The Wetherill 2027

The Sam Wetherill Trophy Race

Friday May 21, 2027

Notice of Race

The Officers and Members of the Essex Yacht Club invite you to participate in the 76th Wetherill Race.
The Essex Yacht Club is the Organizing Authority for this event.

The notation "[NP]"in a rule means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1(a). The notation "[DP]" in a rule means that the penalty for a breach of the rule may be less than DSQ at the discretion of the protest committee. This modifies RRS 64.2.

1. RULES

Racing will be governed by:

1.1. The current Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), except as modified herein and/or the Sailing Instructions.

1.2. RRS 52 Manual Power, is changed as follows

- 1.2.1. Boats sailing Double-handed may use autopilots.
- 1.2.2. Boats equipped and rated with power winches may use same

1.3. Between the hours of sunset and sunrise, RRS Part 2 is replaced by the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (IRPCAS)

1.4. The current ORC Rating Systems rules and regulations.

- 1.4.1. ORC Regulation 201.2 does not apply.

1.5. The current PHRF Regulations as administered by PHRF of Eastern Connecticut Sailing Association (ECSA).

1.6. The current US Sailing Safety Equipment Requirements (USSER) for Coastal races, except as modified by 3.4.

1.7. RRS 41, Outside Help, is changed by adding: (e) Help in the form of information freely available to all boats, even if that information is only accessible at a cost. "At a cost" help shall not include private forecast or tactical advice, or information customized for a particular boat or group of boats and/or her/their current situation.

1.8. RRS 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. COMMUNICATIONS

2.1. The online official notice board is located on YachtScoring.com.

2.1.1. The OA will attempt to notify all registered entrants of any new postings through the competitors' email service provided by YachtScoring.com.

2.2. Each boat shall carry a VHF radio capable of receiving and transmitting on Channels 1001 (01A), 1005 (05A), 13 and 16

2.2.1. On the water, the race committee will make courtesy broadcasts to competitors on VHF radio. The channel will be stated in the SIs.

2.3. Each boat shall carry at least one cell phone, the number of which is on file with the Race Committee, and which is kept on and charged while racing and for two hours after finishing.

2.4. [NP][DP] An operational AIS Transponder shall be carried and switched on from the boat's start until it finishes or is no longer sailing, such that it is receiving and transmitting continuously. The failure of any station to receive a signal from a boat's AIS Transponder shall not be subject to protest by a competitor 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.

2.5. Each boat shall carry a stand-alone tracking unit provided by the OA. The unit shall be turned on and mounted with a clear view of the sky at all times during the race. Once issued, the tracking unit becomes the responsibility of the skipper/owner and loss or failure to return the unit will result in a charge to the skipper/owner of up to $900. Credit card security will be required.

3. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

3.1. The race fleet will sail one of two courses: the Gay Head Course (152 NM) or the Block Island Course (80 NM).

3.2. The Gay Head Course will have ORC and PHRF Divisions. If three or more ORC DH boats are entered they will be scored in a separate class, otherwise they will be placed in an ORC class using their ORC DH rating.

3.3. The Block Island Course will be for PHRF boats only with separate classes for Spinnaker and Non-Spinnaker entries. If there are 3 or more double-handed non-spinnaker entries they will be placed in a separate DH NS class, otherwise they shall be placed in a PHRF Non-Spinnaker (NS) Class using their NS Handicap.

3.4. Boats shall be at least 29 feet LOA, have self-righting hulls, shall be properly rigged and ballasted, shall be fully seaworthy and shall comply with the current USSER for Coastal Races.

3.5. All boats shall have a minimum of two crew members

3.6. Boats sailing in the ORC Division shall have a current ORC certificate with an APH of 600 or faster.

3.6.1. ORC Rule 200.1 is hereby changed as follows:

3.6.1.1. Other than those boats sailing double-handed, one additional crew under the age of 16 is permitted and shall not count against crew or weight limits.

3.7. For boats sailing in the PHRF Division:

3.7.1. Boats sailing the Gay Head Course shall have a current PHRF of ECSA rating of 155 or less.

3.7.2. Boats sailing the Block Island Course shall have a current PHRF of ECSA rating between 80 and 180 inclusive.

3.7.3. For entries holding a valid 2026 PHRF certificate from another recognized independent rating authority, the OA will reimburse the cost of obtaining a PHRF of ECSA rating (see Notice Board for details).

3.7.4. If there are 3 or more entries of the same one-design boat sailing either Course, they will be placed in one or more separate one-design classes

3.8. Unless authorized by the OA, rating changes will not be accepted after 1200 on Thursday May 20, 2027.

3.9. [NP][DP]Boats shall have sail numbers that are clearly legible in all ambient light conditions.

3.10. All entries are to be made on-line at YachtScoring.com. *Please note: A completed entry requires, in addition to the skipper's data, the names, emails, emergency contact, execution of a waiver, and Safety at Sea information for all onboard (see NoR 12 & 15).*

4. ENTRY FEES

4.1. The entry application shall be accompanied by the entry fee to be paid by credit card or PayPal. The entry fees are based on Length Overall (LOA) which may be rounded downwards to the nearest whole number (e.g. 43.67' = 43')

4.1.1. For entries received and paid before May 7, 2027, the entry fee is $9.00 per foot.

4.1.2. For entries paid on or after May 7, the entry fee is $13.00 per foot

4.2. Any boat that introduces a new entrant who successfully starts the 2027 Wetherill race will receive a 40% reimbursement of their entry fee (see Notice Board).

4.3. Entries withdrawn before 1800 on Monday May 17, 2027, will be fully refunded.

4.4. No entries will be accepted after 1800 on Monday May 17, 2027.

5. QUALIFYING SERIES

5.1. The Sam Wetherill Trophy Race is a qualifier for the New England Lighthouse series (PHRF).

5.2. Both Courses are eligible for bonus points scoring in the ECSA 2027 series.

5.3. The race is included in the East End ORC Cup series.

6. SCHEDULE

6.1. The Skippers Meeting will be at 1800 Thursday, May 20, 2027, at the Essex Yacht Club

6.2. The first signal will be at 1100 on Friday, May 21, 2027, approximately 0.5 miles west of the Old Saybrook lighthouse.

6.3. The time limit will be 0800 on Sunday, May 23, 2027.

6.4. The Awards Presentation and Reception will begin at 1200 on Sunday, May 23 at the Essex Yacht Club.

6.4.1. All participants are invited to a complimentary brunch before the Awards Presentation. Reservations are required and may be made by calling (860) 767-8121.

7. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

7.1. Sailing Instructions will be available no later than Monday May 17, 2027

7.2. Scratch sheets will be published on YachtScoring.com by 1200 on Thursday, May 20, 2027 and will be available at the Skipper's Meeting.

8. COURSES

8.1. The Gay Head Course will be from the Start approximately 0.5 nm west of the Saybrook Breakwater Light, leaving R8 to port, then leaving G1BI north of Block Island to starboard, then, leaving Block Island to port, to Buzzards Bay Entrance Light tower east of Cuttyhunk Island leaving to starboard, then to G31 northwest of Gay Head leaving to starboard, then returning, leaving Block Island to starboard, R8 to starboard, then to the Finish between the signal boat and the Saybrook Breakwater Light.

8.2. The Block Island Course will be from the Start approximately 0.5 nm west of the Saybrook Breakwater Light, leaving R8 to port, then around Block Island leaving Block Island and G1BI to port, then, leaving R8 to starboard, to the Finish between the signal boat and the Saybrook Breakwater Light.

8.3. In the event of an adverse weather forecast the Race Committee may, at its sole discretion, direct boats in the Gay Head Course fleet to sail the Block Island Course.

9. PENALTY SYSTEM

9.1. [DP] The Scoring Penalty, rule 44.3, will apply. In the case of a protest involving the rules of Part 2 and OCS, the boat at fault, instead of being disqualified as a result of a hearing, may, at the option of the Protest Committee, have her elapsed time increased by 2%.

10. SCORING

10.1. PHRF classes, including double-handed, will use PHRF Eastern Connecticut time-on-time ratings.

10.2. [NP] ORC classes, including double-handed, will be scored using a scoring option available on Page 2 of current USA ORC certificates. The Race Committee will announce the scoring option to be used before the start of the race. The decision on the scoring option and scoring parameters used for the race, and any subsequent change thereto, will be at the sole discretion of the Race Committee. These will not be grounds for redress by any boat. This changes RRS 61.1(a).

11. PRIZES

11.1. The Awards Presentation and Reception will commence at 1200 on Sunday, May 23, 2027, at the Essex Yacht Club.

11.2. The Sam Wetherill Trophy will be awarded jointly to the two boats in the ORC and PHRF divisions sailing the Gay Head Course with the fastest corrected times in their division.

11.3. The Hot Flash Trophy will be awarded to the boat sailing the Gay Head Course with the fastest elapsed time in any division.

11.4. The Wetherill Club Challenge Trophy will be awarded to the club with the best combined high-point score of any three boats based on their places in their respective classes. (see Notice Board for details)

11.5. Class prizes will be awarded to:

11.5.1. First three places for classes with 5 or more entries

11.5.2. First two places for classes with 4 entries

11.5.3. First place for classes with less than 4 entries

11.6. If there are insufficient entries for a separate DH class in either the ORC or PHRF divisions, a prize will be awarded to the double-handed boat with the best overall performance in its respective division.

11.7. A prize will be awarded for the best photograph taken by a participant during the race. Please see *Event Documents* on YachtScoring.com for entry information.

12. SAFETY

12.1. [DP][NP] At least 75% of those aboard the boat shall have attended a USSailing Safety at Sea (SaS) Seminar after January 1, 2022. Such seminars may be attended online (ussailing.org/) provided the skipper or person in charge shall have attended an International Offshore Safety at Sea Course with Hands-on Training or a USSailing sanctioned In-Person Offshore Safety at Sea Seminar after January 1, 2022.

12.2. The skipper or person in charge shall submit a completed and signed Safety Declaration with a copy of their SaS certificate to the OA at wetherill@essexyc.com no later than Friday May 14, 2027. The Safety Declaration is available on the Notice Board at YachtScoring.com. Failure to comply will be protested by the Race Committee and will result in an elapsed time penalty of up to 5% instead of disqualification as determined by the Protest Committee.

12.3. All boats are strongly encouraged to follow the STC Safety Guideline for Rendering Assistance. The Guidelines and information on available Safety at Sea courses are available on the Storm Trysail Club website: (www.stormtrysail.org/sas).

12.4. Attention is drawn to RRS 1.2 Life Saving Equipment which is modified as follows “The skipper must alert each competitor of their individual responsibility to wear an approved personal buoyancy device and safety harness for the conditions, including but not limited to the following

12.4.1. Between the hours of sunset and sunrise.

12.4.2. When alone on deck.

12.4.3. When reefed.

12.4.4. When the true wind speed is 25 knots or more.

12.4.5. When visibility is less than 1 nautical mile.

12.4.6. With due consideration of the water temperature.

12.4.7. At all times when a boat is being sailed Double Handed.

12.4.8. By all crew on deck at all other times unless the person in charge has indicated they may be set aside.

13. INSURANCE

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

14. RISK STATEMENT

14.1. The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue to race is hers alone. See RRS 3, Decision to Race. By participating in this event each competitor agrees and acknowledges that sailing is a potentially dangerous activity with inherent risks. These risks include strong winds and rough seas, sudden changes in weather, failure of equipment, boat handling errors, poor seamanship by other boats, loss of balance on an unstable platform and fatigue resulting in increased risk of injury. Inherent in the sport of sailing is the risk of permanent, catastrophic injury or death by drowning, trauma, hypothermia or other causes.

15. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

15.1. Competitors participate in the event entirely at their own risk. It is the sole responsibility of the Skipper/Owner of each boat to see that she is seaworthy in all respects and that she is manned by a competent crew. The Skipper/Owner and all the members of the crew of each boat, by participating in this Race, agree to do so at their own risk, and waive any claim against and hold harmless the Essex Yacht Club, its officers, directors, committees, members, employees, sponsors, and agents against any claims arising in any way out of the participation in the Sam Wetherill Race and related activities of such boat, her Skipper/Owner and crew.

16. PRIVACY POLICY, COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA RIGHTS

16.1. As a condition of participating in the race, competitors shall agree to accept operational communications (voice, email, text, or other), and grant the OA, and its agents, employees, sponsors and assigns, the irrevocable right and permission to use basic competitor information, photographs and video footage taken of themselves, their crew and their competing boat, without notification, for use or distribution in any media whatsoever for editorial or advertising purposes or to be used in press information. Competitors shall agree to release, defend and hold harmless the OA and its agents, employees, sponsors, and assigns, from and against any claims, damages, or liability arising from or related to the use of the photographs and video footage.

17. FURTHER INFORMATION

17.1. For further information, please contact the Chairman, The Wetherill Race at wetherill@essexyc.com

18. MOORINGS

18.1. The free use of guest moorings and dock space (if available) will be extended to all participants from Tuesday May 18 through Monday May 24. For mooring reservations, please contact the EYC dockmaster at 860-767-8121 #1 or directly at (860) 581-4612.

The 2027 Wetherill Race Committee
Race Chairman: Peter Harding
Principal Race Officer: Tom Wilcox
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