

2026 Sailing Instructions

Safety

It is the sole responsibility of each yacht to decide whether or not to start or continue to race. If visibility is severely limited due to fog or heavy rain, no race will be started.

Skippers should use our whatsapp group to communicate.

US Sailing has adopted an ORC prescription for 1999 that requires flotation devices. No particular type of life vest or flotation device is specified. If foam filled PFDs seem too bulky, consider one of the many new USCG approved inflatable devices on the market.

The ORC prescription is as follows:

“Competitors shall wear personal flotation without exception when starting and finishing a race, and at all other times while racing and on deck except when the Captain of the boat directs that flotation may be set aside.” U.S. prescription to 1998/99 ORC Special Regulations..

Classes

There are just two classes, Spinnaker and Cruising.

Class I - Spinnaker

Class II - Cruising (No spinnaker)

All ratings will be based on either valid PHRF certificates or Eastern Long Island Sound rating book listings.

Starting Times

Wednesday Evenings

6:10 - Warning, all classes; 1 blast

6:15 - Start Class II; 1 blast

6:20 - Warning Class I; 1 blast

6:25 - Start Class I; 1 blast

Sunday Afternoons (Fall series)

11:00 - Warning, all classes; 1 blast

11:05 - Start all classes

Summer:

1. Race cancelled if no boat has rounded the first mark by 8:00pm.

2. Race is cancelled if no boat has crossed the finish line by the time. This time equals 1 hour after sunset as measured at Battery Park in New York.

Fall:

1. Race cancelled if no boat has rounded the first mark by 1:15pm.
2. Race cancelled if no boat has crossed the finish line by 3:00pm.

Official Time

The "official time" of the "Around the Buoys" series is GPS time. Please synchronize watches. In the event of a discrepancy, however, the committee boat's horn blast(s) are final.

Communications

VHF channel 68 shall be the information channel for all races. All check-ins with committee boat shall be made by hailing boat name, class and sail number on channel 68.

Start/Finish Line & Committee Boat Duty

Generally, the races are more fun and much less confusing when there is a committee boat. Please, please, please, volunteer to serve as committee boat at least once. As an incentive, your first committee boat duty will be scored as if you took a "first place" (summer). When setting the line be sure NOT to make it too short. The line should be set equal to the length of all the boats starting. The pin should be set such that it is passed on the same side as the rest of the marks.

PHRF racing is usually done on a 1/3 upwind, 1/3 Reach, 1/3 Downwind. When you are performing as committee boat, please evaluate wind and tide and if necessary, change the course to one that is appropriate for the conditions.

The start/finish line has been moved. The Committee Boat shall not use in any way R34 or the rocks related to it except as described in the "no committee boat" section. The Start/Finish line shall be between the orange pin and the committee boat. The committee boat shall set the line about 200 yards due South of R34. If there is no committee boat, the start/finish line will be determined for that race by whoever takes the finishing lines.

Finishing

Please identify yourself (boat name, type, etc.) when crossing the finish line.

The committee boat is responsible for recording finish times. However, when there is no committee boat, the first boat to cross the finish line shall take finish times and boat names. (Appropriate arrangements will be made to obtain the results from you.)

In order for a Wednesday evening race to be "counted," the first boat must cross the finish line on or before 1 hour after sunset (based upon sunset at Battery Park in New York, as listed in the

Eldridge Tide & Pilot Book). In addition, the race will be "called" if the lead boat has not rounded the first mark by 8:00p.m. For the Sunday fall series, the first boat must cross the finish line by 3:00 p.m. The race will be "called" if the lead boat has not rounded the first mark by 1:15 p.m.

No Committee boat

The fall series is generally run without a committee boat, and with a single start time. Racers will agree on a course, actual start time, and start and finish line via channel 68. Typically start and finish are defined as a line 100 yds long stretching due east or south of R34.

Rules

The latest edition of the International Yacht Racing Rules, as published by US Sailing, shall apply. Please obtain a copy before the season begins. At a minimum you should be familiar with the rules pertaining to right of way. If you are not familiar with the basic rules we will help you get the information you need. If you are on the course in a close situation and are unsure of who has the right of way, ***yield to the other boat.***

Scoring

The Modified Cox-Sprague Scoring System, as used by the Windjammers Sailing Club shall apply. **60%** of the actual number of races held will be used for final scoring. Class scoring remains the same as last year, including the penalty system for 1st - 3rd place overall trophies. This system handicaps the winners of the previous season, giving other boats a better chance and placing in the money. Here's how it works: The yacht that comes in first place overall will have a 15% reduction in overall score, 2nd place - 10%, and 3rd place - 5% for the following season. The yacht will lose 5% of this penalty for each year it does not place. If a yacht places 2 or more years in a row, an additional 5% penalty will be added. THIS PENALTY WILL NOT APPLY TO YOUR RESULTS IN CLASS, ONLY TO THE POINTS ACCUMULATED TOWARDS OVERALL FINISH. **Results will be based on Time on Time.**

Penalties for this year: Please check the excel master spreadsheet.

Results

The results will be available on the World Wide Web. Please visit atbracing.org for results and info.

Awards

The following awards will be given:

1. The Pierce Ackroyd Trophy - given to the overall first place finisher.
2. Trophies for 2nd and 3rd place overall.
3. Trophies for 1st - 3rd place within each class (usually).

The Pierce Ackroyd Trophy is a perpetual award named for the founder of the "Around the Buoys" series. The trophy was custom made and donated by **Marine Fabricators**, Branford.

After Race Get together and Dinner.

Meet the boats you race with as we usually gather at Indian Next Pizza, Lenny's or Martin's at Bruce and Johnsons.

Fun and Relaxation

Required of all participants.