



Royal Victoria Yacht Club

NOTICE OF RACE

Thermopylae Regatta

October 3 – 4 2026

The Royal Victoria Yacht Club (RVYC) is the Organizing Authority (OA) for this event.

The Royal Victoria Yacht Club hosts this event for sailors who take responsibility for their own safety and the safety of others; who are good sports on and off the water; who respect the traditional territory of the Lekwungen/Songhees peoples on which they compete; and who care for our environment and oceans.

All participants, officials, staff, and support persons are committed to the principles of Safe Sport and will follow the BC Universal Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct can be found at: <https://viasport.ca/resources/bc-universal-code-of-conduct>.

The notation '[NP]' in a rule means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1.

The notation '[DP]' in a rule refers to a discretionary penalty, which follows guidance from World Sailing and is applicable to certain infractions – safety, code of conduct, class rule and technical breaches – some of which cannot be protested by competitors [NP].



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1. RULES

- 1.1. The event will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing;
- 1.2. The prescriptions of Sail Canada will apply available at [Sail Canada Prescriptions to the Racing Rules of Sailing 2025-2028](#);
- 1.3. The World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations (OSR) Appendix B shall apply.
- 1.4. [DP] For PHRF Handicap fleets the [PHRF-BC Rules and measurements](#) apply concerning boats configuration and sails;
- 1.5. [DP] For ORC handicap fleets the [2026 Offshore Racing Congress Rules](#), apply ORC Rule 201.2 does not apply.
- 1.6. [DP] For ORC handicap fleets The International Measurement System Rule shall apply as a measurement rule.
- 1.7. [DP] For One-Design fleets, their respective Class Rules apply
- 1.8. Appendix T Arbitration shall apply.

2. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

The sailing instructions will be available on the [Clubspot Event Page](#) no later than 1800 Hours on Thursday October 1.

3. COMMUNICATION

- 3.1. The online notice board is located using this [Clubspot link](#) to the regatta page.
- 3.2. [DP] All boats shall carry a VHF radio capable of communicating on the international VHF maritime mobile band.
- 3.3. On the water, the race committee will make courtesy broadcasts to competitors on VHF radio using channel 09.
- 3.4. [DP][NP] While racing, 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. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

- 4.1. All boats with a valid PHRF-BC or PHRF-NW certificate are eligible for entry.
 - 4.1.1. The OA may request skippers to provide a copy of their PHRF BC Certificates at any time during the event.



- 4.1.2. PHRF-NW certificates shall be forwarded to the Organising Authority no later than 1800 hrs Wednesday September 30 so that they can be normalised to PHRF-BC.
- 4.2. All boats with a valid ORC certificate are eligible for entry
 - 4.2.1. Certificates must be in place on ORC Sailor Services no later than 1800 hrs Wednesday September 30 for downloading by the OA.
 - 4.2.2. Certificates cannot be changed after 1800 hrs Wednesday September 30.
- 4.3. One design and open-classes capable of fielding a fleet of 5 boats are eligible for entry.
 - 4.3.1. The Organizing Authority will notify registered boats by 18:00 September 30 and inform them if a division can be formed. Boats who cannot field a division will be given the opportunity to sail in a handicapped fleet provided they have a valid PHRF or ORC handicap.
- 4.4. Cruising keelboats are eligible for entry into a cruising fleet. This fleet is intended for boats that have minimal race experience or are racing short-handed. Separate, safe starts and courses will be provided for the cruising division. Rating Certificates are not required for the Cruising Division, the RVYC PHRF Handicapper will provide ratings as needed.
- 4.5. The Person in Charge of a vessel entering the event shall be a member of a Yacht Club in accordance with the Canadian Prescription RRS 46.
- 4.6. Eligible Boats may enter the event by registering at the [Clubspot Event Page](#)
- 4.7. To be considered an entry in the event a boat shall complete all registration requirements, comply with the insurance requirements, and pay all fees.
- 4.8. Registration will close after 1800 hrs Friday October 2, but noting requirements for proving eligibility per paragraphs 4.1.2 and 4.2.2

5. FEES

- 5.1. The standard registration fee is \$125 payable on the Clubspot event page.
- 5.2. A fee includes a banquet ticket
- 5.3. Additional banquet tickets will be available at the registration desk and will cost \$30 payable on the Clubspot event page.

6. CREW LIMITATIONS



6.1. For boats sailing under ORC rules, minimum crew weight as defined in ORC Rules 102.3 and 200.1(b) shall apply.

7. ADVERTISING

7.1. Boats may be required to display advertising chosen and supplied by the organizing authority.

8. SCHEDULE

8.1. Friday October 2:

Registration is via Clubspot as per paragraph 4.8

8.2. Saturday October 3:

09:00 Complimentary coffee and muffins in the main lounge
09:30 Competitors meeting and weather briefing in the main lounge
11:00 First Warning Signal
16:00 Last possible start. No races will be started after 16:00

18:30 Regatta Dinner
19:30 DJ & Dancing in the main lounge

8.3. Sunday October 4:

09:00 Complimentary coffee and muffins in the main lounge
09:30 Competitors meeting and weather briefing in the main lounge
11:00 First Warning Signal
16:00 Last possible start. No races will be started after 16:00

As soon as practicable after racing prize giving will take place

VIRS 2026 prize giving will take place after Regatta prize giving

8.4. Warning Signals

8.4.1. 3 October 2026: No warning signal will occur prior to 11:00 or after 15:55

8.4.2. 4 October 2026: No warning signal will occur prior to 11:00 or after 15:55

9. DIVISIONS AND RATINGS



- 9.1. Fleets. The event will be divided into three fleets each with individual divisions
- 9.2. Random Leg Fleet – divisions will be determined based on entrants and will be announced prior to the start of the first race.
- 9.3. Around the Buoys Fleet - divisions will be determined based on entrants and will be announced prior to the start of the first race.
- 9.4. Cruising Fleet which will sail as a single division

10. VENUE

Racing will occur in the waters proximal to the Royal Victoria Yacht Club.

11. COURSES

- 11.1. Courses will be specified by signaling the course from the Race Committee Signal Vessel.
 - 11.1.1. The courses for boats in the Random Leg Course Division(s) will be set among a set of fixed and set marks in the vicinities of Cadboro Bay, Oak Bay, Trial Island and Haro Strait.
 - 11.1.2. The courses for boats in the Around-the-Buoys Division(s) and One-Design Division(s) will be set among set inflatable marks in the vicinities of Cadboro Bay and Oak Bay and fixed marks when appropriate for the course.
- 11.2. The Signaling method, Fleet and Division flags will be specified in the Sailing Instructions.

12. PENALTY SYSTEM

RRS 44.1 is changed so that the Two-Turns Penalty is replaced by the One-Turn Penalty.

13. SCORING

- 13.1. For ORC and PHRF divisions, Time on Time scoring will be used.
- 13.2. For ORC divisions, prior to the warning signal the race committee will announce the anticipated scoring option.
 - 13.2.1. Only scoring options provided on the CAN/USA certificate will be used.



13.2.2. If the weather conditions differ significantly from the forecast conditions, the race committee may change the scoring option from the declared scoring option provided that announcement is made prior to the first boat affected crossing the finish line.

13.2.3. The race committee may score boats in separate divisions using different scoring options if the conditions make that appropriate.

13.3. One race is required to be completed to constitute a series

13.4. When fewer than five races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the sum of its race scores.

13.5. When five or more races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the sum of its race scores excluding its worst score.

14. BERTHING

Visiting boats may be provided moorage at the venue for the nights before and after the race, subject to availability. The skippers of visiting boats should notify Royal Victoria Yacht Club's foreshore office at 250.592.3433 or foreshore@rvyc.bc.ca, of their berthing requirements at their earliest convenience. Visiting boats may be required to raft together.

15. HAUL-OUT RESTRICTIONS

[DP] Keelboats shall not be hauled out during the event except with and according to the terms of prior written permission of the race committee.

16. PRIZES

16.1. There will be prizes for the top three boats in each division.

16.2. The OA may present other prizes.

17. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

Competitors participate in the race entirely at their own risk. See RRS 3, Decision to Race. The organizing authority will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury, or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the race.

18. INSURANCE

Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of \$2,000,000CDN.



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19. FURTHER INFORMATION

19.1. For further information please contact:

Event Chair: Alex Fox alexanderkfox@yahoo.ca

Racing Fleet Captain: Stuart Dahlgren racingfleetcaptain@rvyc.ca