



# The 86th Vineyard Race

(Including the Cornfield Point & Seaflower Reef Courses)

September 4-6, 2020

## SAILING INSTRUCTIONS AND GENERAL CONDITIONS

(INCLUDES AMENDMENT 1)

### 1. RULES and OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

1.1 By the rules as defined by The Racing Rules of Sailing 2017-2020 (“rules”), including the US SAILING Prescriptions to the rules. The following rules are changed:

- 17 with the addition of: From sunset to sunrise, when two boats are on the same tack within three overall lengths (of the larger boat) of each other, the boat being overtaken shall maintain her proper course. The overtaking boat shall keep clear, and neither boat shall bear away toward, nor luff, the other. (see the International Regulations for Prevention of Collision at Sea)
- 26 to allow using audible signals only, no flags (see SI 8.5)
- 41 to allow the double-handed classes to communicate amongst themselves
- 51 to allow the use of canting keels and water ballast for all boats rated with them
- 52 to allow the use of stored power to mechanically move canting keels, and for the Double-handed classes to use wind vanes and/or autopilots.
- 60.2 see SI 8.2
- 61.1 see SI 14 Protests & Requests for Redress
- 62.1(a) see SI 9 Recalls (also changes rules 28, 63.1, A4 and A5)
- 63.3(a) see SI 14.6
- 64.1 see SI 11

1.2 Any boat withdrawing before the start or abandoning the Race shall remove her class flag and *immediately* notify the Event Chair by phone 203-984-3775 or by email to [vineyardrace@stamfordyc.com](mailto:vineyardrace@stamfordyc.com). It is the sole responsibility of any boat withdrawing to ensure the Race Committee has been notified.

1.3 **Double-handed divisions** – The following will apply to boats competing double-handed:

- (a) Crew is limited to 2 persons, one of whom shall be at least 18 years of age.
- (b) Wind vanes and/or autopilots may be used without penalty. This changes RRS 52.
- (c) Properly rated asymmetrical spinnakers may be used without penalty.
- (d) Safety lines (jack lines) leading forward from both sides of the cockpit to the bow, well secured at each end, shall be rigged throughout the race.
- (e) Competitors sailing in the double-handed division are permitted to utilize radio communications amongst themselves while racing. This changes RRS 41.
- (f) Twin headsails may be set on two poles for downwind sailing.
- (g) For headsails, whisker poles of any length may be used without penalty, but only a rated spinnaker pole may be used with a spinnaker.

1.4 **PHRF Non-spinnaker divisions** – The following will apply to boats competing Non-spinnaker:

- (a) Whisker poles of any length may be used without penalty.
- (b) The use of any headsail whose mid-girth (mid-luff to mid-leach) is more than 50% of its measurement is prohibited.
- (c) Except when changing headsails, boats may not fly more than one headsail at a time.
- (d) Boats that are permanently cutter-rigged may fly their staysails.

## 2. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS:

Notices to competitors will be posted on the website <http://www.yachtscoring.com/VRNotices> Notice Board and emailed to all entrants.

## 3. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS:

Changes and/or additions to the Sailing Instructions shall be posted on the Notice Board by 0800 on the day of the race. Changes to the scheduled start time will be posted by 2000 the day before the race. They shall be incorporated into these Sailing Instructions and shall be considered as having been delivered to each Captain.

## 4. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE:

4.1 In the event that changes and/or additions have been made to the Sailing Instructions, International Code Flag "L" will be hoisted on the Shore Station (main flagpole) of the Stamford Yacht Club at least four hours prior to the warning signal. Any such changes **will not** be available on the water. (see SI 2)

4.2 In the event weather conditions are such that the race cannot be started at a reasonable hour on Friday, the Start will be postponed by the display of International Code Pennants "AP" over "A" and two sound signals. The Warning for the first class will be Saturday at 0855.

## 5. CLASS FLAGS

5.1 Each boat shall fly from her backstay six or more feet above the deck, the flag corresponding to her designated START group. Start assignments are indicated on the Scratch Sheets. For Multi-hulls, class flags are not required to be flown.

5.2 Class and start assignments will be made by the race committee and shall appear on the Scratch Sheets.

5.3 Class flags shall be flown from the time a boat enters the general starting area until she has finished.

## 6. REPORTING FOR INSTRUCTIONS:

6.1 There will be no pre-race requirement to report to Vineyard Headquarters. All communications will be via the Official Notice Board (YachtScoring) or by direct email to all entrants.

6.2 **Tracking:** All boats shall carry and have on at all times while racing, a KATTACK compatible tracking device. Skippers may download the Kattack App for iPhone (iPad) or Android device, or, in the alternative, use their own SPOT or InReach Tracking System device. Skippers are expected to download and run the Kattack App (**one** per boat) or notify Race Headquarters by email ([vineyardrace@stamfordyc.com](mailto:vineyardrace@stamfordyc.com)) prior to the first signal that they will be using their own device and register the boat name and device URL with Race Headquarters. Failure to have and use a tracking device is subject to protest by the Race Committee only.

## 7. THE COURSES AND MARKS:

### 7.1 All courses:

(a) **START:** Between Flashing Red Bell "32" (The Cows) off Stamford Harbor and a flag staff flying an orange flag on the Committee Boat lying to the South. The race committee reserves the right to place a "keep away" mark in the vicinity of the Signal Vessel. Such mark must be left to starboard when a boat is starting or is approaching the starting line to start and Parts 2 and 3 of the RRS shall apply with respect to such mark as if it were part of the Signal Vessel. No boats shall pass between the "keep away" mark and the Signal Vessel.

(b) **FINISH:** The Finish will be at the Stamford Harbor entrance *between flashing green beacon #3 on the West breakwater and a staff displaying an orange flag on the Signal Vessel* anchored northerly of the East breakwater.

7.2 **The Vineyard Race course:** From the Start to the Buzzards Bay Light Tower, leaving the Tower to starboard, then leaving Block Island to starboard, then leaving Flashing Red Bell “32” (The Cows) to starboard, then leaving Nun “2” to starboard, then to the Finish, for a total of 238 NM.

(a) Upon rounding the Buzzards Bay Light Tower, each boat shall record its time when the Tower bears due West of the boat’s mainmast. “Tower Time” shall be recorded on the Navigator Time Sheet and reported to the Race Committee immediately after finishing.

(b) **Short Course: At the discretion of the Race Committee, a short course may be signaled by displaying a Code Flag “C” prior to the warning signal for the start of any class. The short course will be the Seaflower Reef course.**

7.3 **The Cornfield Point Course:** From the Start to Cornfield Point Shoal leaving Red Bell “2” to starboard, then leaving Flashing Red Bell “8” (at the easterly end of Long Sand Shoal) to starboard, then leaving RG “TE” buoy to starboard, then leaving Flashing Red Bell “32” (The Cows) to starboard, leaving Nun “2” to starboard, and then to the Finish, for a total of 116 NM.

7.4 **Seaflower Reef Course:** From the Start to ‘Seaflower Reef’ leaving it to starboard, then leaving Flashing Red Bell “32” (The Cows) to starboard, then leaving Nun “2” to starboard, and then to the Finish, for a total of 143 NM.

7.5 In the event that a mark of the course is not on station, it will be incumbent on each boat to round the established position of that mark. The Navigator shall report the missing mark, in writing, to the Race Committee within two hours of finishing. Rounding time and boats within sight shall also be noted.

## 8. THE START:

8.1 The first signal shall be at 1200, Friday, September 4th. Starting Signals shall be in accordance with rule 26 with classes starting at ten-minute intervals after the first start and in the order indicated on the top of the Scratch Sheet.

8.2 The Starting Line shall be between Flashing Red BELL "32" (The Cows) off Stamford Harbor, and an orange Flag displayed from a staff on the Signal Vessel.

8.3 The Starting Area shall extend along the Starting Line and 300 yards westerly thereof. Boats not starting shall keep clear of the Starting Area. Boats whose Preparatory Signal has not been made shall keep clear of the Restricted Starting Area and of all boats whose Preparatory Signal has been made. Boats that fail to abide by these restrictions may be subject to protest by the Race Committee. This adds to rule 60.2. If the protest is upheld, the offending boat will be penalized by having one hour added to her corrected time.

8.4 Without infringing upon the foregoing rule, each boat should, prior to the Warning Signal of her class, approach the Signal Boat so that she will be assured of being recorded as a starter. **There is to be no check-in via radio.** The Race Committee will not acknowledge boats attempting to do so.

8.5 The RC will use an audible-signal start system. The timing of the audible signals will be the same as described in Rule 26 **with a 5-minute gap between a start and the warning for the following class(es.)** A series of short sounds will indicate that the first warning signal is about to sound. **Radio announcements will be made prior to the warning signals and during the sequences.** The significance of each audible signal will be announced. This changes rule 26 and Appendix U3.

8.6 A boat shall not start later than 30 minutes after her starting signal.

## 9. RECALLS:

9.1 In the event of an Individual Recall, the race committee will attempt to hail OCS boats by name or sail number over VHF Ch. 05A. The timing and order of such hails or the failure to hear the hail will not be grounds for redress. This changes rule 62.1(a)

9.2 A boat that is OCS and does not restart shall, without a hearing, have thirty minutes added to her elapsed time. For the purposes of rules 28, A4, and A5, a boat so penalized shall be considered to have started properly. This changes rules 28, 63.1, A4 and A5.

## 10. THE FINISH:

10.1 Boats approaching the finish are **required** to notify the Race Committee on VHF Channel 05A *as they round* Flashing Red Bell "32" (The Cows) *or* are within 0.5 nm of the Finish if approaching from the South and identify themselves by boat name and sail number. At this time each Vineyard Course boat will notify the Race Committee of their tower rounding time. If finishing in darkness, each boat shall illuminate her sail numbers and notify the Race Committee on VHF Channel 05A to be sure that the boat's identity has been properly established. This is especially important for those boats with dark sails and dark numbers!! All communication should be brief.

10.2 If no Committee Boat is on station at the Finish, each boat shall record the time when flashing green beacon #3 on the West breakwater at the entrance to Stamford Harbor bears 260° magnetic. This time, along with her best estimate of the finish times and sail numbers of the boats immediately preceding and following, must be reported as described in SI 10.3.

10.3 For those sailing the Vineyard Course, the Navigator's Finish Record must be filed by email ([vineyardrace@stamfordyc.com](mailto:vineyardrace@stamfordyc.com)) no later than two hours after finishing. A clear cell phone photo will suffice.

## 11. PENALTY SYSTEM:

11.1 The Scoring Penalty, rule 44.3, will apply.

11.2 In the case of a protest involving the rules of Part 2, the boat at fault, instead of being disqualified as a result of a hearing, may, at the option of the Protest Committee, have her corrected time increased by 2% or more. This modifies rule 64.1 but does not affect SI 9.1.

## 12. TIME LIMIT: None

13. **RETIREMENT:** Any boat withdrawing from the race shall break out her ensign and lower her class flag. At the first opportunity, she **SHALL** report her withdrawal to the race committee on VHF Channel 05A, by telephone to 203-984-3775, or by email to [vineyardrace@stamfordyc.com](mailto:vineyardrace@stamfordyc.com).

## 14. PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS:

14.1 In addition to all other requirements of rule 61.1, a boat intending to protest shall display a red flag above her class flag, and promptly after finishing, she shall notify the race committee over VHF Ch 05A of her intent to protest.

14.2 Protests shall be filed within four hours of the protestor's finish time. Protests are to be filed via email to [vineyardrace@stamfordyc.com](mailto:vineyardrace@stamfordyc.com).

14.3 Protests received will be posted on the Notice Board on YachtScoring, and the protest committee will attempt to notify the parties by telephone.

14.4 Arbitration will be held in accordance with Appendix T.

14.5 One representative from each boat will meet with an arbitrator unless the protestor requests that the protest be withdrawn.

14.6 The arbitrator will not be a member of the protest committee that hears the protest but will be permitted to observe the testimony given and offer testimony. This changes RRS 63.3(a).

14.7 Protest hearings will be held at the Stamford Yacht Club at a time to be determined and mutually acceptable to the parties involved.

14.5 Protests involving potential trophy winners will be heard at Stamford Yacht Club as soon as practicable after the boats involved have finished. Protests for other boats will be heard beginning at 1200 on Sunday for all boats finished by that time. Special arrangements will be made for later finishing boats.

## **15. SCORING:**

15.1 In classes sailing in PHRF rating system, corrected times will be calculated using PHRF Time-on-Time scoring. A boat's corrected time will be her elapsed time multiplied by  $(650/(550+YRALIS\ PHRF\ Rating))$

15.2 ORC classes will be scored using Coastal/Offshore Distance Single Number Time on Time ratings.

15.3 Multihulls will be scored using NEMA Time on Time ratings.

15.4 The overall Vineyard Lightship Trophy will be awarded to the best corrected time in the ORC Fleet.

15.5 Teams will be scored by using the average of each team member's percentage placement in its respective class.

15.6 Stamford Yacht Club reserves the right to correct errors in ratings, time allowances and scoring.

15.7 The Youth Challenge winner will be determined by the best combined scores in class and fleet (ORC or PHRF.) In the case of a low-point tie, the winner will be the boat with the lowest corrected time regardless of rating system.

## **16. RADIO COMMUNICATION:**

16.1 It is the intention of the Race Committee to use and monitor VHF Channel 05A. All boats are urged to keep their radios ON and audible during the starting sequence, and monitor VHF Channel 16 for the duration of the race.

16.2 Other than as described in these instructions, a boat shall neither make nor receive wireless communications not simultaneously available free of charge to all boats.

16.3 Each boat shall carry a cell phone, the number of which *shall be on file* with the Race Committee and *shall be kept on* during the race and for two hours after finishing.

## **17. SAFETY AND RESPONSIBILITY:**

17.1 It is the sole responsibility of the master of each boat to see that she is seaworthy in all respects and that she is manned by a competent crew. The master 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 Stamford Yacht Club, its officers, directors, committees, members, employees, sponsors, and agents against any claims arising in any way out of the participation in the Race of such boat, her master and crew.

17.2 **Assisting Boats in Distress-** In the event that a boat assists another vessel or crew in distress, and the assisting boat wishes to continue in the Race, the boat may do so provided that, in rendering assistance, with or without the use of the engine, the boat shall return promptly to the position on the course at which the Race was interrupted and resume the Race from that point. The boat shall, promptly upon finishing,

report to the Race Committee all details of the assistance rendered and supply extracts from her log showing her position at time of rendering assistance, names of other competing boats in the vicinity, time spent in giving such assistance, and any other details regarding assistance rendered which might affect the boat's standing in the Race. Upon receiving and verifying the foregoing information, the Race Committee, with or without a hearing, may at its discretion record such boat as an official finisher and subtract such time from the boat's elapsed time as may be deemed fair under the circumstances. This modifies RRS 63.1. (See "Rendering Assistance" document [https://yachtscoring.com/event\\_documents.cfm?eid=12925](https://yachtscoring.com/event_documents.cfm?eid=12925) )

- 18. **PRIZES:** Due to current health limitations on gatherings, there will be no awards reception this year. Winners will be announced via livestreaming at approximately 1800 on Sunday September 6th; trophies will be shipped to winners.
- 19. **DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY:** Competitors participate entirely at their own risk. See rule 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 race.
- 20. **MANAGEMENT:** The Race Committee shall have the authority to interpret the rules and conditions of the race, to assign boats to classes, to decide protests and to reject the entry of any boat.

### Vineyard Race Committee

Co-Chairs  
 James (Jay) Keeshan  
 Christina (Tina) Greifzu  
 Principle Race Officer – Raymond L. Redniss, RRO

COMMODORE  
 VICE COMMODORE  
 REAR COMMODORE  
 FLEET CAPTAIN  
 PROTESTS

Christopher Matheson  
 John Hillhouse  
 Richard West  
 Matthew Sandoval  
 Donald Wyllie

