meet results

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to the MBL Secretary or designee.

- d. Team Racing
 - i. Team races shall be three sailboats on one team against three sailboats on a second team, unless the coaches of the participating teams mutually agree otherwise.
 - ii. If a team is to sail three sailboats, but only has two, the missing sailboat shall be scored as a "DNC" (did not compete).
- e. Fleet Racing
 - i. Fleet races shall consist of at least two teams, each sailing at least one sailboat.
 - ii. Teams participating in fleet races are not required to have the same number of participating sailboats, unless otherwise specified.
- f. MBL Championship Regattas
 - i. At the end of the regular season, there will be a Championship Regatta. This can be a combined regatta for all divisions, or separate championship regattas for each division
 - ii. The nature of the Championship Regatta in each division, including the type of racing, the scoring system, and eligibility requirements, shall be pursuant to mutual agreement of the teams within each division, subject to these procedural rules. The nature of competition for the championship regatta(s) shall be decided upon before the start of each competitive season. The type of racing may include fleet racing, team racing, or a combination of both.

5. Postponement, Forfeit, and Failure to Compete

- a. Postponement: MBL races or meets may be postponed due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances upon mutual agreement of the coaches of the participating teams. If the authority of a host venue limits sailing so that racing cannot occur, the MBL races or meets are considered to be postponed. Any postponed meets shall be rescheduled at the mutual agreement and convenience of the schools involved.
- b. Forfeiture:
 - i. Any team that forfeits a race that is sailed shall be scored as a DNC (did not compete), except as otherwise specified.
 - ii. Forfeited team racing meets that are not sailed shall be scored as a win for the attending school and as a loss for the forfeiting school.
 - iii. Forfeited fleet racing meets that are not sailed shall be scored as a single race such that the forfeiting team(s) receive(s) a score of DNC (did not compete) for a single boat and the single non-forfeiting team receives a score equivalent to the same number of ordinal finishes as the number of boats that would have participated if the race had been sailed.
- c. Failure to Compete: If a school is unable to start their first race of a MBL meet within 60 minutes of the scheduled start time, it must forfeit except due to extenuating circumstances.

6. Protests and Appeals

- a. In non-umpired team racing or in fleet racing, a boat intending to protest during a race shall inform the other boat by hailing "protest" immediately after the incident. No red flags are required. This conforms to ISSA Procedural Rule 16(a), and RRS rule 61 and Appendix D requirements. This requirement may be altered upon mutual agreement of coaches of the participating teams and notification of the competitors during a meeting of the competitors prior to the meet or regatta.

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- b. All protests shall be filed in writing unless specified otherwise by the Race Committee during a meeting of the competitors prior to the meet or regatta. Such written protests shall use the US SAILING Protest Form and shall be filed with the Race Committee no later than 30 minutes after the completion of the last race in the meet or regatta.
- c. The Protest Committee shall consist of at least two disinterested and qualified persons whenever this is practical.
 - i. When only one such disinterested person is available, the Protest Committee shall consist of the coaches from the teams involved in the protest and the disinterested person as Chairperson of the Protest Committee.
 - ii. If no such disinterested persons are available, the Protest Committee shall consist of the coaches of the teams involved in the protest.
 - iii. A competitor shall not be considered to be a disinterested party unless the coaches of the teams involved in the protest mutually agree otherwise.
- d. Appeals of protest decisions or questions of rules interpretation shall be submitted in writing to the President of the MBL postmarked within 7 days of the end of the meet or regatta. The president will form an Appeals Committee from the MBL Executive Committee to consider the appeal. A decision from the Appeals Committee shall be rendered in writing within 15 days of receipt of the appeal. The decision of the Appeals Committee is final and any further appeals will have no effect upon the meet or regatta results or division standings.

7. Other Sailing Rules

- a. In accordance with ISSA Procedural Rule 2.2, every person, when in a sailboat or launch, must wear a properly secured on a US Coast Guard approved personal flotation device (PFD). This includes all races and practices. If this rule is not adhered to during a race, except due to mechanical failure of said personal flotation device during the race, the participating sailboat shall be disqualified and scored accordingly. If this rule is not adhered to by a coach or other affiliated non-participant during a race, the highest finishing boat for that team shall be disqualified and scored accordingly.
- b. In accordance with ISSA Procedural Rule 15, any collision causing damage requiring more than normal maintenance or causing to a competitor an injury requiring medical attention is defined to be a serious collision.
- c. When a boat breaks RRS 22.1, or if any sailboat that is not racing crosses the start or finish line of a race, they shall be disqualified from their next race and scored accordingly.

8. Trophies and Awards

- a. Trophies will be presented at the end of the season as follows:
 - A division: Top 3 teams
 - B division: Top 2 teams in each subdivision
 - C division: Top 3 teams
- b. A trophy will be presented at the end of the season to the team winning the Championship Regatta and to the top three skippers and three crews in each fleet.
- c. A sportsmanship trophy may be presented at the end of the season to an individual, group, or team, selected by the Executive Committee of the MBL based upon nominations from any participant, coach, or authority of a hosting venue in the MBL.

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9. Divisional A and B Provisional Rules

The following procedural rules are in place for the separate divisions of the MBL; these rules and requirements are subject to approval of the active member schools in each division at the annual meeting.

a. A Division

- i. Membership in NESSA and ISSA is required. Teams must register for consideration for the NESSA Team Race Championship and meet the requirements to qualify. Teams that do not meet this requirement shall move to the B Division for the following year.
- ii. Participation in at least one NESSA-sponsored regatta during each academic year is required.
- iii. Each team in the division must sail a team racing meet against every other team in their division. Any such meet that is not sailed or forfeited before the end of the regular season shall be scored as a loss for both schools involved.
- iv. Any time two schools in the division participate in a team racing meet more than once during the regular season, only one of the meets shall count toward the league standings. Teams must agree which meet counts before the first of multiple meets.

b. B Divisions

- i. Membership in NESSA and ISSA is strongly encouraged, but not required.
- ii. **Scoring** - An ELO scoring/ranking system shall be used to determine all conference and divisional standings. All teams will be ranked in the same system. Divisional and conference standings will be determined by sequencing the rankings of each team within the division and conference.
- iii. **Scheduling** - In order to be eligible for trophies a team must race at least 3 teams within their division and at least five different teams in total. Racing outside of conferences and divisions is encouraged. All meets with A or B Division teams, regardless of conference, count towards the ranking. A second meet between two teams also counts towards the rankings. A third meet does not.
- iv. **Cancellations and Forfeits** - A team forfeits a meet if it fails to report or fails to cancel without reasonable notice and/or unforeseen circumstance. Weather determinations shall be made by noon on the day of the meet. There are no other penalties for NOT sailing a meet.

- c. **Team Race Tournaments.** The A Division tournament will have a maximum of eight berths and the B Division tournament will have 4 berths. The teams with the highest ELO ranking in each of the three B subdivisions will receive a berth, and among the rest of the B Division teams, the one with the highest ELO ranking will receive a berth.

- d. **Divisions and conferences** shall be as follows:

A Division

Duxbury, Lincoln-Sudbury, Hingham, St. Johns Prep., Sharon, Wellesley, Winchester, Marblehead

B Division

Conferences:

B North- Beverly, Gloucester, Landmark, Manchester-Essex, Pingree, Salem, Swampscott/Winthrop

B South - Boston-Latin, Brookline, Nantasket, Norwell/Notre Dame, Scituate

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B West – Belmont Hill, Concord Academy, Dover -Sherborn, Wayland

e. **Trophies** shall be presented as follows:

- Conference Winner + runner-up for each conferences scored
- A Division winner
- A Championship TR Regatta winner
- B Championship TR Regatta winner

10 Cooperative Teams

- Cooperative (conglomerate) teams are defined as teams made up of members from more than one high school. In allowing cooperative teams, the league wants to increase participation in our sport without compromising the principal of a school-based organization. Our ultimate goal is to have high school teams associated with one high school. Recognizing the difficulty of this in some instances, the league allows cooperative teams when a school cannot form a team of their own. When a school can form a team, they should do so.
- Cooperative teams are generally limited to two schools. A third school may be added if it is in the same town as one of the two others.
- Cooperative teams may compete in the B and C Divisions only.
- Membership in the league must be approved in writing by the athletic director or principal of each school. Each approval shall include a designation of a host school or host sailing organization that is responsible for the day-to-day activities of the team.
- There shall be a 2-year review to determine if there is still a need for a cooperative team or if the schools can form teams on their own. Teams that fall below the minimum number of students from one of the schools, but have historically met numbers requirements, should be renewed for one 2-year period to get a chance to rebuild their numbers.
- If a cooperative team is dissolved and a school no longer has a sailing team, a student from the school with no team, may continue as a member of the team of the remaining school until graduation if: (1) they have already been on the cooperative team and (2) have the permission of their Athletic Director or Principal.
- Teams and or schools that meet most but not all of the requirements may appeal to the board of directors for acceptance as a cooperative team.

11. Eighth Grade Students

The league is a high school-based organization, but recognizes that there are circumstances where a team does not have enough students in grades 9 – 12 to compete in an event. The league allows seventh and eighth grade students to compete on the following conditions:

- No seventh or eighth grade student may compete if there is a student in grades 9 -12 available to sail and possessing sufficient skill to fill their position (in the coach's judgment.) (Note: Just because there are 9-12th graders available does not mean they have the skills to skipper.)

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- b. No more than one seventh or eighth grade student shall compete in an A and B fleet race or 2 on 2 team race, and no more than two seventh or eighth grade students shall compete in a 3 on 3 team race.
- c. Seventh and eighth graders may compete in B and C Division events only.
- d. A roster of the varsity sailors from each school wishing to use a seventh or eighth grader shall be given to the league president by April 1 of each season. The roster shall include any seventh or eighth grade students who may compete in the circumstance of a lack of high school students. In the event of academic ineligibility or injury to a sailor, the roster may be amended with the approval of the board of directors.