



**The 2026 August Cruise
Northeast Harbor Fleet
SAILING INSTRUCTIONS (SIs)**

The notation '[NP]' in a rule means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1(a).

The notation '[DP]' in a rule means that a protest committee has discretion in assessing a penalty for a boat which breaks this rule.

1. RULES

All events are governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing For 2025-2028.

2. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted before 1000 on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 1900 on the day before it will take effect. Changes will be posted at <https://www.nehfleet.org/regatta/8UZk9nOokK>. Race scheduling, postponement and series score information shall also be communicated electronically by the [NEHF August Cruise Whatsapp Group](#) or VHF Channel 65.

3. COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

3.1 The official online notice board is located at <https://www.nehfleet.org/regatta/8UZk9nOokK>. Race scheduling, postponement and series score information shall also be communicated electronically by the NEHF August Cruise Whatsapp Group.

3.2 On the water, the Race Committee "RC" intends to monitor and communicate with competitors via VHF radio on channel 65.

3.3 [DP] While racing until 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 communication that is not available to all boats.

4. CODE OF CONDUCT

[DP] Competitors and support persons shall comply with reasonable requests from Race Officials.

5. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

5.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed on or at The Northeast Harbor Fleet flagpole.

5.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 45 minutes' in race signals AP.

6. SCHEDULE OF RACES

Racing will be held Saturday, August 8 and Sunday, August 9, 2026. Races with starting times are noted on the Northeast Harbor Fleet Calendars and specific times will be posted on the online August Cruise Notice Board.

7. CLASS FLAGS

Saturday for the Pursuit Race: there will be no class flags flown, just the Northeast Harbor Fleet Burgee representing N, E, H & F Classes.

Sunday for the Corrected Time & One-Design Races: The N & E Class flag is a yellow field, The H Class flag will be the International One-Design class insignia over a white field & The F Class flag will be the Luders 16 class insignia over a white field.

8. RACING AREA

Racing will be conducted in the waters between Northeast Harbor and Seal Cove. The RC Signal Boat will communicate its location to all competitors on VHF 65.

9. COURSES

Competitors will see their class letter to the aft of the RC Signal Vessel 'Shearwater' Course Rack and course letter beside it for the course that competitor may be sailing i.e. 'H' to the left of '2' on the Course Rack signifies the IODs sailing Course 2. All classes courses will be posted on the Course Rack throughout all start sequences. Courses may include turns around islands and shoals as well as government marks and/or NEH Fleet marks. Please visit the Fleet Information & Resources page on our website to see our Race Mark Chart, Mark Descriptions, Emergency Protocols, Race Committee Instructions and many other great resources. Courses and exempt Government Marks are posted on the online Notice Board.

10. MARKS

All rounding marks are islands, ledges or shoals. The finish pin on Saturday and start pin on Sunday shall be an orange Robomark.

11. OBSTRUCTIONS

All government navigational buoys except those shown on the *Courses & Government Mark Exemptions* document on the online Notice Board, must be honored.

12. THE START

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8:

12.1 The RC signal vessel will announce a competitor's start time, no later than 11:00 the morning before racing, online on the August Cruise Notice Board and NEHF August Cruise Whatsapp Group. Competitors must declare whether they will be sailing with or without a spinnaker before 11:00 the morning before racing.

12.2 The starting line is between an orange flag displayed on the Signal Boat and the course side of the starting mark Q.

12.3 Boats shall avoid the starting area during the starting sequence for other slower boats.

12.4 If any part of a boat's hull is on the course side of the starting line at her starting signal and she is identified, the RC will attempt to hail its boat name or sail number. Failure to hail the name or number, failure of the competitor to hear such a hail, or the order in which boats are hailed will not be grounds for a redress request. This changes RRS 62.1(a).

12.5 A boat that does not start within ten minutes of her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.1 and A5.2.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9:

12.6 Appendix U Audible Sound Starting System replaces RRS 26 and permits changes to Race Signals and the corresponding rules in Part 3. The Appendix U3 is modified as follows:

Signal	Sound	Time Before Start
Attention	Long Electronic Tone	6 Minutes
Warning	1 Long Horn	5 Minutes
Preparatory	1 Long Horn	4 Minutes
	1 Long Horn	1 Minute
Starting	1 Long Horn	0 Seconds

12.7 The starting line is between an orange flag displayed on the Signal Boat and an orange Robomark located west of Dodge Point at Seal Cove.

12.8 Boats not in sequence shall avoid the starting area during another class's starting sequence.

12.9 If any part of a boat's hull is on the course side of the starting line at her starting signal and she is identified, the RC will attempt to hail its boat name or

sail number. Failure to hail the name or number, failure of the competitor to hear such a hail, or the order in which boats are hailed will not be grounds for a redress request. This changes RRS 62.1(a).

12.10 [NP] A boat that does not start within twelve minutes of her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.1 and A5.2.

13. CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

To change the next leg of the course, the RC will display flag C with repetitive sounds, the new compass bearing or new designated mark. The course will not be changed on Saturday due to it being a Pursuit Race, but the corrected/one-design races on Sunday may be changed. RC will additionally notify competitors on VHF 65 and NEHF August Cruise Whatsapp Group of any change to the next leg of the course. Failure to hear the change will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS A5.2, RRS 33(a)(2) & RRS 33(b).

14. THE FINISH

14.1 The finish line on Saturday is between an orange flag displayed on the Signal Boat and an orange Robomark just west of Dodge Point at Seal Cove.

14.2 The finish line on Sunday is between RC Signal Vessel 'Shearwater' and race mark Q to the west (competitors must pass the line from the south to finish).

14.3 If the RC is absent when a boat finishes, a competitor shall report her finishing time, her position in relation to other racing boats and to the RC at the first reasonable opportunity.

15. PENALTY SYSTEM

15.1 APPENDIX V1 PENALTY AT THE TIME OF AN INCIDENT

The first two sentences of RRS 44.1 are changed to: 'A boat may take a One-Turn Penalty when she may have broken one or more rules of Part 2 or RRS 31 in an incident while racing. However, when she may have broken one or more rules of Part 2 while in the zone around a mark other than a starting mark, her penalty shall be a Two-Turns Penalty.'

15.2 APPENDIX V2 PENALTY TAKEN AFTER A RACE

After a race, a boat that may have broken one or more rules of Part 2 or RRS 31 in an incident while racing may take a Post-Race Penalty for that incident. A boat takes the penalty by delivering a written notice to the race office that identifies the race number and when and where the incident occurred. The penalty shall be a 30% Scoring Penalty, calculated as stated in RRS 44.3(c). However, RRS 44.1(a) and (b) apply, and the penalty shall not be taken after a protest hearing involving the incident has begun.

16. TIME LIMITS

16.1 The Time Limit for the first boat to sail the course and finish shall be until sunset.

16.2 The Finishing Window is sunset. Boats failing to finish within the Finishing Window, and not subsequently retiring, penalized or given redress, will be scored Time Limit Expired (TLE) without a hearing. A boat scored TLE shall be scored points for the finishing place one more than the points scored by the last boat that finished within the Finishing Window. This changes RRS 35, A5.1, A5.2 and A10.

17. HEARING REQUESTS

17.1 The protest time limit is 60 minutes after the last boat finishes the last race of the day or the RC signals no more racing today, whichever is later. The time will be announced by the Signal Boat on VHF 65. If the protest filing is received after the protest time limit, then its acceptance is at the discretion of the Principal Race Officer. If the protesting party loses their hearing or the hearing is disallowed, then they may be required to jump into the water off the dinghy dock at Dow Point Farm on Saturday night at the discretion of the NEHF Race Committee or off the float at Gilpatrick after racing on Sunday.

17.2 Hearing request forms are required to be brought by competitors and will not be provided by the Race Committee.

17.3 Notices will be posted no later than 60 minutes after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Hearings will attempt to be held in the Fleet House within 1923 hours.

18. SCORING

18.1 Race scores on Saturday shall be the order in which boats finish.

18.2 Race scores on Sunday shall be calculated by the RC using PHRF Time on Time calculations for N & E Classes and the order in which boats finish for H & F Classes.

18.3 RRS A5.3 is modified and will apply as follows:

SCORES DETERMINED BY THE RC

A5.1 A boat that did not start, sail the course or finish, or comply with RRS 30.2, 30.3, 30.4 or 78.2, or that retires or takes a penalty under RRS 44.3(a), shall be scored accordingly by the RC without a hearing. Only the Protest Committee may take other scoring actions that worsen a boat's score.

A5.2 A boat that did not start or was disqualified shall be scored points for the finishing place one more than the number of boats entered in that race. A boat that is penalized under RRS 30.2 or that takes a penalty under RRS 44.3(a) shall be scored points as provided in RRS 44.3(c).

A5.3 If the notice of race or sailing instructions state that RRS A5.3 will apply, RRS A5.2 is changed so that a boat that came to the starting area but did not finish or retired shall be scored points for the finishing place one more than the number of boats that finished the race.

19. SAFETY REGULATIONS

19.1 [DP] Prior to the first race of the day a boat shall check in with the RC signal boat with a hail of boat name, helmsperson's name and number of souls aboard. A boat leaving the race course prior to the finish of the last race of the day shall notify the RC on VHF 65.

19.2 [DP] A boat that retires from a race shall notify the RC at the first reasonable opportunity.

19.3 [NP] Competitors shall have a personal flotation device for each soul aboard while racing. The Race Committee may mandate personal flotation devices to be worn for all competitors over VHF Channel 65 due to course conditions.

19.4 [NP] If an entry has only one person aboard, they shall have an operable VHF radio attached on their clothing.

20. REQUIRED SAFETY EQUIPMENT

20.1 [NP] All competitors are required to carry on board a means of retrieval for a person overboard.

20.2 [NP] All entries must carry an operable VHF radio at all times and monitor VHF 65.

21. TRASH DISPOSAL

Trash may be placed aboard official or support vessels, but competitors are urged to bring trash bags and/or modes of collecting their recyclables.

22. AWARDS

The Henry B. Cox Memorial will have keeper trophies for the best finish of the first day run for both N & E Classes. The Becton Bowl will have 1st, 2nd & 3rd place overall keeper trophies for both N & E Classes. The Thomas Gates Trophy will have a keeper trophy for the best finish of the first day run for H Class. The Edsel B. Ford Memorial Trophy will have 1st, 2nd & 3rd place overall keeper trophies for H Class. There will be an unnamed keeper trophy for the best finish of the first day run for F Class. F Class will have unnamed 1st, 2nd & 3rd place overall keeper trophies.

23. RISK STATEMENT

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.