



PortlandYacht.com

Sailing Instructions

2026 Rhodes 18 National Championships
August 7-8, 2026
Biddeford Pool Yacht Club, Biddeford Pool, ME

1. Rules

The regatta will be governed by the current rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing*, including the prescriptions of US Sailing and the International Rhodes 18 Racing Association, except as modified by these Sailing Instructions.

2. Changes to Sailing Instructions

2.1 Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted on Clubspot, the Notice Board before 0900 on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 2000 on the day before it will take effect.

2.2 Changes to a sailing instruction may be made on the water by hailing each boat from the Committee Boat and announcing on VHF Channel 72.

3. Entries

Competitors may enter by completing an entry form and paying the required entry fee online at www.biddefordpoolyachtclub.org before 8 AM on August 7, 2026.

4. Notices to Competitors

4.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on Clubspot and the official notice board located on the Outside Lockers at the Biddeford Pool Yacht Club (BPYC).

4.2 On the water, the race committee intends to monitor VHF radio channel 72.

5. Signals Made Ashore

5.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed from the flagpole located at BPYC.

5.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, "1 minute" is replaced with "not less than 45 minutes" in the Race Signals AP.

6. Schedule

6.1 A competitors' meeting will be held at 9am on August 7 at the Biddeford Pool Yacht Club. The warning signal for the first race of the day will be at the time described during the Competitors' Meeting or Annual Meeting. Subsequent races will be held as soon as practicable after the end of the previous race. There will be a maximum of five (5) races on either day and a maximum of seven (7) races during the regatta.

6.2 On the last scheduled day of racing, no warning signal will be made after 1600.

7. Racing Area

The racing area will be in the Southwest portion of Saco Bay, Maine. A race Circular *may* be distributed showing the racing area(s).

8. Courses and Marks

8.1 The courses will be Windward-Leeward, with between two and five total legs.

8.2 The course and approximate direction of the windward mark will be designated on a white board on the committee boat.

8.3 All marks will be inflatable orange or yellow tetrahedrons or orange/red or white balls.

8.4 Unless otherwise notified on the Notice Board, at the Competitors' Meeting, or by radio, an offset mark will be employed at the windward mark

8.5 A leeward gate may be substituted for the leeward mark if notified on the Notice Board, at the Competitors' Meeting, or by radio. In the event of a course change a leeward mark will be used instead of a gate.

8.6 All marks will be rounded to Port. Except If a leeward gate is utilized, in which case the gate marks must be passed between the two marks from the direction of the last mark.

9. Starting and Finishing

9.1 The starting and finishing lines will be between the course side of the starting/finishing marks at the port end of the line and the staff with an orange flag on the Committee Boat at the starboard end of the line.

9.2 The Starting System in RRS 26 of the racing rules will be used. A rapid series of horn blasts may be sounded approximately one minute before the Warning Signal.

9.3 If any part of a boat's hull is on the course side (OCS) of the starting line at her starting signal and she is identified, the race committee will attempt to hail her sail number as soon as practical after the start, both by voice and on VHF channel 72. Failure to hail her number, failure of her to hear such a hail, or the order in which boats are hailed will not be grounds for protest or a request for redress.

9.4 A boat that does not start within 20 minutes after her starting signal will be scored "Did Not Start" without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.1 and A5.2.

10. Penalty System

RRS 44.1 is changed so that the Two-Turns Penalty is replaced by the One-Turn Penalty for breaking a rule of Part 2.

11. Time Limit

11.1 The time limit for each race will be 75 minutes for the first boat to finish.

11.2 Boats not finishing within 30 minutes of the first boat will be scored DNF.

12. Protests

12.1 Protests shall be delivered to the BPYC Office within 90 minutes after the race committee finish boat docks.

12.2 The protest time limit and a list of protests received will be posted on the notice board.

12.3 Hearings will be held as soon as practicable after racing each day at the Biddeford Pool Yacht Club.

13. Scoring

13.1 Scoring will be conducted as per Appendix A4 of the RRS, with the following modifications:

13.1.1 Seven (7) races are scheduled. If at least six (6) races are completed, each boat's worst score will be excluded from her series score.

13.1.2 One race constitutes a series.

13.1.3 Tiebreakers will be determined by Appendix A8.

14. Replacement of Crew or Equipment

14.1 Substitution of competitors is not allowed without prior approval of the Executive Committee.

14.2 Substitution of damaged or lost equipment is not allowed unless authorized by the Executive Committee. Requests for substitution shall be made to the Committee at the first reasonable opportunity, which may be after the race.

15. Equipment and Measurement Checks

A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules, notice of race and sailing instructions.

16. Mark Boats

If at all possible, a mark boat will lead the fleet around the course from the preceding mark. At the finish, the mark boat will be stationed beyond the finish line. Failure of a mark boat to be on course or station will not be grounds for seeking redress.

17. Haul Out Restrictions

Boats shall not be dry sailed during the event except with and according to the terms of prior permission of the Executive Committee.

18. Diving Equipment and Plastic Pools

Underwater breathing apparatus and plastic pools or their equivalent shall not be used between the preparatory signal of the first race and the end of the last race of the event.

19. Insurance

Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of \$100,000 per incident or the equivalent.

20. Risk Statement

RRS 3 states: 'The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue to race 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, failure of equipment, boat handling errors, poor seamanship by other boats, loss of balance on an unstable platform and fatigue resulting in increased 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.