

**2025 FRAN GRAHAM
FALL RACING SERIES**

**WESTHAMPTON YACHT SQUADRON
Remsenburg, NY 11960**



**Sundays, September 6, 2025 to
October 5th, 2025
(No Rain Dates)**

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

(Revised: August 10, 2025)

Division I: Sunfish (open)¹, JY15, Vanguard 15, 420s, Lasers,
Division II: Sunfish (novice) Optimists – Red, White, Blue and Green Fleets

1. RULES

- 1.1 The races will be governed by *The Racing Rules of Sailing for 2025-2028 including US Sailing Prescriptions* (RRS), except as changed by these Sailing Instructions (SI). If there is a conflict between a rule in the Notice of Race (NOR) and one in the SI, the rule in the SI shall prevail over the rule in the NOR. This changes RRS 63.7.
- 1.2 As provided for in Rule 86 of the RRS, Rule 44.1 will be changed by requiring only one penalty turn under any circumstances covered by Rule 44.1. 2.3
- 1.3 Rule 60.4(a)(2) will be changed by deleting the phrase “was not involved in it or” from the rule. Other changes to the RRS pertaining to protests will be found in Para. 13 of the Sailing Instructions.
- 1.4 Competitors shall wear a US Coast Guard (USCG) approved personal flotation device (PFD) 100% dependent on foam for flotation and the appropriate size for the sailor, except briefly while changing or adjusting clothing or personal equipment while on the water. The PFD must be worn outside of all clothing except that a thin shirt may be worn over the PFD to prevent snagging. Wet suits and dry suits are not personal flotation devices. This changes RSS Part 4 Preamble, RSS 40.1 and RSS 40.2.
- 1.4 Code Flag X (blue cross on a white field) and one (1) horn blast signals an individual recall. As a courtesy, the Race Committee will attempt to hail the sail numbers for boats that are OCS (on the course side). This modifies RRS 41.

¹ Registration in either of the sunfish classes will be self-selected at registration by the sailor. However, the final assignment into one or the other of these sunfish classes will be determined by the Race Committee after the second weekend of racing.

Boats shall not be entitled to redress for the following: the failure of a boat to hear or receive a recall hail; the order of recall numbers hailed; the promptness of the hail. This modifies RRS 62.1(a).

2. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1 Changes to the Sailing Instructions will be posted on the [Official Bulletin Board](#) No later than 6:00 PM on September 12, 2025.
- 2.2 Oral changes to the Sailing Instructions may be given on the water, as necessary, from the Race Committee boat or by an official support boat. If given on the water, such announced change shall be immediately preceded by the Code Flag L (Come within hail) and one (1) horn signal. The Race Committee shall use its best efforts to communicate such change to all participants. However, the failure of a boat to hear or receive such hail shall not form the basis for redress or a protest. This changes RRS 90.2(c).

3. COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

- 3.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the online official noticeboard located at:
[Official Bulletin Board](#)
- 3.2 Boats may carry a VHF capable radio and/or a cell phone.
- 3.3 From the first warning signal until the end of the last race of the day, except in an emergency, a boat shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats.

4. CODE OF CONDUCT

- 4.1 Competitors and support persons shall comply with reasonable requests from the Race Committee.
- 4.2 Team leaders, coaches and other support persons shall stay outside areas where boats are racing from the time of the preparatory signal for the first class to start until all boats have finished or retired or the race committee signals a postponement, general recall or abandonment. This restriction shall not apply to Patrol or safety boats.

5. SIGNALS

- 4.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed on the WYS flagpole.

- 4.2 Code Flag L (yellow and black squares) with one horn blast on shore means a notice to competitors has been posted. On the water, it means “come within hail” of the Race Committee Boat.
- 4.3 Code Flag AP (red and white stripes) with two horn blasts means the race is postponed. A single horn blast accompanies the lowering of the flag.

6. SCHEDULE OF RACES

- 6.1 The Dates of Racing: The schedule of races, including date, time of competitors meeting, and race start and end times can be found on the Club Web Site at:

[Racing Schedule](#)

- 6.2 Each racing day should include at least 3-5 races but may be more or less depending on weather conditions and other factors.
- 6.3 Racers must check in with the Race Committee boat on the water prior to the first race each day. If leaving the race area, communicate that information to the Race Committee as soon as possible.
- 6.4 On race days that include multiple classes, the classes will be started in the following order:

DIVISION I

420'/Laser
Sunfish
JY15
Vanguard 15

DIVISION II

Sunfish-Novice
Optimist –R,W,B
Optimist-G

- 6.5 The race committee at their sole discretion may change the start order or combine fleets as they deem necessary for purposes of starting.
- 6.6 Termination of the regatta for any reason will be determined by the Race Committee. The final results will be based on the number of races completed.

6. CLASS FLAGS

- 7.1 Appropriate class flags will be used as follows:

Division I: Sunfish – White flag with red Sunfish insignia or Green Flag
Lasers - Red sunburst on a white flag
JY15 - Red Flag

420s – Blue Numbers extended vertically across a white flag
Vanguard 15-Green Flag

Division II: Sunfish-Novice– White flag with red Sunfish insignia
Optimist Class flag – Optimist insignia on a white flag
Optimist Green – Green flag

7. RACING AREA

- 7.1 Racing area is on Moriches Bay directly in front of the WYS club house, as well as areas and coves to the east and west of the club house as designated in the WYS UCG permit (available on request).

8. THE COURSES

- 9.1 Racing will be held on two separate courses, one for each division:

- Division 1: Sunfish - Open, 420's, JY15, Vanguard 15, Lasers
- Division 2: Sunfish – Novice, Optimists – Red/White/Blue and Green Fleets

- 9.2 The courses to be used during this series will be posted on the Club Website prior to the commencement of the series and can be found at:

[Course Diagrams](#)

The course or courses to be used on any given race day will be announced and reviewed at the competitors' meeting.

- 9.3 After completing the first leg of the course a boat shall not cross the starting line ("S"). A boat shall not cross the finishing line ("F") until she is completing the last leg of the course and finishes. This changes rule 28.1. A boat that breaks this rule can only exonerate themselves by sailing back across the start finish line and then sailing the proper course. (see RRS Sec. 44.2).
- 9.4 On a leg of the course from windward ("W") to leeward ("L") or from L to W, boats may leave the line between S and F either to port or to starboard.
- 9.5 For reasons of safety, on legs of the course from W to L or from L to W, the starting and finishing lines, including the signal boat or pin boat, if any, and the buoys that form the S and F are, taken together, one obstruction, and therefore rules 19 and 20 may apply between boats while they are approaching and passing it.

- 9.6 If a leeward gate is used, boats may only sail through the gate in a direction away from the windward mark.

10. MARKS

- 10.1 Marks 1, 2, and 3 will be orange or yellow inflatable pyramids and/or yellow cylinders or large orange or pink balls.
- 10.2 The start-finish line will be between an orange flag on the Race Committee boat and the small orange/pink ball in the water (the pin) or an anchored pin boat with a staff.
- 10.3 The offset mark at the windward mark, if used, will be a small orange/pink ball.
- 10.4 The leeward gate mark, if used, will be orange tetrahedrons, yellow tetrahedrons or yellow cylinders.
- 10.5 Any of the above marks may be substituted for either prior or during a race so as to maintain a proper course.
- 10.6 The position of the marks may be adjusted +/- 10 degrees and/or +/- 0.1 NM for small shifts in the mean wind without signaling a change of course. Any adjustments shall be made before the first boat is on the leg to the affected mark. This modifies RRS 33.

11. THE START

- 11.1 Races will be started by using a modified Rule 26 (3-minute start sequence) with the warning siren being made approximately one (1) minute prior to the warning signal. Times shall be taken from the visual signals; the failure of a sound signal shall be disregarded.
- 11.2 The Optimist Class will use the three-minute start sequence as provided in Appendix U of the RSS, instead of the Rule 26 start, commonly known as a DINGHY start.
- 11.3 Boats whose warning signals have not been made shall avoid the starting area during the starting sequence for other races.

12. THE FINISH

- 12.1 The finishing line is between a staff displaying an orange flag on the finishing boat at the starboard end and the course side of the pin.

13. TIME LIMIT

- 13.1 A boat that does not start within 5 minutes after her starting signal will be scored "Did Not Start" ("DNS") without a hearing.
- 13.1 Boats failing to finish within 15 minutes after the first boat sails the course and finishes will be scored DNF (did not finish). This changes RRS 35.

14. PROTESTS

- 14.1 A boat must inform the race committee of any boat they plan to protest as soon as possible after the incident. All protests must be communicated to the race committee prior to leaving the racing area after the last race. Any protest not reported to the race committee before leaving the racing area shall not be heard and will be dismissed without a hearing, unless the failure to do so is related to a damaged boat or wind conditions. The Race Committee will post the docking time at the end of racing each day on the official notice board. (This modifies RRS 61).
- 14.2 Protest forms are available at the club and completed protest forms shall be delivered to the Protest Committee no later than thirty (30) minutes after the docking. The same time applies to protests by the Race Committee about incidents they observe in the racing area and to requests for redress. This changes Rules 61.3 and 62.2.
- 14.3 Protests will be heard in approximately the order of receipt as soon as possible.

15. SCORING

- 15.1 The Low Point scoring system of Appendix A will apply as modified. As this is a series, RRS A5.3 of Appendix A shall be applied to the scoring. This modifies RRS A5.2.
- 15.2 At least one (1) race is required to be completed to constitute a series.
- 15.3 There will be one (1) throw-out race allowed for every five (5) races sailed in this Series.
- 15.4 As provided in Appendix A, boats not competing on scheduled race days will be scored a DNC for each race held on that day (one more than the total number of boats registered in the series). A boat that came to the starting line and did not start, did not finish, retired after finishing or was disqualified (other than a BFD, DNE or DGM) shall be scored points one more than the total number of boats which came to the starting line on that day. However, if such a boat retires for reasons other than equipment issues, or personal safety (as determined in the sole discretion of the sailor), such boat will be scored a DNC as defined above for any races missed.

- 15.5 Regardless of order of start or combined starts each of the following classes will be separately scored:

Sunfish-Open Division

420's

Lasers

Vanguard 15

Sunfish-Novice

Optimist – Green

Optimist – Red, White, Blue

Optimist – Red

Optimist - White

Optimist – Blue

- 15.6 Provided the Race Committee Chairman is informed ahead of time, in writing or by email (providing the date and time of the away race, the Organizing Authority of same, the class of boat to be sailed and the capacity in which the away sailor will be sailing), any competitor registered in this Fall Series can race in a recognized Regatta and miss a regular Sunday race at WYS and receive a score other than DNC for the day missed. The scores for the Series races on the missed race day will be determined at the end of the season and will be based on an average of the competitor's scores in Fall Series for all other races sailed at WYS as part of the Series. In addition, the away race must be a race in which the away competitor competes in the same class and capacity (i.e. skipper, crew, etc.) as they are racing in the WYS Series. This option may be exercised only one weekend during the Fall Series.

16. PRIZES

- 16.1 Prizes will be awarded to the top three finishers in each class and/or combined class indicated above.
- 16.2 The Bob Rice Memorial Trophy will be awarded to the WYS Sunfish Open Division Member with the Best Score for the races held on the first Sunday in October (October 1st, 2024).
- 16.3 The SailAction Trophy will be awarded to the 420 skipper and crew with the best score for the races held on the first Sunday race day in October (October 1st, 2024), without using any throw outs. Both skipper and crew must be WYS members and may not turn age 19 before the end of the race calendar year.
17. RADIO COMMUNICATIONS – All participating sailors may carry a two (2) way radio on their sailboat, for use in an emergency or to communicate with the race committee their status. Except in such circumstances, a boat that is racing shall

not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats in the same class. This restriction also applies to cell or mobile phones.

- 18. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY - Competitors in this Fall Series are participating entirely at their own risk and are bound by *The Racing Rules of Sailing for 2025-2028 Including US Sailing Prescriptions* and all other rules that govern this event, and assume full responsibility for starting or continuing to race – Rule 3, Decision to Race. The organizing authority, host club and/or personnel conducting this event will not accept any liability for material damages or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the event.**