



2026 BLUE GAUNTLET CHALLENGE

Sailing Instructions — 3v3 RS Venture Team Race Northeast Harbor Sailing School

1 RULES

- 1.1 The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) 2025–2028, including **Appendix D, Team Racing Rules**, and these Sailing Instructions.
- 1.2 The Northeast Harbor Sailing School Race Committee Instructions, Mark Descriptions, and Emergency Protocols published at [NEHSS website] apply and are incorporated by reference.
- 1.3 Appendix D modifies several rules of Part 2, including changes to the definitions of Finish and Interested Party and the rule on interference by a boat that is not racing.

2 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

- 2.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the official Notice Board at the Northeast Harbor Sailing School, 48 South Shore Road, Northeast Harbor, and on the regatta's Notice Board at <https://theclubspot.com/regatta/wOhYvFRxFw>.

3 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 3.1 Any change to these Sailing Instructions will be posted before 11:00 AM on August 4, 2026, except that any change made during the day will be announced on the water and posted on the Notice Board as soon as possible.

4 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 4.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed at the Race Office flagpole.
- 4.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 30 minutes' in the race signal AP.

5 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

5.1 This is a one-day event, Tuesday, August 4, 2026. No warning signal will be made after 3:45 PM.

6 FORMAT

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

6.2 The series is planned as a 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.

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

7 BOATS AND ASSIGNMENTS

7.1 Racing will be sailed exclusively in RS Venture boats provided by the Northeast Harbor Sailing School. Each race will be sailed by all six boats (three per team).

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

7.3 A competitor shall not change or adjust the equipment supplied with an assigned boat except with the permission of the Race Committee.

7.4 Spinnakers and gennakers shall not be flown at any time on the water.

8 RACING AREA AND COURSE

8.1 The racing area will be on Great Harbor or Somes Sound, as conditions dictate, as shown on the Northeast Harbor Sailing School Race Mark Charts. The Race Committee will announce the racing area at or before the competitors' meeting.

8.2 The course will be a port-rounding box course: a short team racing course on which all marks are rounded to port. The specific course diagram and marks for this event will be posted on the online Notice Board and signaled by the Race Committee before the first warning signal.

8.3 Marks will be as described in the Northeast Harbor Sailing School Mark Descriptions; team racing marks may differ from standard fleet-racing marks and will be confirmed at the competitors' meeting.

9 THE START

9.1 Races will be started using a 3-minute, all-audible starting sequence. This is a local modification to RRS 26, authorized by these Sailing Instructions. No flag signals will be used to conduct the start; the sound sequence below replaces the flag sequence prescribed by RRS 26. The starting line will be between staff displaying an orange flag at one end and a mark at the other.

9.2 The starting sequence is as follows:

Countdown	Sounds
3:00	3 long sounds — Warning, sequence begins
2:00	2 long sounds
1:30	1 long sound + 3 short sounds
1:00	1 long sound — Preparatory
0:30	3 short sounds
0:20	2 short sounds
0:10	1 short sound
0:05 to 0:01	5 — 4 — 3 — 2 — 1 (one short sound per second)
0:00	1 long sound — Starting signal GO

9.3 A long sound is approximately four seconds in duration; a short sound is approximately one second in duration. All sounds will be made by the Race Committee start vessel.

9.4 If a sound signal is missed or indistinct, competitors should rely on elapsed time and any subsequent signals. A failure of a sound signal shall not be grounds for requesting redress under RRS 62.

9.5 Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the racing area and any boats racing.

10 THE FINISH

10.1 The finishing line will be between staff displaying a blue flag at one end and a mark at the other.

11 PENALTY SYSTEM AND UMPIRING

11.1 RRS Appendix D5, On-the-Water Umpiring, will apply. Umpires will signal their decisions as follows:

Umpire signal	Meaning
Green flag	No penalty
Red flag, with repeated point toward the boat at fault	One or more boats penalized (Appendix D rule D2.4)
Black flag	A boat has been penalized and must retire (Appendix D)
Repetitive sounds	Attracting attention

11.2 Umpire decisions are final. No protests or requests for redress will be accepted from boats arising from incidents that are or could have been seen by an umpire, except as provided in RRS D5.4 (decisions involving the rules of Part 1, equipment, or eligibility, and certain redress situations).

11.3 Where umpiring is not available for a given race due to a shortage of umpire boats, standard fleet-racing protest procedures (RRS Part 5) will apply instead for that race, and this will be announced before racing begins.

12 RETIREMENT AND TIME LIMITS

12.1 Each race will have a target duration of approximately 8-15 minutes, to allow as many races as possible before the 3:45 PM cutoff.

12.2 A team that does not have a boat ready to start within the starting sequence may be scored a loss for that race at the Race Committee's discretion.

12.3 If a race cannot be completed or is abandoned, it will be resailed at the discretion of the Race Committee, time and conditions permitting, and will not count toward the series score.

13 SCORING

13.1 Each race will be scored under RRS Appendix D1: each boat's finishing position is assigned points equal to her finishing place (1st = 1 point, 2nd = 2 points, and so on); the team with the lower total of points wins that race.

13.2 The first team to win a majority of the races scheduled for the series in effect under Section 6 (Format) — four (4) of seven, three (3) of five, two (2) of three, or the single race if the series has been shortened to one — wins the series and the Blue Gauntlet Challenge.

13.3 If racing must be curtailed by the 3:45 PM cutoff before the series is decided, the team leading in races won at that time wins the series. If the series is tied at that time, the Organizing Authority will sail a single tie-breaking race if time allows; if no further racing is possible, the Organizing Authority will determine the result.

14 TEAM AND CREW SUBSTITUTIONS

14.1 Unlimited substitutions are permitted between races, from a team's roster declared at registration.

14.2 No sailor may compete for both teams during the event.

14.3 Substitution of a boat's crew mid-race is not permitted except in case of injury or safety concern, and then only with the permission of the Race Committee or the on-the-water umpires.

15 BOAT DAMAGE REPORTING

15.1 Competitors are responsible for reporting any damage to a Northeast Harbor Sailing School boat to the Race Committee immediately upon return to the dock, however minor.

16 SAFETY REGULATIONS

16.1 A boat that retires from a race shall notify the Race Committee as soon as possible.

16.2 Race Committee and safety boats shall monitor VHF channel 65. Competitors are required to carry a means of communication consistent with Northeast Harbor Sailing School Emergency Protocols.

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

17 RADIO COMMUNICATION

17.1 Except as provided in SI 17.2 or in an emergency, a boat racing shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication not available to all boats, other than hailing permitted under RRS Appendix D and communication with the Race Committee on VHF channel 65, which all boats shall monitor at all times while racing.

18 PRIZES

18.1 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.

18.2 An informal gathering for competitors will follow the awards ceremony at the Sailing School.

19 DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

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