

# Wickford Yacht Club



## SAILING INSTRUCTIONS 2026 WEDNESDAY NIGHT RACING SERIES June 10 - September 2 (NO RACE August 5)

### 1. RULES

The races will be governed by the rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing, except as modified by these Sailing Instructions and any Amendments to the Sailing Instructions. US Sailing Rule 81 is waived for this event.

### 2. RESPONSIBILITIES OF OWNERS OR PERSONS IN CHARGE

It is the sole responsibility of each Owner or Person in Charge to decide whether to start or continue to race and to make certain that their yacht, equipment and crew are seaworthy for the conditions which may be encountered.

### 3. NOTICES

Notices to Competitors will be posted on the official notice board at Wickford Yacht Club. Notices and results may also be posted at [www.wickfordyc.com](http://www.wickfordyc.com)

### 4. CHANGES IN SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any change to the Sailing Instructions will be posted before 5 PM on the day the change will take effect. Any such posting will be made on the official notice board located at the Wickford Yacht Club. As a courtesy, the race committee will endeavor to place notices at [www.wickfordyc.com](http://www.wickfordyc.com) and make an announcement on VHF channel 78.

### 5. SCHEDULE OF RACES

5.1. The Wednesday Night Racing Series will consist of 12 races, held each Wednesday night beginning on June 10, 2026 and ending on September 2, 2026. The warning signal for each race June 2 - July 26 will be at **18:00 hours (6:00 PM)**. The warning signal for each race August 12, 19, 26, and September 2 will be at **5:45 (17:45 hours)**

5.2. There will be a Captains' meeting on June 10 at 1600 hours (4 P.M.) held in the WYC pavilion.

5.3. No racing August 5. (WYC cruise week).

### 6. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

6.1. Signals made ashore will be flown from the WYC flagpole.

6.2. In the event of a postponement ashore the 1st warning signal will be 30 minutes from the drop of the postponement flag.

## 7. COURSES / MARKS

- 7.1. Courses will be displayed on the Race Committee boat in the order of rounding.
  - 7.1.1. Marks will be indicated in order by letters designating the marks of the course, to the right of the numerical class designator. (i.e. 1VE would represent Class 1 start, Mark V, Mark E, Finish, round all marks on the same side as the starting pin.)
  - 7.1.2. Turning marks shall be left to port or starboard as indicated by the letter P for port and S for starboard after the letter indicating the mark. If all marks are to be left to the same side the P or S will be placed after all the mark designators. (i.e. 1VES - same course as above, but with Starboard roundings) If no port or starboard indicator is used the marks shall be left on the same side as the starting pin mark.
  - 7.1.3. A number after the course and turning designator indicates the number of times to repeat the course (i.e. 1VES2 - same course as above, but two times around).
  - 7.1.4. Special Instructions: **Do not pass through the restricted area west of Fox Island.**
  - 7.1.5. A course sheet for this series will be available at the Captains' Meeting and will be made available online.
  - 7.1.6. The course sheet includes a number of Government marks with WYC letter designations (i.e. D,E,F,G,H,J,M,N,O,X). It also designates areas where special marks may be set (i.e. A - Start/Finish Area, B,C,R,T,V,Y,Z) . In addition, special marks W - a windward mark and L - a leeward mark may be set wherever appropriate in the racing area.
  - 7.1.7. **Note:** When mark A is a mark of the course, the mark includes the **RC Signal Boat AND the Starting Pin.**
  - 7.1.8. Special marks will be inflatable marks set by the Race Committee.
  - 7.1.9. Change of the next leg of the course: The next mark may be moved up to 10 degrees +/- and .25 NM without signal. This changes RRS 33. Subsequent legs may be changed to maintain the course shape.
  - 7.1.10. Yachts shall **not** cross the start/finish line **except when starting or finishing**. A yacht breaking this rule cannot exonerate herself and will be protested by the race committee. This changes RRS 28.2

## 8. START

- 8.1. The starting area will be established between the entrance of Wickford Harbor and out to in the vicinity of General Rock, east of the Wickford harbor entrance. Area "A" on the course sheet and to the West of area "A". The Race Committee will attempt to notify racers of the start line location at or around 17:30 (5:30 PM) until July 29, and at 17:15 (5:15) August 12, 19,26 and September 2.
- 8.2. Prior to the warning signal for the race, each yacht shall pass the stern of the Race Committee boat and hail her sail number until acknowledged by the Race Committee. Failure to do so will result in the yacht being scored "DID NOT START" ("DNS").
- 8.3. After the first warning signal, any yacht from a class whose warning signal has not been displayed shall not interfere with a yacht whose warning signal is displayed and will endeavor to stay clear of the starting area.
- 8.4. **Starting Line:** Between the ORANGE flag on the Race Committee boat and a nearby Yacht Club mark or government mark. KEEP OFF marks may be attached to the Race Committee boat. The keep off marks and the water between them and the committee boat are to be considered components of the committee boat and therefore must be observed.
- 8.5. **Starting Sequence:** Races shall be started consistent with RRS 26.
  - 8.5.1. The Race Committee will start the yachts by Class flags. Class 1 may not be the first class to start.
  - 8.5.2. Two classes may be started simultaneously, e.g., Spinnaker 1 & 2.
  - 8.5.3. In the case of a general recall the sequence will remain unchanged, i.e., the class with the general recall will be the next class to start. The Race Committee has the option to either continue the sequence as a "rolling" start or hesitate between each class. If a rolling start, the Warning (Class Flag) for the next start will be simultaneously signaled at the Start for the previous start. Two classes may be started simultaneously, e.g., Spinnaker 1 & 2.

## 9. SIGNALS & CLASS FLAGS

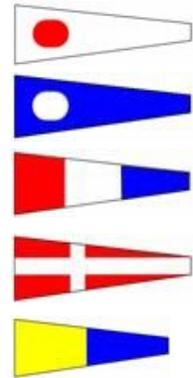
Class 1: Spinnaker 1 Pennant 1 (Red Disc on White)

Class 2: Spinnaker 2 Pennant 2 (White Disc on Blue)

Class 3: Cruising 1 Pennant 3 (Red, White, Blue)

Class 4: One-Design Ensigns Pennant 4 (White Cross on Red)

Class 5: Open (Laser, 420, etc.) Pennant 5 (Yellow, Blue) FINISH



## 10. Finish

- 10.1. **Finish Line:** Between an Orange flag on the Committee Boat and a nearby Yacht Club mark or government mark. Finish from the direction of the last mark of the course.
- 10.2. **Alternate Finish Line:** If a course requires a downwind finish, the race committee MAY create an additional finish line by placing another mark or mark boat (with a flag) on the opposite side of the start/finish line. This would be done for safety, if there are upwind finishes on the original line for other fleets.
- 10.3. **Retirement:** Should a yacht retire from a race, prompt notification to the Committee is mandatory. Yachts which retire and properly notify the Committee will be scored "DNF". Yachts which retire and fail to notify the Committee may be scored "DISQUALIFIED" ("DSQ") after a hearing.

## 11. TIME LIMIT

The time limit for all classes will be 105 minutes (1 ¾ hours) after the class start. Any boat not finishing within this time limit will be scored DNF. If no boat finishes within the time limit that race shall be abandoned (Per Rule 35)

## 12. SCORING

- 12.1. The Low Point Scoring System of Appendix A, modified as follows, will apply. Finishing times will be corrected using the PHRF "Time on Time" formula.
- 12.2. For the purpose of scoring, RRS A5.3 shall apply.
- 12.3. Each yacht's series score shall be the total of her race score(s) excluding her worst score(s) as follows: if 5 or 6 races are held, exclude 1; if 4 or fewer races are held, exclude none.
- 12.4. Six races are scheduled of which two must be completed to constitute a series

## 13. PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

- 13.1. **Informing the Race Committee:** A boat intending to protest or requesting redress based on an incident in the racing area that she is involved in or sees, shall, at the first reasonable opportunity after she finishes, inform the race committee at the finishing line of her intent to protest or request redress and, when applicable, the identity of the protestee.
- 13.2. **Time Limit:** A boat shall deliver her protest with the day's Principal Race Officer (PRO) or one of the Race Committee record keepers at the pavilion at WYC within 30 minutes of the signal boat's docking. Protests shall be written and comply with Rule 61.
- 13.3. **Expedited Hearings:** Changes in hearing procedures (This rule applies to all hearings except hearings under rule 69):
  - 13.3.1. The day's Principal Race Officer is responsible for forming a protest committee and appointing a chairman who will manage the protest process and notify the parties orally as to the time and place of any hearings.
  - 13.3.2. If the protest committee is able to assemble the *parties* to a hearing before the protest or redress time limit, it may begin the hearing and may waive the requirements of rule 62.2.

13.3.3. Insert a new sentence after the third sentence of rule 63.6: 'However, the committee may limit the number of witnesses and the time during which *parties* may present evidence and ask questions.'

13.3.4. The US Sailing prescriptions to rule 63.2 is deleted.

#### **14. OPTIONAL PENALTIES**

14.1. **Penalties at the time of the incident:** The first two sentences of rule 44.1 are changed to: 'A boat may take a One-Turn Penalty when she may have broken a rule of Part 2 or rule 31 while *racing*.

14.2. **Penalties taken after the a race:** After a race, a boat that may have broken a rule of Part 2 or rule 31 while racing may take a Scoring Penalty. Rules 44.1(a) and (b) apply when such a penalty is taken. Rules 44.3(a) and (b) are deleted and replaced by: 'A boat takes a Scoring Penalty by informing the race committee in writing, identifying the race number and when and where the incident occurred.'

14.3. **The Scoring Penalty for a class:**

14.3.1. with less than 5 boats shall be 1 place

14.3.2. with 5-10 boats shall be 2 places

14.3.3. with over 10 boats shall be 3 places

14.3.4. The Scoring Penalty shall be calculated as stated in Rule 44.3(c).

#### **15. RADIO COMMUNICATION**

15.1. Except in an emergency, boats shall neither make radio transmissions while racing nor receive radio communications not available to all boats. This restriction also applies to mobile telephones. The Race Committee will endeavor to broadcast an announcement on Ch 78 VHF approximately thirty minutes to one hour prior to the Warning Signal regarding the status of racing. The Race Committee may broadcast general and safety information.

15.1.1. Failure to make any of the above Race Committee announcements is not grounds for seeking redress.