



The Whalers Race
OA: New Bedford Yacht Club Regatta Association
New Bedford Yacht Club
208 Elm Street, Dartmouth, MA USA
June 6, 2026
Notice of Race



The traditional New Bedford Yacht Club Whalers Race dates back to 1932. The race starts and finishes outside Padanaram Harbor and includes marks off Cuttyhunk Island, Nomans Land and Block Island. Buzzards Horn is left to port on the return trip.

1. RULES

- 1.1.** The event is governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing*.
- 1.2.** Rule 60.4(a)(2) is changed as follows: (2) if it alleges a breach of a rule of Part 2 or rule 31 and is from a boat that was not involved in, and did not see, the incident, or...
- 1.3.** The US Sailing prescription to RRS 63.1 is deleted
- 1.4.** The penalty for a boat that has broken a rule, other than a part 2 rule, shall be at the sole discretion of the protest committee and may be different than disqualification.
This changes RRS 60.5(c)
- 1.5.** All yachts shall comply with the U.S. Sailing Safety Equipment Rules for Coastal Racing with the following modifications:
 - 1.5.1.** For Monohulls, Section 3.7.2 (Additional Man Overboard Pole), Section 3.16.2 (EPIRB/PLB) and Section 4.3.2 (Safety at Sea Seminar) are all strongly recommended but not required.
 - 1.5.2.** For Multihulls, SER multihull regulations for coastal racing require that mainsail luff shall be able to be reduced (reefed), by 50% is waived.

2. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1.** The Sailing Instructions will be available on the Official Notice board before 1700 on June 5, 2026

3. COMMUNICATIONS

- 3.1.** The official Notice Board is located online on the event website.
- 3.2.** [DP] All boats shall carry a working VHF radio.
- 3.3.** [NP] On the water, the race committee may make courtesy broadcasts to competitors on the VHF channel designated in the Sailing Instructions.
- 3.4.** Emergency communication channels are VHF 16 for the Harbor Master, and the NBYC Dockmaster monitors VHF channel 68
- 3.5.** [DP] While racing, from the first warning signal till the end of the last race of the day, except in an emergency, a boat shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communications that are not available to all boats.

4. ELIGIBILITY, ENTRY AND CREW LIMITATIONS

- 4.1.** The regatta is open to all yachts with a minimum overall length of 21 feet.
- 4.2.** Owners must have a 2026 PHRF-NE certificate or a 2026 NEMA certificate.

- 4.3. A completed entry form along with a 2026 PHRF-NE certificate or a 2026 NEMA certificate must be submitted to the NBYC office by 1700 hours on Friday May 29, 2026.
- 4.4. All entries shall be made online at www.nbyc.com/racing
- 4.5. Classes and Divisions
- 4.5.1 Long Course
- Multihulls
 - PHRF Spinnaker
 - PHRF Doublehanded Spinnaker
 - PHRF Under 25 Fully Crewed Spinnaker
- 4.5.2 Short Course
- PHRF Non Spinnaker
 - Double handed Non Spinnaker
- 4.6. If there are not enough double handed entries, they will be scored in cruising or racing class and also qualify for double handed trophies.
- 4.7. For “Under 25 fully crewed Spinnaker”, not more than 40% of the crew shall reach their 26th birthday before June 6, 2026

5. SCHEDULE

5.1.

| Date | Time | Event |
|----------------------------|-------------|--|
| Registration Open | | Registration is open on yachtscoring.com |
| Late registration | 0900 | Expedited tracker shipping |
| Monday June 1, 2026 | 1000 | Entries Close |
| Friday June 5, 2026 | 1800 | Skippers Meeting and Welcome Reception |
| Saturday June 6, 2026 | 1100 | First Warning Signal |
| TBD | 1800 | Perpetual trophies awarded at NBYC Annual Awards |

6. FEES

- 6.1. The entry fee is \$150.

7. VENUE

- 7.1. The race starts and finishes outside Padanaram Harbor and includes marks off Cuttyhunk Island, Nomans Land and Block Island. Buzzards Horn is left to port on the return trip.

8. COURSES

8.1. Long Course -

Start – RG “AB” Gong and Committee Boat

R “36” Bell - Sow and Pigs Reef southwest of Cuttyhunk Island, leave to port

Virtual Mark located at N041°12’15” W070°50’, leave to starboard

R “4” Whistle – 0.5 miles southwest of South West Point, Block Island, leave to starboard
G “1BI” Bell – north of Block Island, leave to starboard
Buzzards Horn - 3.7 miles southwest of Cuttyhunk Island, leave to port
G “7” Gong – Wilkes Ledge 2 miles southeast of Mishaum Point, leave to port
RG “AB” Gong - 1.8 miles south southeast of Padanaram breakwater, leave to port
NBYC Race Mark “A” – south of Padanaram breakwater

8.2. Short Course –

Start – RG “AB” Gong and Committee Boat

R “36” Bell - Sow and Pigs Reef southwest of Cuttyhunk Island, leave to port
Virtual Mark located at N041°12’15” W070°50’

Narragansett Bay Entrance, Lighted whistle Buoy “NB:

Buzzards Horn - 3.7 miles southwest of Cuttyhunk Island, leave to port

G “7” Gong – Wilkes Ledge 2 miles southeast of Mishaum Point, leave to port

RG “AB” Gong - 1.8 miles south southeast of Padanaram breakwater, leave to port
NBYC Race Mark “A” – south of Padanaram breakwater

9. SCORING

9.1. All yachts must submit their Certificate of Compliance handed out at the Skippers Meeting. **No finish will be recognized without a completed and signed Certificate and YB tracker return.** The Certificate must be signed by two persons in charge of the vessel: the owner and navigator.

9.1.1. [DP] The original signed certificate must be filed at the New Bedford Yacht Club office by 1500, Sunday, June 8th.

10. EVENT VESSEL TRACKING

- 10.1.** Each boat shall carry a YB GPS tracker supplied by the Organizing Authority at the Competitor’s Meeting.
- 10.2.** Each entry shall provide credit card information as security for the tracker when they pick up their tracker. The credit card will not be charged until and unless the entry fails to return the tracker at the of the race in good working order less normal wear and tear. If the entry fails to return the tracker, they will be charged the full replacement cost (approximately \$1,100).
- 10.3.** The tracker shall be mounted and maintained in accordance with the instructions supplied with the unit.
- 10.4.** [DP] The tracker shall be returned to the NBYC Race Office with the completed Certificate of Compliance on Sunday June 7, 2026 by 3pm.
- 10.5.** Failure to return the GPS Position Locating Transponder may result in DSQ or other penalty without a hearing.
- 10.6.** Trackers returned late will be charged for hazardous material shipping and any late return penalties imposed by the provider. Special arrangements for individual boats to pick up and/or return trackers at an alternate time or place must be coordinated with the Race Office at least one week prior to the event.

11. BERTHING

- 11.1. Visiting boats can be assigned a mooring for use before and after the race. Contact the NBYC office at (508)997-0762 or VHF channel 68 to obtain an available mooring.
- 11.2. [DP] Boats shall be kept in their assigned places while in the harbor.

12. PRIZES

- 12.1. Awards will be given for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each class depending on the number of entries.
- 12.2. Perpetual trophies will be awarded at the NBYC Annual Awards Dinner
 - Frank Vining Smith Trophy - Spinnaker Class
 - R. Eugene Ashley Memorial Trophy – Non Spinnaker Class
 - Narada Challenge Cup - Double-handed Class
- 12.3. Participation in the Whalers Race is mandatory to be eligible for the James E. Stanton, Jr. Trophy and the results will be used to calculate the winner of the Trophy.
- 12.4. The Whalers Race is also part of the Buzzards Bay Trophy; joint effort between the Bay clubs. It consists of 6 races, where 4 are mandatory to qualify.

13. ADVERTISING AND PHOTOGRAPHY

- 13.1. Boats may be required to display advertising chosen and supplied by the organizing authority.
- 13.2. By participating in this regatta, each competitor grants to the organizing authority and its members, the regatta sponsors, and each class association the right in perpetuity to make, use and show, and to license any other person to so make, show and use, from time to time at their discretion, any photographs, sound recordings, motion pictures and live, taped or filmed television or other reproductions of them or their property made during the period of the regatta without compensation to such competitor.

14. RISK STATEMENT

- 14.1. 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.**
- 14.2. The Organizing Authority and hosts will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during or after the regatta.

15. FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information please go to www.nbyc.com/racing or contact: NBYC Sailing Director Brianna Grenier brianna@nbyc.com