



## 79th ANNUAL BLOCK ISLAND RACE Friday, May 22, 2026

# Notice of Race <sup>(v2)</sup>

(Includes Amendment 1)

The Storm Trysail Club is the Organizing Authority (OA) for the Seventy-Ninth Annual Block Island Race.

The notation “[NP]” in a rule means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1

### 1. RULES

Racing will be governed by:

- 1.1 The current Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), except as may be modified herein and/or by the Sailing Instructions.
  - 1.1.1 Boats equipped and rated with: power winches; water ballast; and/or canting keels; may use same. This modifies RRS 51 & 52.
  - 1.1.2 Boats sailing Double-handed may use autopilots. This modifies RRS 52.
  - 1.1.3 Double-handed entrants are allowed to communicate amongst themselves by VHF Radio. This modifies RRS 41.
  - 1.1.4 Between the hours of sunset and sunrise, the rules of Part 2 are replaced with the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (IRPCAS).
- 1.2 The current PHRF Regulations as administered by the YRA of Long Island Sound (YRA-LIS).
- 1.3 The current [US Sailing Safety Equipment Requirements \(USSER\)](https://www.ussailing.org/competition/offshore/safety-information/ser-world-sailing-special-regulations/) (also see NoR 2.2). These requirements are available at <https://www.ussailing.org/competition/offshore/safety-information/ser-world-sailing-special-regulations/>. In the event of a conflict between these requirements and applicable class rules, the class rules shall apply.
- 1.4 The current IMS Rule (measurement) and ORC Rating Systems (ratings) rules and regulations. These requirements are available at [www.orc.org/rules](http://www.orc.org/rules).
  - 1.4.1 ORC Rule 201.2 restricting the amount of water to be carried shall not apply.
- 1.5 The New England Multihull Association (NEMA) RACE RULES ([www.nemasail.org](http://www.nemasail.org))
- 1.6 Each boat shall carry an operating VHF radio capable of transmitting and receiving on US Channels 1005 (05A), 13, and 16, and a cell phone, the number of which shall be on file with the Race Committee, and which shall be kept on while racing and for two hours after finishing.
- 1.7 [NP] An operational AIS Transponder shall be carried and be switched on from the boat’s warning until it returns to port, 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 61.1(a) and RRS 60.5(b) shall not apply). A boat whose AIS fails to transmit for more than [30] consecutive minutes may be subject to protest by the race committee.
- 1.8 Tracking – boats may be tracked by third-party software.
- 1.9 Rule 60.4(a)(2) is changed as follows: “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. SAFETY

- 2.1 [NP] For all classes, at least 75% of those aboard the boat shall have attended a US SAILING Safety at Sea Seminar after May 1, 2021. Such seminars may be attended online ([ussailing.org/safety](https://ussailing.org/safety)) provided at least 30%, but not fewer than two members of the crew, including the person in charge, have attended an International Offshore Safety at Sea Course with Hands-on Training or a US Sailing sanctioned In-person Offshore Safety at Sea Seminar after May 1, 2021. **If the 30% requirement cannot be met due to a “Safety at Sea with hands-on training” course not being available, the requirement may, at the discretion of the OA, be met by completing the US Sailing “Online Offshore Safety at Sea” course.**
- 2.2 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](http://www.stormtrysail.org)).
- 2.3 [NP] Attention is drawn to RRS 1.2 Life Saving Equipment: “Each competitor is individually responsible for wearing personal buoyancy for the conditions,” including but not limited to the following:
- Between the hours of sunset and sunrise;
  - When alone on deck;
  - When reefed;
  - When the true wind speed is 25 knots or more;
  - When visibility is less than 1 nautical mile;
  - With due consideration of the water temperature;
  - At all times when a boat is being sailed Double Handed; and
  - By all crew on deck at all other times unless the person in charge has indicated they may be set aside.

## 3. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Sailing Instructions will be available on or about May 12th on [https://www.yachtscoring.com/event\\_documents](https://www.yachtscoring.com/event_documents).

## 4. COMMUNICATIONS

- 4.1 While on the water, the Race Committee will make announcements via VHF Channel 1005 (05A).
- 4.2 Communication with competitors will be via the online Official Notice Board (ONB) and/or e-mails and/or WhatsApp. Each boat shall have at least one device connected to the internet with WhatsApp installed.
- 4.3 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 situation.

## 5. ELIGIBILITY, CREW LIMITATIONS, AND ENTRY

- 5.1 The race fleet will be divided into two courses: The Block Island Course (186 NM) and The Plum Island Course (132 NM), each with different classes and eligibility, as follows:
- 5.2 Boats sailing the **Block Island 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), shall be properly rigged and ballasted, shall be fully seaworthy and shall comply with the current USSER for Coastal Races, with the following changes: (1) Requirements under USSER for “Coastal” races 2.4.4 is hereby amended to allow for suitable synthetic fiber for lifelines;
- (2) Attention is drawn to USSER requirements under 3.39, life rafts are not required; and (3) Attention is also drawn to RRS 1.2, “Life-Saving Equipment and Personal Flotation.”
- 5.2.1 Boats, including those sailing double-handed, with a current ORC certificate.
- ORC Rule 200.1 is hereby changed as follows:
    - The combined weight of all crew on board while racing shall not be greater than the maximum crew weight as defined in ORC 102.1 and 102.2;*
    - 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 limit.*
  - Boats with an **APH of 500 or lower must have an ORCi certificate**. In addition, any boat that has a modified hull or appendage must have an ORCi certificate regardless of her APH rating.

- c) Unless authorized by the OA, rating changes will not be accepted after 1200 on Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>. The OA will only consider such dispensation if the request for optional certificate revision has been provided to US Sailing by 1200 on Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>.

5.2.2 Boats, including those sailing double-handed, with a valid, current YRA-LIS PHRF rating 135 seconds/mile or faster (available at [www.yralis.org](http://www.yralis.org))

5.2.3 Boats sailing double-handed will be placed in ORC or PHRF classes as entries warrant and may start together. Within the Double-handed entries, there will be additional scoring for mixed gender crews.

5.2.4 Mini-650 or Mini Transat Class boats with a minimum crew of two (2) are permitted.

5.2.5 Multihull boats with a minimum length of 26' LOA, not including bowsprit, and a valid, current 2026 NEMA Rating Certificate.

**5.2.6 ORCi boats with a greater than 17 ft [5.2M] draft may compete in a "COWS FINISH" class.**

**See NoR 8.1.2 [A1]**

5.3 Boats sailing the **Plum Island Course** shall be no less than 26 feet LOA, have self-righting hulls (except multihulls), shall be properly rigged and ballasted, shall be fully seaworthy and shall comply with the current USSER for Near Shore, with the following additions: (1) Each boat shall have an operating VHF radio capable of transmitting and receiving on US Channel 1005 (05A), 13, and 16; and (2) Each boat shall carry at least one cell phone the number for which is on file with the Race Committee, and which is kept on and fully charged.

5.3.1 Racing on the Plum Island Course will be conducted in PHRF classes, including Double-handed, for boats rated 81 to 174. Minimum number of crew shall be 2.

5.4 **All entries are to be made on-line via [stormtrysail.org/entry](http://stormtrysail.org/entry) by pressing the link "Enter."** Please note: [1] A completed entry requires, in addition to the skipper's data, the names, emails, emergency contact, and Safety at Sea information for all crew (see NoR 15); and [2] Rating certificates must be dated prior to May 15, 2026.

5.5 [NP] To be scored, boats shall have sail numbers that are *clearly legible* in all light conditions. Failure to comply may result in being scored DNF. This adds to RRS Appendices A5 and G1.2.

## 6. ENTRY FEES

The entry application shall be accompanied by an entry fee to be paid by credit card or PayPal. Entry fees are based on Length Overall (LOA) which may be rounded downward to the nearest lower whole number (e.g., 39.71' = 39'). Entry Fees are: \$9.00 per foot LOA for entries *paid* before May 4th. For entries paid on or after May 4th, the entry fee will be \$13.00 per foot LOA. **Absolutely no entry will be accepted after 1800 Thursday, May 21st.**

## 7. SCHEDULE

The scheduled time for the first warning signal is 1200, Friday, May 22nd in the vicinity of Red Bell "32" (The Cows) southerly of Stamford Harbor.

## 8. THE COURSES

The courses will be described fully in the Sailing Instructions. Generally:

**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.

**REVERSE COURSE** The Race Committee may indicate that either course be sailed in the reverse order of marks by flying code flag ROMEO at or before the warning signal.

### 8.1 The BLOCK ISLAND COURSE

Boats will sail from the Start; leave Green Bell "1B1" and Block Island to starboard, to the Finish, leaving Red Bell "32" (The Cows) and Red Nun "2" to starboard. Course distance is **186 NM**.

8.1.1 At the discretion of the race committee, a short course may be signaled by displaying code flag "C" prior to the Preparatory Signal for the first Block Island Course start. The short course shall be the Plum Island Course.

**8.1.2 ORCi boats meeting the criteria in NoR 5.2.6 will finish at Red Bell "32" (the Cows) [185NM] [A1]**

## 8.2 The PLUM ISLAND COURSE

Boats will sail from the Start; leave **Flashing Red R“2 PG” (SW of Plum Island) and the Flashing Green G “1” entrance buoy to New London Harbor to port**, and to the Finish, leaving **Bartlett Reef**, Red Bell “32” (The Cows) and Red Nun “2” to starboard. Course distance is **138 NM**.

## 9. PENALTY SYSTEM AND PROTESTS

- 9.1 [DP] The Scoring Penalty, rule 44.3, will apply. In the case of a protest involving the rules of Part 2, the boat at fault, as a result of a hearing, may, at the option of the Protest Committee, have her elapsed time increased by 2%, but in no case less than 30 minutes. The same applies to a boat that is OCS at her starting signal and has not returned to start. This modifies RRS 63.5
- 9.2 A Protest Committee appointed by the Organizing Authority will decide protests. Protests involving potential trophy winners will be heard at Stamford Yacht Club as soon as practicable after the boats involved have finished.

## 10. SCORING

- 10.1 [NP] PHRF classes, including double-handed, will use YRA-LIS PHRF Distance Ratings scored using time-on-time (ToT) with the conversion factor  $650/(550+PHRF)$  rounded to 4 decimal places.
- 10.2 [NP] Results in the ORC Fleet will be scored using one of the scoring options available on page 2 of current/valid USA or CAN ORC certificates or by Weather Routing Scoring (WRS.) Prior to the first warning signal the RC will announce via VHF radio its intended scoring option. Note that the RC may change the selected option to a more suitable scoring option if there has been a material change in conditions during the race.
- 10.2.1 [NP] The selection of the scoring option and parameters used for the race, and any subsequent change thereto, will be at the sole discretion of the Race Committee. This includes the length of the course, and the wind details such as strength and direction. These will not be grounds for a request for redress by a boat. This changes RRS 61.1(a).
- 10.3 Multihulls will be scored using NEMA Ratings.
- 10.4 Teams will be scored by using the total of each team member's percentage placement in its respective class.
- 10.5 In the event the OA elects to include a one-design class or group of boats racing level on a start with other boats, the one-design or level rating group may be scored separately.

## 11. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. See rule 3, Decision to Race. The organizing authority will not accept any liability for damage or personal injury, or death sustained in connection with their participation in the regatta, including events occurring prior to, during, or after the regatta. The Skipper/Owner of each boat participating in the Block Island Race shall be responsible for the behavior of each member of the crew of his/her boat both on the water and while ashore. The destruction of property, the breach of reasonable standards of good sportsmanship by any crew member, or any other person associated with the boat, or the failure of any of those persons to comply with any reasonable request of any Race Officer, Regatta Committee member, or their representatives, may result in disqualification of the boat, and its exclusion from the regatta and future STC events.

## 12. INSURANCE

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

### 13. PRIZES

- 13.1 Prizes will be awarded at a reception at 1700 on Sunday, May 24th at Stamford Yacht Club. The Roddie Williams Team Race Trophy will be awarded to the club whose team compiles the best score. A team shall consist of three boats. Teams shall not have more than 2 boats sailing in the same class. In order to be scored for the Team Racing Trophy, each team must submit an application by email to [blockislandrace@stormtrysail.org](mailto:blockislandrace@stormtrysail.org) prior to 1800 Wednesday, May 20th. The STC Perpetual prizes to be awarded will be described in the Sailing Instructions. **ORCi boats sailing in the “COWS FINISH” class are not eligible for perpetual prizes. [A1]**
- 13.2 The Block Island Race is a qualifier for the **Northern Ocean Racing Trophy (ORC)**, the **Double Handed Ocean Racing Trophy (ORC)**, and the **New England Lighthouse Series (PHRF)**. The Block Island Race is also a qualifier for the **De Coursey Fales (PHRF)**, **Sagola (PHRF)** and **Windigo (PHRF) Trophies**, the **du Moulin Cup for Double Handed Racing and the Youth Challenge Cup** awarded by the YRA- LIS, as well as the **STC Rugg Family Youth Offshore Challenge**, and the **“Tuna Trophy”** for the best ORC combined scores in the EDLU (40%) and the Block Island Race (60%)

### 14. PHOTOGRAPHERS AND MEDIA RIGHTS

Competitors grant STC, and its official sponsors, the unrestricted right and permission to use their name and the image for any text, photograph or video footage of either themselves or the yacht they are sailing during the event, to be published or broadcast in any media whatsoever (including but not limited to Press and TV advertisements or Internet), for either editorial or advertising purposes or to be used in press information. In this respect, competitors' names, and any biographical material of themselves may also be used or reproduced in any way known. As part of

### 15. FURTHER INFORMATION

The Storm Trysail Club, 1 Woodbine Ave., Larchmont, NY 10538 or call 914-834-8857, or our Web Site: [www.stormtrysail.org](http://www.stormtrysail.org) or by email to [blockislandrace@stormtrysail.org](mailto:blockislandrace@stormtrysail.org).

Event Chair/RO – John “JT” Troy  
Protest Committee Chair – Tom Rinda

STC Commodore – Andrew Weiss  
STC Vice Commodore – Ty Anderson  
STC Rear Commodore – Matt Gallagher  
STC Fleet Captain – Clarke Smith