



"Making Sailing Exciting for over 30 Years"

## Notice of Race

BMW VARC 2012 Championship Season

*The Vancouver Area Racing Council welcomes you to the BMW VARC 2012 racing season and invites you to participate in the BMW VARC Regatta Series, BMW VARC Distance Series, and the combined BMW VARC Overall Championship Series of events hosted and managed by local yacht clubs of the greater Vancouver area.*

### 1 RULES

- 1.1 The Racing Rules of Sailing and the prescriptions of the Canadian Yachting Association will govern all VARC events, unless otherwise stated in the event Notice of Race or event Sailing Instructions.
- 1.2 For some events, the host yacht club will publish an event Notice of Race. For all events, the host yacht club will publish Sailing Instructions. In case of conflict, the provisions of the event documents will take precedence over this Notice of Race.
- 1.3 The rules for each division as applicable under section 3 include the rules of PHRF of BC, the rules for ORC Club, the International Martin 242 Class Rules, the Farr 30 Class Rules as amended by the BC Fleet, this Notice of Race, the event Notice of Race and the event Sailing Instructions.
- 1.4 Safety Requirements:
  - 1.4.1 Boats shall carry the equipment required by law. Particular attention is drawn to the Small Vessel Regulations.
  - 1.4.2 Boats racing in a one design class shall also comply with the safety requirements of their class rule.
  - 1.4.3 Boats racing in a handicap class (including one design boats not racing in a one design class) shall also comply with the ISAF Offshore Special Regulations applicable to Race Category 4 Monohulls, 2012-2013, with Canadian prescriptions and as amended in this section 1.4.3 (OSR Category 4). OSR Category 4 "is intended for short races, close to shore in relatively warm or protected waters normally held in daylight". VARC recommends that the Organizing Authority for an event assess whether these section 1.4 safety requirements are sufficient, and if appropriate, prescribe additional or alternative safety requirements.
    - 1.4.3.1 Compliance with OSR 4.01.2 (alternative means of displaying sail numbers) is recommended but shall not be required.
    - 1.4.3.2 A tubular type, commercially available radar reflector permanently mounted within 15 degrees of vertical and meeting the minimum effective height requirement shall be considered compliant with OSR 4.10.1(a).
    - 1.4.3.3 Compliance with 4.26.4(b) (alternative means to attach the luff to the stay) is recommended but shall not be required. A roller furling headsail or #3 or smaller jib, suitable for heavy weather, shall be considered compliant with OSR 4.26.4(f).
    - 1.4.3.4 Lifejackets or PFDs meeting applicable government requirements shall be considered compliant with OSR 5.01.1 (lifejacket specifications), provided that
      - a) inflatable devices shall be considered compliant only if fitted with crotch or thigh straps,
      - b) lifejacket lights are required for races with finish time limits later than two hours before sunset.
    - 1.4.3.5 A propulsion engine is required; boats shall comply with the requirements of OSR 3.28 that are applicable to category 3 monohulls. While racing, a boat shall carry sufficient fuel for safety purposes such as crew-overboard recovery and to motor from the farthest point on the course to the host venue docks or to the boat's home port, whichever is closer.

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- 1.4.3.6 Designated one design boats (Martin 242, Melges 24) whose one design class rule conflicts with OSR section 3 requirements (structural features, stability, fixed equipment) and who are racing in handicap classes:
- a) shall not be penalized for non-compliance with OSR section 3 that is a result of conflict with their one design class rule,
  - b) shall have all crew wearing lifejackets or PFDs while racing,
  - c) shall carry at least two thermal protective aids or other devices for treating crew following a crew overboard incident,
  - d) in the absence of compliance with OSR 3.14 (pulpit, stanchion and lifelines), shall carry at least one harness and safety line (tether) and have attachment point(s) to reduce crew overboard risk when working forward of the mast.
- 1.4.4 Competitors are reminded of the Fundamental Rules of the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS): Helping those in Danger, Life-Saving Equipment and Personal Buoyancy, and Decision to Race. Competitors are reminded of the Responsibility of Person in Charge as described in the Offshore Special Regulations. Competitors are reminded of the safe boating practices described in the Safe Boating Guide published by Transport Canada.
- 1.4.5 Competitors are advised that while OSR 3.14.6(a) now permits single-braided Dyneema rope as an alternative to stainless steel wire lifelines, RRS 49.2 continues to prohibit hiking outside upper lifelines when either lifeline is made of materials other than (stainless steel) wire.

## 2 ADVERTISING

- 2.1 Boats racing in VARC events shall display official VARC-supplied BMW bow decals on both sides of their bow, positioned and adhered in accordance with the guideline on the VARC website.
- 2.2 Boats may be required to display additional advertising chosen and supplied by the organizing authority.
- 2.3 Boats not displaying advertising as required in sections 2.1 and 2.2 will be scored DNS without a hearing. This changes rule 63.1 and rule A5.
- 2.4 Boats may apply to VARC in advance of any event for an alternative method of displaying required advertising if special circumstances prohibit compliance with sections 2.1 and 2.2 above. A boat will be granted this alternative at the discretion of VARC, and if granted, will not be penalized as prescribed in section 2.3.

## 3 ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

### 3.1 ELIGIBILITY

- 3.1.1 The BMW VARC series are open to all boats that have a current valid PHRF of BC certificate with a rating no higher than 275 or a current valid ORC Club Certificate no higher than 590, or conform to the Farr 30 Class Rules or the International Martin 242 Class Rules. Other One Design classes are encouraged to apply for their own division with VARC.

### 3.2 DIVISIONS AND CLASSES

- 3.2.1 Boats will be assigned to divisions based on their handicap rating or classification as follows:

Div. 1 (pennant 1): ORC - GPH 590.0 or less.  
Div. 2 (pennant 2): PHRF rating of 60-99.  
Div. 3 (pennant 3): PHRF rating of 100-149.  
Div. 6 (pennant 6): PHRF rating of 150-199, will race in their division-sanctioned events.\*  
Div. 7 (pennant 7): PHRF rating of 200-275, will race in their division-sanctioned events.\*  
Div. M242: The Martin 242 class will race as one design in their fleet-sanctioned events.\*  
Div. Farr 30: The Farr 30 class will race as one design in their fleet-sanctioned events.\*

\* Refer to Table 2 – Schedule of Events: BMW VARC Races by Division.

- 3.2.2 Any boat that has a PHRF/ORC rating within +/-6 sec of the division breaks may apply to the VARC scoring committee to change divisions. Application must be made prior to March 14, 2012.
- 3.2.3 In the event that a boat's rating changes during the course of the season, such that its new rating falls within a different division, the boat shall continue to sail in the division which it began the season, with its amended rating.

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- 3.2.4 An appeals committee will hear appeals from yachts that are close in rating to the division breaks in regards to the division they should sail in. Appeals must be made prior to March 14, 2012.
- 3.2.5 VARC may modify division splits to accommodate new boats during the season.
- 3.2.6 VARC may recognize additional one design fleets during the season.
- 3.2.7 All boats, with the exception of divisions M242 and Farr 30, must fly their division pennants from their backstay. Boats failing to do so are subject to protest by the race committee but not by competitors.
- 3.2.8 Any correspondence with VARC should first be directed to the specific Division Representative. The VARC committee will not review concerns unless this process is followed, or the concerns are addressed to VARC in writing. Please see your Div. Rep. first.

### 3.3 ENTRY AND REGISTRATION

- 3.3.1 Eligible boats may enter for a series or for individual events by completing the online registration & payment as described at [www.VARC.bc.ca](http://www.VARC.bc.ca) except for certain events as noted in section 3.3.3, or directly with a host yacht club for an event if stated in the event Notice of Race.
- 3.3.2 A discounted series fee is available to boats that register for an entire series as noted online.
- 3.3.3 Registration and payment for the following regattas must be made directly with the host yacht club:
  - Southern Straits Classic Race hosted by West Vancouver Yacht Club.
  - WAVES / Easter Seals Regatta hosted by Royal Vancouver Yacht Club.
  - Any non-VARC event that a division or class chooses to include in VARC scoring.
- 3.3.4 A copy of the current Insurance Certificate and notification of changes to the current Rating Certificate shall be emailed to the VARC Registrar before a boat's entry will be accepted. See section 19 Contact Information. Boats are not required to submit Rating Certificates unless specifically requested.
- 3.3.5 Registration must be completed and payment received by VARC no later than 8 pm Thursday prior to the start of the event(s) for which the competitor is registering. Boats failing to comply will be charged a \$25 surcharge to participate in the relevant event(s).
- 3.3.6 Registration by mail may only be made by special request to the VARC Registrar and only on an Official Registration Form that may be obtained from the VARC Registrar by prior arrangement. The VARC Registrar will not accept documents by mail other than those indicated.

## 4 FEES

- 4.1 Series fees and individual event fees are found on-line as described at the website at [www.VARC.bc.ca](http://www.VARC.bc.ca).
- 4.2 Fees for some events are not collected by VARC and must be paid directly to the host yacht club as described in section 3.3.3.

## 5 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 5.1 VARC offers two series of events hosted by local yacht clubs grouped as the BMW VARC Regatta Series and the BMW VARC Distance Series as described in Table 1 - Schedule of Events for the BMW VARC Racing Season, and these two series combined are considered the BMW VARC Championship Series. A selection of these events may be chosen by the various divisions as listed in Table 2 - Schedule of Events – BMW VARC Races by Division.
- 5.2 The dates of each event are listed in Table 1 - Schedule of Events and start times will be provided in the event Sailing Instructions.
- 5.3 The Social Schedule for each event and links to regatta documentation will be made available on the host yacht club's website and the VARC website.

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- 5.4 The annual Year-End Party & Awards Night will be held in November. Please check the VARC website for further details.

### 6 MEASUREMENTS

- 6.1 Each boat shall carry a current valid measurement rating certificate applicable to her division.

### 7 SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 7.1 Each event will have Sailing Instructions issued by the Host Club as listed in Table 1 - Schedule of Events. The Sailing Instructions will be available on the host yacht club's website and a link at the VARC website prior to the event.

### 8 VENUE

- 8.1 The venue for each event will be the host yacht club and the waters near by, or as identified in the event Notice of Race (if provided by the host yacht club) and the event Sailing Instructions issued by the host yacht club, or otherwise in advance of the event on the host yacht club's website and VARC website.

### 9 COURSE

- 9.1 The courses to be sailed will be described in the event Notice of Race (if provided by the host yacht club) and the event Sailing Instructions issued by the host yacht club.

### 10 SCORING

- 10.1 Scoring Procedure:

- 10.1.1 Championship series to be scored include an Overall Series, a Regatta Series, and a Distance Series for Divisions 1 through 3, and/or variations thereof for Divisions 6, 7, M242 and Farr 30 (see section 10.2 for scoring details). Divisions 6, 7 and Farr 30 have different scoring systems from the other divisions (see sections 10.1.4 and 10.1.5).

- 10.1.2 For the purpose of scoring all series, the results for each event will be the posted results from each host club. These results will not be modified by VARC except as noted in section 10.1.2.1. If a host club does not use standard VARC division breaks boats will be scored in the division in which they raced at the event.

- 10.1.2.1 Single Boat "races": If at any event, a host club creates a division which has a single boat, that boat will not receive an automatic "1<sup>st</sup> place" score for that event. Instead that boat will receive a score that reflects the average of up to their best 5 season scores in other events within that category (regatta or distance), to be calculated at the end of the season. The event may count towards series scoring for that boat, unless dropped as per division scoring procedures (10.2).

- 10.1.3 All series except for Divisions 6, 7 and Farr 30 will be scored using the High Point Percentage Scoring System as per US Sailing scoring guidelines (US Sailing - Scoring a Long Series) with a few minor modifications. These modifications have been made to adjust for Vancouver area factors such as varying attendance amongst events, and diverse division breaks employed by host clubs. The modifications are as follows:

- 10.1.3.1 With respect to all series scoring - all events will receive an equal weight rather than assigning a higher weight to events that have higher attendance, and a lower weight to less attended events.

- 10.1.3.2 There may be a maximum number of events that will count towards a series championship. This will vary by division (See 10.2).

- 10.1.3.3 There may be a minimum number of events required to qualify for a series championship. This will vary by division (See 10.2).

- 10.1.4 Divisions 6 & 7 will be scored using a variation of the Low Point Scoring System, with two modifications:

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- 10.1.4.1 Two-day events will be scored as two separate races, in that each day will be considered a separate race for the purposes of scoring the series.
- 10.1.4.2 The minimum number of races required to qualify for a series championship is five. As stated in 10.1.4.1, a two-day event counts as two races.

10.1.5 Farr 30 class will be scored using the Low Point Scoring System.

10.2 Scoring Procedure for each Division:

- 10.2.1 Division 1 – Regatta and Distance series. 2 drops per each Regatta and Distance series for each qualifying boat. To qualify for a series a boat must compete in at least 3 events. For the Overall Series see 10.3.
- 10.2.2 Division 2 - Regatta and Distance series. 2 drops per each Regatta and Distance series for each qualifying boat. To qualify for a series a boat must compete in at least 3 events. For the Overall Series see 10.3.
- 10.2.3 Division 3 - Regatta and Distance series. 2 drops per each Regatta and Distance series for each qualifying boat. To qualify for a series a boat must compete in at least 3 events. For the Overall Series see 10.3.
- 10.2.4 Division 6 - One championship series. 3 drops for each qualifying boat. To qualify for a championship series a boat must compete in at least 5 “days”. (see 10.1.4.1). Section 10.1.2.1 does not apply to Division 6.
- 10.2.5 Division 7 - One championship series. 4 drops for each qualifying boat. To qualify for a championship series a boat must compete in at least 5 “days”. (see 10.1.4.1). Section 10.1.2.1 does not apply to Division 7.
- 10.2.6 M242 - One championship series. 1 drop for each qualifying boat. To qualify for a championship series a boat must compete in at least 2 events. M242’s may also compete and be scored in a non-one design division at any event, and can qualify for a series championship within division 6.
- 10.2.7 Farr 30 - One championship series. No drops for each qualifying boat. All scores count towards the series championship. There is no minimum number of races to qualify for the championship series. Farr 30s may also compete in, and be scored in, a non-one design division at any event, and can qualify for a series championship within division 1.

10.3 Qualifying Procedure for the Overall Series:

- 10.3.1 Divisions 1, 2, & 3: Entries must qualify for both of the Regatta and Distance Series in their respective division to qualify for the Championship Series. (See 10.2).
- 10.3.2 Divisions 6, 7, M242 and Farr 30 one design series: There are no Regatta or Distance series in these divisions therefore qualifications for the championship series are those listed in section 10.2.

10.4 Scoring Procedure for the Overall Series. Divisions 1, 2, & 3:

- 10.4.1 A boat’s score for the Championship Series will be the sum of the best scores in each of the Regatta series and Distance series, after drops noted in 10.2. If a boat does not race in all the events in each series, but has met the minimum number of qualifying events for each series, a score of zero will be assigned for events in which they did not compete.
- 10.4.2 Ties will be broken using the Regatta and Distance Series broken down into the individual events and recombined into one overall series as per rule A8.

## 11 SUPPORT BOATS

- 11.1 Support boats shall not interfere with boats racing. Registered boats whose support boats break this rule are subject to disqualification from the race.

## 12 BERTHING

- 12.1 Boats shall contact the host yacht clubs for available moorage during each event.

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### 13 HAUL-OUT RESTRICTIONS

- 13.1 Boats shall not be hauled out during the event except with and according to the terms of prior written permission of the race committee.

### 14 DIVING EQUIPMENT AND PLASTIC POOLS

- 14.1 Underwater breathing apparatus and plastic pools or their equivalent shall not be used around boats between the preparatory signal of the first race and the end of the regatta.

### 15 RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

- 15.1 A boat shall neither make radio transmissions while racing nor receive radio communications not available to all boats, unless required for safety. This restriction also applies to mobile telephones.

### 16 PRIZES

- 16.1 Prizes will be awarded for each division by the host club at each event as described in the event Sailing Instructions.
- 16.2 For each series, prizes will be awarded as follows for each division:
- 1st place will be awarded if 2 or more boats register in a division,
  - 2nd place will be awarded if 4 or more boats register in a division,
  - 3rd place will be awarded if 5 or more boats register in a division.
- 16.3 For the Championship Series, Perpetual Trophies will be awarded for each division at the BMW VARC Year-end awards dinner.

### 17 DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

- 17.1 Competitors participate in the races, regattas and race series entirely at their own risk. See rule 4, Decision to Race. The organizing authority, host yacht clubs, sponsors and suppliers will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with, prior to, during, or after the regatta.

### 18 INSURANCE

- 18.1 All boats must include with their entries a copy of the Certificate of Insurance indicating that their boat is covered with a minimum of \$1 million liability. A copy of this certificate must be carried on board at all times.

### 19 CONTACT INFORMATION

- 19.1 Correspondence with VARC shall be electronic via the contact information on the VARC website, unless otherwise specified. Mail that must be sent by post shall first be done by prior arrangement with the VARC Registrar.
- 19.2 The VARC website with directions to on-line registration is at [www.VARC.bc.ca](http://www.VARC.bc.ca).
- 19.3 Insurance Certificate and notification of changes to the current Rating Certificate may be emailed to the VARC Registrar through the VARC website.
- 19.4 Correspondence with VARC should first be directed to a Division Representative as noted on the website. The VARC committee will review concerns only when this process is followed, or when the concerns are addressed to VARC in writing.

See next pages for:

Table 1 - Schedule of Events for the BMW VARC Racing Season  
Table 2 - Schedule of Events – BMW VARC Races by Division

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**Table 1**  
**Schedule of Events for the BMW VARC Racing Season**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Host</i>	<i>Days</i>
<b>*** BMW VARC Regatta Series ***</b>			
March 17/ 18	<b>VARC Opener Regatta</b>	RVYC	Sat & Sun
April 21	<b>Blast Spring Regatta</b>	FCYC	Sat
June 23 / 24	<b>National Bank Easter Seals / WAVES Regatta</b>	RVYC	Sat & Sun
July 7 / 8	<b>West Marine VRC Summer Regatta</b>	VRC	Sat & Sun
September 8 / 9	<b>Martin Marine Deep Cove Regatta</b>	DCYC	Sat & Sun
September 22 / 23	<b>Thunderbird Marine Corp. Howe Sound Regatta</b>	WVYC	Sat & Sun
October 20 / 21	<b>Lewmar VARC Closer Regatta</b>	RVYC	Sat & Sun

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Host</i>	<i>Days</i>
<b>*** BMW VARC Distance Series ***</b>			
April 6 / 7	<b>Park Shore BMW &amp; Navis Marine Insurance Southern Straits Classic</b>	WVYC	Fri & Sat
April 28	<b>Navis Marine Insurance Pro-Tech Yacht Services Halibut Bank / Popham Island Race</b>	WVYC	Sat
June 15 / 16	<b>Sangster Island Race</b>	RVYC	Fri & Sat
August 10 / 11 / 12	<b>SOAR Regatta</b>	SYC	Fri, Sat, Sun
August 18	<b>North Sails English Bay Scramble Race</b>	TCYC	Sat
September 29	<b>Fraser River Lightship Race</b>	RVYC	Sat

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Table 2

Schedule of Events – BMW VARC Races by Division

SCHEDULE of EVENTS - BMW VARC Races by Division								
Month	Days	Event	Club	Div 1, 2, 3		Farr 30 Series	Div 6,7 Series	M242 Series
				Regatta	Distance			
March	17, 18	Opener Regatta	RVYC	X		X		
April	6, 7	Park Shore BMW & Navis Marine Insur. Southern Straits Race	WVYC		X			
April	21	Blast Spring Regatta	FCYC	X			X	
April	28	Navis Marine Insur. Pro-Tech Yacht Serv. Halibut Bank / Popham Island Race	WVYC		X		X	X
June	15, 16	Sangster Island Race	RVYC		X			
June	23, 24	National Bank Easter Seals / WAVES Regatta	RVYC	X		X		X
July	7, 8	West Marine Vancouver Rowing Club Regatta	VRC	X			X	
Aug	10 to 12	SOAR Regatta	SYC		X	X		
Aug	18	North Sails English Bay Scramble race	TCYC		X		X	X
Sept	8, 9	Martin Marine Deep Cove Regatta	DCYC	X			X	
Sept	22, 23	Thunderbird Marine Corp. Howe Sound Regatta	WVYC	X		X		
Sept	29	Fraser River Lightship Race	RVYC		X		X	
Oct	20, 21	Lewmar Closer Regatta	RVYC	X				
Nov	TBD	VARC Awards Dinner and Party						
*		See Notes below for additional non-VARC events				Note 1	Note 2	
		Total number of VARC events (13 total)		7	6	4*	6*	3

Note 1 – The Farr 30 class will also score as part of their VARC Farr 30 One Design Series: The RVYC OD Regatta April 14 & 15, the WVYC OD Regatta May 6 & 7, and the RVYC OD Regatta October 13 & 14. The SOAR Regatta will be sailed but not counted in the series. Note that WAVES is also the Farr 30 Canadian National Championship.

Note 2 – Divisions 6 and 7 will also score the Round Bowen Race as part of their VARC Series.