



Royal Victoria Yacht Club
NOTICE OF RACE
Thermopylae Race Sept 13, 2026



Built in Aberdeen in 1868 the clipper ship “Thermopylae” was the fastest ship on the planet towards the end of the age of sail, surpassed only by the famous “Cutty Sark” which is reported to have been built explicitly to beat the records previously set by Thermopylae. As her apogee passed, Thermopylae was used for fast cargo transport between the West Coast of North America and Asia. Between 1891 and 1895 Thermopylae made Victoria her home port, carrying rice and lumber between Victoria and Rangoon. She met her end off Portugal in 1912.

The “Thermopylae Trophy” is a miniature replica of the ceremonial ships bell and was presented in 1968 to RVYC by the “Thermopylae Club” to commemorate the launching of the clipper ship Thermopylae and to encourage the continued pursuit of high performance sailing.

The trophy is awarded to the overall winner of a 14-25 mile race off the Victoria waterfront among handicap rated keelboats.



2026 Thermopylae Trophy Race Notice of Race

The Royal Victoria Yacht Club (RVYC) is the Organizing Authority (OA) for this event.

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1. RULES AND CHANGES TO THE RACING RULES

1.1. RULES

- 1.1.1. The race will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing;
- 1.1.2. The prescriptions of Sail Canada will apply available at [Sail Canada Prescriptions to the Racing Rules of Sailing 2025-2028](#);
- 1.1.3. PHRF-BC Rules and measurements apply concerning boats configuration and sails;
- 1.1.4. Any changes detailed in this Notice of Race and the Individual Race Sailing Instructions

1.2.CHANGES TO RACING RULES

RRS 44.1 is changed so that the Two-Turns Penalty is replaced by the One-Turn Penalty.

2. DIVISIONS AND RATINGS

2.1.DIVISIONS

These division splits will be in effect for the 2025/26 Trophy Races.

- 2.1.1. Division 1 – PHRF-BC Rating up to 120
- 2.1.2. Division 2 – PHRF-BC Rating 121 to 169
- 2.1.3. Division 3 – PHRF-BC Rating 170 and over

2.2.RATINGS

- 2.2.1. All boats are to have a valid 2026 PHRF-BC rating.
- 2.2.2. Boats with ratings other than PHRF-BC will be converted to PHRF-BC at no charge.
- 2.2.3. Each boat should be prepared to produce a valid PHRF certificate.
- 2.2.4. Boats that do not have a valid PHRF-BC or an official conversion will not be scored.

3. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

The series is open to all sailboats that meet the registration, rating, insurance and safety requirements. See paragraphs 2, 4, 13, 14.



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3.1. ENTRY FEE

There is no entry fee for the series.

4. REGISTRATION

4.1. Registration is required for all boats intending to race. Register at: [Thermopylae Trophy Race](#) page on Clubspot

4.2. To ensure proper registration, the skipper of each boat should:

4.2.1. Review the entry list for the race at the Clubspot page and confirm that the registration is correct.

4.2.2. If a boat is registered for the series but the registration details are incorrect, then the skipper must notify the organizing authority at scorekeeper@rvyc.ca of the corrections required in advance of the registration deadline specified in paragraph 4.3 below.

4.3. Registration Deadline.

4.3.1. Boats must register no later than 0900 on the day of the race.

4.3.2. Boats must register for each race of the trophy race series.

5. COURSE, START AND TIME LIMITS

5.1. The start of the Thermopylae Trophy Race will be in the vicinity of Clover Point and Ross Bay with the course being off the waterfront of Victoria.

5.2. The scheduled time of the warning signal is 10:25 GNSS (Local)

6. MULTIHULL CLASS

Multihull vessels are welcome to compete in the race in their own division. They are not, however, eligible to win the series or individual race trophies due to incompatible handicap ratings. They will be recognized separately in the fashion of the keelboat division winners.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

7.1. No signals will be made ashore.

7.2. Race Committee shall communicate with the fleet via VHF Channel 09.

7.3. Courtesy information may be posted to the [Royal Victoria WhatsApp Trophy Race Group](#)



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8. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

The sailing instructions for the race will be available no later than 1800 on the Thursday prior via Club Spot at the [Thermopylae Trophy Race](#) page on Clubspot

9. SCORING

9.1. Scoring will be based on PHRF time-on-time.

9.2. Scoring for the Challenge Cup will be calculated on the results of the five Trophy Races with no throw-outs. See Section 10 PRIZES.

10. PRIZES

10.1. The Thermopylae Trophy will be awarded to the overall winner on corrected time.

10.2. CHALLENGE CUP

10.2.1. The winner of the RVYC Keelboat Trophy Series is based on the results of the five trophy races. There are no throw outs in the series. A boat that registered in any race is deemed to be registered for all races and scored accordingly. The overall series winner is awarded the Challenge Cup which will be presented at the annual RVYC Awards Night.

10.2.2. The 2025/26 RVYC Keelboat Trophy Series consists of the Royal Victoria Yacht Club's five Distance Keelboat trophy races:

The Virtue Cup (raced) October 26, 2025
The Whitehouse Cup (raced) March 1, 2026
The Lipton Cup (raced) June 13, 2026
The William Head Race (raced) July 11, 2026
The Thermopylae Trophy Race September 13, 2026

11. BERTHING

Visiting boats may be provided moorage at the venue for the nights before and after the race, subject to availability. The skippers of visiting boats should notify Royal Victoria Yacht Club's foreshore office at 250.592.3433 or foreshore@rvyc.bc.ca, of their berthing requirements at their earliest convenience. Visiting boats may be required to raft together.

12. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY



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

13. INSURANCE

Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of \$2,000,000CDN.

14. SAFETY

- 14.1. Safety of the yacht and crew is the sole responsibility of the owner/skipper.
- 14.2. All competitors shall comply with the boating safety regulations as issued by the government of their registry.
- 14.3. It is recommended that competitors wear PFDs at all times during racing.
- 14.4. When considering the safety of their vessels all skippers are advised to review Sail Canada/World Sailing Special Regulations:

Category 4 Monohulls

https://www.sailing.ca/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/2026-Mo4_2026-2027_v1.pdf

Category 4 Multihulls

https://www.sailing.ca/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/2026-Mu4_2026-2027_v1.pdf

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