



The Wetherill 2026

The Sam Wetherill Trophy Race

Friday May 29, 2026

Sailing Instructions



The Essex Yacht Club is the Organizing Authority for this event.

1. RULES

- 1.1 This event is governed by the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) except as modified herein or by the Notice of Race
 - 1.1.1. RRS 52 is changed. Double-handed entrants may use self-steering devices and electric winches.
 - 1.1.2. Between the hours of sunset and sunrise, RRS Appendix RV: Reduced Visibility Racing Rules, shall apply. This modifies the rules of RRS Part 2.
- 1.2 RRS Appendix V Alternative Penalties is in effect for this event.
- 1.3 RRS 60.4(a)(2) 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

2. COMMUNICATIONS

- 2.1 The Race Committee (RC) will broadcast courtesy and safety information on VHF Ch. 1001 (formerly 01A). Only the RC may request redress for misunderstandings, errors or omissions that may result from such communications. RRS 60.1 is changed.
- 2.2 The RC will be monitoring emergency messages and required reports by text or voice at 781-366-1251.
- 2.3 All boats are recommended to monitor VHF Ch. 16 for the duration of the race.
- 2.4 Notices to competitors will be posted on the Official Notice Board located online at YachtScoring.com at the 2026 Wetherill Race page.
- 2.5 Each boat shall carry a cell phone, the number of which shall be on file with the RC and shall be kept on during the race and for two hours after finishing.
- 2.6 All entrants shall report to the RC by text or voice at 781-366-1251. when they are due south of Watch Hill on the westbound leg to Finish.
- 2.7 All entrants shall report to the RC on VHF Ch. 1001 when passing Saybrook Bar Lighted Bell "8" when approaching the Finish.

3. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 3.1 Changes to the Sailing Instructions will be posted before 0800 on Friday May 29 and emailed to each entrant.

4. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

4.1 A postponement or abandonment made on shore shall be signaled from the RC Signal boat at the Essex Yacht Club, broadcast on VHF Ch 1001, posted on the Notice Board, and texted to each entrant.

4.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, "1 minute" is replaced with "not less than 1 hour". Race Signals are changed.

5. SCHEDULE

5.1 The first warning signal is scheduled at 1100 on Friday, May 29, 2026.

5.2 In the event weather conditions are such that the race cannot be started by 1700 on Friday May 29, the Start will be postponed by the display of "AP" over "A" and two sound signals. The Warning for the first class will be on Saturday, May 30 at 0900. Appropriate notifications will be made on the Notice Board, VHF Ch. 1001, text and email.

6. CLASS FLAGS

6.1 Class flag assignments will be made by the RC and posted on the Scratch Sheet available at YachtScoring.com.

7. CHECK IN

7.1 Prior to her warning signal, each boat shall pass the RC Signal boat stern to bow on the side opposite the starting line and hail the **boat name, sail number, number of crew onboard and class**.

8. THE COURSE AND MARKS

8.1 All classes shall sail from the Start to Saybrook Bar Lighted Bell "8", leaving to port, then to Gay Head Lighted Gong "31", leaving to starboard, then, leaving Block Island to starboard, to Saybrook Bar Lighted Bell "8", leaving to starboard, then to the Finish, leaving Saybrook Breakwater Light to starboard.

8.2 Alternate Course. The Race Committee may choose to sail an Alternate Course by displaying the signal flags "BI" at the start. All classes shall sail from the Start to Saybrook Bar Lighted Bell "8", leaving to port, then to Block Island Lighted Green Bell "1BI", leaving to starboard, then around Block Island, leaving to starboard, then to Saybrook Bar Lighted Bell "8", leaving to starboard, then to the Finish, leaving Saybrook Breakwater Light to starboard.

9. THE START

9.1 The Start Area will be located approximately 0.5 NM west of the Saybrook Breakwater Light.

9.2 The Start Line will be between an Orange flag on the RC Signal Boat and an inflatable buoy.

9.3 Boats not starting shall keep clear of the Start Area which is a box extending into the pre-start side of the Start Line equal to the length of the start line on all sides.

9.4 The RC may reposition for a better start location depending on the weather.

9.5 The RC will attempt to announce individual OCS boats on VHF Ch. 1001.

10. THE FINISH

10.1 The Finish Line will be between a Blue flag on the RC boat and the Saybrook Breakwater Light.

- 10.2 If an RC boat is not on station at the Finish Line, a boat finishing shall note her own GPS time when the Saybrook Breakwater Light bears 090M degrees. Report the finish time, name of boat and skipper to the RC by text or voice to 781-366-1251 as soon as possible.
- 10.3 A boat withdrawing shall promptly notify the RC by phone or text.

11. TIME LIMIT

- 11.1 The time limit for any boat is 40 hours from the time of her class start.

12. SCORING

- 12.1 PHRF classes, including double-handed, will use PHRF Eastern Connecticut time-on-time ratings. For Spinnaker-class boats the handicap for Random Leg (R/L) courses shall be used.
- 12.2 [NP] ORC classes, including double-handed, will be scored using a scoring option available on Page 2 of current USA ORC certificates. The decision on the scoring option and scoring parameters used for the race, and any subsequent change thereto, will be at the sole discretion of the Race Committee. These will not be grounds for redress by any boat. This changes RRS 61.1(a).
- 12.3 Multihulls will be scored using NEMA time-on-time ratings.

13. PRIZES

- 13.1 The Sam Wetherill Trophy will be awarded jointly to the two boats with the best Corrected Times in the PHRF and ORC Divisions.
- 13.2 The Hot Flash Trophy will be awarded to the boat with the fastest elapsed time in any division.
- 13.3 The Wetherill Club Challenge Trophy will be awarded to the yacht club with the best combined place scores of any three boats in their respective divisions (see Notice Board for details).
- 13.4 Boats in ORC classes are entered in the East End ORC Cup competition.

14. PROTESTS

- 14.1 A boat intending to protest or request redress shall notify the RC within one hour of finishing.
- 14.2 Protests, request for redress or scoring inquiries shall be completed and submitted online through YachtScoring/General Race Forms/For Competitors. The Protest Committee will contact the parties involved and a hearing will be scheduled as soon as possible.

15. FURTHER INFORMATION

- 15.1 For further information, please contact the Chairman, Sam Wetherill Race at wetherill@essexyc.org.