

71st ANNUAL STRATFORD SHOAL RACE
THE GEARBUSTER

Saturday, October 10, 2026

Organizing Authority: Indian Harbor Yacht Club

NOTICE OF RACE

As of 10/9/2026

The notation [NP] at the beginning of a rule means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1(a).

The notation [DP] at the beginning of a rule means that a discretionary penalty applies, which may be less than disqualification.

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, Non-Spinnaker rules, and ORC Rating Systems and any applicable one-design class rules.

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:

- If no magnetic compass is permanently mounted, a handheld magnetic compass, suitable for steering may be used.
- One-design class(es) shall comply with class safety rules.

1.4. [NP][DP] Each boat shall fly conspicuously from its backstay six or more feet above the deck a numeral pennant corresponding to its class as designated by the Scratch Sheet.

1.5. This race is a qualifier for the YRALIS Windigo, Sagola, du Moulin, King's Point, Mertz and Youth Challenge Cup trophies.

2. ELIGIBILITY, FLEETS & ENTRY

2.1. This event is open to boats with current YRALIS PHRF or ORC certificates.

- To be eligible to race, any one-design class(es) must have five or more entries.
- One-designs with PHRF ratings consistent with their class configuration, will be included in the PHRF fully crewed fleet.

2.2. Eligible boats may enter by completing the entry form and paying the entry fee via the yachtscoring.com event site.

2.3. The event will be comprised of:
Three Long course fleets (Double Handed, ORC, PHRF Spinnaker)
Two short course fleets (SC PHRF Spinnaker, SC PHRF Non-Spinnaker)

2.4. Prior to Midnight of Saturday, October 3rd, the entry fee is $140, after which the fee is $165.

2.5. Entry and payment must be completed by midnight, Thursday, October 8th.

2.6. Long or Short course designation must be made before midnight, Thursday, October 8th, 2026. No Refunds or fleet selections will be honored after that date.

3. DOUBLE-HANDED RULES

3.1. Crew limit is two persons, one of whom must be 18 years of age or older.

3.2. Wind vanes or electric self-steering devices may be used.

3.3. Jack lines must be rigged both port and starboard, and run from the cockpit to the bow.

4. YOUTH CHALLENGE RULES

4.1. Youth Challenge entries shall meet the requirement that 1/3 of the crew's ages are between 14 and 23 (rounded to the nearest whole number) and shall send a confirmation email to scores@yralis.org indicating the total number of crew and the number of qualified youth on board.

4.2. Youth Challenge entries shall fly code flag "Juliet" along with its class flag on its backstay and add the initials "YC" after the yacht's name on the entry form.

5. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

5.1. Sailing Instructions will be available online at yachtscoring.com (search for "Gearbuster") prior to Friday, October 9, 2026.

5.1.1. A Provisional Scratch Sheet will be available online but is subject to change up until this deadline.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

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

6.2. The race committee will make courtesy broadcasts to competitors on VHF 65A.

6.3. [DP] While racing, except in an emergency or when communicating with the race committee, a boat shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats.

6.4. [DP] Each boat shall carry a cellphone, the number of which shall correspond with the boat's Yacht Score entry, and shall be kept on during the race and for two hours after finishing.

7. SCHEDULE

The first warning is scheduled for ~~1055~~ 0955, Saturday, October 10, 2026.

Following racing, please join us for complimentary beer and food.

We invite winners to join us at our Annual Awards Dinner on the evening of Friday, November 6th, 2026 to accept their physical awards.

8. VENUE

The venue is western Long Island Sound with the start off Flat Neck Point, Greenwich CT and finish outside of Indian Harbor.

9. COURSES

Full course descriptions will appear in the Sailing Instructions but in summary:

- The standard "long" course is from Flat Neck to Stratford Shoal Light and back(46nm).
- The standard "short" course is from Flat Neck to Eatons Neck and back (19.0nm).
- All fleets finish inside Captain Harbor between the Finish Boat and Indian Harbor Chanel Marker 2.

10. SCORING

10.1. PHRF results will be scored using YRALIS PHRF distance ratings using time-on-time.

10.2. ORC classes will be scored using either single or triple number all purpose ratings using time-on-time. The RC shall announce its intended scoring option prior to the first warning signal.

11. MOORINGS

Complimentary guest moorings are available from Friday October 2nd through October 11, 2026. Reservations are required and should be made through Dockwa. The standard mooring fee will be credited back through the app after a mooring request is made.

Please enter “Gearbuster 2026” into the notes section for the refund.

IHYC operates on VHF 68. Longer-duration moorings related to the event are available, at a discounted event price of $25/night.

12. PRIZES

12.1. First, second and third place prizes will be awarded in each class.

12.2. The following perpetual trophies will be awarded:

- 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 2nd place finisher of the fleet with the largest number of starters sailing the long course.
- The Philip F. Miller III Trophy will be awarded to the overall winner of the short course non-spinnaker fleet.

12.3. Any additional trophies will be given at the discretion of the OA.

13. 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.

A waiver may be required per boat before check in.

Please see IHYC’s Emergency Plan for our procedures and contacts

14. PHOTOGRAPHER & MEDIA RIGHTS

Competitors give absolute right and permission for any photographs or video footage taken of them or their competing boat to be published in any media whatsoever; for editorial or advertising purposes, or to be used in press information.

15. FURTHER INFORMATION

Organizing Authority: Indian Harbor YC
Event Chairman: Greg Neumann gneumann@kariscp.com
Sailing Office, Sailing@indianharboryc.com
Principal Race Officer: Raymond Griffin
Protest Chair: TBD
Technical Committee: PHRF Technical Committee, Yacht Racing Association of Long Island Sound

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