2026 TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY NIGHT RACING SERIES

Newport Yacht Club

Tuesdays: 19 May 2026 to 25 Aug 2026

Wednesdays: 20 May 2026 to 26 Aug 2026

Newport, RI, USA

SAILING INSTRUCTION

1 RULES

1.1 The event is governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS).*

2 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

2.1 Any changes to the SI will be posted on the NYC website:

https://www.newportyachtclub.org/onshore-sailing

no later than 5 pm, five (5) days before they are to take effect.

3 COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

3.1 All boats **shall carry a VHF radio**, **which is turned on and operating while underway,** capable of communicating on Channel 16 (safety and emergency) and Channel 73 (race committee).

3.2 On the water, the Race Committee intends to monitor and communicate with competitors on VHF radio **Channel 73.**

4 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

4.1 Signals made ashore will be hoisted on the flagstaff at NYC and broadcast on VHF radio Channel 73.

4.2 The Race Committee will make every effort to post signals ashore by 5:00 pm (1700).

5 SCHEDULE OF RACES

5.1 The scheduled time of the Warning signal for the first race is **6:00 pm** (1800).

5.2 To alert boats that a race or sequence of races will begin soon, the orange starting line flag will be displayed with one sound at least five minutes before the first warning signal is made.



5.3 The Race Committee reserves the option to run additional races. To indicate additional races, code flag “R” (Romeo - yellow cross on red square) will be displayed on the Race Committee boat before the first boat in a class that will have another race finishes. The class designator for the class (or classes) for which an additional race is being run will be posted on the course board on the starboard side of the Race Committee boat.



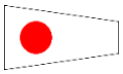
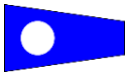
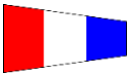
6 CLASS FLAGS

6.1 The class flags are:

Tuesdays:

Class	Course Board Designator	Class Flag
J7	**J7**	
Ensign	***E***	
S Boats	**S**	

Wednesdays:

Class	PHRF Rating	Course Board Designator	Class Flag
Class IV *(Multihulls)*	n/a	**IV**	 Pennant 4
Class I	Spinnaker	**I**	 Pennant 1
Class II	Non-spinnaker, below 190	**II**	 Pennant 2
Class III	Non-spinnaker, 190 or above	**III**	 Pennant 3
J7 *(Sail Newport Charter Fleet)*	n/a	**J7**	

7 RACING AREA

7.1 Races are conducted on Narragansett Bay, East Passage. Start area as described in NOR.

8 COURSES

8.1 Courses are as described in the NOR.

8.2 No later than the Warning signal of the first race, the Race Committee will post the courses for each class on the starboard side of the Race Committee boat and may make an announcement over VHF channel 73.

8.3 Information for each class is posted top to bottom, left to right. The course number is below the class designator, and the class start sequence is read left to right.

If a course other than one described on the South Bay Race Chart is used, as described in the NOR, there will be no course number on the course board. The course will be designated on a whiteboard posted on the starboard side of the committee boat. If multiple classes will use courses other than those described on the South Bay Race Chart, this will be posted on a whiteboard on the starboard side of the committee boat.

8.4 A number in parentheses below a course indicates the number of laps to be sailed, one (1) being understood. For example, a number two in parentheses (2) under a course number indicates that the entire course is to be sailed twice around.

9 MARKS

9.1 Marks are a combination of government and special marks as described on the South Bay Race Chart published by Sail Newport.

10 OBSTRUCTIONS

10.1 The following areas are designated as obstructions:

a) the area of *The Dumplings* or between those rocks and the Jamestown shore
b) the rock near Fort Wetherill and the Jamestown shore
c) *Citing Rock* east of Rose Island and Rose Island

10.2 Competitors shall not sail between Rose Island and the Newport (Pell) Bridge.

10.3 Competitors shall only pass under the Newport (Pell) Bridge through the center span.

10.4 The start/finish line is an obstruction except when starting or finishing. **Once a boat properly starts, she shall not sail through the start/finish line** other than to finish unless the start/finish mark is also a mark of the course.

11 THE START

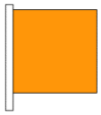
11.1 The order for each Class start will be posted on the course board as described in paragraph 8. It will typically be the same order as noted in paragraph 6.1, but may be modified by the Race Committee.

11.2 Starting signals will be made in accordance with the RRS 26 (Starting Races).

11.3 The Race Committee intends to conduct **rolling starts**, whereby the Start of one class will be concurrent with the Warning for the next class.

11.4 Two or more classes may be started at the same time. In this case, multiple class flags will be displayed as the Warning signal.

11.5 The start line is between the orange flag on the Race Committee boat at the starboard end (looking towards the first turning mark of the course) and the course side of the port-end starting mark.

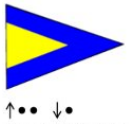


11.6 **Boats in a class whose warning signal has not been made shall keep clear of the starting area during the starting sequence for other races.**

11.7 A boat that does not start within **4 minutes** after her starting signal will be scored *Did Not Start* (DNS) without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.1 and A5.2.

11.8 Two or more boats of the same class must start within their time limit for a race to be scored for that class. This changes RRS 35.

11.9 RRS 29.2 (**General Recall**) is amended as follows: A recalled class will restart after all subsequent classes in the original starting sequence. The Warning for the recalled class will be concurrent with the Start of the last class in the original starting sequence (in other words, the rolling start continues). If there is more than one general recall, class order will be maintained.



12 TIME LIMITS

12.1 The time limit for all classes is 30 minutes after sunset.

12.2 Any boat that finishes more than 30 minutes after the first boat in its class that sails the course and finishes, or more than 30 minutes after sunset, whichever comes first, will be scored DNF (Did not finish) by the Race Committee without a hearing. This changes RRS A5 (Scores Determined by the Race Committee).

13 HEARING REQUESTS

13.1 A protesting boat shall comply with RRS 61.1 (Informing the Protestee) and shall notify the Race Committee of their intent to protest upon finishing the race in which the incident occurred.

13.2 Protests shall be filed at NYC no later than 2100 (9:00 pm) the day after the race. Protest forms are available at NYC or on the US Sailing website. Protestors may deposit completed forms in the Regatta Committee box located in the hallway on the NYC first floor or email them to: Regatta@NewportYachtClub.org.

14 SAFETY REGULATIONS

14.1 **Checking In**: Each boat shall sail by the Race Committee boat before its preparatory signal to hail its sail number, the class in which it will race, and its team name, if applicable. The Race Committee will endeavour to acknowledge each boat's check-in.

14.2 **Withdrawal**: Boats withdrawing from a race shall inform the Race Committee as soon as practicable, either directly or on VHF Channel 73. Any boat unable to contact the Race Committee directly shall report its withdrawal to the NYC Dock Office (Tel: 401-846-9410) and request that the information be relayed to the Race Committee.

14.3 **PFD Requirement**: By Rhode Island law, children under 13 years of age shall wear a USCG-approved personal flotation device (PFD) when aboard a boat unless they are below decks or in an enclosed cabin.

14.4 **Large Commercial Vessel Traffic**: Narragansett Bay is a restricted waterway for commercial traffic. The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) informed all area race committees that incidents occurred wherein racing yachts came too close to vessels with limited maneuverability, and which can only navigate safely within the designated channel. The USCG will sanction any area clubs whose events result in these incidents.

Therefore, a **racing yacht shall keep clear of commercial vessels operating in navigation channels.** *[See Amalgamated International & U.S. Inland Navigation Rules 9(b): "A… sailing vessel shall not impede the passage of a vessel that can safely navigate only within a narrow channel or fairway."]*

A racing yacht whose actions result in a danger signal of 5 or more short horn blasts from a commercial vessel (meaning "I do not understand your intentions" or "You are not taking sufficient action to avoid collision") will be protested by the race committee or protest committee. The protest committee may, at its discretion, impose a penalty for breaking this rule up to disqualification that is not excludable (DNE) from one or more races. This changes RRS 64.2.

14.5 Racers must comply with any direction provided by the USCG, Harbor Master, other on-the-water law enforcement, or the NYC Race Committee.

15 RISK STATEMENT

15.1 RRS 3 states: 'The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing 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 strong winds and rough seas, sudden changes in weather, equipment failures, boat-handling errors, poor seamanship by other boats, loss of balance on an unstable platform, and fatigue, which can increase the risk of injury. **Inherent in the sport of sailing is the risk of permanent, catastrophic injury or death by drowning, trauma, hypothermia, or other causes.**

15.2 The OA accepts no liability for material damage, personal injury, or death sustained in conjunction with, before, during, or after the series.

16 FURTHER INFORMATION

16.1 For further information, please get in touch with the Newport Yacht Club Regatta Committee via email at regatta@newportyachtclub.org.