

THAMES YACHT CLUB – 2026 CHOWDER SERIES

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

1. RULES:

- 1.1. The series will be governed by *The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS)*, the Prescriptions of US Sailing, rules of the PHRF of Eastern Connecticut and the rules of participating one-design classes.
- 1.2. Rules of the road provide commercial traffic with the right of way in a restricted channel. **Failure of a racing boat to keep clear, whether intentional or not, will result in disqualification. This is usually signaled by 5 horns from a ferry.**
- 1.3. Time-on-Time handicapping will be used for PHRF classes.
- 1.4. US Sailing sail numbers of rule 77 and appendix G are not required.
- 1.5. This is a non-spinnaker event. Whisker poles may be used. Trapezes are NOT permitted.
- 1.6. For the Ensign Class, the minimum crew requirement is reduced to two, the skipper and one other person.

2. ENTRIES:

- 2.1. Entries will be accepted or rejected and assigned to classes at the discretion of the Race Committee (RC).
- 2.2. Class assignment and handicaps will be based on the PHRF of Eastern Connecticut. At the discretion of the RC a handicap will be assigned to a boat without an established rating. The RC reserves the right to adjust any rating based on performance.

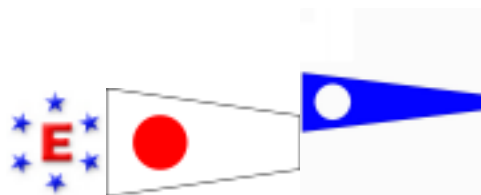
3. **CHANGES TO THE SAILING INSTRUCTIONS:** Any changes to the Sailing Instructions will be posted on the Racing Information bulletin board no later than one hour prior to the first warning on the day they are to take effect.

4. SCHEDULE OF RACES & THE START:

- 4.1. A single race is scheduled on each of the following Sundays: Sept. 20 & 27, October 4, 11, 18 and 25.
- 4.2. First Warning will be at 1300 each day.
- 4.3. Class assignments are given in the Scratch Sheet. Class flags are as follows;

Class Ensign Class 1 Class 2

Class Flag Ensign Class Flag Pennant 1 Pennant 2



- 4.4. Races will be started as provided in RRS 26, with classes starting in the order posted on the course board. It is intended to make the Warning Signal for a class simultaneously with the Starting Signal for the preceding class, although the RC retains the option of delaying any Warning Signal. The Preparatory Signal may be flag "P" or a Starting Penalty Flag - flag "I" (rule 30.1), flag "Z" (rule 30.2), flags "I" & "Z", or a Black flag (rule 30.3).
- 4.5. Boats whose Warning Signal has not been made shall keep clear of the starting area and of

all boats whose warning signal has been made. **Failure to comply may result in disqualification.**

4.6. Signals from ashore; The race committee may postpone or abandon before leaving the dock by broadcasting on Channel 72 and displaying the appropriate flags from the flagpole at the TYC dock, along with the appropriate sound signals. When a postponement is signaled from ashore, the starting sequence shall begin approximately 20 minutes after lowering AP along with one sound signal. Five horns will be sounded from the Queen Merry approximately one minute prior to the warning signal. This modifies the RRS description of Race Signals.

5. **SKIPPER'S MEETING;** No Skippers meeting is planned at this time.

6. **COURSE;**

- 6.1. Courses will be displayed on the Queen Merry. Marks and course designation procedures are as stipulated on the Course Symbols & Marks handout.
- 6.2. The starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the Queen Merry and a starting mark East or West of the Queen Merry.
- 6.3. Note the requirement to cross the starting line to begin the second round when the "2" symbol is used.
- 6.4. The RC may set as many as two Special Marks.
 - 6.4.1. Mark "E", yellow buoy "RD" located .5NM SW of Silver Eel at 41-15.2N, 72-2.6W
 - 6.4.2. Mark "M", an orange inflatable set southerly of the Queen Merry on the westerly side of the channel.
 - 6.4.3. Mark "B", an orange inflatable set northerly of the Queen Merry on the westerly side of the channel.

7. **RECALLS;**

- 7.1. Individual recalls will be signaled in accordance with Rule 29.1 and Race Signals. The RC will attempt to hail each boat over early via voice or VHF/FM Channel 72.
- 7.2. General Recall signals and procedures will be as specified in Rule 29.2 and Race Signals. The class recalled will be the next class to start. Normal starting sequence shall then resume.

8. **FINISH;**

- 8.1. The finish line shall be the same as the starting line unless the course is shortened.
- 8.2. Boats unable to finish are instructed to notify the RC before retiring from the race course.

9. **TIME LIMIT** – The time limit all classes is 1600, regardless of its starting time.

10. **RADIO COMMUNICATIONS;** VHF-FM Channel 72 will be used for communication between the race committee and competing boats. Except in an emergency, a boat shall neither make radio transmissions while racing nor receive communications not available to all boats. This restriction applies to mobile telephones and other portable devices.

11. **PROTESTS;**

- 11.1. A boat intending to protest shall follow Rule 61.1. A written protest shall be delivered to a race official at the clubhouse within one hour after the RC comes ashore, unless prevented from doing so through no fault of the protesting party, in which case the party shall provide notice as soon as reasonably possible on the day of the race.
- 11.2. Notices of protest hearings will be posted on the Racing Information bulletin board. It is intended that any protest be heard as soon as feasible after the day's racing. Failure of either party to appear may result in a judgment against the absentee.

12. SCORING:

- 12.1. The completion of any four (4) races shall constitute the Series. When four races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores.
- 12.2. If only one boat from a class starts a race, that boat shall be scored an average of their other series points for that race.
- 12.3. For every 5 races completed, there will be one score excluded from the final tally.
- 12.4. If a skipper is serving as Race Committee, a score that is the average of the other scores for this series actually raced (before throw-out) will be entered for that day's race.

13. PRIZES:

- 13.1. Individual race results will be announced at the Clubhouse after each race. Beer can trophies will be awarded weekly.
- 13.2. Series trophies will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place boats in each class with at least five (5) entrants.
- 13.3. The LITTLE BROWN JUG will be awarded to the Thames Yacht Club boat with the best Chowder series score. Ties will be resolved in accordance with rule Appendix A.

- 14. RACE COMMITTEE DUTY:** Each skipper in a Series will volunteer to staff the Race Committee (RC) for one race during either the Chili, Wednesday Night or Chowder Series. The skipper of record and at least two (2) regular crew members will report to the Rear Commodore or their representative no later than one hour before the first warning for RC duty. The boat assigned to RC will not participate in that race but will be scored an average of its other series points for that race. The schedule for RC duty is posted on the [TYC Racing page](#). Email the Rear Commodore to volunteer for a date (racing@thamesyc.org). Skippers participating in this series who have not signed up for a RC date by July 1st will be assigned a date.

- 15. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY:** Competitors participate entirely at their own risk; see Rule 4, 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 regatta.