



Sailing Instructions

Northeast Harbor Fleet 2026 Sailing Season

July 4th Series, July Series, August Series, Labor Day Series

Organized by: The Northeast Harbor Fleet

The Notation “[DP]” means that the penalty for a breach of the rule may, at the discretion of the protest committee, be less than disqualification.

1. RULES

- 1.1 The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing*.
- 1.2 All prescriptions to the US Sailing RRS will apply, except:
The US prescriptions to Appendix G2 (Sail Numbering).
- 1.3 The IOD Class Rules shall apply for IODs for Races in which the class competes.
- 1.4 The MDI Luders Class Association Rules shall apply for Luders for Races in which the class competes.

2. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1 Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted by 0830 on the day it takes effect.

3. NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

- 3.1 Notice(s) to competitors will be posted on ClubSpot on the NEHF Web site. Notices may also be distributed as a courtesy via email. Failure to receive an email shall not be grounds for Redress.

4. RADIO COMMUNICATIONS [DP]

- 4.1. All boats shall monitor VHF (U.S.) Channel 65 while on the water.
- 4.2 On the water, the Race Committee intends to monitor VHF (U.S.) Channel 65 and, as a courtesy, may attempt to communicate with competitors on this channel for safety and/or race management purposes. RC radio communications are unofficial and their use, lack thereof or a competitors inability to receive any such transmissions shall not be grounds for redress.
- 4.3. While *racing*, a boat shall not make radio transmissions or receive radio communications from any source which is not available to all boats, except for emergencies. This restriction also applies to cellular telephones and other electronic devices.

5. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 5.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed at the Fleet Clubhouse flagpole.
- 5.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore with two sounds,
 - a). ‘1 minute’ is replaced with, ‘the warning signal will be made not less than 45 minutes after the AP flag is lowered’.
 - b). The Starting Signal will not be delayed for Boats leaving the Harbor before Flag AP is lowered.

6. SCHEDULE OF RACES

6.1 Intended Racing Schedule will be posted on the NEHF Web site.

7. RACING AREA

- 7.1 Racing will be conducted in the waters of the Great Harbor, the Western Way, the Eastern Way, Somes Sound, and waters surrounding Mount Desert Island.
- 7.2 The race committee will broadcast the starting area on VHF Radio (U.S.) Channel 65 for the first race of the day starting at 1200 on each race day.

8. COURSES

- 8.1. No later than the warning signal, courses will be displayed vertically (first mark on top to the last mark at the bottom) on the course display rack located on the Race Committee Signal Boat. (Range and bearing)
- 8.2. Course marks shall be rounded to port, unless the letter "S" is placed beside any mark letter(s) on the course display rack. Those specific marks shall then be rounded to Starboard.
- 8.3. Courses may include turns around islands and shoals as well as Government Marks and/or NEH Fleet Racing Marks.

9. MARKS AND GOVERNMENT BUOYS

- 9.1. A Race Area Chart with Marks is available on the Fleet Web Site at <https://www.nehfleet.org/race>.
- (*) The Race Area Chart is not to official scale and is not to be relied on for navigational purposes.*
- 9.2 Racing Marks are described in Addendum 'A' of the Sailing Instructions and shall be posted online on the Fleet Web Site.
- 9.3 When not designated as a 'mark' of the course, Government buoys 'E','P','I','R' and 'Q' may be navigated by passing them on either side. However, when any of these buoys are posted as 'mark' of a course, a boat shall round it per RRS 28.1.
- 9.4 All other Government buoys shall be navigated as marked at all times. However, when any of these buoys are posted as 'mark' of a course, and bounds the current leg, a boat shall round it per RRS 28.1.
- 9.5 An orange inflatable buoy may be attached to the NEHF Racing marks to increase visibility, and if so attached, will be considered part of the Mark.

10. STARTING

10.1. The starting sequence will be as follows and changes RRS 26:

Minutes Before Starting Signal	Means	Visual Signal	Sound Signal
6	Attention	Orange Flag Starting line flag(s) displayed	1 sound
5	Warning	Class flag displayed	1 sound

4	Preparatory	Flag P (or I or Z or Z with I or U or Black flag) displayed	1 sound
1	(one minute)	Preparatory signal removed	1 sound
0	Start	Class flag removed	1 sound

10.2. The starting line will be between the Race Committee Signal Boat mast displaying an orange flag and the course side of a yellow or orange inflatable buoy or Mark Bot on the port-end of the starting line.

10.3. A boat that does not start within 10 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start (DNS) without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.

13. CHANGE THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

12.1 A change of the next leg of the course will be signaled by the display of Code Flag C and repeated sound signals by a Race Committee boat before the first boat begins the next leg of the course. All remaining marks of the course will be displayed by the RC and broadcast on VHF (U.S.) Channel 65. This changes RRS 33.

14. THE FINISH

13.1. The finishing line will be between a staff displaying a blue flag on a Race Committee Boat and the course side of the nearby finishing ‘mark’ (‘SF’ unless the race has been shortened).

15. PENALTY SYSTEM

14.1 Appendix V1 shall apply. This changes RRS 44.1.

14.2 Appendix V2 shall apply. This changes RRS 44.1.

16. TIME LIMITS

16.1 The time limit for the first boat to sail the course and finish shall be 2.5 hours from the starting signal.

16.2 Boats failing to finish within 30 minutes after the first boat sails the course and finishes shall be scored Did not Finish without a hearing. This changes RRS 35, A5.1 and A5.2.

17. HEARING REQUESTS ***

17.1 The hearing request time limit is 60 minutes after the RC boat docks. This time will be posted on the Official Notice Board.

17.2 Hearing request forms are available at the Northeast Harbor Fleet Clubhouse or electronically [here](#)

17.3 Hearing requests and scoring inquiries shall be delivered within the appropriate time limit,

a). Electronically via [WhatsApp](#) (‘Jury’ Group)
- OR -

b). Paper requests and inquiries shall be delivered to the Race Office and receipt must be acknowledged by the PRO or a member of the Race Committee .

17.4 The protest committee will schedule hearings at its discretion and in the order it determines. The hearing schedule shall be posted on the Official Notice Board and *may*

also be posted online on [WhatsApp](#) ('Jury' Group) no later than :15 minutes after the close of the posted hearing request time limit. This constitutes notification required by RRS 63.1.

17.5. Appendix T - 'Arbitration' will apply.

17.6 Hearings will be held in the protest room at the Fleet Clubhouse.

17. SCORING

17.1 Scoring will be as described in-Appendix A.

17.2 For the July and August Series, Six races must be completed to constitute a series.

17.3 For the Labor Day and July 4th Series, One race must be completed to constitute a series

17.4 When six or more races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score. When 10 or more races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her two worst scores. When fifteen or more races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her three worst scores. This changes Appendix A2.1.

18. SAFETY [DP] ***

18.1 All personnel under the age of 18 and all personnel who are sailing with two or fewer people on board shall wear a Type III or Type V PFD while racing. If a boat has two or fewer people on board one shall have an operable VHF radio attached or on their clothing.

18.2 Boats must be equipped with a means of retrieval for a person overboard.

18.3 A competitor shall not fly a spinnaker when code flags H over A are displayed at the warning signal or when these code flags are displayed with repetitive sounds at a turning mark.

18.4. When code flags H over L are displayed with repetitive sounds at a turning mark, spinnakers may be flown thereafter.

Addendum 'A'

MARK DESCRIPTIONS*

List of marks from which the course(s) will be selected:

(*) NOTES: Listed below in **RED**, Racing Marks (E,P,I,R,Q) are the Government buoys referenced in SI 9.3.
Per SI 9.5, orange inflatable buoys may be attached to 'NEHF Racing Marks' for visibility.

MARK	TYPE / PURPOSE	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
1	Windward Mark	Yellow, Orange or Green Inflatable – or Mark Bot	Bearing Displayed by RC
2	Weather Off-set Mark	Yellow, Orange or Green Inflatable – or Mark Bot	Approximately 7-boatlengths from a Windward Mark
3	Leeward Mark	Yellow, Orange or Green Inflatable – or Mark Bot	Downwind from Mark 1
B	Government Buoy	Red Buoy, Gong R “2”	S.E. of East Bunkers Ledge
BL	Government Buoy	Red Buoy, RN “6”	Bowden Ledge, Seal Harbor
C	NEHF Racing Mark	Red & White vertical Cylinder “C” w/White flag*	N.E. of Spurling Cove
CL	Government Buoy	Red Buoy, RN “6”	Cow Ledge, Western Way
C3	Government Buoy	Green Buoy, GC “3”	N.E. of Baker Island
D	NEHF Racing Mark	Red & White vertical Cylinder “D” w/White flag*	E. of Manset Shore
E	Government Buoy	Red Buoy, R Bell “4”,	W. of Cranberry Ledge
F	Government Buoy	Green Buoy, GC “7”	E. of Harding Ledge
G	Government Buoy	Green Buoy GC “1”	E.S.E. of Baker Is.
GG	Island	Island	Greening Island
GL	NEHF Racing Mark	Red & White vertical Cylinder “GL” w/White flag*	South of Gilpatrick Ledge
H	Government Buoy	Red Buoy, RN “6”,	S. of Eastern Point, Greening Island
I	Government Buoy	Red Buoy, RN “8”	Long Pond Shoal, Eastern Way
IDR	Government Buoy	Green Buoy, GC “1”	Islesford Dock Restaurant (Outer Can)
J	Government Buoy	Green Buoy, GC “3A”,	Lewis Rock, N. of East Bunkers Ledge
L	NEHF Racing Mark	Red & White vertical Cylinder “L” w/White flag*	N.E. of Seawall Point
LG	Leeward Gate	Yellow, Orange or Green Inflatables – or Markbots	Leeward Gates, Pass between marks
M	Government Buoy	Green Buoy, GC “5”,	Western Way
NE	Government Buoy	Red Buoy, RN “4”	Northeast Harbor Entrance
O	NEHF Racing Mark	Red & White vertical Cylinder “O” w/White flag*	North End of Somes Sound
P	Government Buoy	Green Buoy, FG “5”,	Entrance to Somes Sound
Q	Government Buoy	Red Buoy, FI R “8” Gong	N.N.W. of Spurling Point, Great Cranberry Is.
R	Government Buoy	Red Buoy, FI R Bell “2”	Spurling Rock, S. of Sutton Is.
SF	Start / Finish Mark	Yellow, Orange or Green Inflatable – or Mark Bot	Start/Finish Pin
SH	Government Buoy	Red Buoy, FI R “4” Bell	Seal Harbor
SU	Island	Island	Sutton Island
T	Government Buoy	Red Buoy, FI R “8”, Greening Ledge	S.W. Harbor
W	Government Buoy	Red Buoy, FI R Bell “10”,	Bear Island Bell
WG	Windward Gate	Yellow, Orange or Green Inflatables – or Mark Bots	Pass between marks
X	NEHF Racing Mark	Red & White vertical Cylinder “X” w/White flag*	Norwood Cove NW of Greening Is

Y	Government Buoy	Red Buoy, Fl R Bell "2"	Entrance to N.E. Harbor
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