

THE COMMODORE'S CUP

For the Drake H. Sparkman III Memorial Trophy Sunday, August 30, 2026

Organizing Authority (OA):
Yacht Racing Association of Long Island Sound (YRALIS)
Hosted by: American Yacht Club (AYC)

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

The notation "[NP]" in a rule means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1 The notation "[DP]" in a rule means that the penalty for a breach of the rule may, at the discretion of the protest committee, be less than disqualification.

1. RULES

- 1.1 The event will be governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing*.
- 1.2 The current PHRF Regulations as administered by the YRALIS will apply, except as any of these are changed by the Notice of Race or the Sailing Instructions.
- 1.3 Boats shall observe the US Sailing Safety Equipment Requirements for nearshore races, which can be found on the US Sailing website:
<https://www.ussailing.org/competition/offshore/safety-information/ser-world-sailing-special-regulations/>
- 1.4 Appendix V Alternate Penalties shall apply.

2. CHANGES TO THE SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1 Any changes to the Sailing Instructions will be posted no later than 0900, Sat. August 29, 2026, except that any changes to the schedule will be posted by 2000 Friday, August 28, 2026.
- 2.2 Changes to the Sailing Instructions may be made on the water via VHF radio via channel 69.

3. COMMUNICATION

- 3.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board on YachtScoring at:
<https://www.yachtscoring.com/emenu/50795>.
- 3.2 [DP] Each boat shall carry a radio capable of transmitting and receiving VHF channels 16, 69, and 71. Except in an emergency or to report a protest or withdrawal, a boat shall neither make nor receive any type of electronic communication while racing that is not freely

available to all boats. On the water, the race committee intends to make courtesy broadcasts to competitors on VHF radio.

3.3 The race committee will communicate with the fleet on the water via VHF channel 69.

4. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

4.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed from the race committee signal boat, Peningo.

4.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, “1 minute” is replaced with “not less than 45 minutes” in Race Signal AP.

5. FEES

5.1 There will be no entry fee.

6. SCHEDULE

6.1 Sunday, August 30: 1100 First Warning Signal
 1600 No warning signal after this time
 Reception at AYC following the completion of racing

7. VENUE

7.1. The racing area will be the waters off Milton Point, Rye, New York.

8. FLAGS

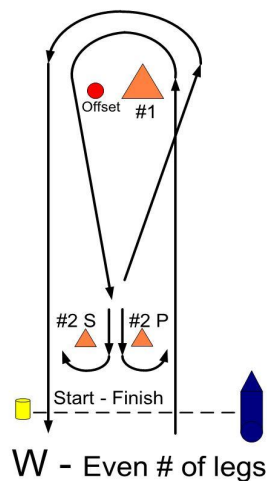
8.1 The class flag for this event is numeral pennant 1.

8.2 Each boat shall fly on its backstay the burgee of the club it represents.

9. COURSES

9.1 No later than the warning signal, the race committee signal vessel shall display a whiteboard with the course designation (W2 = two legs, W4 = four legs, etc.) and the approximate compass bearing for the first leg.

9.2 If one of the gate marks is missing, the remaining mark shall be rounded to port.



10. MARKS

- 10.1 Rounding marks are orange inflatable marks or red hippity-hops.
- 10.2 The starting and finishing mark is a yellow inflatable mark.
- 10.3 New marks, as provided in SI 12, will be either the original orange inflatable or a yellow tetrahedron.

11. STARTING AND FINISHING

- 11.1 Races will be started in accordance with RRS 26.
- 11.2 The starting and finishing line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the signal vessel and the course side of a staff displaying an orange flag on the pin end.
- 11.3 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 via VHF channel 69. Failure of the broadcast equipment, failure of her to hear such a hail, or the order and timing in which boats are hailed will not be grounds for a request for redress. This changes RRS 61.1(a).
- 11.4 A boat that does not start within 5 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.1 and A5.

12. CHANGES TO THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

- 12.1 To change the next leg of the course, the race committee will either move the mark or lay a new mark and remove the original mark as soon as practicable.
- 12.2 The race committee may change the next leg of the course up to 15 degrees in direction or 0.1 nm in length during a race without signaling a course change. This changes RRS 33.

13. TIME LIMITS

- 13.1 The race time limit (see RRS 35) is 90 minutes and the "Finishing Window" is 45 minutes.
- 13.2 The Finishing Window is the time for boats to finish after the first boat sails the course and finishes. Boats still racing who fail to finish within the finishing window will be scored TLE, unless they retire or are subject to a scoring decision from a committee, without a hearing. A boat scored TLE shall be scored points for the finishing place one (1) more than the points scored by the last boat that finished within the Finishing Window. This changes RRS 35, A5.1, A5.2 and A10.

14. HEARING REQUESTS

- 14.1 The protest time limit is 60 minutes after the race committee signal boat has docked. The time will be posted on the official notice board.
- 14.2 Rule 60.2 is changed, add: Immediately after finishing, a protesting boat shall notify the race committee of her intent to lodge a protest and the identity of the boat she intends to protest.

- 14.3 Written hearing requests such as protests and requests for redress will be filed in person and delivered to the protest committee desk located on the front porch of the AYC main clubhouse.
- 14.4 Notice of hearings will be posted on the official notice board as soon as possible.
- 14.5 Notices of protests by the race committee or protest committee will be posted on the official notice board to inform boats under RRS 60.2(d).

15. SCORING

- 15.1 One race will constitute a series.
- 15.2 A boat series score shall be the total of her race scores without exclusion.
- 15.3 PHRF time allowances will be computed using Time on Distance for W/L Spinnaker ratings

16. PRIZES

- 16.1 The winning club will be awarded the Drake H. Sparkman III Memorial Trophy. The trophy shall remain on display in the YRALIS trophy case at Larchmont Yacht Club. A “keeper” trophy will be presented at the YRA Annual Meeting.

17. RISK STATEMENT

RRS 3 states: ‘The responsibility for a boat’s decision to participate in a race or to continue to race 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, Releasors 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.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information please contact:

American Yacht Club, 499 Stuyvesant Avenue, Rye, NY 10580

Telephone: 914-967-4800 or Fax: 914-468-7751. Website: www.americanyc.org.

Event Chairman: Barry Gold, barrypgold@gmail.com

Race Committee Co-Chairs: Barry Gold and Rich Hult

Principal Race Officer: Clemmie Everett

Technical Committee: YRALIS

Protest Committee Co-Chairs: Giff Constable and Lisl Dunlop