

# The 54<sup>th</sup> Annual



*to benefit*



**Sunday August 16, 2026**  
*Nantucket, Massachusetts USA*

## **NOTICE OF RACE**

*Organizing Authority (OA):*  
Nantucket Community Sailing

*Affiliated Organizations:*  
Nantucket Yacht Club (NYC)  
Great Harbor Yacht Club (GHYC)  
The Opera House Cup Committee  
The Nantucket Race Week Committee  
Classic Yacht Owners Association (CYOA)

The Opera House Cup encourages the appreciation, understanding, restoration and celebration of classic wooden boats sailed by amateur crews. It is part of the 2026 CLASSIC YACHTS CHALLENGE SERIES, organized by the CYOA.

## 1 RULES

- 1.1 The event will be governed by the *rules* as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing* (RRS).
- 1.2 The US Sailing Prescriptions shall apply, except the US Sailing Prescriptions to (i) the preamble of Part 5, Section B, and (ii) to RRS 63.1 shall not apply.
- 1.3 Competitors from outside the U.S. may carry personal flotation devices approved by their nation's certification authority to meet the carriage requirements.
- 1.4 The protest committee may impose penalties less than disqualification [DP], for violation of the class rules and racing rules other than those of RRS Part 1 and Part 2. The notation "[DP]" in a rule in this Notice of Race means that the penalty for a breach of that rule may, at the discretion of the protest committee, be less than disqualification.
- 1.5 The rules of the 2026 CYOA Classic Yachts Challenge Series will apply for boats participating in that Series. Rules may be found at [Classic Yacht Series](#).
- 1.6 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 five (5) minutes before her assigned starting time.When a boat *starts* in accordance with item (b) of the definition *Start*, she shall not return to the pre-start side of the line, and the starting penalty shall be ten (10) minutes added to her elapsed time. This changes RRS 29.1, 30, and A5.1.
- 1.7 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"

## 2 SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

The Sailing Instructions will be posted on the Official Notice Board three days prior to the regatta.

## 3 COMMUNICATIONS

- 3.1 The Official Notice Board is online at <https://www.yachtscoring.com/emenue/50732>
- 3.2 Boats shall carry a VHF radio capable of communicating on channels 71-74.
- 3.3 On the water, the race committee will make courtesy broadcasts to competitors on VHF radio. The channel will be stated in the Sailing Instructions.
- 3.4 [DP] Except in an emergency, a boat that is racing shall not make or receive voice or data transmissions that are not available to all boats.
- 3.5 The race committee will use a WhatsApp group chat to communicate with competitors ashore and while on the water. Competitors will be asked to register with the Race Committee two WhatsApp-equipped mobile devices at registration time. WhatsApp communications will be unofficial and issued as a courtesy to the competitors.

## 4 ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

- 4.1 Boats with wood or wood-based cold molded hulls with a minimum LOA of 24 feet shall be eligible to compete for the Opera House Cup.
- 4.2 At the sole discretion of the Organizing Authority (OA), boats having hull material other than

wood or not meeting OHC sail and equipment limitations may be eligible to compete in the Invitational Division. In determining a boat's eligibility, the OA will give consideration to a boat's special qualities. These qualities may include: A boat's unique history, classic design, replicas and other characteristics that add to the spectacle of the event.

- 4.3 A current, valid CRF 2026 non-spinnaker rating is required for each boat to be eligible for prizes. A CRF application is available at <https://www.classicyachts.org/ratings/>.
- 4.4 Eligible boats may enter by completing by registering on the race management website [HERE](#).
- 4.5 Entries close at 1200 on Saturday August 15, 2026.
- 4.6 All entries will be reviewed by the OA using all available information to assess eligibility and confirm proper division. Applications deemed unacceptable will be rejected and fees returned.
- 4.7 The OA may, in its sole discretion, accept any late entry.

## 5 DIVISION ASSIGNMENTS

- 5.1 Opera House Cup Divisions:
  - a) All boats eligible for the Opera House Cup will compete in the division assigned by the CYOA on their respective CRF 2026 certificate: Vintage, Classic, Modern Classic, or Spirit of Tradition.
  - b) The OA, at its sole discretion, may combine divisions or reassign boats to another division.
  - c) The OA, at its sole discretion, may create a separate division if three or more boats of a one-design or rating rule are registered (e.g. Alerions, Wianno Seniors, Concordias or 12 Metres).
- 5.2 Boats eligible for the Invitational Division shall sail as a single division, however the OA may create a separate subdivision if three or more boats of a one-design or rating rule are registered (e.g., IODs, Bermuda 40s, modern 12-Metres).
- 5.3 Boats shall display Division flags provided by the OA.

## 6 REGISTRATION & FEES

- 6.1 Registration is online at <https://www.yachtscoring.com/emenu/50732>.
- 6.2 **Entry Fee:** The entry fee is \$500 if received by June 15, 2026, of which \$200 is a tax-deductible charitable contribution to Nantucket Community Sailing. The entry fee includes two event tickets and two drink tickets to the OHC Awards Party on August 16, 2026.
- 6.3 **Late Fee:** Registrations received after June 15, 2026 will be assessed an additional late fee of \$125. This fee is a tax-deductible charitable contribution to Nantucket Community Sailing.
- 6.4 **Nantucket Regatta:** The Nantucket Regatta, also part of the Classic Yacht Challenge Series, is a two-day regatta open to boats with either a PHRF or CRF rating. Boats wishing to compete in both events are eligible for discounted registration pricing for three consecutive days of racing. Details are available on the Nantucket Regatta [web page](#) and in the event's Notice of Race.

## 7 ADVERTISING

Boats may be required to display advertising chosen and supplied by CYOA and/or the OA.

**8 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

All times are in Eastern Daylight Time (EDT).

Thursday, August 13	1400 - 1700	Check-in at the NRW Registration Desk in the NYC Ballroom. Pick up skippers' bags, SIs, Division flags
Friday, August 14	0800 – 1700	Check-in at the NRW Registration Desk.
	1800 - 2200	NCS 2026 Gala at The Nantucket Hotel*

Saturday, August 15	0800 - 1700	Check-in at the NRW Registration Desk.
	1200	Entries Close
	1730 - 1930	Classic Yacht Exhibition at Straight Wharf *
	1830 - 2200	Brewery Night Dinner at Nantucket Yacht Club.* Tickets are limited and may be purchased separately from Nantucket Community Sailing.

Sunday, August 16	0830	The Course, starting and finishing area locations and each boat's starting time will be posted on the <a href="#">Official Notice Board</a> .
	0900	Cannon fire from the Lynx and announcement over VHF 74 of the Course and starting area and finishing area locations.
	0930	Parade of Wooden Boats out of Nantucket Harbor
	0940	Rainbow Parade start (please be aware of the smaller boats around Brant Point Lighthouse)
	1050	OHC Warning Signal for 1100 base start
	1800	Opera House Cup Awards Party* at Jetties Beach Skippers may purchase a team table, which includes a reserved table with your boat name, 10 tickets to the party, and 10 drink tickets. Limited availability, first come, first served.
	1930	Awards Ceremony at Jetties Beach

\* Tickets for all social events, as well as reserved OHC Party tables, are limited and may be purchased at <https://nantucketraceweek.org/collections/social-event>

**9 SAILS AND EQUIPMENT LIMITATIONS**

- 9.1 [DP] Forestays and headsail tacks, including those of staysails, shall be attached approximately on a boat's centerline. This changes RRS 54 and Section 3.2.b of the 2026 CYCS Notice of Series.
- 9.2 All headsails and staysails shall be fully attached to stays, except while being set or struck. A sail is defined as "fully attached" to a stay when it is secured to the stay by at least four evenly spaced hanks or other attachments or is continuously secured to the stay by a luff-rope in a

- groove or other continuous attachment.
- 93 Under these guidelines, a stay is defined as a permanently secured and taut cable that supports a headsail. A removable stay shall only be considered permanent if it is secured and kept in a taut condition for the duration of the event. This definition includes luff-ropes that allow a sail to be rolled on the rope.
- 94 Only one headsail may be flown on each stay in the fore-triangle at a time. This requires that when sail changes are made, the sail to be replaced must be dropped to the deck before its replacement is set on the same stay. This changes RRS 55.1.
- 95 Spinnakers, including mizzen spinnakers and 'code zero' sails, are not allowed.
- 96 No modern square-top mainsails are allowed, except in the Invitational Division.
- 97 For yawls and ketches, mizzen staysails are permitted. A mizzen staysail is an off-wind sail hoisted from the mizzen mast whose mid-girth is less than 75% of its foot length.
- 98 On schooners, a fisherman or gollywobbler is permitted.
- 99 [DP] Whisker poles shall not be a variable length type and shall not exceed 110% of the boat's J-measurement.
- 9.10 Shifting ballast of any kind during a race, other than shifting crew weight, is not permitted. All ballast must be fixed in place against shifting. Other temporary means of augmenting stability are prohibited, including the use of trapezes. All crew must keep their torsos within the perimeter of the boat except as allowed by RRS 49.
- 9.11 A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the Notice of Race and the Sailing Instructions.
- 9.12 Sail Materials
- Yachts in the Vintage and Classic Divisions shall race with sails fabricated from materials limited to Polyester (e.g. Dacron), Nylon, or Ultra-PE (e.g. Spectra, Dyneema, UHMWPE, etc.). Inclusion of carbon fiber in the materials used is specifically not allowed.
  - [DP] Sail colors: Restricted to white, cream, or tan bark, or a light color acceptable to the OA for headsails, main and mizzen sails. Mizzen staysails may be colored.
  - Boats entered in the Invitational Division may race with upwind sails of any color and built with any fiber via any sailmaking technique.
- 9.13 [DP] In accordance with RRS Appendix G1.2(a)(3), "*National letters and sail numbers shall be...of a contrasting color to the body of the sail...*"
- 9.14 Resolution of uncertainties or disputes regarding sails shall be at the discretion of the OA.
- 9.15 Deviations from the provisions of this Section 9 that are necessitated by a boat's designed sail and rigging plan may be permitted subject to a written request received by the registration entry deadline (see NOR 4.5) and approved at the sole discretion of the OA.

## 10 VENUE

The race will be held on Nantucket Sound. The location of the OHC Signal Boat will be posted on the Official Notice Board no later than 0830, and communicated by radio at 0900, together with the racecourse, on the morning of the race, on the official VHF channel.

## 11 START

A Pursuit Starting Sequence utilizing GPS time is planned. Each boat will have an assigned starting time calculated using her CRF 2026 Non-Spinnaker rating. This changes RRS 26. This may result in a starting sequence of up to 2 hours.

## 12 COURSE

- 12.1 The racecourse will be posted on the Official Notice Board at 0845 and announced on the official VHF channel at 0900 on the morning of the race.
- 12.2 One race is scheduled of approximately 15 – 20 miles. The course may include a mix of upwind, reaching and downwind legs.
- 12.3 The course will be set utilizing permanent government marks and inflatable drop marks. All boats will sail the same course.
- 12.4 The course assignment will determine the starting time for each boat.

## 13 WIND LIMIT

The race will not be started when the Race Committee deems that winds are sustained at or above 23 knots or gusting to 25 knots and above. If a race has been started and the wind increases to 25 knots and above, it remains at the discretion of the Race Committee whether or not to abandon the race. The race will not be started unless sustained winds are above five (5) knots at the base starting time. This changes Classic Yachts Challenge Series NOS 3.5.

## 14 PENALTY SYSTEM

- 14.1 The Scoring Penalty, RRS 44.3, will apply. RRS 44.3(c) is changed by replacing 20% with 30%. There are no penalty turns.
- 14.2 As required in 44.3(a) "A boat takes a Scoring Penalty by displaying a yellow flag at the first reasonable opportunity after the incident."
- 14.3 Boats shall provide their own yellow flag.

## 15 SCORING

The race will be scored using the CRF 2026 Handicap system, with a time-on-distance allowance applied to each boat's starting time.

## 16 PRIZES

- 16.1 Opera House Cup Prizes
  - a) The Opera House Cup is a perpetual Trophy on which will be inscribed the name(s) of:
    - 1.) The plank-on-frame boat which is first to cross finish line.
    - 2.) The boat in any division (except Invitational), including one-design divisions added by the OA, which is first to cross finish line.
  - b) A trophy will be awarded to the boat from any division with the best elapsed time.
  - c) If a Division is constituted of four or more boats, prizes will be awarded to the top three finishers based on finish time in each Division. In Divisions of three or fewer boats, only a first prize shall be awarded.
  - d) If a boat has been assigned to a one-design division, it will not be eligible for an award in one of the CYOA divisions.

16.2 Invitational Division:

- a) The boat in the Invitational Division which is first to cross the finish line will have its name inscribed on the perpetual Lighthouse Invitational Trophy.
- b) If a subdivision of the Invitational Division is constituted of four or more boats, prizes may be awarded to the top three finishers based on finish time in each Division. In subdivisions of three or fewer boats, only a first prize shall be awarded.

16.3 The Commodores' Cup will be presented to the boat with the best combined performance in the Nantucket Regatta and the Opera House Cup.

16.4 The Gwen Gaillard Spirit of the Race trophy will be awarded to the person or boat that best exemplifies the spirit of the Opera House Cup.

16.5 The Robert H. Tiedemann trophy will be awarded to the best example of a restored or maintained boat.

16.6 The Corinthian trophy will be awarded to the boat with the best finish time sailed by an all-amateur crew and skipper, as declared by the skipper at OHC registration.

16.7 Additional trophies may be awarded at the discretion of the OA.

**17 CLEAN REGATTA**

Nantucket Race Week is committed to maintaining Nantucket's clean waters and shores. All NRW participants are encouraged to follow clean and responsible practices.

**18 INSURANCE**

Each participating boat shall be insured with valid and adequate third-party liability insurance.

**19 DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY**

Sailing is an activity that has an inherent risk of damage and injury. Competitors in this event are participating entirely at their own risk. See RRS 3, Decision to Race. The race organizers, Nantucket Community Sailing, Opera House Cup Committee, Nantucket Race Week Committee, Nantucket Race Week LLC, Nantucket Yacht Club, Great Harbor Yacht Club, race committee, protest committee, technical committee, volunteers, sponsors, agents, employees, or any other organization, or official providing services at the request of any of the foregoing in connection with the events, will not be responsible for damage to any boat or other property or the injury, disease or illness to any person sustained as a result of participation in this event. By participating in this event, each competitor (owners, skippers, crews and support persons) agrees to release the race organizers and all persons and groups listed above from any and all liability associated with such competitor's participation in this event to the fullest extent permitted by law.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **MOORINGS, DOCK SPACE, AND ANCHORAGE**

A limited number of moorings have been reserved for competitors in the Nantucket Regatta and Opera House Cup and are available on a first-come basis. To reserve one of these moorings, please email [info@nantucketraceweek.org](mailto:info@nantucketraceweek.org). For any other moorings reserve through [Dockwa](#) or contact Nantucket Moorings at 508-228-4472, VHF 68. The Nantucket Harbor Launch can also be contacted on VHF 68.

For dock space, contact the Nantucket Boat Basin at 508-228-1333, VHF 9 and 11. The Nantucket Boat Basin has asked that all vessels hail them on VHF channel 11 when they are departing their slip and returning to their slip, in an effort to control traffic and avoid the possibility of collisions and accidents.

The Nantucket Harbor Master (VHF 14) has asked that any of the fleet anchoring in the harbor anchor within the designated anchoring areas near First Point be well clear of the channel. Anchoring East of First Point is not permitted. To protect the sensitive eel grass beds and shellfish habitat, use only Danforth anchors with ample scope. Please avoid using plow anchors since they do not hold in that area.

### **PRINCIPAL RACE OFFICER**

Hank Stuart, International Race Officer  
[Hstuart8m@gmail.com](mailto:Hstuart8m@gmail.com)  
585-414-6105

### **EVENT CHAIR:**

Phil Smith

### **OPERA HOUSE CUP COMMITTEE:**

Herbert "Buzz" Goodall  
Harvey Jones

Kyle Dufur  
Harry Rein

Carolyn Grant Zarrella

### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

Bobby Constable  
Phone: 917-584-9337  
Email: [bobby@nantucketcommunitysailing.org](mailto:bobby@nantucketcommunitysailing.org)  
Website: [www.operahousecup.org](http://www.operahousecup.org)

### **ATTENTION SAILORS**

A REMINDER TO COMPETITORS THAT THE CHANNEL LEADING INTO NANTUCKET HARBOR AND AREAS OF NANTUCKET HARBOR ARE RESTRICTED AND SAILING VESSELS DO NOT HAVE RIGHT OF WAY OVER A VESSEL UNDER POWER WHICH MAY BE RESTRICTED IN HER ABILITY TO MANEUVER.