



# 79th ANNUAL BLOCK ISLAND RACE

## Friday, May 22, 2026

# Sailing Instructions

The Block Island Race is a qualifying race for the Northern Ocean Racing Trophy, the Double Handed Ocean Racing Trophy, the New England Lighthouse Series, the Gulf Stream Series, and a qualifier for the YRA of LIS Spring Series, DeCoursey Fales and Windigo Trophies, and “The Tuna Trophy.”

The Storm Trysail Club is the Organizing Authority for the Block Island Race. The Storm Trysail Club thanks the Flag officers and the members of the Stamford Yacht Club for the use of their facilities and their cooperation and hospitality.

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

### 1. Rules:

The Block Island Race shall be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing (“RRS”), and the Notice of Race. The following rules are changed:

- 60.3 see SI 12 Protests & Requests for Redress
  - 61.1(a) see SI 9 Recalls (also changes rules 63.2(a) and A5)
- NoR Amendment 1, 5.2.6 is corrected by SI 10.1.2 – draft in meters

### 2. Communications with Competitors:

- 2.1 All notices will be posted on the Official Notice Board (ONB) on YachtScoring ([www.yachtscoring.com](http://www.yachtscoring.com)) and emailed to all entrants.
- 2.2 On the water, the race committee intends to monitor and communicate with competitors on VHF channel 05A.
- 2.3 Tracking– [NP] An operational AIS Transponder shall be carried and be switched on, such that it is receiving and transmitting throughout the race. The failure of any station to receive a signal from a boat’s AIS Transponder shall not be subject to protest or grounds for redress (this amends RRS 60.1 and 62.1(a) and RRS 63.1 shall not apply). A boat whose AIS fails to transmit for more than thirty [30] consecutive minutes may be subject to protest by the race committee.
- 2.4 All boats shall mount a stand-alone tracking unit provided by the OA. Once issued, the tracking unit becomes the responsibility of the skipper/owner and loss or failure to return the unit will be charged to the skipper/owner at \$990.00.
  - 2.4.1 Trackers will be available for pickup at Stamford YC on Thursday evening May 21st from 1500 to 2000 and Friday morning from 0700 to 1100.
  - 2.4.2 Instructions and return procedure will be posted on the Official Notice Board on YachtScoring and will be emailed to the address listed on each entry.

### 3. Changes to Sailing Instructions:

Changes and/or additions to the Sailing Instructions shall be posted on the Notice Board on the YachtScoring website by 0900 on the day of the race. Changes to the scheduled start time will be posted by 0800 on the day of the race.

#### 4. Signals Made Ashore:

- 4.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed on the Shore Station (main flagpole) at Stamford Yacht Club.
- 4.2 In the event weather conditions are such that the race cannot be started within a reasonable period of time, the Start will be postponed. The RC will display flags "AP over H" with two sound signals, post a notice on the Official Notice Board, and email all entrants. The intended first Warning will be Saturday at 0855. This modifies RRS Race Signals.

#### 5. Class Flags

- 5.1 Class flags shall correspond to start positions indicated on the Scratch Sheet and are identified by numeral pennants.
- 5.2 Class assignments will be made by the race committee and shall appear on the Scratch Sheets.
- 5.3 Class flags shall be flown from the backstay from the time a boat enters the general starting area until she has finished. If a boat has no backstay, the class flag shall be flown from a starboard shroud.

#### 6. Courses and Marks:

- 6.1 The courses are as follows:

- (1) Block Island Course: Boats will sail from the Start; leave Block Island to starboard, to the Finish. Course distance is 186 NM. The following Government Marks shall be considered marks of the course and left to Starboard:

- (a) "1 BI" off North Reef, Block Island
- (b) Flashing Red BELL "32" (The Cows)
- (c) Red Nun "2"

- (2) Plum Island Course:

Boats shall sail from the Start; leave Flashing Red R"2 PG" (SW of Plum Island) and the Flashing Green G "1" entrance buoy to New London Harbor to port, and to the Finish, leaving Bartlett Reef, Red Bell "32" (The Cows) and Red Nun "2" to starboard.. Course distance is 138 NM. The following Government Marks shall be considered marks of the course:

- (a) Flashing Red R "2 PG" (westerly of Plum Island)
- (b) Flashing Green G "1" (New London Entrance Channel)
- (c) Flashing Red BELL "32" (The Cows)
- (d) Red Nun "2"

- (3) Block Island Reverse Course:

A Reverse Course (code flag "R") shall be from the Start out to and around Block Island in an ANTI-CLOCKWISE direction, thence to the Finish: Block Island and "1BI" shall be left to Port, Flashing Red BELL "32" (The Cows) and Red Nun "2" shall be left to starboard. Should Course "R" be signaled, it will be announced before each Warning Signal.

- (4) All other Government Marks may be disregarded at the discretion of the Captain or Navigator.

- 6.2 At the discretion of the Race Committee, a short course (code flag "C") may be signaled for some or all classes. Should Course "C" be signaled, it will also be announced before each Warning Signal.

- 6.2.1 The "short course" for the Block Island Course shall be the Plum Island Course.

- 6.2.2 The "short course" for the Plum Island Course shall be from the start; leave Flashing Red RG "W" (West end of Long Sand Shoal) to starboard; leave Flashing Red "R "8C" (Six Mile Reef) to starboard, to the Finish leaving Flashing Red Bell "32" (The Cows) and Red Nun "2" to starboard.

#### 7. Check-in:

Without interfering with a sequence in process and before its class warning, boats are requested to check-in by sailing in the vicinity of the signal vessel and declaring their intention to start. **Boats shall NOT check in by radio.**

#### 8. The Start:

- 8.1 Classes will be started in accordance with RRS 26 and in the order indicated on the top of the Scratch Sheet. It is intended that there be a five-minute interval between the start of one class and the warning for the next. This adds to RRS 26.

- 8.2 The Starting Line shall be between the course side of Flashing Red BELL "32" (The Cows) off Stamford Harbor, and a staff flying an orange Flag displayed from the Signal Vessel.

8.3 [NP] The Starting Area shall extend along the Starting Line and 100 yards westerly thereof.

8.4 [DP] Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall keep clear of the starting area during the starting sequence for other classes.

8.5 Boats starting after their class's starting signal shall do so between the start of a class and the warning for the subsequent class.

#### **9. Recalls:**

9.1 In the event of an Individual Recall, the race committee will attempt to hail over VHF Ch. 1005 (05A) OCS boats by name or sail number. The timing and order of such hails and/or the failure to hear the hail will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 61.1(a)

9.2 A boat that is OCS and does not restart shall, without a hearing, have thirty minutes added to her elapsed time. For the purposes of rule A10, a boat so penalized shall be considered to have started properly.

#### **10. The Finish:**

10.1 The Finish Line will be at the Stamford Harbor entrance between the flashing green beacon on the West breakwater and a staff displaying a blue flag on a committee vessel anchored northerly of the East breakwater. If no Committee Boat is on station at the Finish, each boat shall record the time after she crosses a line between the beacons on the East and West breakwaters at the entrance to Stamford Harbor and when the flashing green beacon on the West breakwater bears 260° magnetic. This time, together with her best estimate of the finish times and sail numbers of the boats immediately preceding and following, must be reported to the RC by telephoning 203-820-0057.

10.1.1 ORCi boats sailing the "Cows Finish" class are to take their time when Red Bell "32" bears due north and report it to the RC by telephoning 203-820-0057.

10.1.2 Boats with draft less than 17 feet (5.18 meters) may continue to the finish described in SI 10.1.

10.2 [NP] Boats approaching the Finish are requested to notify the race committee on VHF Channel 1005 (05A) upon rounding Flashing Red Bell "32" (The Cows). When finishing in darkness, to be sure identity has been properly established, each boat shall illuminate her sail numbers and verify identity with the RC.

#### **11. Penalty System:**

11.1 The Scoring Penalty, RRS 44.3, applies.

11.2 [DP] In the case of a protest involving the rules of Part 2, the boat at fault, instead of being disqualified as a result of a hearing, may, at the option of the Protest Committee, have her corrected time increased by 2% or more. This modifies RRS 60.5(c), but does not affect SI 9.2

#### **12. Protests & Requests for Redress:**

12.1 In addition to all other requirements of RRS 60.3, a boat intending to protest shall, promptly after finishing, notify the race committee over VHF Ch 1005 (05A) of her intent.

12.2 Protests and requests for redress shall be filed online via the Owner's Corner on YachtScoring within four hours of the protestor's finish time or by 0900 for boats finishing between 2200 and 0500.

12.3 The protest committee will attempt to notify the parties by telephone, text, or email.

12.4 Protest hearings will be held at a time and place to be determined and mutually acceptable to the parties involved.

#### **13. Scoring:**

13.1 [NP] PHRF classes, including double-handed, will use YRA-LIS PHRF Distance Ratings scored using time-on-time with the conversion factor  $650/(550+\text{PHRF})$  rounded to 4 decimal places.

13.2 [NP] ORC classes, including double-handed, will be scored using a scoring option available on page 2 of current valid USA or CAN ORC certificates. The RC will announce its intended scoring option prior to or with the class warning signal. Note that the RC may change the selected ORC scoring option to a more suitable scoring option if there has been a material change in conditions during the race, and will announce such change before the first boat finishes.

13.2.1 The decision on the scoring method and scoring parameters used for the race will be at the sole discretion of the Race Committee. As such they will not be grounds for a request for redress by a boat. This changes RRS 61.1(a) and adds to NoR 9.

**14. Safety Regulation:**

Any boat withdrawing from the race is requested to break out her ensign and lower her class flag, and at the first opportunity, **SHALL** report her withdrawal to the race committee on VHF Channel 1005 (05A) or by telephoning 203-820-0057.

**15. Radio Communications:**

Except in an emergency, a boat that is racing shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not simultaneously available to all boats [DP]

**16. Prizes and Reception:** A reception and awards gathering is scheduled for 1700 on Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup> at the Stamford Yacht Club. All skippers, crew and guests are invited. Dress is nice casual, there is no fee. Skippers are requested to advise Stamford YC (203-323-3161) by 1200, of the number of people they intend to include.

**16. Disclaimer of Liability:**

Competitors participate entirely at their own risk. See rule 3, Decision to Race. As stated in the NoR the organizing authority will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after this event.

**17. INSURANCE**

Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of \$300,000.00 per incident or the equivalent.

**Event Chair/RO – John J. Troy  
STC Commodore – Andrew Weiss  
STC Vice Commodore – Ty Anderson  
STC Rear Commodore – Matt Gallagher  
STC Fleet Captain – Clarke Smith**

**PLEASE ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:  
THE STORM TRYSAIL CLUB, 1 WOODBINE AVENUE  
LARCHMONT, NEW YORK 10538  
TEL: 914-834-8857 FAX: 914-834-6484**

**Email: [blockislandrace@Stormtrysail.org](mailto:blockislandrace@Stormtrysail.org) - Website: <http://Stormtrysail.org>**