



HOUSATONIC BOAT CLUB

2025 INVITATIONAL RACE

Saturday, September 6, 2025

Sailing Instructions

1 RULES

1.1 This event is governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing.

1.2 The Regulations of the Eastern Connecticut Sailing Association Offshore Racing Circuit and the PHRF of Eastern Connecticut (www.ecsa.net).

2 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS & COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

2.1 Any changes to the Sailing Instructions, will be posted before 0800 on the day of the race, accompanied by the display of Flag "L" on the Race Committee (RC) signal vessel at the main dock, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 1600 on the day before it will take effect.

2.2 Copies of the Notice of Race, Sailing Instructions and Scratch Sheet will be available at the RC signal vessel prior to departure to the race course and on the Regatta Network website (www.regattanetwork.com)

2.3 Notices to competitors will be posted on the Official Notice Board at www.regattanetwork.com and at the board adjacent to the HBC main entrance

2.4 On the water, the RC intends to monitor and communicate with the competitors on VHF ch 68. This includes courtesy information: time checks, starting order of classes, courses, changes to the courses, shortening, postponement, starting signals and recalls.

2.5 From the first warning signal until the end of the last race, except in an emergency, a boat shall not make voice or data transmission and shall not receive voice or data transmissions that is not available to all boats.

3 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

3.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed on the RC boat at the HBC main dock.

3.2 When Pennant "AP" (Answering Pennant) is displayed ashore with two sound signals, 1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 60 minutes' in Race Signals AP, meaning that the race is postponed, and the first warning will be made not less than 60 minutes after AP is lowered with a sound signal.

4 SCHEDULE OF RACES

4.1 The scheduled time for the first warning will be 1200 EDT. Up to two races may be sailed.

4.2 To alert boats that a race is about to start, the Signal Boat may sound 5 short blasts within one minute prior to the start and make an announcement on VHF CH 68

4.3 If a second race is to be sailed, the RC signal vessel shall display flag "L" at the finish of the first race.

4.4 The RC signal vessel will display flag "N" over "A" (with no sound) while boats are finishing to signal that there are no more races to be sailed.

4.5 No warning signal will be made after 1500.

5 CLASS FLAGS

Class flags will be:

Class A	Signal Flag "A"
Class B	Signal Flag "B"
Class C	Signal Flag "C" (if there are sufficient entries for "C" Class)
Class D	Signal Flag "D" (if there are sufficient entries for "D" Class)

6 STARTING AREA & CHECK-IN

6.1 The starting area will be in the general vicinity of 2 nm south and east of the Housatonic River Breakwater Light 2A.

6.2 [NP] With the Signal Boat anchored, boats shall pass within hailing distance to the RC boat prior to the first warning signal and report their boat name and sail number until acknowledged by the RC.

7 COURSES AND MARKS

7.1 The RC may designate a different course for one or more of the classes.

7.2 Courses will be either "Government Marks" (point-to-point) utilizing fixed marks and possible inflatable marks, or windward leeward configurations using inflatable marks.

7.3 For "**GOVERNMENT MARKS**", courses will be signaled by the Signal vessel before the starting sequence for each class using a white-board, and will consist of the class designation followed, in order of rounding, by any of the mark letters described in SI rule 7.5. These may be government navigational aids (B-W) or inflatable buoys (S and M).

7.4 Course white board example – Government Marks

GOVERNMENT MARKS

A	B	Class
G D	H D	Marks and order of rounding
1	1	Number of complete circuits
270	270	Bearing to mark M (if used)
1.5	1.5	Distance to mark M (if used)

7.5 All marks shall be rounded or left to port, except that if a mark letter is **circled** on the course board, that mark shall be rounded or left to starboard.

S - Starting Mark & Finishing Mark (inflatable orange or yellow buoy)

M - Special Mark (inflatable orange/yellow buoy – If used, range and bearing will be displayed on board)

B – R 10 Bell Inner Bridgeport Channel

D – R16 Charles Island lighted

F – R18 Point No Point

G – N20 – Point No Point

H – G1 Housatonic River Mid Channel

J – C1 Middle Ground East Side

K – C3 Middle Ground North Side

P - N12 Pond Point Shoal

T – R2 Gong Outer Bridgeport Channel

W – N2 Welch's Point

7.6 When the first windward leg is to mark "M," the approximate compass bearing and distance from the start to mark "M" will be displayed on the course whiteboard (as noted).

7.7 For **“WINDWARD/LEEWARD”**, courses will be signaled by the Signal vessel before the starting sequence for each class using a white board and will consist of the class designation followed by the course number, the number of complete circuits or laps, the approximate bearing to Mark 1 and the approximate distance to Mark 1.

7.8 See Appendix A for course diagrams which show the two courses including the order in which the marks are to be passed and the side on which each mark is to be left.

7.9 Note that Course #1 is **LAPS** and Course #2 is **LEGS**

7.10 When using Course 1, the position of Mark 2 will be approximately 0.5 nm to 1.0 nm to leeward of starting Mark S.

7.11 When using Course 2, the “Rounding Mark” will be forward of the Start/Finish line

7.12 All marks will be orange or yellow inflatable buoys.

8 THE START

8.1 Classes will start in sequential order beginning with Class A (A, B, C and so on).

8.2 The starting sequence may or may not be a rolling sequence. Each boat should watch for its class flag which will designate the warning signal for that class

8.3 The starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the Race Committee boat and the course side of starting mark “S”.

8.4 [NP] Boats not involved in a starting sequence shall keep clear of the starting area and of those boats preparing to start.

8.5 If any part of a boat's hull is on the course side of the starting line at her starting signal and she is identified, the RC will attempt to hail her sail number or broadcast on marine VHF ch 68 along with hosting the X flag. Failure to hail her number, failure of her to hear such a hail, or the order in which boats are hailed will not be grounds for a request for redress This changes RRS 62.1(a).

9 CHANGE OF NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

To change the next leg of a course, the RC will lay a new mark or move the finishing line) and remove the original mark as soon as practicable. When in a subsequent change a new mark is replaced, it will be replaced by an original mark. The new mark may or may not have a black band attached.

10 THE FINISH

The finish line is between a staff displaying a blue flag on the Race Committee vessel at one end and the course side of the nearby finishing mark.

11 TIME LIMIT

11.1 The time limit for each class will be 3 hours. If no boat finishes within the time limit for that class, the race committee shall abandon that class race.

11.2 For each class, the finishing window is the time for boats to finish after the first boat in the class sails the course and finishes. Boats failing to finish within 60 minutes (the finishing time window) and not subsequently retiring, penalized or given redress, will be scored TLE without a hearing. A boat scored TLE shall be scored points for the finishing place one more than the points scored by the last boat that finished within the finishing window. This changes RRS Rule 35, A5.1, A5.2 and A10.

12 HEARING REQUESTS (PROTESTS)

12.1 At its first opportunity after finishing or withdrawing, a boat shall notify the Race Committee of its intent to protest another boat, and provide the sail number of the boat to be protested, and receive confirmation verbally or via VHF ch 68 of its intention to file a protest. This adds to RRS 61.

12.2 **The Protest Time Limit** shall be 60 minutes after the Race Committee boat docks. Hearing Requests (Protests) shall be in writing and shall be delivered to the Race Committee at the HBC dock. The docking time and protest time limit will be posted on the Official Notice Board and on the Notice Board adjacent to the HBC main entrance.

12.3 Hearing Request Forms are available at the RC boat.

12.4 Notices will be posted as soon as possible before or after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Notices of protests by the Race Committee will be posted within the Protest Time Limit to inform boats of a protest and also any scores determined by the race committee.

12.5 Requests for redress and requests to reopen a hearing must be delivered to the Race Committee within 30 minutes after hearing results or regatta scoring results have been posted. This modifies RRS 62.2 & 66.

13 SCORING

13.1 Races will be scored and corrected times determined using a PHRF-based “time-on-time” system.

13.2 If a class has 2 races, Low Point Scoring RRS A4 will determine places for the class, and both races shall count.

13.3 In compliance with ECSA Guidelines for distribution of race results to all competitors, regatta results may be announced during the post-race get-together, and will be posted on the Official Notice Board and on the deck of the HBC clubhouse, and on the Regatta Network website, as soon as possible after the race.

14 SAFETY REGULATIONS

[NP] A boat that withdraws from a race shall notify the Race Committee as soon as possible, via hail or via VHF ch 68.

15 AWARDS

Class awards will be presented to the top three boats in each class dependent on number of entrants in each class.

16 RISK STATEMENT

RRS 3 states “The responsibility for a boat’s decision to participate in a race or to continue to race is hers alone.” By participating in this event each competitor agrees and acknowledges that sailing is a potentially dangerous activity with inherent risks. These risks include, but are not limited to strong winds, sudden changes in the weather, failure of equipment, boat handling errors, and poor seamanship by other boats

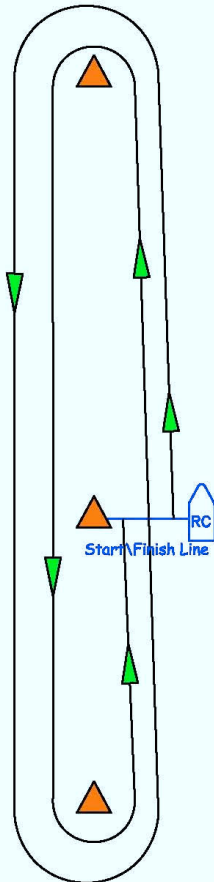
17 INSURANCE

Each participating boat shall hold insurance, including third party liability insurance, and it is the owner or owner’s representative’s sole and inescapable responsibility to insure that the insurance is in place and is adequate prior to participating in this event

The notation ‘[NP]’ in a rule of the sailing instructions (SIs) means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1(a)

Appendix A

Course # 1
(Example shows two LAPS)

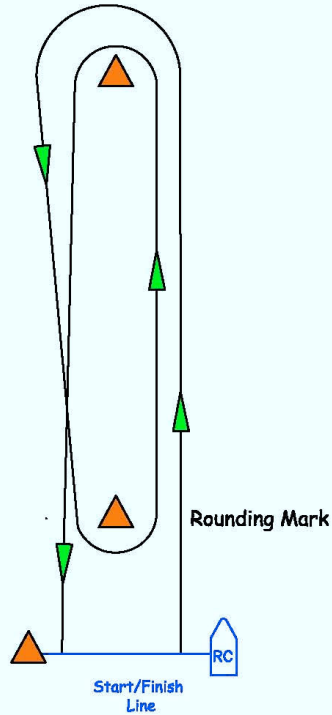


Course Board Example

Course #1	
ABC	D
3	2
190	
#1-1.5	
#2-1.0	

Class Designation
Number of complete LAPS
Bearing to Mark #1 (magnetic)
Distance from Start\Finish to Mark #1
Distance from Mark #2 to Start\Finish

Course # 2
(Example shows four LEGS)



Course Board Example

Course #2	
ABC	D
6	4
190	
#1-2.0	

Class Designation
Number of complete LEGS
Bearing to Mark #1 (magnetic)
Distance from Start\Finish to Mark #1