



15th Annual Geartester Distance Race
Saturday, May 16th, 2026
INDIAN HARBOR YACHT CLUB

Test it, then Bust it

Organizing Authority: Indian Harbor Yacht Club

NOTICE OF RACE

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 race will be governed by the *rules* as defined in the *The Racing Rules of Sailing*.
- 1.2 Indian Harbor Yacht Club is the Organizing Authority (OA).
- 1.3 The measurement rules are YRA of LIS PHRF Spinnaker, Double-Handed, Non-Spinnaker rules, IMS Rules and ORC Rating Systems and any applicable one-design class rules.
- 1.4 The race shall serve as a qualifier for the YRA of LIS Windigo, Sagola, du Moulin, King's Point, Mertz and Youth Challenge Cup trophies.
- 1.5 Participants shall comply with [US Sailing Safety Equipment Requirements](#) (SER) 2025-2026 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.
- 1.6 [NP][DP] Each boat shall fly from her backstay, six or more feet above deck, a numeral pennant corresponding to her class as designated by the Scratch Sheet.
- 1.7 All boats shall carry a working VHF radio capable of communicating on various channels. (See NOR 6).

2. ELIGIBILITY, ENTRY & FEES

- 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. If applicable, one design class(es) shall comply with class rules.
 - Entrants in any of the PHRF fleets must have a rating of 210 or lower.
- 2.2. Eligible fleets may include PHRF Fully Crewed/Spinnaker, Double-Handed/Spinnaker, PHRF Fully Crewed/Non-Spinnaker, ORC and any One Design class(es) (subject to 2.1).
- 2.3. Entry is via yachtscoring.com (Search "Geartester").
- 2.4. Entry and payment must be completed by 2359, Wednesday, May 13, 2026.
- 2.5. Entry fee is \$125.
- 2.6. After 2359, Sunday, May 10, 2026 the entry fee will be increased to \$150

3. DOUBLE HANDED EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS & RESTRICTIONS

- 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. Jacklines 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 & SCRATCH SHEETS

5.1. Sailing Instructions will be available online at yachtscoring.com (search for "Geartester") prior to Friday, May 15, 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 (Search "Geartester").

6.2. The race committee will make courtesy broadcasts to competitors on VHF 65. 5.3.

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.

6.5. [TBD] Each boat will be required to use a phone/app based tracking software, to be announced in tandem with the Sailing Instructions.

7. SCHEDULE

The first warning is scheduled for 1055, Saturday, May 16, 2026.

Following racing please join us for complimentary beer, and food at the awards ceremony.

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, MARKS, & OBSTRUCTIONS

9.1. Courses will be between 6 and 26 nautical miles depending on conditions.

9.2. Courses will be described in the Sailing Instructions.

9.3. The start line will be east of Little Captain Island **outside** Captain Harbor between Flat Neck Point Shoal RN "2" (near 40°59.746N/073°35.479W) and a yellow flag on the signal boat.

9.4. The finish line will be **inside** Captain Harbor between RN "2" (near 40°59.905N/073°37.277W) and a yellow flag on the finish boat located near RN "2". Note: This NOT the same RN "2" as used for the start.

9.5. The line extending from the eastern shore of Great Captain Island to the western shore of Little Captain Island is deemed to be a continuing obstruction and shall not be transited.

9.6. GB1(Little Captain Island East Reef Lighted Gong Buoy 1) and 1A (Hen And Chickens Buoy 1a) shall be passed on the channel side.

10. **SCORING**

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

10.2. ORC results will be scored using a boat's Triple Number All Purpose rating using time-on-time.

11. **MOORINGS**

Complimentary guest moorings are available from Friday, May 9th to Sunday, May 17th, 2025. Reservations must be made through [Dockwa](#). A credit or full refund will be applied once the reservation is made.

Please enter "Geartester 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 for each class.

12.2. For fleets with five or more entries having finished both the Geartester and Gearbuster, prizes will be awarded at the Indian Harbor annual awards dinner to the boat in each fleet deemed by the Organizing Authority to have had the best combined fleet performance.

12.3. Trophies for award winners will be ready for pick up at the awards ceremony.

12.4. Prizes are at the discretion of the OA.

13. **RISK STATEMENT & DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY**

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 in the harbor 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. **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Organizing Authority: Indian Harbor YC

Event Chairman: Greg Neumann gneumann@kariscp.com

Sailing Office, Sailing@indianharboryc.com

Principal Race Officer: TBD

Protest Chair: Sean Landers, Regatta@indianharboryc.com

Technical Committee: PHRF Technical Committee, Yacht Racing Association of Long Island Sound

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