

# What's New for the 2026 Pret Gladding Memorial Race

## A quick guide to this year's updates

### 1. Two Racing Classes

- A new Spinnaker Class has been added alongside the traditional Non-Spinnaker (Cruising) Class.
- Boats must declare their class at registration and race using the corresponding PHRF rating.
- Results will be scored separately for each class.

### 2. Continuous Pursuit Start

- The race will continue to use a pursuit start, with slower boats starting first.
- Start times are calculated based on PHRF ratings and course distance.
- Starts will be run as one continuous sequence - boats from different classes may start interspersed.
- Competitors should focus on their assigned start time rather than class grouping on the water.

### 3. Multiple Course Options

- In the event of light air or a late sea breeze, the Race Committee may select from several published short course options. The intent is to continue using the around-the-island format if possible.
- Only one course will be sailed for the event.
- The selected course will be announced prior to the first start by course board and/or VHF.

### 4. Start-Time Calculations

- Start times are calculated using standard PHRF time-on-distance methods.
- For race management purposes, start times may be rounded to the nearest minute.
- This approach keeps starts simple and predictable on the water.

### 5. What Hasn't Changed

- This remains a fun, around-the-island pursuit race for cruising boats and friends.
- The emphasis is still on safe sailing, sportsmanship, and finishing close together.
- Crews of family and friends are strongly encouraged.

Questions? Please contact the Race Committee at [racing@barringtonyc.com](mailto:racing@barringtonyc.com)