



Bermuda to Newport, RI
Race Start: June 28, 2026

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

The notation [NP] in a rule of the SI means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1.

1 RULES

- 1.1** The abbreviated terms “Safety Requirements” or “NBRSR” mean the safety equipment rules applicable to the boat by virtue of NOR 6.1(e).
- 1.2** [NP] Breaches of the Safety Requirements may form the basis of a protest under RRS 2 or a report under rule 69.

2 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

The Race Committee (RC) will post Notices to Competitors on the Official Notice Board, which will be online at <https://nyyc.org/2026-bermuda-short-handed-return> (“the race website”). Rules documents will be posted on the Official Notice Board.

3 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

The OA may make amendments to the NOR or SIs at any time prior to the Competitor’s meeting, and such amendments shall be posted on the Official Notice Board.

4 SIGNALS ASHORE AND STARTING AREA

- 4.1** Signals made ashore will be displayed at the Royal Bermuda Yacht Club’s flagpole beginning at 0900 on the day of the start. The Race Committee may accompany signals ashore with announcements on VHF Ch. 72 and on the Official Notice Board.
- 4.2** The starting area will be in the Western end of St. George’s Harbour.
- 4.3** When the Answering Pennant (“AP”) is displayed ashore, the “1 minute” in “Race Signal AP” is replaced with “not less than four hours.” This changes Race Signal AP.
- 4.4** In the event conditions may prevent a safe and competitive egress from St. George’s Harbour through the Government Cut, boats may be advised that they can use auxiliary power from the point where they cross a line between SG9 and the light on Hen Island until Spit Buoy bears 180 degrees. A boat’s speed shall not exceed 3 knots speed over ground as measured by a GPS. Permission to use auxiliary power will be signaled by flying Code Flag O no later than the warning of each division. This may also be announced on VHF 72. The decision regarding conditions and whether to grant this permission is at the sole discretion of the RC and shall not be grounds for a boat to request redress. This changes RRS 61.4(b).

5 STARTING GROUP SAIL IDENTIFICATION [NP]

- 5.1** The OA will assign boats to classes and will assign classes to Starting Groups. Each Starting Group may consist of more than one class. Scratch sheets indicating class and Starting Group assignments will be available on the Official Notice Board.
- 5.2** It is intended that the Single-handed Division start first, followed by the Double-handed Division.
- 5.3** Boats shall display the numeral pennant(s) (size zero or larger) corresponding to their Starting Group between six (6) and 20 feet above the weather deck before the start and until at least sunset on the day of the start.
- 5.4** Boats shall display sail numbers and letters of the size carried on the mainsail by an alternative means when none of the numbered sails are set.
- 5.5** Sail identification should include national letters.

6 MANDATORY PRE-RACE SAFETY MEETING [NP]

Offshore sailing presents serious risks. Boats shall conduct their own pre-race safety meeting on the day of the start. Such meeting shall be conducted before the boat’s warning signal and with all crew members in attendance. At that meeting:

- a) appropriate safety topics, including but not limited to SI 9.2, which concerns the use of safety harnesses and life jackets, shall be discussed;
- b) the method of recording the approximate position of a MOB, and the procedures for transmitting and receiving emergency DSC VHF calls shall be described; and
- c) all crew members aboard the boat shall don lifejackets, safety harnesses with crotch/thigh straps, and tethers, and then mark and stow the gear where they will have individual access to it while underway. The boat’s skipper shall certify compliance with SI 6 on the Post Race Certificate of Compliance. See SI 12.1

7 THE START

7.1 The Race Committee will conduct starts in accordance with RRS 26, with the warning signal made ten (10) minutes before the starting signal.

7.2 The Race Committee intends to display the warning signal for each succeeding starting group with the starting signal of the preceding starting group.

Example sequence for the first scheduled start and second warning signal:

<i>Minutes before start signal</i>	<i>Visual signal</i>	<i>Sound signal</i>	<i>Means</i>	<i>Scheduled Time</i>
10	Starting Group Numeral Pennant	One	Warning signal	1350
4	Flag P	One	Preparatory signal	1356
1	Preparatory flag removed	One long	One minute	1359
0	Starting Group Pennant Removed, Next Pennant Raised	One	Starting signal and warning for the next Starting Group	1400

7.3 The starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the signal vessel at the starboard end and the course side of a red buoy placed by the Race Committee at the port end.

7.4 Under World Sailing Development Rule DR21-01, the definition of *Start* is changed as follows:

Start: A boat starts when her hull having been entirely on the pre-start side of the starting line, and having complied with rule 30.1 if it applies, any part of her hull crosses the starting line from the pre-start side to the course side either:

- a) at or after her starting signal, or
- b) during the last one (1) minute before her starting signal.

When a boat starts in accordance with part (b) of the definition *Start*, she shall not return to the prestart side of the line, and the starting penalty shall be 10 minutes added to her elapsed time without a hearing. This changes RRS 29.1, 30 and A5.1.

7.5 A boat that does not start within ten (10) minutes of her starting signal shall inform the RC on VHF 72 or via cell phone at +1 (347) 567-9311. In the event the signal vessel is no longer on station when that boat has reached the starting line, she shall pass to the south of the large pancake buoy located at 32 22.500n | 64 40.800w which shall serve as her starting line.

7.6 A boat that does not start within 24 hours after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.1 and A5.2.

8 THE COURSE

8.1 The course for all divisions will be from the starting line (SI 7.3) in St George's Harbour to the finishing line (SI 11.1) off Newport, leaving the Islands of Bermuda to port and the following aids to navigation as designated (positions approximate):

- a) Sea Buoy (32° 22.94' N; 64° 37.07' W) to port; and
- b) Mills Breaker Buoy (32° 23.9' N; 064° 36.9' W) to port (this is a virtual mark, there is no physical mark in the water); and
- c) Kitchen Shoals Beacon (32° 26.1' N; 064° 37.6' W) to port and
- d) North East Breaker Beacon (32° 28.7' N; 064° 41.0' W) to port and
- e) North Rock Beacon (32° 28.5' N; 064° 21.8' W) to port and
- f) Red Bell "2" (41° 25.9' N; 071° 20.8' W) to starboard.

8.2 **CAUTION:** North Rock Beacon, North East Breaker Beacon, and Kitchen Shoals Beacon are fixed light towers with foundations built on dangerous, non-navigable reefs. These beacons should only be approached with extreme caution.

8.3 Attention is drawn to the Notices to Mariners and Local Navigation Warnings of Bermuda's Department of Marine & Ports Services. See www.rccb Bermuda.bm for more information and for a schedule of broadcasts via VHF and MF.

8.4 Attention is drawn to the U.S. Coast Guard 1st District Local Notice to Mariners ("LNM") for safe navigation.

9 SEAMANSHIP

9.1 Attention is drawn to RRS 1.1, Helping Those in Danger.

9.2 [NP] Each crew member is individually responsible for wearing a Lifejacket and Safety Harness conforming with the Safety Requirements:

- a) between the hours of sunset and sunrise;
- b) when alone on deck;
- c) when reefed;
- d) when the true wind speed is 25 knots or more;
- e) when visibility is less than 1 nautical mile; or
- f) with due consideration of the water temperature and sea state.

9.3 [NP] Boats should attempt to retrieve floatable equipment, especially life-saving equipment, lost overboard and log lost racing time. If recovery is not made, boats shall report the loss of floatable equipment to the Race Committee by any method listed under SI 10.1 and shall broadcast a *securité* announcement on VHF Ch. 16 indicating the approximate position of such loss.

10 COMMUNICATIONS [NP]

10.1 Except as otherwise provided, boats may hail the Race Committee on:
VHF: Ch. 72

Telephone: +1 (441) 705-7123 (primary) **or** +1 (347) 567 9311 (secondary)

Additional Numbers: 1 (312) 402-2105, 1 (401) 845-9633

E-mail: bshr@nyyc.org

10.2 **Race Committee Broadcasts** The Race Committee will monitor VHF Ch. 72 in and around the starting area, and may broadcast information to the fleet, including names and/or sail numbers of boats called OCS.

10.3 **Continuous Radio Watch** Boats shall maintain a continuous watch on VHF Ch. 16 and VHF Ch. 72 from 1200 on the day of the start until they are moored in a port. Boats shall maintain this watch on a radio that complies with NBRSR 3.8.1 and that is clearly audible above deck. Boats shall have programmed their radios to send and receive the group DSC channel MMSI number 036824756 with default to Ch.72. Social communication between boats will not be deemed a breach of RRS 41 and is encouraged. This changes RRS 41.

10.4 **AIS** Boats shall enable the transmitting mode of their AIS and monitor AIS for AIS-SART, MOB, and similar distress signals at all times. See RRS 1.1. A boat's AIS shall transmit the name of the vessel as she is entered in the race. If this is not possible, the boat shall inform the Race Committee of the name she will transmit on AIS by email to bshr@nyyc.org.

- 10.5 Satellite Phone Watch** Boats shall be ready to receive telephone calls via a satellite telephone installed in accordance with NBRSR 3.11, except while making occasional brief data connections.
- 10.6 Position Reporting**
- a) Each boat shall provide a periodic report of her position by means of an automatic transponder (supplied by the OA) until mooring in a port.
 - b) If a boat believes or is notified that her transponder is not functioning properly, she shall email her position to the Race Committee (bshr@nyyc.org) every 6 hours (0000, 0600, 1200, 1800) until mooring in a port. Boats without email capability may call the Race Committee on +1 (441) 705-7123 or +1 (347) 567-9311 or +1 (312) 402-2105 or ask any nearby vessel to relay its position to the Race Committee. The Race Committee may ask for additional position reports at regular intervals and may relieve the boat of her reporting duty under this paragraph. Any boat failing to report her position according to this paragraph shall provide an explanation with her Certificate of Compliance. The Race Committee may post positions reported per this paragraph on the Offshore Notice Board or by email to boats' offshore email addresses.
 - c) Positions received from automatic transponders will be updated approximately every 20 minutes. See Appendix A hereto for information concerning access to automatic transponder data.
- 11 THE FINISH**
- 11.1** Boats shall finish by passing within 0.1nm of Red Bell "2" near Brenton Reef (41° 25.9' N; 071° 21.8' W) and taking her time when R2 bears 090° Magnetic.
- 11.2 Finishing**
- a) Each boat shall record the date and time (hh:mm:ss ADT) of her own finish on her [Post-Race Certificate of Compliance](#). She should also note the names and sail numbers of the boats finishing immediately before and after her, if any and if practicable.
 - b) [NP] The Race Committee may use automatic transponder data, AIS, and/or Post Race Certificates of Compliance to supplement its finishing line observations.
- 11.3 After Finishing**
Refer to SI 12.
- 12 NEWPORT CHECK-IN AND POST RACE CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE [NP]**
Check-In Each Skipper shall submit their electronic [Post-Race Certificate of Compliance](#) to the New York Yacht Club Sailing Office as soon as practicable, but in any case, not later than 4 hours after finishing and return their yellow brick tracker to the sailing office before prizegiving. The NYYC Sailing Office is open Tuesday-Sunday, 0900-1730 and can be reached via sailingoffice@nyyc.org. Boats arriving outside of these hours may contact the Sailing Office for further instruction.
- 13 PENALTY SYSTEM**
The International Jury may apply discretionary penalties [DP], up to and including a DSQ, for breaches of any *rules* in the Notice of Race, Sailing Instructions, Newport Bermuda Race Safety Requirements and inspection requirements. DP may be imposed for breaches of rules of Part 2 (When Boats Meet) .
- 14 TIME LIMITS**
The Time Limit is 0900 on July 5, 2026.
- 15 PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS**
- 15.1** Boats filing hearing requests for protests or redress shall complete the online form within four hours of finishing. The form is posted on the [event website](#).
- 15.2** Notices of protests by the Race Committee, Technical Committee or International Jury will be posted on the Official Notice Board located at <https://nyyc.org/2026-bermuda-short-handed-return> to inform boats under RRS 60.2(a)(2).
- 15.3** The Technical Committee includes the inspectors for purposes of RRS 60.1.

16 SCORING

- 16.1 The race will be scored in accordance with NOR 14.
- 16.2 When a boat is penalized by having her elapsed or corrected time adjusted, her class and fleet positions will be determined according to the adjusted times after correction.
- 16.3 The Race Committee (or International Jury for a request for redress) will conduct scoring inquiries following receipt of a boat's written request by 0900 EDT, Sunday, July 5, 2026.
- 16.4 A boat's elapsed time will be taken from the starting signal for her class regardless of when she crossed the starting line.

17 RETIRING

- 17.1 A boat that withdraws her entry on the day of the start should contact the race committee at bshr@nyyc.org.
- 17.2 A boat that retires while racing shall: notify the race committee immediately and continue doing so every four hours until a response is received; display her ensign; continue to make daily position reports pursuant to SI 10.6; and keep clear of the start and finishing lines.
- 17.3 After mooring in a port, a retired boat or one that withdraws her entry on the day of the start shall again notify the Race Committee as soon as possible. The Skipper shall provide a written report concerning the circumstances of the boat's retirement or withdrawn entry to the Race Committee not later than July 13, 2026.
- 17.4 Retired boats and those which did not compete must return the supplied transponder to the NYYC Sailing Office by July 8, 2026. If the boat returns to Bermuda, she may deliver the transponder by hand to RBYC Sailing Office within 48 hours after starting. If the boat does not proceed to Newport and does not return to Bermuda within 48 hours after starting, the transponder shall be returned by express, insured delivery to the NYYC Sailing Office at 5 Halidon Ave, Newport, RI 02840. Any boat that fails to return its supplied transponder in working order by July 13, 2026, will be charged for the replacement cost of the device and/or any fees charged by the transponder's owner.

18. INSPECTIONS

Inspections will be conducted in accordance with NOR 6.1(e).

19. PRIZES

The Organizing Committee will award prizes in accordance with NOR 16 and the final Prize Listing posted on the race website.

20. RESPONSIBILITY, LIABILITY, AND MEDIA

See NOR 15.2 and liability waiver/media release on the race website.

APPENDIX A – ACCESS TO AUTOMATIC TRANSPONDER DATA

HTML Leaderboard	https://yb.tl/Leaderboard/bshr2026
Simple	https://yb.tl/Simple/bshr2026
Expedition	https://yb.tl/bshr2026-expedition.txt https://yb.tl/bshr2026-boatids.txt Recent versions of Expedition have a YB Tracking option which requires this code: bshr2026
Maxsea	https://yb.tl/bshr2026-maxsea.txt https://yb.tl/bshr2026-timezero.txt https://yb.tl/bshr2026-identifiant.txt
Adrena	https://yb.tl/bshr2026-adrenacompetitors.dcc https://yb.tl/bshr2026-adrena.txt
Google Earth (KML)	https://yb.tl/bshr2026.kml
Text Leaderboard (all classes)	https://yb.tl//bshr2026
Email Auto-Responder	Hide instructions If you email: bshr2026@race.yb.tl Use one of the following as a subject: leaderboard maxsea adrena expedition If you'd like the data in the body of an email (rather than as an attachment), include the word 'body' in the subject. e.g: Subject: leaderboard body If you'd like to subscribe for regular reports, finish the subject with 0.5, 1, 3, 4, 6, 12 or 24 hours. e.g: Subject: adrena body 12 OR Subject: expedition 6 When you wish to stop your subscription, send an email to: bshr2026@race.yb.tl with STOP as the subject.

Note that data may not be available until Registration in Newport opens. Positions received from automatic transponders will be updated approximately every twenty minutes.