



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

NOTICE OF RACE

1 SPIRIT AND OBJECTIVE OF THE RACE

The race is intended to be a sporting competition that additionally serves to enhance the safety of the return voyage. The event seeks to encourage more sailors to participate in and to advance the skills of short-handed ocean sailing.

2 ORGANIZING AUTHORITY AND EVENT MANAGEMENT

- 2.1 The New York Yacht Club Regatta Association, Inc. is the Organizing Authority (OA) for the race. The Organizing Committee (OC) for the race is comprised of the New York Yacht Club (NYYC), the Royal Bermuda Yacht Club (RBYC), and the Bermuda Race Foundation (BRF). The OA and the OC will work in concert in planning and conducting the Bermuda Short-Handed Return.
- 2.2 The OA may make amendments to the NOR at any time prior to the skippers' meeting, and such amendments shall be posted on the online Official Notice Board (ONB).

3 RULES

- 3.1 The event is governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing*.
- 3.2 The current Offshore Racing Rule (“ORR”) shall apply.
- 3.3 Addendum 1 – US Sailing Prescriptions to the RRS shall apply. Only the prescriptions listed in this Addendum shall apply.
- 3.4 Between the times of local sunset and sunrise, RRS Appendix RV shall apply.
- 3.5 RRS 41 (c), OUTSIDE HELP will be replaced with: “(c) Help in the form of information freely available to all boats even if that information is only accessible at a cost. However, such ‘at a cost’ help shall not include private forecast or tactical advice or information customized for a particular boat or group of boats and/or her/their situation.”
- 3.6 The term “Skipper”, as used in this NOR and other race documents means the Person in Charge under RRS 46.
- 3.7 RRS 52, Manual Power, shall not apply, as per ORR 4.08. The use of autopilots is permitted.
- 3.8 RRS 56.2 IRPCAS 10 (traffic separation) shall not be grounds for protest by a boat. This changes RRS 60.1. If there is a report from a government agency or from a disinterested vessel which was using the Traffic Separation Scheme that created an incident, the Race Committee (RC) may make a report to the jury, which may call a hearing.
- 3.9 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 RRS 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 minute before her starting signal.
When a boat starts in accordance with item (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 A 5.1.
- 3.10 If there is a conflict between languages, the English text takes precedence.

4 SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

The sailing instructions (SIs) will be available no later than 1400 ADT Saturday, June 27 on the online ONB.

5 COMMUNICATION

5.1 The ONB is located at <https://nyyc.org/2026-bermuda-short-handed-return>.

5.2 All boats shall carry a VHF radio capable of communicating on US channels 13, 16, and 72.

5.3 On the water, the RC will make courtesy broadcasts to competitors on VHF channel 72.

5.4 VHF channel 72 will be used as the Race Committee reporting channel for the check-in at the start, the finish in Newport, and for any inter-yacht communications during the race.

5.5 While racing, except in an emergency, a boat shall not make voice or data transmissions to and shall not receive voice or data communication from non-race participants that is not available to all boats as defined in NOR 3.5.

5.6 All yachts shall monitor VHF channel 16 throughout the race and VHF channel 72 from 1200 on the day of the *start* until mooring in a port.

5.7 AIS: Boats shall:

- a) use their best efforts to maintain an electronic watch via an AIS proximity alarm and use their best efforts to monitor AIS for AIS-SART or similar distress signals at all times;
- b) use their best efforts to ensure the transmitting mode of their AIS is enabled at all times and to log and report to the OA after the race all known times that the AIS was not transmitting and the reason why. Other competitors who identify that a yacht is not transmitting AIS shall make an attempt to notify the yacht of the condition;
- c) ensure that the boat name provided on the boat's entry form (rather than just an MMSI number or former name) is transmitted on AIS;

5.8 Prior to the skippers meeting all boats are required to:

- a) call the Race Committee's voicemail via satellite telephone at a number to be provided;
- b) email the Race Committee via satellite connection at a contact email to be provided;
- c) be capable of receiving voice calls and email or text messages via satellite telephone while racing.

5.9 Boats shall mount a satellite transponder (supplied by the OA at Registration) according to the instructions. Transponders must be returned to the OA after finishing or before July 6, 2026, after which a late fee equal to the retail price of the device will be charged against a deposit made prior to the race.

6 ELIGIBILITY

6.1 The race is open to yachts meeting the following criteria:

- a) they are seaworthy, self-righting monohulls with an enclosed cabin and a watertight, self-bailing cockpit.
- b) they must be fitted with an auxiliary motor. The engine or motor must be capable of propelling the yacht through the water at a speed of not less than five (5) knots.
- c) boats must have a valid ORR Double-Handed rating certificate with the stated LOA not less than 32.5 feet (9.906 meters) nor greater than 65.6 feet (20.00 meters) and an ORR GPH not less than (faster than) 290 seconds / mile.
 - i) Yachts wishing to enter the race that did not compete in the Newport Bermuda Race (NBR) and do not hold a current ORR rating certificate may petition the OA for entry with an ORRez certificate.
- d) The movement of water ballast and conventional canting keels, including by non-manual power means, is permitted by ORR, provided such features are declared for measurement. See ORR 2.03.3 and Appendix 7, which modifies RRS 51 and 52.

- e) Each entering yacht shall comply with the Newport Bermuda Race 2026 Safety Requirements for Monohulls.
 - i) Yachts that sailed the 2026 Newport Bermuda Race (“NBR”) and met the NBR safety requirements may self-inspect but must declare their compliance by submitting the online Compliance of Certificate and make their yacht available for review before the skippers meeting.
 - ii) Entered yachts that did not sail the 2026 NBR shall be inspected as per NOR 7.6.
 - iii) All yachts are subject to potential re-inspection after the finish.
- 6.2 All skippers shall submit a sailing resume in writing to the OC at bshr@nyyc.org by June 19, 2026.
 - a) Single-handed skippers shall document a minimum of 100 miles and no less than 30 continuous hours of offshore experience the yacht they wish to enter.
 - b) The OA may amend these requirements by application from a sufficiently qualified skipper.
- 6.3 There will be two divisions, single-handed and double-handed. Each may be further divided into classes.

7 ENTRY

- 7.1 Eligible Boats may enter the event by registering online at <https://nyyc.org/2026-bermuda-short-handed-return>. To be entered in the race, a boat shall complete all registration requirements and pay all fees.
- 7.2 No entries will be accepted after June 19 without permission of the OA.
- 7.3 The OA may reject or cancel the entry of a boat or exclude a competitor in accordance with RRS 76 and the prescription to RRS 76.
- 7.4 Boats that have competed in the 2026 Newport to Bermuda Race must submit the following no later than 1400 ADT on Friday, June 26:
 - A) 2026 Newport to Bermuda Certificate of Compliance
- 7.5 Boats that have not competed in the 2026 Newport to Bermuda Race must submit the Boat Information Form no later than Friday, June 26.
 - A) Boat Information Form (this form shall contain the same information as the Newport to Bermuda Race information form).
- 7.6 Boats that have not competed in the 2026 Newport to Bermuda Race must have passed inspection no later than Wednesday, June 24. The inspection will follow the same parameters as the Newport to Bermuda inspection. Boats shall schedule this directly with the OA. This deadline may be altered on a case-by-case basis at the sole discretion of the OA.

8 FEES

- 8.1 If paid on or before April 3, 2026 the entry fee is \$500.00. If paid after April 3, 2026 the entry fee is \$700.
- 8.2 Boats withdrawing on or before May 15 will receive a full refund of their entry fee. Boats withdrawing after May 15 but on or before June 19 will receive 50% of their entry fee. After June 19 refunds to boats withdrawing are at the discretion of the OA.

9 CREW LIMITATIONS

- 9.1 Boats shall be crewed by either one or two persons.
- 9.2 All participants shall be at least 18 years of age. A singlehanded skipper and at least one of the doublehanded crew shall be 21 years of age or older. However, skippers under 21 years of age may petition the OA to rule for an exception to this eligibility requirement.
- 9.3 All crew shall hold a World Sailing Approved Offshore Personal Survival Course Certificate.

10 ADVERTISING

Boats may be required to display advertising chosen and supplied by the organizing authority. See World Sailing Advertising Code.

11 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, June 19		No entries accepted after this date
Thursday, June 25	0900 - 1100 ADT	Registration at RBYC
Friday, June 26	0900 - 1100 ADT	Registration at RBYC
Saturday, June 27	1400 ADT	Competitor's Meeting at RBYC (<i>Mandatory for all competitors</i>)
Sunday, June 28	1400 ADT	Race Start
Sunday, July 5	1400 EDT	Prize Giving at NYYC Harbour Court

12 COURSE

The course will be from a start location in the vicinity of the east end of the island of Bermuda leaving the following buoys to port: Spit Buoy, Sea Buoy, Mills Buoy, and Kitchen Shoals and will finish off Newport, RI. U.S. Government marks that are not marks of the course need not be observed. Approximate course length is 636 nm.

13 PENALTY SYSTEM

- 13.1 An International Jury will be constituted in accordance with RRS Appendix N. Decisions of the Jury will be final as provided in RRS 70.3.
- 13.2 The jury may impose discretionary penalties, which may include time penalties, for breaches of a rule. This changes RRS 60.5(c).

14 SCORING

- 14.1 Corrected times will be calculated using ORR's Forecast – Time Correction Factor (F-TCF).
- 14.2 The decision on weather and current forecasts will be at the sole discretion of the RC and shall not be grounds for a boat to request redress. This changes RRS 61.4(b).

15 RISK STATEMENT

- 15.1 As a condition of entry, each owner, skipper and participating crew member shall submit, prior to racing, an online Compliance, Liability Waiver and Media release. The links to this form can be found on the regatta website.
- 15.2 Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. See RRS 3, Decision to Race. The Organizing Authority, New York Yacht Club and any official sponsors will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during or after the regatta. Attention is also drawn to RRS 46.

16 PRIZES

Prizes will be given as follows:

- Overall best corrected time for all yachts.
- Best corrected time for a Single-handed yacht.
- Best corrected time for a Double-handed yacht.
- Best corrected time for each class if more than one class in a division.
- Additional prizes may be awarded at the discretion of the OA.

17 FURTHER INFORMATION

17.1 For further information please contact the OC at: bshr@nyyc.org.

17.2 Event website: <https://nyyc.org/2026-bermuda-short-handed-return>.

Race Headquarters

Royal Bermuda Yacht Club
15 Point Pleasant Road
Hamilton HM DX, Bermuda

New York Yacht Club Harbour Court
Newport, RI
NYYC Sailing Office

Les Crane, Event Co-Chair
(441) 705-7123 Bermuda Mobile
(347) 567-9311 US Mobile
bshr@nyyc.org

Lynn Lynch, NYYC Sailing Director
(401) 608-1168
(312) 402-2105 Mobile
bshr@nyyc.org

RBYC Sailing Office
(441) 294-6706