



NOTICE OF RACE

92nd Vineyard Race

September 4 – September 6, 2026

Stamford, Connecticut / Long Island Sound

(as amended August 27 2026)

The Officers and Members of the Stamford Yacht Club invite you to participate in the 92nd Vineyard Race. The Stamford Yacht Club is the Organizing Authority for this event.

[NP] in a rule means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule.

[DP] in a rule means that the penalty for a breach of the rule may be less than disqualification at the discretion of the protest committee.

1. RULES

1.1 The following documents govern this event:

- 1.1.1 The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) 2025–2028, as may be modified herein and/or by the Sailing Instructions.
- 1.1.2 The US Sailing Prescriptions to the RRS. Available at: www.ussailing.org
- 1.1.3 The current PHRF Regulations as administered by the YRA of Long Island Sound (YRA-LIS). Available at: www.yralis.org
- 1.1.4 The current US Sailing Safety Equipment Requirements (USSER) for Coastal events (applicable to the Vineyard Course) and for Nearshore events (applicable to the Seaflower Reef and Cornfield Point Courses). Available at: <https://www.ussailing.org>. In the event of a conflict between the USSER and applicable class rules, the class rules shall apply. (See also NOR sections 2 and 14.)
- 1.1.5 The current ORC Rating Systems rules and regulations. Available at: <https://www.orc.org/>
- 1.1.6 The current New England Multihull Association (NEMA) Race Rules. Available at: <http://www.nemasail.org>

1.2 CHANGES TO THE RACING RULES

The following changes to the Racing Rules of Sailing are made under RRS rule 86.1(b):

- 1.2.1 RRS rule 52, Manual Power, is changed as follows:
 - (a) Boats equipped and rated with power winches may use same.
 - (b) Boats sailing double-handed may use autopilots.
- 1.2.2 The rules of Part 2 are replaced by the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (IRPCAS) between the hours of sunset and sunrise.
- 1.2.3 RRS rule 41(c), Outside Help, is changed:

(c) Help in the form of information freely available to all boats including information only accessible at a cost.

- 1.2.4 RRS rule 44.3, Scoring Penalty, is designated as the penalty for a breach of a rule of Part 2. The Two-Turns Penalty is replaced by the Scoring Penalty for all boats. (See also section 8.)
- 1.2.5 RRS rule 60.1 is changed so that a boat may not request redress based on the Race Committee's selection of scoring options or parameters for ORC Weather Routing Scoring. (See section 9.3)
- 1.2.6 The failure of any station to receive a signal from a boat's tracking device shall not be subject to protest by a competitor or grounds for redress [NP]. RRS rules 60.1 and 61.4(b) are changed accordingly.

1.3 CHANGES TO CLASS RULES

- 1.3.1 ORC Rule 200.1 (Crew Weight and Position) is amended as follows:

(c) Other than those boats sailing double-handed, one additional crew age 15 or younger is permitted and shall not count against crew or weight limit.

- 1.3.2 ORC Regulation 201.2 (Ballast Fixtures and Equipment) does not apply.

2. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

- 2.1 The race fleet will be divided into three courses: the Vineyard Course, the Seaflower Reef Course, and the Cornfield Point Course. Each boat shall have a valid and current ORC, YRA-LIS PHRF, or NEMA certificate by Friday, August 28. No rating changes are accepted after August 28 unless authorized by the OA. Eligibility by course is as follows:

2.2 VINEYARD COURSE

Boats sailing the Vineyard Course shall be no less than 29 feet LOA (except as provided in 2.2.4 and 2.2.5), have self-righting hulls (except multihulls), be properly rigged and ballasted, be fully seaworthy, and comply with the USSER for Coastal races. Boats will be divided into classes as follows:

- 2.2.1 ORC boats. Class rule changes are stated in section 1.3.
 - 2.2.1.1 Fully crewed boats with an APH of 500 or lower and double-handed boats with an APH of ~~546~~60 or lower must have an ORCi certificate.
- 2.2.2 PHRF boats, including those sailing double-handed with a rating of ~~129-156~~ or lower.
- 2.2.3 Double-handed entries: Based on their rating, double-handed boats will also be placed within ORC or PHRF classes and scored against both fully crewed and double-handed boats on their respective course. Within double-handed entries, there will be additional scoring for mixed gender crews.
- 2.2.4 Mini-650 or Mini Transat Class boats with a minimum crew of two (2) are permitted.
- 2.2.5 Multihull boats with a minimum length of 25 feet LOA, not including bowsprit.

2.3 SEAFLOWER REEF COURSE

Boats racing the Seaflower Reef Course shall be conducted in PHRF classes (including double-handed), be no less than 26 feet LOA, be rated 69 to 147, have a minimum crew of 2, have self-righting hulls (except multihulls), be properly rigged and ballasted, be fully seaworthy, and comply with the USSER for Nearshore races.

2.4 CORNFIELD POINT COURSE

Boats racing the Cornfield Point Course shall be conducted in PHRF classes (including double-handed), be no less than 24 feet LOA, be rated 87 to 198, have a minimum crew of 2, have self-righting hulls (except multihulls), be properly rigged and ballasted, be fully seaworthy, and comply with the USSER for Nearshore races.

2.5 ENTRY PROCEDURE

All entries are to be made online at www.yachtscoring.com. A completed entry requires skipper's data and, for each onboard crew member: names, emails, cell phone (on vessel), emergency contact information, executed waiver, and Safety at Sea certification information.

2.6 CORINTHIAN CHALLENGE

- 2.6.1 Each boat shall have aboard at least one advisor ("Advisor"), who shall be at least 21 years old, experienced in overnight distance racing, shall be the Boat Owner or a designated Owner's Representative, and be capable of taking command in emergency conditions.
- 2.6.2 At least two-thirds of those on board shall be between the ages of 14 and 23 as of the day of the Start.
- 2.6.3 For boats over 45 feet, it is recommended that there be at least two advisors.
- 2.6.4 OWNER AND OWNER'S REPRESENTATIVE RESPONSIBILITY. By entering, the owner or owner's representative certifies that at least 80% of the crew has participated in each of the following: man overboard upwind recovery, man overboard downwind recovery (with spinnaker), reefing mainsail, and night practice (after dark, including the above items).

2.7 SEAWORTHINESS The Organizing Authority reserves the right to exclude any yacht from the race due to inadequacies in design or preparation which could impair the seaworthiness of the vessel and/or the safe passage of the crew.

2.8 SAIL NUMBERS Boats shall have sail numbers that comply with RRS Appendix G and be clearly legible in all ambient light conditions. Failure to comply is subject to protest only by the Race Committee and may result in being scored DNF. This adds to RRS Appendices A5 and G.

3. ENTRY FEES

- 3.1 The entry application shall be accompanied by an entry fee paid by credit card or PayPal. Entry fees are based on Length Overall (LOA) rounded downward to the nearest whole number (e.g., 39.71' = 39'). The entry is complete when the fee is paid.
- 3.2 Entry fees are determined by payment date as follows:

Course	By July 3	By Aug 22	After Aug 22
Vineyard	\$12/foot	\$14/foot	\$17/foot
Cornfield Point	\$9/foot	\$11/foot	\$14/foot
Seaflower Reef	\$9/foot	\$11/foot	\$14/foot

- 3.3 Applications with unpaid fees after August 28 will be removed from the list of race registrants.
- 3.4 Entries and/or fees received after August 28 may be accepted at the discretion of the OA.

3.5 No refunds will be given after August 22.

4. QUALIFYING SERIES

The Vineyard Race is a qualifier for the following Stamford Yacht Club awards: the Northern Ocean Racing Trophy, the Double Handed Ocean Racing Trophy, the New England Lighthouse Series (PHRF), and the Redniss Cup. It is a qualifier for the following YRALIS awards: Caper, Kings Point, DeCoursey Fales, Sagola, Windigo , du Moulin Cup and the Youth Challenge Cup. It is also a qualifier for the Stamford Trophy Series and US Sailing's Allegra Knapp Mertz trophy.

5. SCHEDULE

First signal will be at 1200 on Friday, September 4, 2026, at Red Bell "32" (The Cows) southerly of Stamford Harbor. The awards party will be held at SYC on Sunday September 6 at 1700.

6. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Sailing Instructions, scratch sheets, and any other instructions will be available on the event webpage at <https://www.yachtscoring.com> on or about Thursday, August 20. The official notice board is located online at www.yachtscoring.com.

7. COURSES

The specific details of each course will be described in the Sailing Instructions.

START: Flashing Red Bell "32" (The Cows) off Stamford Harbor.

FINISH: Immediately northerly of the entrance to Stamford Harbor, between the Signal Boat and Green Beacon "3" on the easterly end of the westerly breakwater.

7.1 **Vineyard Course:** approximately 238 NM.

Generally, from the Start to the Buzzard Bay Light Tower, then round Block Island to starboard, then to the Cows and to the Finish

7.2 **Seaflower Reef Course:** approximately 143 NM.

Generally, from the Start to Seaflower Reef, then to the Cows and to the Finish.

7.3 **Cornfield Point Course:** approximately 116 NM.

Generally, from the Start to Cornfield Point Shoal, to the Flashing Red Bell "8" (east end of Long Sand Shoal) then to RG "TE" Bouy, then to the Cows, and to the Finish.

8. PENALTY SYSTEM

- 8.1 **[DP]** The Scoring Penalty under RRS rule 44.3 will apply to all boats. The penalty shall be to increase the boat's corrected time by 2%. This replaces the Two-Turns Penalty for breaches of Part 2 rules.

9. SCORING

- 9.1 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.
- 9.2 ORC results will be determined by corrected times calculated by applying the ToT Time Correction Factor as produced by ORC's Weather Routing Scoring (WRS). The list of ratings will be published on the official notice board and emailed to entrants no later than 2 hours before the start.
- 9.3 The selection of scoring options and any subsequent change, is at the sole discretion of the Race Committee. This includes the length of the course, directions of the legs, and wind details such as strength and direction. Under RRS rule 60.1 (as changed in section 1.2.5), this is not grounds for a request for redress.
- 9.5 Multihulls will be scored using NEMA Ratings.
- 9.6 Teams will be scored using the total of each team member's percentage placement in their respective class.
- 9.7 In the event the OA elects to include a one-design class or group of boats racing level, that class or group may be scored separately.

10. PROTESTS

- 10.1 A Protest Committee appointed by the Organizing Authority will decide protests. Protest time limits, hearing times, locations, and procedures will be stated in the Sailing Instructions.

11. COMMUNICATIONS

- 11.1 Each boat shall have an operating VHF radio capable of transmitting and receiving on Channels 5A, 13, and 16. **[NP]** The Race Committee will make announcements via VHF Channel 5A.
- 11.2 Each boat shall carry at least one operating cell phone throughout the race which number shall be on file on the boat's entry on <https://www.yachtscoring.com> prior to the start.
- 11.3 **TRACKING** — **[NP][DP]** Each boat shall carry and have continually switched on, from the boat's start until it finishes or is no longer racing, a [satellite](#)-tracking device such as AIS transponder or alternate device (such as Spot or InReach). The boat's MMSI or device locator url shall be on file with the Race Committee on www.yachtscoring.com prior to the start.

12. PRIZES

- 12.1 All class, fleet, and SYC perpetual awards including NORT, DHORT, and NELS will be presented at an Awards Presentation and Reception on Sunday, September 6, 2026 at 1700 at the Stamford Yacht Club.
- 12.2 A Corinthian Challenge (CC) award will be made to the boat with the best performance among CC-qualified finishers on the Vineyard Course. The scoring method will be based on entries and specified in the Sailing Instructions.

13. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. See RRS rule 3, Decision to Race. The Organizing Authority will not accept any liability for damage, personal injury, or death sustained in connection with participation in the regatta, including events occurring prior to, during, or after the regatta. The Skipper/Owner of each boat is responsible for the behavior of each member of the crew both on the water and while ashore. The destruction of property, breach of reasonable standards of good sportsmanship, or failure to comply with any reasonable request of any Race Officer or Regatta Committee member or their representatives may result in disqualification of the boat and its exclusion from the regatta and future SYC events.

14. SAFETY

14.1 SAFETY CERTIFICATIONS

For all classes, at least 75% of those aboard shall hold a valid US Sailing Safety at Sea Course certificate or equivalent. At least 30%, but not fewer than two persons aboard including the person in charge, shall hold a valid International Offshore Safety at Sea Course with Hands-on Training certificate, or a US Sailing In-person Offshore Safety at Sea certificate or equivalent. US Sailing certificates are valid for 5 years from the date of issue.

14.2 PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES

Attention is drawn to RRS rule 1.2, Life-Saving Equipment and Personal Flotation Devices: “Each competitor is individually responsible for wearing a personal flotation device adequate for the conditions.” Specific PFD requirements, including the conditions under which PFDs are mandatory for all crew, are stated in the Sailing Instructions.

14.3 SAFETY GUIDELINES

All boats are strongly encouraged to follow the Storm Trysail Club Safety Guidelines for Rendering Assistance. Guidelines and information on available Safety at Sea courses are available at www.stormtrysail.org/sas.

14.4 SEAWORTHINESS

The Organizing Authority reserves the right to inspect any boat for compliance with safety and seaworthiness requirements at any time. (See also section 2.7.)

15. INSURANCE

Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance sufficient to cover liability for loss, damage, personal injury, or death.

16. FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information, please email VineyardRace@stamfordyc.com or call the Stamford Yacht Club at 203-323-3161 and ask for the Chairman of the Vineyard Race.

Vineyard Race Committee

Chairman – John Gianukakis

Principal Race Officer – John Troy

Race Operations – Rick Brook

Stamford Yacht Club

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