

70th ANNUAL STRATFORD SHOAL RACE

THE GEARBUSTER

Saturday, October 10, 2026

OA: Indian Harbor Yacht Club

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

As of 10/9/2026

The notation '[NP]' in a rule means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1(a).

The notation '[DP]' in a rule means that the penalty for a breach of the rule may, at the discretion of the protest committee, be less than disqualification. This changes RRS 60.1(a).

1. RULES

1.1. The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing.

1.2. The measurement rules are YRA of LIS PHRF Spinnaker, Double-Handed, and Non-Spinnaker rules, IMS Rules, and ORC Rating Systems.

1.2.1. The PHRF registrants will be scored using their "distance" ratings.

1.3. Participants shall comply with US Sailing Safety Equipment Requirements (SER) 2026 for Nearshore Category Races except that US Sailing SER 3.19.1 is changed as follows:

1.3.1. If no magnetic compass is permanently mounted, a handheld magnetic compass, suitable for steering may be used.

1.3.2. One-design class(es) shall comply with class safety rules.

1.4. [NP][DP] Each boat shall fly their division flag from its backstay six or more feet above the deck, a numeral pennant corresponding to its division. Boats without backstays shall fly their division flag for the stern pulpit or starboard shroud in a conspicuous manner.

1.5. [NP][DP] All boats shall have a working cellphone turned on (see instruction 3.4).

2. CHANGES TO THE SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any change(s) to the sailing instructions will be posted before 0900 on the day it will take effect.

3. COMMUNICATIONS

3.1. The online Official Notice Board is located at yachtscoring.com event site.

3.2. The race office is located at Indian Harbor Yacht Club and may be reached at sailing@indianharboryc.com.

3.3. On the water, the "starting area" race committee intends to monitor and communicate with competitors via VHF 65A.

3.4. On the water, the "finish area" race committee intends to monitor and communicate with competitors via VHF 65A.

3.5. [NP][DP] Each boat shall carry at least one cellphone, the number of which shall correspond with the boat's entry and shall be kept on during the race and for two hours after finishing.

3.6. [NP] Tracking: All boats on all courses shall carry and have switched on at all times, from one hour before the boat's start until it finishes or is no longer racing, a tracking device of either AIS (preferred), Garmin inReach, Iridium Go, Predictwind, or SPOT. Skippers shall notify Race Operations prior to the first signal by recording on Yachtscoring their 9-digit MMSI number for AIS or the tracking URL for alternative tracking devices.

4. RACE SCHEDULE

The time of the first warning signal is ~~1055~~ 0955 in accordance with RRS 26. These will be "rolling starts" every 5

minutes. The starting signal for a division may serve as the warning signal for the subsequent division.

5. DIVISION FLAGS

5.1. Division flags will be the numeral pennant associated with each boat's division assignment as listed on the scratch sheet.

5.2. The scratch sheet showing division numbers, course assignments and ratings will be available on yachtscoring.com no later than 2399 Friday October 9th.

6. COURSES

6.1. STRATFORD SHOAL COURSE: The standard course for all boats racing in the Stratford Shoal Course including ORC, Double Handed and PHRF spinnaker divisions shall be from the start as described in SI 7 THE START to Stratford Shoal (Middle Ground) Light (USCG location 41° 03 35.300N / 073° 06 04.700W; Fl W 5s) leaving it to port and proceeding to the finish line as described in SI 8 FINISH LINE. The course distance is 46.5 nautical miles.

6.2. EATONS NECK COURSE: The standard course for all boats racing in the Eaton's Neck Course including spinnaker & non-spinnaker divisions shall be from the start as described in SI 7 THE START to Eaton's Neck Point Lighted Gong Buoy 11B (USCG location 41° 00 01.221N / 073° 23 41.625W; Fl G 4s) leaving it to port and proceeding to the finish line as described in SI 8 FINISH LINE. The course distance is 19 nautical miles.

6.3. SHORT COURSE OPTION: At the discretion of the Race Committee, a short course option may be used and will be signaled by displaying code flag C prior to the warning signal for the start of any division. The short courses will be different for spinnaker and non-spinnaker divisions and are as follows:

6.3.1. STRATFORD SHOAL SHORT COURSE: The spinnaker short course shall be from the start as described in SI 7 THE START to Eaton's Neck Point Lighted Gong Buoy 11B (USCG location 41° 00 01.221N / 073° 23 41.625W; Fl G 4s) leaving it to port and proceeding to the finish line as described in SI 8 FINISH LINE. The course distance is 19 nautical miles.

6.3.2. EATONS NECK SHORT COURSE: The spinnaker & non-spinnaker short course shall be to Twenty-Six Foot Spot Lighted Bell Buoy 32A (USCG location 40° 58 07.042N / 073° 32 48.393W; Fl R 2.5s) leaving it to port, then to The Cows Lighted Bell Buoy 32 (USCG location 41° 00 12.880N / 073° 31 26.189W; Fl R 2.5s) leaving it to port and proceeding to the finish line as described in SI 8 FINISH LINE. The course distance is 10.9 nautical miles.

6.4. When approaching Captain Harbor on route to the finish, Little Captain Island East Reef Lighted Gong Buoy 1 (USCG location 40° 59 35.941N / 073° 35 51.970W; Fl G 2.5s) shall be left to port for all courses.

7. THE START

7.1. Races will be started using RRS 26.

7.2. The starting line will be between the course side of Flat Neck Point Shoal Buoy 2 east of Little Captain Island (USCG location 40° 59 44.901N / 073° 35 29.289W; RN) on the port end of the line and a colored flag on the signal boat on the starboard end of the line.

7.3. [NP][DP] Prior to the warning signal of the first division, each boat shall sail past the stern of the signal boat while on starboard tack and hail her boat name, sail number and how many persons aboard. She shall do so until acknowledged by the Race Committee.

7.4. [NP][DP] Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area during the starting sequence for other races.

7.5. If any part of a boat's hull is on the course side of the starting line at her starting signal and she is identified, the race committee will attempt to hail her sail number. Failure to hail her number, failure of her to hear such a hail, or the order in which boats are hailed will not be grounds for a redress for request. This changes RRS 62.1(a).

7.6. A boat that does not start within fifteen minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.1 and A5.2.

8. THE FINISH

8.1. The finishing line is between the course side of Greenwich Harbor Channel Buoy 2 (USCG location 40° 59 54.351N/073° 37 16.353W; RN) inside Captain Harbor on the port end of the line and a staff displaying a

colored flag on the finish boat on the starboard end of the line. [Please note: This is not the same Nun "2" as is being used for the start. The bearing FROM this buoy TO the Great Captain light is 199 degrees magnetic at a distance of 0.97nm.]

8.2. The finish boat will display a Race Committee flag, an IHYC burgee, and after sunset, one all-round white light.

8.3. All boats shall hail the Race Committee on VHF Channel 65A as they pass Little Captain Island East Reef Lighted Gong Buoy 1 (USCG location 40° 59 35.941N/073° 35 51.970W; Fl G 2.5s) on approach to Captain Harbor.

8.4. If finishing in the dark, boats shall illuminate their mainsail numbers and hail the Race Committee with their sail number and boat name until acknowledged by the signal boat.

8.5. In the absence of a Race Committee boat at the finish line, boats shall take their own time when passing within 20 yards of the Greenwich Harbor Channel Buoy 2 (USCG location 40° 59 54.351N/073° 37 16.353W; RN) and the Great Captain Island Light bears 199° magnetic. This time shall be reported to the Indian Harbor Yacht Club by emailing sailing@indianharboryc.com.

9. HEARING REQUESTS

9.1. The protest time limit is 0800, Sunday, October 11, 2026.

9.2. Protest forms are available via ussailing.com. Completed forms shall be emailed to sailing@indianharboryc.com & rgriffin@indianharboryc.com within the protest time limit.

9.3. Notices will be posted and communicated via voice, text and/or email no later than 0930 following the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Hearings shall be scheduled starting 1800 Sunday, October 11, 2026 at Indian Harbor Yacht Club.

10. SAFETY REGULATIONS

10.1. [DP] Boats withdrawing from the race shall contact the Race Committee via VHF Channel 65A or by calling the Indian Harbor Yacht Club Front Desk at 203-869-2484 or emailing sailing@indianharboryc.com & rgriffin@indianharboryc.com.

11. PRIZES

11.1. First, second and third place prizes will be awarded in each division of 5 or more boats. Divisions under 5 boats will be awarded prizes at the discretion of the OA.

11.2. The following perpetual trophies will be awarded, based on corrected time:

- The Windward Cup will be awarded to the winner of the fleet with the largest number of starters sailing the long course.
- The William H. Todd Trophy will be awarded to the winner of the fleet with the second largest number of starters sailing the long course.
- The Philip F. Miller III Trophy will be awarded to the winner of the non-spinnaker fleet.

12. RISK STATEMENT

RRS 3 states: 'The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue to race is hers alone.' By participating in this event each competitor agrees and acknowledges that sailing is a potentially dangerous activity with inherent risks. These risks include strong winds and rough seas, sudden changes in weather, failure of equipment, boat handling errors, poor seamanship by other boats, loss of balance on an unstable platform and fatigue resulting in increased risk of injury. Inherent in the sport of sailing is the risk of permanent, catastrophic injury or death by drowning, trauma, hypothermia, or other causes.

13. FURTHER INFORMATION

Event Chairman: Greg Neumann, gneumann@kariscp.com
PRO: Cmdr. Raymond Griffin, rgriffin@indianharboryc.com
Sailing Office, sailing@indianharboryc.com
Technical Committee, Yacht Racing Association of Long Island Sound, ORC