



2026 BLUE GAUNTLET CHALLENGE

Notice of Race — 3v3 RS Venture Team Race *Northeast Harbor Sailing School*

The Blue Gauntlet Challenge is a one-day, 3-on-3 team race best-of series hosted by the Northeast Harbor Sailing School (NEHSS), racing against the Kollegewidgwok Sailing Education Association (KSEA), on the waters of Mount Desert Island, Maine. The Challenge is sailed between two teams of three boats each in RS Venture boats provided by NEHSS. This is the 1st edition of the event.

1 ORGANIZING AUTHORITY

1.1 The organizing authority is Northeast Harbor Sailing School, 48 South Shore Road, Northeast Harbor, ME 04662 — (207) 276-5101 — director@nehss.org.

1.2 Principal Race Officer: Nick Johnstone — nehfgeneralmanager@gmail.com

2 RULES

2.1 The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), including **Appendix D, Team Racing Rules**, as further changed by the Sailing Instructions.

2.2 The Northeast Harbor Sailing School Race Committee will use the Northeast Harbor Fleet's Instructions, Mark Descriptions, and Emergency Protocols, as published on the NEHF Information & Resources page at nehfleet.org, apply and are incorporated into this Notice of Race by reference.

2.3 The RS Venture class rules apply, except as modified by these sailing instructions and the team racing format of this event.

2.4 RRS Appendix D modifies several Part 2 rules and the definitions of Finish and Interested Party; competitors unfamiliar with team racing are encouraged to review Appendix D before racing.

3 ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

3.1 The Blue Gauntlet Challenge is sailed between two teams of three boats each, racing 3v3 under RRS Appendix D: The **Northeast Harbor Sailing School** and **Kollegewidgwok Sailing Education Association (KSEA)**.

3.2 Each team shall consist of 6-9 sailors (2-3 per boat with up to 3 substitutes allowed on the water), sufficient to crew three boats simultaneously and to allow for substitutions between races in accordance with Section 14 of the Sailing Instructions.

3.3 Team rosters shall be submitted to the Race Committee at the Competitor's Meeting. **There is no entry fee for this event.**

4 SCHEDULE

August 4th, 2026

12:00 PM	Competitors' meeting (mandatory, one representative per boat)
1:00 PM	First warning signal / racing begins
3:45 PM	No warning signal will be made after this time
4:15 PM (or sooner)	Awards, at the Northeast Harbor Sailing School
Following awards	Informal gathering for competitors at the Sailing School

4.1 This is a one-day event. No race will be started after 3:45 PM.

4.2 Up to seven races are scheduled, sailed as a single match series; see Section 5 (Team Racing Format) for the Organizing Authority's discretion to shorten the series if conditions worsen.

5 TEAM RACING FORMAT

5.1 This event is contested as a team race series between two teams of three boats each (3v3), sailed under RRS Appendix D.

5.2 The series is planned as best-of-seven: the first team to win four (4) races wins the series and the Blue Gauntlet Challenge. There is no round-robin pool play; every race sailed counts directly toward the series score.

5.3 The Organizing Authority may, before or during the event, due to deteriorating conditions or insufficient time or daylight, shorten the series to a best-of-five (first team to win 3 races), a best-of-three (first team to win 2 races), or a single race (best-of-one), in which case the winner of that race wins the Challenge. Any such change will be announced to both teams and posted on the Notice Board.

5.4 Racing will, so far as practicable, be umpired on the water under RRS Appendix D5, with on-the-water decisions being final and not subject to further protest or request for redress (RRS D5.3, D5.4).

6 BOATS

6.1 Racing will be sailed exclusively in RS Venture boats provided by Northeast Harbor Sailing School.

6.2 Boat assignments for each team will be provided in the spreadsheet document labeled *Boat Rotations* on the Online Notice Board.

6.3 Sails and any class-controlled equipment will be supplied with each boat and shall not be altered or substituted without the permission of the Race Committee.

7 SAFETY

7.1 All competitors shall comply with the Northeast Harbor Sailing School Emergency Protocols.

7.2 Race Committee/safety boat communications will be on VHF channel 65.

7.3 USCG approved personal flotation devices shall be worn by competitors at all times.

8 FURTHER INFORMATION

8.1 For further information, please contact the Northeast Harbor Sailing School Race Office at director@nehss.org or (207) 276-5101.

9 PRIZES

9.1 The Blue Gauntlet Challenge does not have an agreed upon perpetual trophy between the Northeast Harbor Sailing School and Kollegewidgwok Sailing Education Association. An award of some sort will be handed out and plans to create a perpetual trophy may be decided between the two programs after racing for future use.

10 DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

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