



NOTICE OF RACE (as amended)

August 29 - August 31, 2025

[08/19/2025]

The Officers and Members of the Stamford Yacht Club invite you to participate in the 91st Vineyard Race. The Stamford Yacht Club is the Organizing Authority for this event.

The notation “[NP]” in a rule means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1. The notation “[DP]” in a rule means that the penalty for a breach of the rule may be less than DSQ at the discretion of the protest committee. This adds to RRS 64.

1. RULES Racing will be governed by:

- 1.1 The current Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), except as may be modified herein and/or by the Sailing Instructions. If there is one-design racing and there is a conflict between Class Rules and the RRS, Class Rules shall apply.
 - 1.1.1 Boats equipped and rated with power winches may use same. This modifies RRS 52.
 - 1.1.2 Boats sailing Double-handed may use autopilots. This modifies RRS 52.
 - 1.1.3 Double-handed entrants may communicate amongst themselves by VHF Radio.
 - 1.1.4 Between the hours of sunset and sunrise, the rules of Part 2 are replaced with the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (IRPCAS).
- 1.2 The US SAILING Prescriptions to the RRS will apply.
- 1.3 The current PHRF Regulations as administered by the YRA of Long Island Sound (YRA-LIS).
- 1.4 The current US Sailing Safety Equipment Requirements (USSER) for Coastal events. (see NoR 2 and 15) These requirements are available at <https://www.ussailing.org/competition/offshore/safety-information/ser-world-sailing-special-regulations/>. A copy of these requirements should be kept aboard while racing. In the event of a conflict between these requirements and applicable class rules, the class rules shall apply.
- 1.5 The current IMS and ORC Rating Systems rules and regulations. (www.orc.org/rules)
 - 1.5.1 ORC Regulation 201.2 does not apply.
- 1.6 The current New England Multihull Association (NEMA) Race Rules (www.nemasail.org)
- 1.7 Tracking - [NP][DP] Each boat shall be required to carry and have continually switched on, from the boat’s start until it finishes or is no longer sailing, a satellite tracking device (such as Spot or InReach) or AIS transponder. Such device’s ID shall be reported to the RC upon registration and no later than August 15.
 - 1.7.1 Boats racing on the Seaflower or Cornfield Point course have the option of transmitting their position with a third-party cellphone-based app.
 - 1.7.2 The failure of any station to receive a signal from a boat’s satellite, AIS, or cell-based (CFP or SF only) device shall not be subject to protest by a competitor or grounds for redress (this amends RRS 60.1 and 62.1(a) and RRS 63.1 shall not apply). A boat who fails to transmit is subject to protest by the race committee.
 - 1.7.3 Please review the Event Documents for additional instructions and tracking app usage.

2. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

- 2.1 The race fleet will be divided into three courses: The **Vineyard Course**, The **Seaflower Reef Course**, and the **Cornfield Point Course**. Each boat shall have an operating VHF radio capable of transmitting and receiving on Channels 05A, 13, and 16, and shall carry at least one operating cell phone, the number for which is on file with the Race Committee. Each boat shall have a valid and current ORC, YRA-LIS PHRF, or NEMA certificate by Friday August 22. No changes rating changes are accepted after August 22. Eligibility is as follows:
 - 2.2 Boats sailing the **Vineyard Course** shall be no less than 29 feet LOA (except as provided in 2.2.4 and 2.2.5), have self-righting hulls (except multihulls), shall be properly rigged and ballasted, shall be fully seaworthy and shall comply with the current USSER for Coastal races with the following additions: Boats sailing the Vineyard Course will be divided into classes as follows:

- 2.2.1 **ORC boats**
- 2.2.1.1 ORC Rule 200.1 is hereby changed as follows:
 - 2.2.1.1.1 The combined weight of all crew on board while racing shall not be greater than the maximum crew weight as defined in ORC 102.1 and 102.2;
 - 2.2.1.1.2 Other than those boats sailing double-handed, one additional crew under the age of 16 is permitted and shall not count against crew or weight limit.
- 2.2.1.2 Fully crewed boats with an **APH of 500 or lower** and double handed boats with and **APH of 460 or lower** must have an **ORCi certificate**.
- 2.2.1.3 Unless authorized by the OA, rating changes will not be accepted after 1800 on Friday, August 22nd. The OA will only consider such dispensation if the request for optional certificate revision has been provided to US Sailing by 1200 on Wednesday, August 20th.
- 2.2.2 **PHRF boats**, including those sailing double-handed with a rating of 129 or lower (available at www.yralis.org)
- 2.2.3 Based on their rating, boats sailing double-handed will be placed within ORC or PHRF classes and scored against both fully crewed and double-handed boats on their respective Course. Within the Double-handed entries, there will be additional scoring for mixed gender crews.
- 2.2.4 **Mini-650 or Mini Transat Class** boats with a minimum crew of two (2) are permitted.
- 2.2.5 **Multihull** boats with a minimum length of 25 feet LOA, not including bowsprit.
- 2.2.6 Boats racing the **Seaflower Reef Course** will be conducted in PHRF classes (including double-handed), be no less than 26 feet LOA, be rated 69 to 147, have a minimum crew of 2, and have self-righting hulls (except multihulls), shall be properly rigged and ballasted, shall be fully seaworthy and shall comply with the current USSER for Nearshore races.
- 2.2.7 Boats racing the **Cornfield Point Course** will be conducted in PHRF classes (including double-handed), be no less than 24 feet LOA, be rated 87 to 198, have a minimum crew of 2, and have self-righting hulls (except multihulls), shall be properly rigged and ballasted, shall be fully seaworthy and shall comply with the current USSER for Nearshore races.
- 2.3 All entries are to be made on-line at (www.yachtscoring.com) A completed entry requires skipper's data and for all onboard crew: names, emails, emergency contact, executed waiver, and Safety at Sea information.
- 2.4 **Corinthian Challenge Entries** (-CC shall appear after the boat name on the entry):
 - 2.4.1 Each boat shall have aboard at least one advisor ("Advisor"), who shall be at least 21 years old and experienced in overnight distance racing, shall be the Boat Owner or a designated Owner's Representative, and be capable of taking command in emergency conditions.
 - 2.4.2 At least two-thirds of the crew shall be between the ages of 14 and 23 as of the day of the Start.
 - 2.4.3 For boats over 45 feet, it is recommended that there be at least two advisors.
 - 2.4.4 **OWNER, OWNER'S REPRESENTATIVE, AND ADVISOR RESPONSIBILITY.** For the purposes of this section, the Boat Owner shall include the Owner's Representative.
 - 2.4.4.1 **SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:** By entering, each owner is certifying that at least 80% of the crew has participated in each of the following: man overboard upwind recovery, man overboard downwind recovery, (w/spinnaker), reefing mainsail, night practice (after dark including above items)
- 2.5 The Organizing Authority reserves the right to exclude any yacht from the race due to inadequacies in design or preparation which could impair the seaworthiness of the vessel and/or safe passage of the crew.
- 2.6 Boats shall have sail numbers that comply with RRS Appendix G1.2 and be clearly legible in all ambient light conditions. Failure to comply is subject to protest only by the RC and may result in being scored DNF. This adds to RRS Appendices A5 and G1.2.

3. ENTRY FEES

- 3.1 The entry application shall be accompanied by an entry fee to be paid by credit card or PayPal. The entry fees are based on Length Overall (LOA) which may be rounded downward to nearest whole number. (e.g.: 39.71'= 39'). No entry is complete until the entry fee is received.
- 3.2 Entry Fees are determined as **of payment date** as follows:

Course	By July 3	By Aug 15	After Aug 15
Vineyard	\$11/foot	\$13/foot	\$16/foot
Seaflower	\$9/foot	\$11/foot	\$14/foot
Cornfield Point	\$9/foot	\$11/foot	\$14/foot

- 3.3 Applications with unpaid fees after August 22 will be removed.
- 3.4 Entries and/or fees received after August 22 may be accepted at the discretion of the OA.
- 3.5 No refunds will be given after August 15.

4. QUALIFYING SERIES

The Vineyard Race is a qualifier for the Northern Ocean Racing Trophy, the Double Handed Ocean Racing Trophy, and the New England Lighthouse Series (PHRF) DeCoursey Fales, Sagola, & Windigo Trophies, the du Moulin Cup for Double Handed Racing, the Youth Challenge Cup awarded by the YRA-LIS, and the Redniss Cup, which is awarded to the monohull with the best combined scores from this race having sailed the Vineyard Course and the Valeur-Jensen Stamford Denmark Race

5. SCHEDULE

First signal will be at 1200 Friday, August 29, 2025 at Red Bell "32" (The Cows) southerly of Stamford Harbor.

6. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Sailing Instructions, scratch sheets, tracking and any other instructions will be available on www.yachtscoring.com on or about Thursday, August 14.

7. COURSES

The specifics of the course will be described in the Sailing Instructions.

Generally: START: Flashing Red Bell "32" (The Cows) off Stamford Harbor.

FINISH: Immediately northerly of the entrance to Stamford Harbor, between the Signal Boat and Green Beacon "3" on the easterly end of the westerly breakwater.

- 7.1 **Vineyard Course:** From the Start to the Buzzards Bay Light Tower, leaving the Tower to starboard, then leaving Block Island to starboard, then leaving Flashing Red Bell "32" (The Cows) and Nun "2" to starboard, then to the Finish. Course length: 238 NM.

Short Course: Start to Cerberus Shoal, leaving the G "9" to starboard, then leaving Flashing Red Bell "32" (The Cows) and Nun "2" to starboard, then to the Finish. Course length: 146 NM.

- 7.2 **Cornfield Point Course:** From the Start to Cornfield Point Shoal leaving Red Bell "2" to starboard, then leaving Flashing Red Bell "8" (at the easterly end of Long Sand Shoal) to starboard, then leaving RG "TE" buoy to starboard, then leaving Flashing Red Bell "32" (The Cows) and Nun "2" to starboard, then to the Finish. Course length: 116 NM.

- 7.3 **Seaflower Reef Course:** From the Start to 'Seaflower Reef' leaving Seaflower Reef Light to starboard, then leaving flashing Red Bell "32" (The Cows) and Nun "2" to starboard, then to the Finish. Course length: 143 NM.

Short Course: From the Start to R"4" off Bartlett Reef leaving the R"4" to starboard, then leaving Flashing Red Bell "32" (The Cows) and Nun "2" to starboard, then to the Finish. Course length: 131 NM.

8. Penalty System

[DP] The Scoring Penalty, rule 44.3 will apply. In the case of a protest involving the rules of Part 2 and OCS, the boat at fault, instead of being disqualified as a result of a hearing, may, at the option of the Protest Committee, have her corrected time increased by 2%. This adds to RRS 64.

9. Scoring

- 9.1 PHRF classes, including double-handed, will use YRA-LIS PHRF Distance Ratings scored using time-on-time with the conversion factor $650/(550+PHRF)$ rounded to 4 decimal places.
- 9.2 [NP] Race results in the ORC division are intended to be determined by corrected times calculated by applying the ToT Time Correction Factor as produced by ORC's Weather Routing Scoring (WRS). The list of ratings will be published on the Official Notice Board and emailed to entrants no later than 2 hours before the start.
- 9.2.1 [NP] The section of the scoring option and parameters and any subsequent change is at the sole discretion of the Race Committee. This includes the length of the course, directions of the legs and the wind details such as strength and direction. This is not be grounds for a request for redress by the boat. This changes RRS 60.1.
- 9.3 Multihulls will be scored using NEMA Ratings.
- 9.4 Teams will be scored by using the total of each team member's percentage placement in its respective class.
- 9.5 In the event the OA elects to include a one-design class or group of boats racing level on a start with other boats, the one-design or level rating group may be scored separately.

10. PROTESTS

- 10.1 A Protest Committee appointed by the Organizing Authority will decide protests. Protests involving potential trophy winners will be heard at Stamford Yacht Club or by video call as soon as practicable after the boats involved have finished. Protests for other boats will be heard beginning at 1400 on Sunday, August 31. Special arrangements will be made for boats finishing later than that time.

11. COMMUNICATIONS

- 11.1 [NP] The Race Committee will make announcements via VHF Channel 1005 (05A)
- 11.2 RRS 41, Outside Help, is changed by adding: (e) Help in the form of information freely available to all boats even if that information is only accessible at a cost. "At a cost" help shall not include private forecast or tactical advice, or information customized for a particular boat or group of boats and their current situation.

12. PRIZES

- 12.1 Awards within each class, as well as perpetual trophies, will be presented at an Awards Presentation and Reception, which will be held on Sunday, August 31 at 1700 at the Stamford Yacht Club.
- 12.2 The Vineyard Race is a qualifier for the Caper, Kings Point, Mertz and Sagola season trophies and the YRA Youth Challenge Cup each to be awarded by the YRA of Long Island Sound. The Vineyard Race is also a qualifier for the Stamford Trophy Series awarded at the SYC Annual Awards Dinner.
- 12.3 There will be a Corinthian Challenge (CC) award made to the boat with the best performance of CC qualified finishers on the Vineyard Course. The method of scoring used for determining that award will be based on entries and specified in the Sailing Instructions.

13. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. See rule 3, Decision to Race. The organizing authority will not accept any liability for damage or personal injury, or death sustained in connection with their participation in the regatta, including events occurring prior to, during, or after the regatta. The Skipper/Owner of each boat participating in the Vineyard Race shall be responsible for the behavior of each member of the crew of his/her boat both on the water and while ashore. The destruction of property, the breach of reasonable standards of good sportsmanship by any crew member, or any other person associated with the boat, or the failure of any of those persons to comply with any reasonable request of any Race Officer, Regatta Committee member, or their representatives, may result in disqualification of the boat, and its exclusion from the regatta and future SYC events.

14. PHOTOGRAPERS AND MEDIA RIGHTS

Competitors grant SYC, and its official sponsors, the unrestricted right and permission to use their name and the image for any text, photograph or video footage of either themselves or the yacht they are sailing during the event, to be published or broadcast in any media whatsoever (including but not limited to Press and TV advertisements or Internet), for either editorial or advertising purposes or to be used in press information. In this respect, competitors' names, and any biographical material of themselves may also be used or reproduced in any way known. As part of the registration process, each individual participating crewmember will be required to sign a declaration accepting this waiver of rights.

15. SAFETY

- 15.1 For all classes, at least 75% of those aboard the boat shall have a valid US SAILING Safety at Sea Course or equivalent certificate. At least 30%, but not fewer than two persons aboard the boat and the person in charge, shall have a valid International Offshore Safety at Sea Course with Hands-on Training or a US Sailing In-person Offshore Safety at Sea or equivalent certificate. US Sailing certificates are valid for 5 years from the date of issue.
- 15.2 All boats are strongly encouraged to follow the STC Safety Guidelines for Rendering Assistance. The Guidelines and information on available Safety At Sea courses are available on the Storm Trysail Club website: (www.stormtrysail.org/sas).
- 15.3 Attention is drawn to RRS 1.2 Life Saving Equipment: "Each competitor is individually responsible for wearing personal buoyancy for the conditions," including but not limited to the following:
 - a) Between the hours of sunset and sunrise
 - b) When alone on deck
 - c) When reefed
 - d) When the true wind speed is 25 knots or more
 - e) When visibility is less than 1 nautical mile; and
 - f) With due consideration of the water temperature
 - g) At all times when a boat is being sailed Double Handed
 - h) By all crew on deck at all other times unless the person in charge has indicated they may be set aside

16. INSURANCE

Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance sufficient to cover liability for loss, damage, personal injury, or death.

17. FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information please email: VineyardRace@stamfordyc.com or call the Stamford Yacht Club at 203-323-3161 and ask for the Chairman of the Vineyard Race.

18. WELCOME

For mooring reservations please contact the SYC Dockmaster at: dockmaster@stamfordyc.com.

Vineyard Race Committee

Chairman – John Gianukakis
Principal Race Officer – John Troy
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