

Bristol Yacht Club

2026 Millard Series Sailing Instructions

In Honor of Robert B. Millard Sr., BYC Commodore 1975-77

1. RULES

- 1.1. This series will be governed by the Rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS)*, the *2026 Millard Series Notice of Race* and these Sailing Instructions (SI).
- 1.1.1 **Rule 60.4(a)(2) is changed as follows: “(2) if it alleges a breach of a rule of Part 2 or rule 31 and is from a boat that was not involved in and did not see the incident, or”**
- 1.2 Documents that are required prior to participation in any race of this series are:
 - 1.2.1 A valid 2026 Performance Handicap Racing Fleet of Narragansett Bay (PHRF-NB) Rating Certificate (Visit www-PHRF-NB.org). The following are exemptions to this requirement;
 - 1.2.1.1 Classes racing only as One-Design do not require a PHRF Certification.
 - 1.2.1.2 J/22's chartered from the Bristol Yacht Club or the East Bay Sailing Foundation do not require a PHRF Certification as they will carry an assumed standard rating for scoring (this modifies RRS 78.1).
 - 1.2.2 A valid, signed Entry Form including a liability waiver by the registrant with full payment of fees.
 - 1.2.2.1 Visit the following link to access the registration website in YachtScoring.
<https://yachtscoring.com/emenu.cfm?eID=50685> .
 - 1.2.2.2 Visit the following link to access the web page for entry fee payment <https://www.bristolyc.com/product-page/millard-race-series>
- 1.3 Deployment of Sails:
 - 1.3.1 Boats shall start with only working sails up. If, at her starting signal, a boat's spinnaker head or dousing sock is raised above the lifeline level, or similarly above the deck on a boat without lifelines, she shall immediately be subject to protest, but may exonerate herself by dousing her spinnaker to below the lifeline level and taking a One-Turn Penalty.
 - 1.3.2 All boats must display sail numbers on at least one sail during the race consistent with their rating certificate and race registration.
 - 1.3.3 Boats with conflicting numbers on sails may not be scored for that race unless the race committee is specifically notified before or immediately at the end of the race with positive confirmation by the race committee.
 - 1.3.4 Skippers of chartered J/22 boats shall be assigned a skipper's flag and must display that flag on the backstay of the boat prior to check-in and throughout the race.
- 2 **NOTICES TO COMPETITORS** will be available on the race committee bulletin located on the south facing wall of the BYC Beach Bar and in YachtScoring.

3 RADIO COMMUNICATION

- 3.1 All boats shall carry a VHF radio capable of receiving channel 71.
- 3.2 Except in an emergency, a boat shall not send or receive any communication not available to all boats.
- 3.3 The race committee may broadcast courtesy racing information such as weather, courses, starting sequence, starting violations, time limits, etc. Failing to do so will not be grounds for redress.
- 3.4 VHF Channel 71 will be used for all communications. This includes any announcements by the race committee, communication with competitors, and radio Check-Out Per SI 18.3.

- 4 **CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS** will be posted in YachtScoring and on the Race Committee Bulletin Board prior to 1700 on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of the races will be posted by 2000 on the Wednesday before it will take effect.

5 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 5.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed from the club’s flagpole on the front lawn.
- 5.2 When flag “AP” is displayed ashore, the warning signal for the first race will be made not less than 30 minutes after removal. This changes the meaning of Race Signal “AP” when it is displayed ashore.
- 5.3 When flags “A” over “S” are displayed ashore, it means an “Alternate Starting area will be used.” When an alternate starting area is to be used, the location area T or area U will be announced on the radio.

6 SCHEDULE OF RACES

- 6.1 Racing is scheduled every Wednesday from May 27 through August 26 except as noted below.
- 6.2 For each class there will be a maximum of 12 races in the series that will count toward season standings. One race will constitute a series.
 - 6.2.1 There will also be a practice race on May 20.
 - 6.2.2 There will also be a Fun/Pursuit Race on September 2, unless the date is needed as a Make-up for an abandoned race for any or all classes as needed.
 - 6.2.3 There will be no race in this series on July 1 due to the Independence Day holiday.
 - 6.2.4 There will be no race in this series on July 29, the scheduled date of the MOHOSA Series.
- 6.3 The scheduled time for the first warning signal for all race dates in the series is 1755.

7 CLASS FLAGS:

Class A	Red letter / White field	Class B	Red letter / Blue field
Class C	Green letter / White field	Class D	Yellow letter / Green field
Class E	Blue letter / Yellow field	Class F	Black letter / Light Blue field

8 RACING AREAS

- 8.1 Attachment 1 shows the location of racing areas:
 - 8.1.1 The normal Starting Area “S” is in Bristol Harbor, west of Town Pier.
 - 8.1.2 Alternate Starting Area “T” is between Castle Island light and C3 (Usher’s Rock). *
 - 8.1.3 Alternate Starting Area “U” is south of the Herreshoff anchorage near Walker Island. *
- *Used at the discretion of the Race Committee

9 THE COURSES

- 9.1 The sailing area, courses and *marks* are shown in Attachment 1, as published in 2025. The approximate length of each course, the order in which the *marks* are to be passed, and the side on which each is to be left are listed.
- 9.2 The course board on the race committee signal boat will post the class letters and the course number that each class is to sail.
- 9.3 When the RC is at alternate Starting Area “T”, the course board will show an “X” after the course number. This means that the race will *start* on a northerly heading with the first turning *mark* being Mark “X” which shall be left to STARBOARD. All courses will then continue with all of the *marks* as shown above for that course in Attachment 1.
- 9.4 When the RC is at alternate Starting Area “U”, the course board will show an “X” after the course number. This means that the race will *start* on a northerly heading with the first turning *mark* being Mark “X” which shall be left to PORT. All courses will then continue with all of the *marks* as shown for that course in Attachment 1.
- 9.5 If a course is changed after having been initially posted, the RC shall Postpone if they have begun the starting sequence and raise the AP, as well as hoist the Code flag “L”, signaling boats to come within hailing distance where skippers can read the updated course board. The RC may also announce the changed course, and the affected fleet(s) via VHF. Any change in course after a start will be communicated per RRS 33.
- 9.6 After *starting*, the Race Committee may shorten or move the finish line by moving the pin or relocating the *finishing* boat without signaling.

10 MARKS

- 10.1 Navigational aids used as *marks* of the courses are described in Attachment 1.
- 10.2 The following temporary racing *mark* is a rounding *mark*:
“X” Inflatable, orange or yellow buoy West of Town Pier in Bristol Harbor. This same *mark* may serve as the pin end of the finish line.
- 10.3 The starting and finishing *marks* will be the Race Committee signal boat and an orange or yellow inflatable buoy moored nearby.
- 10.4 The following Course *Marks* are added:
T Aid to Navigation C “3” used to describe Area T in SI 8.1.2
U A temporary inflatable *mark* placed at approximately 41°39’54”N, 071°16’54”W, in or near Area U described in SI 8.1.3.

11 COURSE NOTES

- 11.1.1 Boats shall observe the following aids to navigation at all times:
- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| Castle Island Beacon | N of Hog Island |
| Hog Island Shoal Light House | SE of Hog Island |
| C “3” | E of Hog Island |
- 11.1.2 Any passage under the Mt. Hope Bridge must be made under the center span.
- 11.2 Boats shall observe the following aids to navigation except when rounding as a *mark* if it is a part of the boat’s assigned course in the race being run. In such cases, caution is required.
- | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| C “3” | a.k.a. Mark T | Usher’s Cove |
| RG “PP” Fl (2+1) R 6sec BELL | a.k.a. Mark N | S of Popasquash Point |
| RN “2” | a.k.a. Mark H | SW of Bristol Point |
| RN “2” | a.k.a. Mark E | SW of Hog Island |
- 11.3 Competitors are advised that there are several shoals in the area between mark “M” (RG “N”, “Middle Ground”, NE of Castle Rock) and Hog Island. Skippers shall consult the appropriately scaled detailed navigation chart before entering this area, shall enter it at their own risk, and shall act with great caution while sailing in this area. Attachment 1 to this SI is NOT to be considered of suitable scale for navigation in this area.

12 THE START

- 12.1 Races will be started according to *RRS* 26, and the starting signal for each class shall be the warning signal for the following class. The Race Committee will provide an attention signal one minute before the warning signal for the first class. (A series of short horn signals)
- 12.2 The starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the race committee signal boat and the course side of the Pin-end starting *mark*.
- 12.3 Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area during the starting sequence for other races except for check-in per SI 18.1 and 18.2.
- 12.4 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 hail her sail number on VHF Channel 71. RC failure to hail her number, her failure to hear such a hail, or the order in which boats are hailed will not be grounds for a request for redress.
- 12.5 Order of class *starts* shall be **A, B, C, D, E, F**.
- 12.6 When a general recall has been signaled, the class recalled shall *start* five minutes after the last originally scheduled class. If more than one class has been recalled, the classes shall restart in the order in which they were recalled. This changes *RRS* 29.2.

13 THE FINISH

- 13.1 The finish line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the Race Committee boat and the course side of the finishing *mark*.
- 13.2 When using an alternate starting area, the RC will set the finish line such that the pin end of the line will be Mark X used for the first weather mark.

14 TIME LIMITS FOR ALL CLASSES

- 14.1 The time limit for all classes will be 2015 hrs.
- 14.2 A boat finishing outside of the time limit, AND more than 30 minutes after the first *finisher* of a scored race for her class, exceeds the Finishing Window. Boats failing to finish within the Finishing Window, and not subsequently retiring, penalized, or given redress, shall be scored TLE (*Time Limit Expired*) without a hearing. A boat scored TLE shall be scored points for the finishing place two more than the points scored by the last boat that finished within the Finishing Window. This changes *RRS* 35.
- 14.3 For each class, if no boats *finish* within the time limit for any race, that race(s) will be abandoned for the effected classes and the race(s) will not be counted towards the series scoring or as a qualifying race(s). Regardless of how many races are abandoned for any class, those classes will have the opportunity to "Make up" only one race per SI 6.2.2

15 PROTESTS, REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

- 15.1 Boats who are intending to issue a protest as a result of an incident during a race are requested to notify the race committee of the intent to protest immediately upon finishing the race.
- 15.2 Hearing Request forms may be available at the official Race Notice Board. Protests and requests for redress or reopening shall be delivered to the Principal Race Officer directly, or by email to Mark Rotsky at rotskybyc@gmail.com.
- 15.3 Hearing Requests must be submitted as soon as possible, but no later than 60 minutes after the RC Boat docks.
- 15.4 Notices will be posted no later than 48 hours 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 on the second floor of the clubhouse, beginning at 1900 on the Tuesday following the race in which the protest was lodged. The Protest Committee, at its discretion, may agree to change the time or place of the hearing.
- 15.5 Breaches of SI 18 and 20 will not be grounds for a protest by a boat. This changes *RRS* 60.1. Penalties for these breaches may be less than disqualification if the Protest Committee so decides. The scoring abbreviation for a Discretionary Penalty Imposed under this instruction will be DPI.
- 15.6 The Race Committee will post a list of boats scored OCS (on course side), ZFP (Z Flag) or BFD (Black Flag Disqualification) on the official notice board within 45 minutes of the RC boat docking.

16 PENALTY SYSTEM

- 16.1 Appendix V – Alternate Penalties V1 and V2 will apply
- 16.1.1 V2 POST-RACE PENALTIES
 - (b) A Post-Race Penalty is a 40% Scoring Penalty calculated as stated in rule 44.3(c). However, rule 44.1(a) applies. This changes *RRS* Appendix V2

17 SCORING

- 17.1 **The Series Score** shall be calculated using the Low-Point Averaged Scoring System referred to in the US Sailing Note on Scoring a Long Series that appears at the end of *RRS* Appendix A. That guidance can be found at: <https://www.ussailing.org/competition/rules-officiating/racing-rules/scoring-a-long-series/> as described and changed below:
- 17.2 **Races to Count and Minimum Required:** The series will consist of the races as described and scheduled in SI 6, Schedule of Races. To **Qualify** for inclusion in the final series results, a boat shall compete in (i.e., come to the starting area for) at least 54 percent of the completed races listed in SI 6 in her assigned Class with the modification listed in SI Rules 17.11 and 17.12 when applicable.

- 17.3 **Race Scores:** Each boat *finishing* a race and not thereafter retiring or being disqualified will be scored as follows:

Finishing place	Points
First	1
Second	2
Third	3
Fourth	4
Each place thereafter	Add 1 point

All other boats that compete in that race, including any that *finish* and thereafter retire or are disqualified, will receive the score for the *finishing* place one more than the number of boats competing in their Class in that race except as described in SI 15.2. Boats that do not compete in that race (DNC and DNS) will not be scored. This changes *RRS* A5.3

- 17.4 **Series Scores:** The series score for each boat will be the sum of her race scores divided by the number of races for which she is scored, excluding scores as described in SI 17.8, 17.9, and 17.10. The qualified boat with the lowest series score for her Class is the Class winner, and others are ranked accordingly.
- 17.5 **Ties and other Rules:** Race ties will be broken using *RRS* A7. Series ties will be broken using *RRS* A8. *RRS* A1, A3, A5, A6, A9, and A10 also apply.
- 17.6 A race is considered completed for any Class when at least one boat in that Class *finishes* the race within the time limit per SI 15.1
- 17.7 **Time-on-Time scoring** will be used for all handicap classes based on each boat's 2026 PHRF of Narragansett Bay rating certificate.
- 17.8 When a boat competes in at least 75% of the races completed by her Class, her worst score will be excluded from the sum of her race scores.
- 17.9 When a boat competes in all races completed for her Class in the series, her two worst scores will be excluded from the sum of her race scores.
- 17.10 An excluded race counts as a race to **Qualify** a boat for a series score, but not as one of her scored races.
- 17.11 Racers who register, pay for, and participate in the Bristol Yacht Club Annual Summer Cruise in July, therefore missing the race for that week, will be credited one **Qualification point**. This point will count towards trophy and excluded race qualifications only and will not otherwise be considered in the actual season scoring calculations.
- 17.12 Should any Millard racer, skipper or crew, who has volunteered to participate as Race Committee or Judging in another BYC hosted event, and as a result cannot reasonably return to the BYC dock or their race boat with sufficient time to prepare for and race any of the Millard races, therefore causing that boat to be unable to participate in the race, their boat is eligible for a **Qualifying point** toward both achieving the minimum races in the series to **Qualify** AND toward earning series Throw-Outs.
- 17.13 Race results will be calculated and made available electronically in the YachtScoring website <https://yachtscoring.com/emenu.cfm?eID=50685> .

18 SAFETY REGULATIONS

- 18.1 A boat shall **Check-In** before racing by passing within hailing distance of the starboard side RC signal boat and hailing her check-in information. She shall identify herself by sail number, the racing class she is entered in, and report the number of souls aboard. A check-in isn't complete until it is acknowledged by the RC.
- 18.2 No boats are allowed in the starting area within two minutes of another class's *start*.
- 18.3 Boats shall **Check Out** with the race committee, either by finishing the race, or if retiring, by advising the RC as soon as possible on VHF channel 71 and being acknowledged or passing within hailing distance of the RC signal boat and advising the RC in person (and being acknowledged). A boat that has retired shall not thereafter cross the finish line.

18.4 [DP] Competitors are cautioned that there are ferries and other commercial traffic in and near Bristol Harbor, and that any interference with such traffic is strictly prohibited. Specifically, any boat that passes close enough to such traffic that either the race committee, protest committee, or the master of the commercial vessel deems the boat to be too close will be seen as having interfered with that traffic and protested by the race or protest committee for breach of this rule. The minimum penalty for breaking this rule is Disqualification from the race in which this rule was broken.

19 EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

19.1 A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with Class Rules if applicable, 2026 PHRF-NB Rating Certificate as registered, and Sailing Instructions. Non-compliance with any of these shall cause the boat in question to be protested by the race committee, the measurer, or the organizing authority.

19.2 On the water, a boat can be instructed by a Race Committee member or to proceed immediately to a designated area for inspection.

20 TRASH DISPOSAL – Attention is directed to *RRS* 47. Trash may be deposited in approved containers on the club grounds.

21. PRIZES

21.1. Daily trophies will be awarded to each class for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places.

21.2 Separate daily trophies will be awarded for One-Design classes.

21.3. Season trophies will be awarded to each class for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places (3rd place if five or more boats compete).

21.4 The boat with the lowest scoring average in all regular classes where five or more competitors have **Qualified** for final series results per SI 17.2 will be awarded the Millard Trophy.

22. **DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY** – Competitors participate in the races entirely at their own risk. See *RRS* 3, Decision to Race. 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 the races.

23. **INSURANCE** – Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance, and shall list her insurance carrier, insurance policy number, and policy expiration date with her YachtScoring race registration submittal. If her insurance policy expires during the racing season, new policy information must be updated in YachtScoring. Failure to do so will disqualify her from further racing until a new policy is identified.