

67th LAKE ERIE INTERCLUB CRUISE

June 28 – July 2, 2025

NOTICE OF RACE

Organizing Authority: The Lake Erie Interclub Cruise, an association of representatives from each host.

Hosts: Buffalo Canoe Club, The Buffalo Harbor Sailing Club Inc., Buffalo Yacht Club, Erie Yacht Club, Port Dover Yacht Club, Sugarloaf Sailing Club, Sugarloaf Harbor Marina.

1. RULES

- 1.1 The Lake Erie Interclub Cruise (“Event”) will be governed by the *Racing Rules of Sailing* (RRS)¹ and the following:
 - a. The prescriptions of the United States Sailing Association (US Sailing).
 - b. Applicable U.S. and Canadian governmental requirements.
 - c. The current PHRF-LE class rules.
- 1.2 RRS 63.5 (c) shall be replaced by: “If there is a conflict between a rule in the Notice of Race and a rule in the Sailing Instructions, the Sailing Instructions shall apply.”

2. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

- 2.1 This Event is open to members of US Sailing and Sail Canada or other National Authorities, members of recognized yacht clubs, members of recognized sailing associations, and others as may be designated by the Organizing Authority.
- 2.2 The Organizing Authority shall, at its sole discretion, and whose decision is final and without appeal, determine eligibility and placement within Classes.
- 2.3 In order to be accepted, each registration must be complete, and include the entry form, a valid handicap certificate (or a temporary rating request – see Section 4.2, below), proof of insurance (e.g., a declarations sheet), payment of the registration fee (and late fee, if applicable), and a release of liability.
- 2.4 The deadline for completion of registration for all participants, including payment of entry fees, is 1700 hours, Wednesday, June 18, 2025. Registration can be made online at <https://www.yachtscoring.com/emenu/50128>. Late registrations can be submitted until Wednesday June 25, 2025 and must include the entry fee plus a late fee of \$100.00 (US).² Registration may be accepted on-site at the Erie Yacht Club on June 27, 2025 between 1700-1900 hours at the sole discretion of the Organizing Authority.

¹ Copies of the RRS and US Prescriptions can be found at <https://www.ussailing.org/competition/rules-officiating/the-racing-rules-of-sailing-2025-2028/>

² All dollar amounts are in U.S. dollars.

3. EVENT FEES

- 3.1 The entry fee is \$11 per foot (boat's LOA as specified on the PHRF certificate, rounded up to the nearest foot) for all Racing Division boats. For the Cruising Division the entry fee is \$5.50 per foot (as indicated on the registration form) for those sailing 2 days or less, and \$11 per foot for those sailing 3 or more days.

4. CURRENT PHRF CERTIFICATE/ ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- 4.1 All Racing Division boats shall provide with their registration a copy of their current (2025 PHRF-LE) handicap certificate.
- 4.2 Racing Division boats without a current PHRF-LE certificate may be assigned a temporary rating at the sole discretion of the Organizing Authority, which shall be valid for the current year's Event only and cannot be appealed.
- 4.3 Boats participating in the Cruising Division will sail under PHRF-LE and be scored as one class. Boats with a PHRF rating shall provide the Organizing Authority with a copy of their handicap certificate. The Organizing Authority will assign a handicap for any unrated boat, which shall be valid for the current year's Event only and cannot be appealed. Note that Cruising Division boats will sail under the same rules and Racing Division (i.e, spinnakers are allowed).
- 4.4 All boats must have on board a functional motor with means of mounting (for outboards) and carrying enough fuel capable of propelling the boat for a minimum of 50 miles.
- 4.5 All boats entering a race must have a minimum of three people on board for the duration of the Event.
- 4.6 All main sails shall have proper sail numbers, and all boats must have a sail number displayed on one or more sails at the start and finish of each race. Boats without proper sail numbers or with duplicate sail numbers of another boat must notify the Race Committee prior to starting and upon finishing each race. This modifies RRS Appendix G.
- 4.7 A boat and/or its equipment may be inspected by the Organizing Authority at any time for compliance with this Notice of Race and the Sailing Instructions.

5. SAFETY

- 5.1 All boats must meet the safety requirements of the US Sailing Safety Equipment Requirements (US SER 2018.0) for the Nearshore Category and any other requirements specifically identified in this Notice of Race or the Sailing Instructions.
- 5.2 All boats must carry equipment required by the State and Country of registration at all times.
- 5.3 Each competitor is individually responsible for his or her decisions to wear a personal flotation device and under what conditions.
- 5.4 All boats shall monitor VHF Race Channel 79 from one-hour prior to the first Racing or Cruising Division start and continue to monitor until all fleets have started. No signals will be displayed from ashore.
- 5.5 A boat that retires from a race shall notify the Race Committee either before leaving the course area via VHF Race Channel 79 or by text at 716-491-9558, or if that is impossible, immediately after arriving ashore.

6. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 6.1 Race packets including Sailing Instructions will be available on Friday, June 27, 2025 from 1700-1900 hours at the Erie Yacht Club.

7. IDENTIFICATION

- 7.1 Class flags, which will be provided in the race packets, must be flown on the backstay or other conspicuous position in the stern of the boat, and shall be displayed from the warning signal until the finish has been acknowledged.
- 7.2 Boats are encouraged to fly the official Interclub Burgee (available for purchase prior to the competitors meeting) during the Event on an appropriate staff or permanent halyard.

8. VENUE

- 8.1 All racing will take place on the open waters of eastern Lake Erie.

9. SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 9.1 The Competitors meeting will be held on Friday, June 27, 2025 at 2000 hours at the Erie Yacht Club.
- 9.2 Race Schedule. Times shown are approximate start time for the first class and are subject to change. Final times will be published in the Sailing Instructions.

Race 1	June 28, 2025	0530 hours	ERIE TO PORT DOVER
Race 2	June 29, 2025	1000 hours	LONG POINT BAY COURSE RACE
Race 3	June 30, 2025	0730 hours	PORT DOVER TO PORT COLBORNE
Race 4	July 1, 2025	1000 hours	PORT COLBORNE TO BUFFALO
Race 5	July 2, 2025	1000 hours	BUFFALO COURSE RACE

- 9.3 A complete social event schedule will be available on the event website at least two weeks prior to the event.

10. COURSES AND SERIES

- 10.1 The Racing Division will sail up to five Races as defined in the Sailing Instructions.
- 10.2 Cruising Division boats may sail any of the five races and will be scored for each individual race. In addition, the Cruising Division will be scored for a separate 2-day race series for Races 1 and 2.

11. SCORING

- 11.1 The scoring system of RRS Appendix A will be used, except as modified below. Note that the PHRF Time on Distance method will be used to calculate finishing place.
- 11.2 One race is required to be completed to constitute a series.
- 11.3 A boat's series score will be the total of all of her race scores. This modifies RRS A2.

- 11.4 A boat that started and either retired or did not finish the race shall be scored two more points than the number of finishers in that race. This modifies RRS A5.2.

12. AWARDS

- 12.1 The Racing Division will be divided into up to five (5) classes (A, B, C, D and E), depending on the number of entries.
- 12.2 The Racing Division will have flags awarded for first, second, and third place finishes in class for each race.
- 12.3 The Racing Division will have flags awarded for first, second, and third place in each class for the series.
- 12.4 The Interclub Trophy (Buffalo-Courier Express) will be awarded to the best overall boat in the Racing Division.
- 12.5 The Dover Trophy will be awarded to the Cruising Division winner of the series consisting of the first two races (Erie to Port Dover and Long Point Bay Course Race). There will be no awards for individual races.

13. DOCKAGE

- 13.1 Dockage will be available only to those who have completed registration for the Event. This dockage will be provided by Erie Yacht Club, Port Dover Yacht Club, Port Dover Marina, Port Dover Harbour, Sugar Loaf Sailing Club, and Buffalo Yacht Club based on availability at the time of the Event and the finish of each race.
- 13.2 Competitors shall follow the directions of the respective host Yacht Club Dock Master. Failure to comply with the directions of the Dock Masters and/or crew or organizers shall be grounds for protest and possible expulsion from the Event.

14. INSURANCE

- 14.1 Each participating boat shall be insured with valid, third-party insurance sufficient to cover liability for loss, damage, personal injury, or death. Proof of coverage is required for registration (see Section 2.3, above).

15. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

- 15.1 Sailing is an activity that has an inherent risk of damage and injury. Competitors and other participants sailing in this event are participating entirely at their own risk (see RRS 3, Decision to Race). The race organizers (Organizing Authority, Race Committee, Protest Committee, Host Clubs, Sponsors, or any other Organization or Official) shall not be responsible for damage to any boat or other property or personal injury to any competitor or other participant, including but not limited to personal injury or death, sustained as a result of participating in this event. By participating in this event, all participants agree to release the race organizers from any and all liability associated with such participant's participation in this event to the fullest extent permitted by law.

16. CONDUCT

- 16.1 In the event of serious misconduct, destruction of property, or failure to comply with a request of the Race Committee, Event Chair, or instructions from the Dock Master or harbormaster in any host Event port, the Race Committee or Event Chair may request that the Protest Committee resolve the issue in accordance with RRS 69.

17. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Event Website – <http://www.erieinterclub.com>

Event Coordinator:	Heather McBrier	(814) 602-2747	hmcbbrier@gmail.com
Registrar:	Louis Johnson	(716) 435-5944	louis.johnson@northsails.com
Chair:	Caroline Gross	(716) 816-5693	carolinegross83@gmail.com
First Vice Chair:	James Ireland	(416) 303-3562	gusto.k23@gmail.com