



PEQUOT YACHT CLUB

**2024**

**FRIDAY NIGHT CASUAL RACES**

# **SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

**HOSTED BY PEQUOT YACHT CLUB**

**The Pequot Yacht Club is the Organizing Authority.**

## **1. RULES AND ELIGIBILITY**

- 1.1. All races will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing (“RRS”), the prescriptions of US Sailing, the PHRF regulations of the Yacht Racing Association of Long Island Sound (YRA-LIS) and these Sailing Instructions.
- 1.2. Boats with a YRA-LIS PHRF certificate, a copy of which has been submitted to the Race Committee prior to the date of the boat’s first race, are eligible for trophies. Notwithstanding the foregoing, boats with an expired YRA-LIS PHRF certificate will be scored provided (i) the expired certificate was valid within the past three years, and (ii) the boat has not been modified in a manner which would result in a lower rating.
- 1.3. The owner of a boat with a valid YRA-LIS PHRF certificate who desires to sail in a Series with a sail configuration which is different from that shown on its certificate may request, prior to the start of the Series, that the Race Committee approve a revised rating for the boat for that Series. If the Race Committee determines that the requested adjustment to the rating is consistent with the current handicapping policies of the YRA-LIS, the Race Committee, in its sole discretion, may approve the revised rating for the boat for that Series.
- 1.4. Boats without a valid YRA-LIS PHRF certificate may participate in races by submitting a Big Boat Registration to the Race Committee prior to the boat’s first race. Finishes will not be scored for boats without a YRA-LIS PHRF certificate.
- 1.5. Boats sailing with two or fewer crewmembers may use autopilots without penalty. This changes rule 52.
- 1.6. All boats shall comply with Minimum Equipment and Safety Recommendations of the YRA-LIS for Category C. The Recommendations are available on [www.yralis.org](http://www.yralis.org).

2. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS including the Race Calendar, will be displayed a) on the Big Boat racing pages of pequotyc.com, b) distributed via email from the Race Committee to PYC skippers and c) posted at the Pequot Yacht Club Sailing Center. In the case of notices of protest, the Race Committee may, for the convenience of competitors, post additional notices at the Senior Clubhouse, but failure to post an additional notice shall not be grounds for redress.

## **3. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS.**

Any change to these Sailing Instructions will be posted at least thirty (30) minutes prior to the Harbor Start on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 2000 on the day before it will take effect. Harbor Start will be approximately 45 minutes prior to the first signal of the day and may be signaled by the Race Committee on VHF channel 69. Failure to make this announcement shall not be grounds for redress.

#### 4. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

Signals made ashore will be displayed on the Race Committee boat while docked.

#### 5. DIVISIONS will be identified as follows:

Division 1: No spinnakers; White Shape.

5.1 There is only one Division for Friday Night Races.

5.2 In lieu of flying numeral pendants, boats may pass by the Race Committee boat prior to the first warning signal and report that they will be sailing. If a boat does not have time to pass the Race Committee boat before the warning signal, the boat may check-in with the Race Committee on channel 69.

5.3 If a boat fails to check-in before the warning signal but can be identified by the Race Committee, the Race Committee will assign it to the division in which it starts.

5.4 Boats may employ a whisker pole, spinnaker pole or boat hook for "winging out" the headsail.

#### 7. RACING AREAS.

Attachment A shows the racing area and the approximate location of the racing marks. The Race Committee will usually rendezvous with the fleet at A Mark. If an alternative starting mark is to be used, the Race Committee will display flag L and proceed to the alternative starting area. The alternative starting mark may be either a mark displayed on Attachment A or a temporary mark placed by the Race Committee.

#### 8. COURSES

8.1 No later than the warning signal, the Race Committee signal boat will display letters designating the rounding and finishing marks.

8.2 The Race Committee will announce the rounding marks and make race announcements on Channel 69 after hoisting the display letters for the rounding and finishing marks.

8.3 Rounding marks shall be rounded in the order shown and shall be passed to port. However, if the Race Committee displays a green square on the course board, all rounding marks shall be passed to starboard. The finishing mark will be the last mark displayed and shall be passed as provided in Section 13 of these Sailing Instructions. If the finishing mark is a temporary mark placed by the Race Committee, it will be designated as mark "X".

#### 9. MARKS

9.1. Marks are fixed buoys of various sizes, shapes, and colors including government buoys or temporary marks placed by the Race Committee. Attachment A shows the marks, including the approximate magnetic bearings and distances between marks.

9.2. New marks may be either fixed marks shown on Attachment A or temporary marks placed by the Race Committee.

9.3. The starting and finishing marks will be fixed marks or temporary marks. If the finishing mark is a temporary mark other than the starting mark, the Race Committee will before the warning signal display the approximate distance and magnetic bearing to the temporary mark from the last turning mark. In lieu of displaying the distance and bearing to the mark, the Race Committee may make an announcement of same on VHF channel 69.

## 10. AREAS THAT ARE OBSTRUCTIONS.

Except when used as rounding marks of the course, all government buoys may be ignored, consistent with good seamanship, except “B”, “G”, and “K” which must be passed on the channel side.

## 11. THE START

11.1. A minimum of 3 boats are required to start a race.

11.2. All boats must check-in before the pre-race announcements by the Race Committee  
Boats which do not check-in will not be scored.

11.3. After the course is announced on channel 69, the race will be started by using RRS 26 with the warning signal made 5 minutes before the starting signal. The starting sequence: a series of short sounds will signal that the warning is about to occur. Times shall be taken from visual signals. The absence of a sound signal shall be disregarded.

Signal	Shape / Flag and Sound	Minutes before starting signal
Warning	Division shape 1 sound	5 minutes before start
Preparatory	Blue Shape + flags P, I, Z or Z with I 1 sound	4 minutes before start
One Minute	Preparatory shape removed 1 long sound	1 minute before shape
Starting	Division shape removed 1 sound	0 – Go!

11.4. The Starting Line will be between a yellow flag on the Race Committee boat and the course side of a nearby fixed or temporary mark.

11.5. There will be only one race scheduled per evening for the Friday Night Series. There may be more than one race started for other events.

11.6. A boat starting later than 4 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes rules RRS Appendix A4 and A5.

11.7. The Race Committee may attempt to notify boats identified as OCS by announcing the sail number or boat name on VHF channel 69. The failure to notify such a boat via VHF does not relieve her of her responsibility for making a proper start. Failure to hear or receive such transmission, or the order of sail numbers or boat names announced, shall not be grounds for redress. This changes rule 62.

## 12. CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE.

12.1. To change the next leg of the course, the Race Committee will signal the new mark before the first boat completes the prior leg by flying flag “C” and displaying the letter of the next mark..

12.2. To signal a shortened course, the Race Committee will display flag “S” with two sounds and take up station near the new finishing mark of the shortened course which may be a temporary mark (“X”).

- 12.3. The Race Committee may make courtesy announcements of the above via VHF channel 69, but failing to do so, or failing to hear such announcements, are not grounds for redress.

### 13. THE FINISH

- 13.1. The finishing line will be between the staff of the yellow flag displayed on the Race Committee signal boat, which shall display a Blue shape indicating "On Station," and the finishing mark.
- 13.2. If the Race Committee signal boat is not on station at the finishing area, the finishing line shall be a line extending from the starboard side of the finishing mark as the boats approach it (this means leave the mark to port) at right angles to the course from the previous mark and of the shortest practicable length. This modifies the U.S. Sailing prescription to RRS 34.

### 14. PENALTY SYSTEM

The alternative penalties under Appendix V, which is a US Sailing prescription to the RRS, shall apply.

### 15. TIME LIMITS

- 15.1. In the Friday Night Series, the time limit for the first boat to finish a race is 1.5 hours after the start. At its discretion, the Race Committee may adjust the time limit by making an announcement of the same on VHF channel 69 prior to the start of the race.
- 15.2. If no boat finishes inside the time limit, the race will be abandoned.
- 15.3. Boats failing to finish within 45 minutes after the first boat sails the course and finishes will be scored Did Not Finish without a hearing. This changes rules 35, RRS Appendix A4 and A5.

### 16. PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

- 16.1. A boat protesting another boat or requesting redress shall comply with the requirements of RRS Part 5. In addition, such boat shall notify the Race Committee at the earliest time possible after finishing or withdrawing from the race. This modifies RRS 61.1.
- 16.2. Protest forms are available at the race office, located at Pequot Yacht Club in the Sailing Center or online at [pequotyc.com](http://pequotyc.com). Protests and requests for redress or reopening shall be delivered there within the appropriate time limit.
- 16.3. The protest time limit is 30 minutes after the Race Committee boat docks after the last race of the day.
- 16.4. Notices will be posted no later than 30 minutes after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Hearings will be held at the Pequot Yacht Club, beginning at as soon as practical after a protest is filed.
- 16.5 Notices of protests by the Race Committee or protest committee will be posted to inform boats under rule 61.1(b).

### 17. ARBITRATION

- 17.1. Appendix T of the RRS applies.
- 17.2. The arbitrator shall be designated by the Pequot Yacht Club Protest Committee in its sole discretion.

## 18. SCORING

- 18.1. Boats will be awarded finish positions based on their corrected elapsed time. To calculate corrected times with PHRF Time on Time racing, the Race Committee shall multiply the boat's actual elapsed time by the Time Correction Factor (TCF).  
To calculate each boat's TCF:  $TCF = 650 / (550 + PHRF \text{ handicap})$ .  
To calculate corrected time:  $Elapsed \text{ Time} \times TCF = Corrected \text{ Time}$
- 18.2. A minimum of one race is required to be completed to constitute a series.
- 18.3. The Low Point Scoring System will apply with the following changes:
- 18.3.1. RRS Appendix A4.2, A5 and A9 are modified as follows:
- 18.3.1.1. A boat that did not finish, retired after finishing or was disqualified shall be scored points for the finishing place one more than the number of boats started in that race.
- 18.3.1.2. A boat's series score shall be the average of her race scores.
- 18.4. To qualify for series prizes in the Friday Night Series, a boat must start in more than 50% of the races held. The calculation will round to the nearest integer; i.e., 0.5 will round up to 1.0 and 0.49 will round down to 0.0.

## 19. SAFETY REGULATIONS, PRECAUTIONS AND GUIDANCE

- 19.1. A boat that retires from a race shall notify the Race Committee as soon as possible.
- 19.2. RRS 40 is replaced by: "It shall be the individual responsibility of each competitor to wear personal flotation devices when they or their skipper determines that conditions warrant the same. US Sailing prescribes that every boat shall carry life-saving equipment conforming to government regulations that apply in the racing area."

## 20. RADIO COMMUNICATION

The Race Committee intends to use VHF channel 69 to broadcast information to all competitors, including the course and OCS hails after starts. In addition, the Race Committee may use VHF channel 69 to signal courses, starting times and time limits in place of a course placard or other visual signals.

## 21. PRIZES.

At the Pequot Yacht Club Annual Awards Dinner, boats owned by Pequot YC members will be awarded prizes as follows: First place will be awarded for a Series if three boats qualify. First and second places will be awarded for a Series if four boats qualify. If more than four boats qualify, first, second and third places will be awarded for the Series.

## 22. SAILOR'S RESPONSIBILITY.

By participation in racing, a sailor acknowledges that he or she is solely responsible for his or her own safety and that of the crew and boat; that he or she represents that the boat and its equipment are in sound condition and all required safety equipment is aboard, accessible for use and in operable condition; that the decision to race, not to race, or to withdraw after starting is solely his or hers; and he or she hereby releases the organizing authority, its officers, trustees, employees and all members of the Race Committee, whether or not members of the organizing authority, from any and all liability or claims for personal injury or property damage or death resulting from participation in this event to the fullest extent permitted by law.

**Attachment A**

(See Attached)

