



# The Essex Rum Challenge

## Saturday July 18, 2026

### Notice of Race



**The Essex Yacht Club is the Organizing Authority for this event.**

#### 1. RULES

- 1.1. The regatta will be governed by The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) and US Sailing Prescriptions except as modified herein and/or the Sailing Instructions.
  - 1.1.1. Boats sailing single-handed may use autopilots. This modifies RRS 52.
- 1.2. The Essex Yacht Club strongly recommends that entrants comply with the US Safety Equipment Requirements for Nearshore Races available at [www.ussailing.org](http://www.ussailing.org) or at [www.yachtscoring.com](http://www.yachtscoring.com).
- 1.3. 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

- 2.1. Sailing Instructions and scratch sheets will be available by 1800 on Friday July 17, 2026, both online at [www.yachtscoring.com](http://www.yachtscoring.com) and at the Skippers Meeting. Race documents will not be distributed on the water.

#### 3. COMMUNICATION

- 3.1. The online official Notice Board is located at [www.yachtscoring.com](http://www.yachtscoring.com).
- 3.2. All boats shall carry a VHF radio capable of communication on channels 1001, 1005, 16, 68, 69 & 72.
- 3.3. On the water, the race committee will make courtesy broadcasts to competitors on VHF radio. The channel will be stated in the SIs.

#### 4. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRIES

- 4.1. The regatta is open to all boats with a valid 2026 PHRF, ORC, or NEMA Rating Certificate. PHRF entrants must have a PHRF of ECSA certificate. To encourage participation by visiting boats, the OA will reimburse the cost of obtaining an ECSA PHRF rating for any entrant who holds a current PHRF rating from another regional PHRF authority (see online Notice Board for details). ORC entrants must have an International or Club ORC certificate. Multi-hulls must have a valid NEMA certificate.
- 4.2. There will be PHRF Spinnaker (Windward/Leeward), PHRF Spinnaker (Round the Buoys (RTB)), PHRF Non-Spinnaker (RTB), ORC and Multihull Classes. A minimum of three entries is required to start a class. If there are sufficient entries, a separate Nonsuch class will be started, otherwise such entries will be placed in the PHRF Non-Spinnaker class.
- 4.3. Yacht clubs are encouraged to enter at least three boats to better compete for the Essex Rum Challenge Club Trophy.
- 4.4. Boats must register online at [www.yachtscoring.com](http://www.yachtscoring.com) to enter. The entry deadline is 1200 on Friday July 17, 2026.

#### 5. FEES

- 5.1. The entry fee is \$50 per yacht or \$40 if paid before July 1, 2026. A \$5 discount is offered to USSA members. Late entries (after July 15 2026) shall be subject to a late-entry fee of \$20.
- 5.2. Awards Party tickets are \$20 per person with online entry or \$30 per person at the door.

## 6. SCHEDULE

- 6.1. The Skippers Meeting will be held at the Essex Yacht Club at 1800 on Friday July 17, 2026. The skipper's package, including Goslings' hats, party tickets, and the regatta program, will be available at the Skippers Meeting and at the Awards Party.
- 6.2. The First Warning will be at 1200 on Saturday July 18, 2026. The Race Committee may decide to sail two races.
- 6.3. The Awards Party will be held at the Essex Yacht Club, commencing at 1700 on Saturday July 18, 2026.

## 7. VENUE

- 7.1. The starting area will be approximately ¼ mile west of the Old Saybrook Outer Light.

## 8. COURSES

- 8.1. Courses will be windward-leeward (W/L) around drop marks, round the buoys (RTB) around government marks, or a combination of both based on weather and tide conditions.

## 9. SCORING

- 9.1. Boats will be scored using Time on Time handicaps. If more than one race is sailed in a class, each boat's score for the event shall be the combined total of her race scores and ties, if any, shall be broken based on corrected times.
- 9.2. This is an ECSA Regatta and is one of five qualifying events for the Long Sand Shoal Cup.

## 10. RISK STATEMENT

- 10.1. 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 each competitor agrees and acknowledges that sailing is a potentially dangerous activity with inherent risks. **Inherent in the sport of sailing is the risk of permanent, catastrophic injury or death by drowning, trauma, hypothermia, or other causes.**

## 11. INSURANCE

- 11.1. Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum coverage of \$300,000 per incident.

## 12. PRIZES

- 12.1. Prizes will be awarded to the first-placed boats in each class. Second-place prizes will be awarded in each class with 4 or more entries. Third-place prizes will be awarded in classes with 5 or more entries.
- 12.2. A prize will be awarded to the Nonsuch entry with the lowest corrected time if there is no separate Nonsuch Class.
- 12.3. The Hot Flash Trophy shall be awarded to the yacht with the lowest combined elapsed times of all races in the fastest class.
- 12.4. The Tom Lentini Memorial Trophy shall be awarded to the yacht with the lowest corrected time in the Non-Spinnaker classes.
- 12.5. The Essex Rum Challenge Club Trophy shall be awarded to the yacht club with the best combined class scores of any three yachts. See online Notice Board for details.

## 13. MOORINGS

- 13.1. Free moorings and dock space may be available at the Essex Yacht Club on a first come - first served basis. Call the EYC Waterfront Manager at (860) 581-4612 for details.

## 14. FURTHER INFORMATION

- 14.1. For further information please email [email@essexyc.com](mailto:email@essexyc.com).