

Rules and Tactics:

What follows is a summary discussion of some basic rules and tactics of sailboat racing. The rules are intended to make racing fair and safe for all. Rules can be complicated. In no way do we expect all participants to know all rules. In fact we encourage those who don't know them at all to come out and race. Rules are learned as sailors gain experience. It is the responsibility of experienced sailors to explain rules as they come up. The encouragement of all sailors is the primary purpose of Caspian Lake Sailing. Instruction in basic sailing skills, racing tactics, and rules is available before and after all races. Contact John Jacobs at mossytrails@gmail.com for further information.

Basic Rules

1. Right of Way: The boat with the wind coming from the port(left)side must give way to the boat with the wind coming from the starboard(right)side.
2. Overtaking: The boat that is overtaking must keep clear of the boat being overtaken.
3. Windward Leeward: The boat that is windward (upwind) must keep clear of the boat that is leeward (downwind).
4. Obstruction: When sailing in the vicinity of an obstruction, such as a buoy or a reef, a boat must keep clear of the obstruction.
5. Tacking: When a boat changes tack, it must keep clear of other boats around it.
6. Starting: The starting line is an imaginary line between two buoys. Boats must not cross the starting line before the starting whistle is blown.
7. Mark Rounding: Boats must pass around buoys on a designated course in a certain direction.
8. Protest: If a boat thinks that other boats have violated the rules, it can protest the other boats. A protest must be made in writing within a certain time limit.
9. Penalties: A boat that has violated the rules must take a penalty, such as a 720-degree(2 circles) turn or a retirement from the race.

These rules are designed to promote safety and fairness in sailing races, and they must be followed by all competing boats.