

To the RYC racing community:

Here are the updated sailing instructions for 2015 season; we know it will be a great one! Again this year, the RC will describe an adjustment to the 720 rule (see section 18 below).

Please treat the race committee with the respect that these hard working people deserve. Remember, if it weren't for them, the racing wouldn't be as good as it is, and you would be doing race committee work instead of racing. We would encourage anyone that hasn't been on the RC boat before to give it a try. You will develop an appreciation for the work these folks are doing. Please stay close to the boat after the finish of your race so the committee can get another start going quickly.

Please note the "I" flag rule (30.1) is in effect at all starts.

Tom Higbee, RYC Principle Race Officer.

Your protest 2015 committee: (subject to change as needed)

Vince Bemis
Dave Jones
Patti Spaulding

Rockland Yacht Club 2015 Sailing Instructions
Rockland Yacht Club

1. **Rules:** Racing will be governed by the Racing Rules of Sailing 2013-2016.
<http://www.sailing.org/tools/documents/ISAFRRS20132016Final-%5B13376%5D.pdf>
2. **Entries:** Any yacht that has paid their racing fees, and has submitted a valid 2015 PHRF NE Racing certificate for their boat.
You do not need to be a RYC member to be able to race. Please contact Tom Higbee @ 207 593 9008 or tom@bluesprucejoinery.com for more information

Notices to Competitors: Notices to competitors in case of cancellation: All competitors are encouraged to call or text Tom Higbee at 207-593-9008 at 1500 on the day of the race if they are concerned about possible race cancelation for that night. I will try and send an email out to the group if it is obviously going to be canceled.
3. **Signals Made Ashore:** At this time Rockland Yacht Club has no plans to display signals ashore.
4. **Schedule of Races:** The Tuesdays from June 10 through Sept 9. First gun is at 1700 on each race day. Please be on the line and ready by then. We will not be holding up starts.
5. **Class Flags:** No class flags will be used. Instead the solid Yellow flag will indicate the PHRF Class. If there is an additional class, racers will be informed of what flag will be used verbally by the race committee.
6. **Racing Area:** All races will be held within Rockland Harbor. The area is bounded by the inside Harbor and an imaginary line from the Breakwater Lighthouse following 180 degrees (magnetic) to Owl's Head Shore.
7. **Check in Before Start:** Boats shall check in before their first start of each day. This is done by sailing past the stern of the Race Committee after it has set the pin end and has anchored on the line. Boats that are not starting a second or subsequent race shall notify the Race Committee before leaving the racing area. Boats that withdraw from a race or decide not to start after coming to the racing area, shall advise the Race Committee as soon as reasonably possible.
8. **Marks:** All marks will be orange mooring balls or orange cylinders/tetrahedrons or similar.

9. The Course: The course broadcast on VHF Channel 68. The order in which the marks are passed and the side on which each mark is to be left will be as broadcast. To allow for simultaneous racing of separate classes (when applicable) it is reasonable to sail (downwind) through the starting line given the next class has already started.

10. Starting: Prior to initiation of the Starting Sequence at the beginning of the racing the Race Committee will hail all yachts on Channel 68 and inform them that racing will begin within 2 minutes. The first starting sequence is as follows unless the Race Committee decides to start each class separately:

1 minute prior to starting sequence – there will be three short horn blasts

5 Minutes – Yellow Flag (Warning) (PHRF) up/one horn blast

4 Minutes – P (Preparatory) Flag up/one horn blast

1 Minutes – P (Preparatory) Flag down/one long horn blast

0 Minutes - Yellow Flag down (PHRF Start)/one horn blast

The official timing is visual (the flags) not the horn.

11. Over Early: The “I” flag rule (RRS 30.1) is in effect at all times. The Round-an-End Rule is that if a boat is on the course side (OCS) during the last minute before the start “she shall thereafter sail from the course side across an extension to the pre-start side before starting.” You must round either the Committee Boat or the pin end and reenter the starting line (no dipping). Also remember that while you are heading for an end to round, that you will have **NO** rights, (not even starboard!).

12. Individual Recalls: The Race Committee (RC) will give one horn blast, “X” flag up, and hail the individual boats. The RC will attempt to hail over early boats on Channel 68 or verbally if within earshot. The RC is not required to hail; this is courtesy of the RC. The failure to hail, the hail of some but not all boats, or untimely hail of a boat or boats shall not be grounds for granting redress (changes RRS 62.1(a)).

13. General Recalls: If more than three boats are over early the Race Committee will give two horn blasts, “First Substitute” flag up. The recall will be announced on Channel 68. In the case of a general recall, three blasts will signal a new countdown sequence.

14. Shorten Course: The Race Committee may shorten the course for any reason. The Race Committee will raise the “S” flag, give two blasts of the horn, and or hail the fleet(s) over channel 68 informing them of the changes.

- 15. The Finish:** The finish line will be between the flag mast on the Committee Boat and the finishing mark.
- 16. Time Limit:** There is a 2 hour time limit for any race. PHRF boats failing to finish within 45 minutes of the first boat to finish will be awarded a finish score equal to the average score that would have been awarded to all boats that failed to finish had all such boats finished.
- 17. Penalty System:** The RC has determined that given the particular conditions of the RYC races, normal Two Turns penalties as described in RRS 44.1 and 44.2, can be taken as a One Turn penalty. After getting well clear of other boats as soon after the incident as possible, a protested boat can take a One Turn Penalty to exonerate herself. When a boat hits a mark the penalty is still one turn.
- 18. Protests: Protests and Requests for Redress:** follow RRS 60 – RRS 62.2. A protesting yacht must hail ‘protest’ and conspicuously display a red flag at the first reasonable opportunity (RRS 61.1a). Also boats intending to protest will, after finishing, notify the Race Committee at the finishing line. The notification shall include the sail number or yacht name (PHRF) of the protested boat. After receiving this notification the Race Committee will announce over Channel 68 that a protest is pending and that a meeting will occur. The protesting yacht must fill out a protest form and deliver it to the Protest Committee (not Race Committee) in the Club House no later than one hour after the last finish of that day. Protest Forms are available online at http://raceadmin.ussailing.org/Assets/Race+Admin/Racing+Rules/2013-2016+RRS/2013-2016_protest_form.pdf please print copies and have them on your boat. The Protest hearing will begin 15 minutes after the form is submitted provided all parties are in attendance.
- 19. Scoring:** The low point scoring system shall be used with the first place being awarded one point. Boats scored OCS, DNF, and DSQ will be awarded a finish score 1 greater than the number of boats that are entered in the race (RRS A9). A race will only be scored for a class in which 2 or more boats start. A boat’s series score will be based on its best scores for 75% of the races sailed in that series. That is also to say that there is a 25% throw out in affect. Four or more race nights constitute a series. For scoring a series in which an individual boat did not participate in one or more race nights, that boat will be awarded a score of 1 greater than the total number of boats that did participate in the race or races on the night of racing they missed for scoring purposes. The low point scoring system will be used for the one design class (if applicable) with the following exception. The first place boat will be awarded $\frac{3}{4}$ of a point in stead of 1 point. This will be done in an effort to help with less chance of a tie occurring.

20. Safety Requirements and Equipment: Each competing boat is required to carry at least the following equipment; Prescribed Coast Guard safety equipment, a working VHF Radio, visual signals for daytime use, and a suitable anchor and line for the class and sailing area.

Radio Communications & Emergency Conditions: Emergency conditions should be reported to the Race Committee on channel 68. The Race Committee will monitor channel 68 from the time they leave the dock until they return to the dock at the end of the day. Boats in need of assistance can also call the Rockland Coast Guard on channel 16.

21. Disclaimer of Liability: Competitors participate in the Racing Program entirely at their own risk (RRS 4, decision to race). The organizing authority will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the Racing Program.