



# Sailing Instructions (SIs)

American Yacht Club

47<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Regatta

May 1-3, 2026

Organizing Authority (OA): American Yacht Club, Rye, NY

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

## GENERAL FORMAT

The 46<sup>th</sup> American Yacht Club (AYC) Annual Spring Regatta will consist of:

- **The Friday Coastal Race on May 1.** Scoring for the Friday Coastal Race will be using PHRF and ORC. This race will be scored separately and will not be included in the Spring Series score. The scratch sheet and results can be accessed at <https://www.yachtscoring.com/emenu/50769>. All other information on the Friday Coastal Race, including race documents and communications will be on the Regatta Website referenced in SI 3.1.
- **The Spring Series on Saturday and Sunday, May 2 and 3,** will offer two racing formats:
  - **Windward/Leeward Racing** for the ORC, PHRF, and One Design Classes.
  - **Coastal Racing** for the PHRF and ORC Classes (including Doublehanded, Non-Spinnaker, and One Design as described in NoR 4.3).
  - The scratch sheet and results can be accessed at <https://www.yachtscoring.com/emenu/50596>.

## 1 RULES

The event is governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing* (RRS).

## 2 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any changes to the sailing instructions will be posted before 1900 on the day before the changes will take effect.

## 3 COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

3.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located on the Regatta Website: <https://www.yachtscoring.com/emenu/50596>.

3.2 The race committee intends to make courtesy broadcasts on the appropriate VHF channels 90 minutes before the first scheduled warning signal on each day of the event.

3.3 The race committee may announce their intentions to start a race or the course via the appropriate VHF course channel.

3.4 VHF channels used by the race committee to communicate with the competitors shall be as follows:

**South Course (including Friday Coastal Race) VHF Channel: 69**

**East Course VHF Channel: 71**

3.5 Failure of the race committee to make any VHF broadcasts, the timing thereof, or failure in the transmission or reception of any broadcast shall not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 61.4(b).

- 3.6** [DP] From the first warning signal until the end of the last race of the day, except in an emergency or to report a protest or withdrawal, a boat shall neither make voice nor data transmissions and shall neither receive voice nor data communication that is not available to all boats.

#### **4 CODE OF CONDUCT**

[DP] Competitors and support persons shall comply with reasonable requests from race officials.

#### **5 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE**

- 5.1** Signals made ashore will be displayed on the American Yacht Club main flagpole and shall be announced on the South and East Course VHF Channels.

- 5.2** When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 90 minutes' in RRS Race Signals AP.

#### **6 SCHEDULE OF RACES**

- 6.1** One race is scheduled for the Friday Coastal Race, with the first warning signal scheduled at 1255 on May 1, 2026.

- 6.2** Racing for all classes in the Spring Series is scheduled for May 2 and 3, 2026.

- 6.3** The scheduled time of the first warning signal for the Spring Series on Saturday, May 2 and Sunday, May 3 will be based on the weather forecast and other factors, and will be at 1055 or 1255. The race committee will announce by text message using the cellular phone number provided with each entry, and also post on the Regatta Website the time of the first warning signal by 1900 on the day before each day of racing. Failure of the race committee to initiate any text messages, the timing thereof, or a competitor to receive any text shall not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 61.4(b).

- 6.4** For the Spring Series Windward/Leeward Racing classes, multiple races per day are scheduled.

- 6.5** For the Spring Series Coastal Racing classes, a maximum of two races per day are scheduled.

- 6.6** Flag A displayed, with no sound, while boats are finishing means 'No more racing today.'

- 6.7** On the last scheduled day of racing no warning signal will be made after 1600.

#### **7 CLASS FLAGS**

- 7.1** Class flags will be numeral pennants.

- 7.2** [DP] Each boat shall display her class flag on its permanent backstay or, in the absence of a permanent backstay, from her stern rail.

- 7.3** A listing of entrants for the Friday Coastal Race by class shall be posted on <https://www.yachtscoring.com/emenu/50769> by 1200 on the day before the race.

- 7.4** A listing of entrants for the Spring Series by class shall be posted on the Regatta Website by 1200 on the day before the first race of the series.

**8 RACING AREA**

- 8.1 There will be two separate race areas for the Spring Regatta, the East Course and the South Course.
- 8.2 The Friday Coastal Race and Spring Series Coastal Racing classes are assigned to the South Course to be located approximately mid-Sound, south of Milton Point.
- 8.3 The Spring Series Windward/Leeward Racing classes are assigned to the East Course to be located approximately mid-Sound, east of Milton Point.
- 8.4 The approximate positions of the starting areas will be announced approximately 30 minutes prior to the first warning signal each day for all classes on their respective VHF course channels.

**9 COURSES**

**9.1 THE COURSES FOR WINDWARD/LEEWARD RACING**

The diagrams in SI Appendix A show the Windward/Leeward courses, the order in which marks are to be passed, and the side on which each mark is to be left.

- 9.2 For Windward/Leeward courses the leeward mark will be a gate. In the event one of the gate marks is missing the remaining gate mark shall be rounded to port.
- 9.3 The race committee signal vessel will display the magnetic bearing and range, in tenths of nautical miles (15 is 1.5 nautical miles) from the signal boat to the windward mark, and the course number no later than the warning signal.
- 9.4 Sample course board and configurations for Windward/Leeward courses (labels may not be displayed):

Course	Class	Range	Bearing
4	1	1	2
4	2	5	3
4	3		0
3	4		

**9.5 THE COURSES FOR THE FRIDAY COASTAL RACE AND SPRING SERIES COASTAL RACING**

The courses and associated signals for the Friday Coastal Race and Spring Series Coastal Racing classes are defined in SI Appendix B.

**10 MARKS**

**10.1** The Marks for Windward/Leeward will be inflatable buoys as follows:

Original Mark(s)	Starting Mark	Finishing Mark	Alternate Change Mark(s)	Offset Mark (1a)
Orange	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Orange or Red

**10.2** The Marks for the Friday Coastal Race and Spring Series Coastal Racing classes are defined in SI Appendix B.

## **11 THE START**

- 11.1** The starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the race committee vessel at the starboard-end and the course side of the port-end Starting Mark.
- 11.2** [DP] Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area during the starting sequence for other races.
- 11.3** A boat that does not start within 10 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.1 and A5.2.
- 11.4** 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 broadcast her sail number on her respective VHF course channel. Delay in the radio broadcast of these calls, or the order in which they are made, or any omission or failure in the transmission or reception of these, will not be grounds for a request for redress. This changes RRS 61.4(b).

## **12 CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE**

- 12.1** To change the next leg of the course, the race committee will either (i) move the Original Mark(s) or the finishing line to a new position, or (ii) if signal flag Q is displayed under signal flag C, the race committee will lay an Alternate Change Mark(s) as defined in SI 10. This changes RRS Race Signals. When the mark being changed is Mark 1 (the windward mark), if the race committee does not set a new Offset Mark 1a, Offset Mark 1a will no longer be a mark of the course.
- 12.2** The race committee may change the course by up to five (5) degrees in bearing and/or 0.2 nm in length without a signal. This changes RRS 33.

## **13 THE FINISH**

The finish line will be between a staff displaying a blue flag on a race committee vessel and the course side of the Finishing Mark.

## **14 PENALTY SYSTEM**

- 14.1** Appendix T, Arbitration, will apply as changed. At the end of T4, Arbitration Meeting Outcomes, add:  
(c) RRS 63.4 (e) is replaced by:  
A witness shall be excluded from the hearing when not giving evidence, except for a witness who:
- (1) is also a *party*,
  - (2) is a member of the protest committee, or
  - (3) if arbitration has been conducted, the arbitrator who conducted the meeting.

- 14.2** For all classes: US Sailing Prescription Appendix V, Rule V1 shall apply.

## **15 TIME LIMITS**

- 15.1** For the Friday Coastal Race classes: the time limit for the first boat in her class to sail the course and finish in each class will be 3 ½ hours. Boats failing to finish within 1 hour after the first boat sails the course and finishes will be scored Did Not Finish without a hearing. This changes RRS 35, A4 and A5.

- 15.2** For all Windward/Leeward Racing classes: the time limit for the first boat to sail the course and finish in each class will be 2 ½ hours from the starting time of that class. Boats failing to finish within 30 minutes after the first boat in her class sails the course and finishes will be scored Did Not Finish without a hearing. This changes RRS 35, A4 and A5.
- 15.3** For the Spring Series Coastal Racing classes: the time limit for the first boat in its class to sail the course and finish in each class following a 1055 first warning signal will be 5 hours from the starting time of that class and following a 1255 first warning signal the time limit will be 3 ½ hours. Boats failing to finish within 1 hour after the first boat in her class sails the course and finishes will be scored Did Not Finish without a hearing. This changes RRS 35, A4 and A5.
- 15.4** Failure to meet the Time Limits will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 61.4(b).

## **16 HEARING REQUESTS**

- 16.1** RRS 60.2(a) is changed to include the following notice and procedures: At any time after an incident, up to and including immediately after finishing, a protesting boat shall notify the race committee over their respective VHF course channel of its intent to lodge a protest and provide the sail number of the protesting boat and the sail number of the boat it intends to protest.
- 16.2** Written protest or redress hearing requests shall be submitted through the online hearing request form, located at <https://sailing.americanyc.org/protest> or by using this QR code:



- 16.3** For each class, the protest time limit is 60 minutes after the race committee signal vessel for that course docks. The time will be posted on the official notice board.
- 16.4** Notices will be posted on the Regatta Website no later than 15 minutes after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Hearings will be held in the protest room, located off the foyer of the American Yacht Club clubhouse beginning at the time posted.

## **17 SCORING**

- 17.1** The Friday Coastal Race will be a single race and shall be scored separately using PHRF Time on Distance (ToD) and the Distance rating shown on each boat's YRALIS PHRF certificate, or ORC Triple Number All Purpose Time On Time ratings shown on their certificates. The Friday Coastal Race will not be included in the Spring Series score.
- 17.2** For the Spring Series one (1) race is required to be completed to constitute a series. The series score for the Spring Series shall be based on class race scores from May 2 and 3, 2026.
- 17.3** When fewer than five (5) races have been completed for the Spring Series, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores. When five (5) or more races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score. This changes RRS Appendix A.

- 17.4** A boat scored DNF will be scored points equal to the number of boats in her class that sailed the course and finished within the time limit plus two points. This changes RRS A5.2.
- 17.5** The Spring Series Coastal Racing classes will be scored time using PHRF ToD and the Distance rating shown on each boat's YRALIS PHRF certificate, or ORC Triple Number All Purpose Time On Time ratings shown on her certificate.
- 17.6** Scoring for ORC Classes will use Windward/Leeward Time On Time Triple Number ratings.
- 17.7** The decision on the scoring method and scoring parameters used for a race will be at the sole discretion of the race committee. This includes the length of the course, directions of the legs and the wind details such as strength and direction. These will not be grounds for a request for redress by a boat. This changes RRS 61.4(b).

**18 SAFETY REGULATIONS**

[DP] A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee at the first reasonable opportunity.

**19 GREEN REGATTA**

In an effort to promote sustainability and reduce the amount of waste in Long Island Sound, competitors are encouraged to utilize reusable water bottles and avoid the use of any single-use plastics.

**20 PRIZES**

Prizes for the Friday Coastal Race will be awarded at American Yacht Club on Friday, May 1, 2026. Prizes for the Spring Series will be awarded at American Yacht Club on Sunday, May 3, 2026.

**21 RISK, RESPONSIBILITY FOR SAFETY, WAIVER & RELEASE**

RRS 3 states: 'The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone.' By participating in this event and any related activity sponsored, undertaken, administered, managed, or allowed to be conducted by American Yacht Club, the owner, helmsman and each crew member agree, understand and accept, for themselves and their respective successors, assigns, representatives, administrators, executors, agents, heirs or any person acting or purporting to act on their behalf ("Releasers") that sailing is an inherently dangerous and unpredictable activity due to multiple factors that cannot be anticipated or predicted with certainty, including but not limited to weather, equipment failure or malfunction, and the actions of others on or off the water, injury, sickness and disease (including communicable diseases such as Covid-19). Releasers also agree, understand and accept that sailing presents inherent risks of serious bodily injury (including permanent disability, paralysis, and death, whether by drowning or otherwise, sickness and disease (including communicable diseases), property damage and other economic loss. Accordingly, and in consideration for being permitted to enter into and participate in this or any other sailing event sponsored, undertaken, administered, managed or allowed to be conducted by American Yacht Club, Releasers forever release and waive, to the fullest extent allowed by law, any and all claims, actions, accounts, causes of action and choses in action, whether in law, equity or admiralty, that Releasers now have, may have had or may come to have, against American Yacht Club, including its officers, directors, trustees, members, employees, agents, volunteers, staff, committees, and anyone acting on its behalf ("Releasees"), for anything arising out of or relating to Releasers' participation in such sailing events (including contracting communicable diseases such as Covid-19). Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, and without in any way limiting or lessening the effect or breadth of the foregoing release and waiver, and solely for the avoidance of doubt and clarification,

Releasers agree, acknowledge and understand that this release and waiver applies to any and all claims of any kind at all against Releasees arising out of or relating to injuries, deaths, sickness and disease (including communicable diseases such as Covid-19), damage to vessels or damage to personal property sustained during or as a result of any and all sailing events sponsored, undertaken, administered, managed or allowed to be conducted by American Yacht Club.

**22 INSURANCE**

Each participating boat shall be adequately insured with current, valid third-party liability insurance that is appropriate taking into account the value of the boats racing and the type of racing.

**23 CONTACT INFORMATION**

American Yacht Club, 499 Stuyvesant Avenue, Rye, NY 10580  
AYC Website: [www.americanyc.org](http://www.americanyc.org) Phone: (914) 967-4800  
Regatta Website: <https://www.yachtscoring.com/emenue/50596>  
Email: [aycrc@americanyc.org](mailto:aycrc@americanyc.org) Fax: (914) 967-5340

**American Yacht Club cordially extends the privileges of the clubhouse and harbor to participants before and after the racing.**

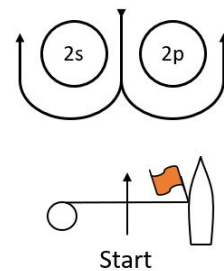
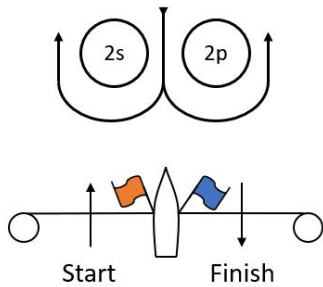
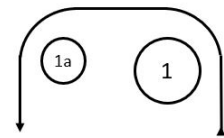
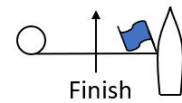
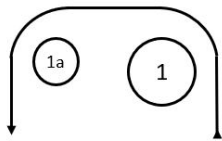
**A limited number of moorings will be available. Reservations are required. Contact Bud Puterbaugh, AYC Harbor Captain by email ([bputerbaugh@americanyc.org](mailto:bputerbaugh@americanyc.org)) for rates and availability.**

## Appendix A Windward/Leeward Course Diagrams

**\*For races when mark 1 has been changed in accordance with RRS 33, mark 1a may no longer be a mark of the course in accordance with SI 10.1.**

Course	Order of Marks
2	Start, 1, 1a*, Finish
4	Start, 1, 1a*, 2p/2s, 1, 1a*, Finish
6	Start, 1, 1a*, 2p/2s, 1, 1a*, 2p/2s, 1, 1a* Finish

Course	Order of Marks
3	Start, 1, 1a*, 2p/2s, Finish
5	Start, 1, 1a*, 2p/2s, 1, 1a, 2p/2s, Finish
7	Start, 1, 1a*, 2p/2s, 1, 1a*, 2p/2s, 1, 1a*, 2p/2s, Finish



## Appendix B

### Coastal Racing Course and Marks

B.1. The race committee signal vessel at or before the warning signal will signal the course by VHF radio on course designated channel and on a board according to SI B.3, B.4 and B.5. The race committee will list the marks in the order to be rounded (reading the course board top-down and the required side to leave each mark: (P) for port and (S) for starboard). The Finish shall be in the approximate location of the Start. The Starting Mark is an Orange inflatable mark. The Finishing Mark is a Yellow inflatable mark. The race committee vessel at the Finish may or may not be the same vessel that started the race.

B.2. An illustrative course board is shown below. In this example, the course would be: Start, F rounded to port, M rounded to port, X (which bears 120° M (degrees magnetic) at a range of 2.0 nm (nautical miles) from the race committee signal vessel) rounded to port, Z rounded to starboard, N rounded to starboard, Finish.

Division #  
 F (P)  
 M (P)  
 X (P) 2.0 nm @120°  
 Z (S)  
 N(S)

B.3. Marks for the Coastal Racing classes will be designated as follows:

<b>A</b> N "40A" Scotch Caps	<b>G</b> G "23" Sands Pt	<b>O</b> G "17" Oyster Bay	<b>V</b> G "1" Greenwich
<b>B</b> R "42" Mamaroneck	<b>I</b> N "4" Prospect Pt	<b>P</b> G "15" Lloyd Pt	<b>Z</b> R "38" Playland
<b>C</b> C "1" Delancey Pt	<b>J</b> R "6" Mott Pt	<b>Q</b> GR C "E" Eatons Neck	
<b>D</b> G "1" Larchmont	<b>K</b> C "1" Weeks Pt	<b>S</b> R "28C" Norwalk	
<b>E</b> R "2" Larchmont	<b>M</b> G "21" Matinecock Pt	<b>T</b> R "32" Stamford	
<b>F</b> C "1" Execution Rocks	<b>N</b> C "19" Oak Neck Pt	<b>U</b> R "32A" Mid-Sound	<b>X</b> Drop Mark

B.4. Mark X, if signaled, will be a Yellow inflatable mark and located at a magnetic bearing and range from the race committee signal vessel as announced by VHF radio and displayed on the course board. Mark X may be used anywhere in the course.

B.5. The following chart shows the approximate location of the marks. It is not to be used for navigation.

