



**1<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL NEKA 300**  
**Thursday, September 7, 2023**  
**Notice of Race &**  
**Series** (Incl. Amendment #1)

The North East Keelboat Alliance (NEKA) is the Organizing Authority (OA) for the First Annual Offshore Fall Classic Race and Series. Seawanhaka Corinthian Yacht Club (SCYC) is the event host.

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) “[DP] in a rule means that the penalty for breaking that rule may be less than DSQ at the discretion of the Protest Committee.”

**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 Entrants are allowed to communicate amongst themselves by VHF Radio. This modifies RRS 41.
  - 1.1.3 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 US SAILING Prescriptions to the RRS will apply.
- 1.3 The current US Sailing Safety Equipment Requirements (USSER) for Coastal Races (see NoR 2.2 & 15). These requirements are available at <https://www.ussailing.org/competition/offshore/safety-information/serworld-sailing-special-regulations/>. A copy of these requirements should be kept aboard while racing. 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. ([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 Each boat shall carry an operating VHF radio capable of transmitting and receiving on 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.
- 1.6 **[NP] An operational AIS Transponder shall be carried and be switched on, such that it is receiving and transmitting throughout the race. The failure of any station to receive a signal from a boat’s AIS Transponder shall not be subject to protest or grounds for redress (this amends RRS 60.1 and 62.1(a) and RRS 63.1 shall not apply).**

**2. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY**

- 2.1 The race and series are open to all monohull boats 30 to 40 feet in length.
- 2.2 **Crews are to be comprised of four sailors the minimum age for which is at least 16 or older as of January 1, 2023. Two crew shall be between 16 and shall not be 26 by December 31, 2023; of the other two crew, at least one must be female. Aside from the minimum age requirement, the fourth crew is unrestricted.**

- 2.2.1 Exemption requests with respect to minimum age, or other requests, must be addressed to the OA who will have the final decision.
- 2.2.2 Crew members may vary within the race series providing the composition remains the same.  
Boats 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.”
- 2.3 All entries are to be made on-line via YachtScoring. 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 September 1, 2023.
- 2.4 Entry for other races in the series are to be made as specified by the NOR’s for those events. See NoR 4.
- 2.6 [NP] To be scored, boats shall have sail numbers that comply with RRS Appendix G1.2 by being *clearly legible* in all light conditions. Failure to comply may result in being scored DNF. This adds to RRS Appendices A5 and G1.2.

### 3. ENTRY FEES

#### 3.1 There is no entry fee for competing in the Series.

- 3.2 The entry application for the NEKA 300 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: \$10.00 per foot LOA for entries paid before **August 15th**.

### 4. QUALIFYING RACES FOR THE SERIES

The Series shall consist of The Ida Lewis Distance Race, The Stamford YC Vineyard Race, and the NEKA 300.

### 5. SCHEDULE

- 5.1 Breakfast and Skippers Meeting will be held at SCYC on September 7<sup>th</sup> at 1000. The Skippers Meeting may also be available on Zoom... TBD.
- 5.2 First signal: 1500, Thursday, September 7<sup>th</sup> in the vicinity of Green Bell “17” at the entrance to Oyster Bay.
- 5.3 Awards ceremony and dinner are provisionally scheduled to take place at SCYC on Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup>. Should the race take longer than anticipated, the awards may be rescheduled for Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. Dinner and open bar will be complimentary for race participants – age restrictions shall apply.
- 5.4 Guest moorings will be available by request of the OA and on a first come-first served basis.

### 6. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Sailing Instructions will be available on or about September 1st on [www.yachtscoring.com](http://www.yachtscoring.com).

### 7. THE COURSES

The courses will be described in the Sailing Instructions for each of the Series events.

### 8. PENALTY SYSTEM

[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, 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%, but in no case less than 30 minutes. The same applies to a boat that is OCS at her starting signal. This modifies RRS 64.1

### 9. SCORING

- 9.1 [NP] The OA may divide boats into ORC classes each of which will be scored using a scoring option available in the rule.
- 9.2 The RC shall announce its **intended** scoring option prior to the first warning signal, however, that option may be changed based on actual observed conditions over the course of the race.

**9.3 The Series will be scored using each entrants finish relative to other series competitors only. The scores will be computed using a weighted high-point system as follows: [NEKA 300 score X 1.0] plus [Ida Lewis Distance Race score X 0.5] plus [Vineyard Race score X 0.8]. There will be no throw-outs. This change RRS A2.1 and A4.**

## **10. COMMUNICATIONS**

10.1 Communications will be posted on the Official Notice Board on YachtScoring and may be emailed to the fleet.

10.2 The Race Committee may make announcements via VHF Channel 1005 (05A).

10.3 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.

## **11. PROTESTS**

11.1 Protests for the individual events comprising the Series will be heard as described in the documents for those events.

11.2 A Protest Committee for the NEKA 300 shall be appointed by the Organizing Authority. Protests involving potential trophy winners will be heard at Seawanhaka Corinthian Yacht Club as soon as practicable after the boats involved have finished.

## **12. PRIZES**

12.2 Prizes will be awarded at the reception on either Saturday, September 9th or Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, at SCYC.

12.3 For each event in the series, prizes will be awarded for the top three boats in each class.

**12.4 Prizes for the Series will be awarded to the top three boats having been determined per NoR 9.3.**

12.5 The prizes for the series will be grants applicable to the Tour Voile 2024, Ft. Lauderdale to Key West feeder race and Southernmost Regatta, sailed in the same format as this Series. In the event of a qualifying team not claiming the grant, such grant will be distributed on a pro-rated basis between other qualifying teams.

11.5 Grant amounts will be as follows: First Place - \$20,000; Second Place - \$10,000; and Third Place - \$5,000.

## **13. SAFETY**

13. **[NP] At least 3 of the 4 aboard the boat shall have attended a US SAILING Safety at Sea Seminar after May 1, 2018. Such seminars may be attended online ([ussailing.org/safety](https://ussailing.org/safety)) provided 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, 2018. If the 50% 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.**

13.3 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](http://www.stormtrysail.org)).

13.4 [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;

- a) When alone on deck;
- b) When reefed;
- c) When the true wind speed is 25 knots or more;
- d) When visibility is less than 1 nautical mile;
- e) With due consideration of the water temperature;
- f) At all times when a boat is being sailed Double Handed; and
- g) By all crew on deck at all other times unless the person in charge has indicated they may be set aside.

#### **14. 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 NEKA 300 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 NEKA events.

#### **15. PHOTOGRAPHERS AND MEDIA RIGHTS**

Competitors grant NEKA, 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 the registration process, each individual participating crewmember will be required to sign a declaration accepting this waiver of rights.

#### **16. INSURANCE**

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

#### **17. FURTHER INFORMATION**

For further information, please contact [info@nekasailing.org](mailto:info@nekasailing.org).