

# THAMES YACHT CLUB 2026 WEDNESDAY NIGHT 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 (ferry blows 5 horns), whether intentional or not, will result in disqualification.**
- 1.3. Time-on-Time handicapping will be used for PHRF classes.
- 1.4. Boats racing shorthanded (single or double-handed) may use power assisted autopilots and winches. This changes RRS 52.

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.

3. **CHANGES TO THE SAILING INSTRUCTIONS:**

Any changes to the Sailing Instructions will be posted on the TYC Racing web site and the Regatta Network web site no later than one hour prior to the first warning on the day they are to take effect.


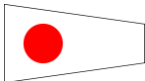



4. **SIGNALS FROM ASHORE:**

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 one minute prior to the warning signal. This modifies the RRS description of Race Signals.

5. **SCHEDULE OF RACES**

- 5.1. The races will be divided into two series, 7 races in the Spring Series (June 3-July 15) and 7 races in the Summer Series (July 22 - Sept. 2).
- 5.2. First Warning will be at 18:10 each day for the Spring Series and 18:00 each day for the Summer Series
- 5.3. **Skippers Meeting:** The skipper, or a representative of each boat shall meet at the clubhouse at 1700 on the day of the first race. The Course Symbols, and Marks handout will be made available at this meeting.

6. **CLASS FLAGS:** Class assignments are given in the Scratch Sheet. Class flags are as follows;

Class	Ensign	Class S1	Class C1	Class C2	Class C3
<b>Class Flag</b>	Ensign Class Flag	Pennant 1	Pennant 2	Pennant 3	Pennant 4
					

- 6.1. 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).
- 6.2. 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.**

7. **THE COURSES**

- 7.1. Courses will be displayed on the Queen Merry. Marks and course designation procedures are as stipulated on the [Course Symbols & Marks handout](#).
- 7.2. The starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the Queen Merry and an orange starting mark east or west of the Queen Merry.
- 7.3. Note the requirement to cross the starting line to begin the second round when the "2" symbol is used.
  - 7.3.1. Additional Symbol "A" shall not be used as a mark of the course when the symbol "2" is used.
- 7.4. The RC may set as many as two Special Marks.
  - 7.4.1. Mark "M", an orange inflatable set southerly of the Queen Merry on the westerly side of the channel.
  - 7.4.2. Mark "B", an orange inflatable set northerly of the Queen Merry on the westerly side of the channel.
  - 7.4.3. All Spinnaker classes will sail random leg courses

## 8. **RECALLS**

- 8.1. 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.
- 8.2. 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.

## 9. **FINISH**

- 9.1. The finish line will be between a staff displaying a blue (or orange) flag on the Queen Merry and a finishing mark east or west of the Queen Merry, unless the course is shortened.
- 9.2. Boats unable to finish shall notify the RC before retiring from the race course.

10. **TIME LIMIT** The time limit for all boats is 8:30 PM for the Spring Series. For the Summer Series, the last finishing time for all boats will be:
  - 10.1. 8:30 PM for July 22
  - 10.2. 8:15 PM for July 29 and Aug 5
  - 10.3. 8:00 PM for Aug 12, 19 and 26, and Sept 2
  - 10.4. If no boats in a class have finished within this time, the race will be abandoned for that class. Boats that have not finished within the time limit will be scored TLE (Time Limit Expired).

11. **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.

## 12. **PROTESTS;**

- 12.1. 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.
- 12.2. 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.
- 12.3. The following changes the applicable rule: Rule 60.4 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...

## 13. **SCORING;**

- 13.1. The series will be scored as provided in Appendix A of the RRS, using the Low-Point Scoring System. Rule A5.3 also applies.
  - 13.1.1. Rule A5.3. A boat that came to the starting area but did not start (DNS), did not sail the course (NSC), did not finish (DNF or TLE), retired (RET) or was disqualified (DSQ) shall be scored points for the finishing place one more than the number of boats that came to the starting area. A boat that did not come to the starting area (DNC) shall be scored one more than the number of boats entered in the division for this series that completed at least one race.
- 13.2. The completion of any five (5) races shall constitute a Series. When five races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores. When five or more than five (5) races have been completed, boats will be scored using their best five (5) scores.
- 13.3. If a skipper is serving as the Race Committee, he or she shall be considered as participating in the race and will score the average of the other race scores for that series actually sailed provided that the boat in question has completed at least 3 races in the Series (not including the race where skipper is serving as Race Committee) If a boat has not completed at least 3 races the average will be the average of all the other races.

- 13.4. If a racing skipper is attending a class regatta, in the same boat class as participating in this racing series, he or she shall receive a score that is the average of their other scores for that series.
- 13.5. If only one boat from a class starts a race, that boat shall be scored an average of their other series scores for that race.
- 13.6. A handicapped boat winning First or Second in the Spring series shall carry a penalty in the Summer series. The penalty shall be a reduction in PHRF rating of 6 seconds /mile for First place, and 3 seconds /mile for Second place.
- 13.7. Overall results will be based on a boat's best five scores from the Spring plus the best 5 from the Summer series. These will be combined for the overall series results.

14. **AWARDS:**

- 14.1. Race results will be announced at the Clubhouse after each race. Beer trophies will be awarded weekly.
- 14.2. Series trophies will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place boats in each class with at least five (5) entrants for the Spring and Summer as well as the Combined Series. Trophies will be awarded at Skippers' Night, at the TYC clubhouse.

15. **RACE COMMITTEE DUTY:** Each boat in the Series will volunteer to staff the Race Committee (RC) for one race during either the Wednesday Night or Chowder Series. The **skipper of record for the boat and at least two (2) regular crew members** will report to the Rear Commodore or his representative no later than 1715 for RC duty. **Boats participating in either series which have not signed up for a RC date by July 1st will be assigned a date.**

16. **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.