



BIG TOM YACHT RACING 2024 WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERIES NOTICE OF RACE

REV: March 23, 2024

EVENT:

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MAY 22, 2024 THROUGH WEDNESDAY NIGHT SEPTEMBER 4, 2024

The Big Tom Wednesday Night Series (BTWNS) is a weekly event consisting of sixteen scheduled yacht races with spinnaker and non-spinnaker divisions. It is open to PHRF and One-Design boats. A practice is scheduled for Wednesday, May 15, 2024 at 7:00PM EDT, but results will not be included in the final scoring.

The series will be sailed in the vicinity of Eastchester Bay, near the Throgs Neck Bridge, City Island and Little Neck Bay. It is a welcoming, inclusive event providing fun, interesting windward-leeward and navigator courses for both experienced racers and cruisers.

The Big Tom Wednesday Night Series is administered by CITY ISLAND YACHT CLUB, 63 Pilot St. City Island, NY 10464. CIYC is the organizing authority and will administer the series, scoring, protests, disqualifications, etc. For questions or more info, email: **BigTomWNS@cityislandyc.org**.

1. RULES:

The series is governed by, in order of authority, The 2024 Big Tom Yacht Wednesday Night Series Sailing Instructions, the 2024 BTWNS Notice of Race, and the United States Sailing Association's Racing Rules of Sailing 2021-2024 (RRS). All boats are required to have a minimum crew of two people on board at all times.

With the exception of specifically designated one-design classes, all boats are considered entered as "PHRF Class" (PHRF = Performance Handicap Racing Fleet) and are required to sail and adhere to the Yacht Racing Association of Long Island Sound (YRALIS) 2024 PHRF regulations. Note that this also applies to any one-design boat sailing in a PHRF Class division. Non-PHRF (one-design) classes may have a rules addendum specific to those respective divisions.

YRALIS regulations require PHRF events to have a "Technical Committee" to adjudicate any PHRF certificate compliance issues. CIYC has elected to use the YRALIS Technical Committee if necessary. See the YRALIS.org website for further information regarding the Technical Committee.

2. ELIGIBILITY:

The series is open to spinnaker and non-spinnaker yachts, with PHRF ratings or of a one-design class. All participant vessels are encouraged to obtain a current official PHRF certificate from the Yacht Racing Association of Long Island Sound (yralis.org). However, a vessel without a rating certificate may apply to the Big Tom Wednesday Night Series for a provisional certificate that will be valid for this series only. Such provisional ratings can be applied for by sending an email request to BigTomWNS@cityislandyc.org. Yachts racing in a “one design” class do not need to apply for a certificate but must follow official class rules.

3. REGISTRATION:

NOTE: All Registration must be done through the Yachtscoring Web Site: www.yachtscoring.com.

The registration fee for series entry is \$160. This fee must be paid before a yacht can compete. Competitors may post their yacht’s intention to race on Yachtscoring.com but until the entry fee is paid, they may not compete, nor will they be scored. Entries fees must be paid by the Monday preceding the boat's first race of the season.

One exception to the above: In order to encourage new racers to join in the Wednesday night series, boats that have previously not raced in a local Wednesday night series will be allowed a trial race at no cost. However, they must register on Yachtscoring.com prior to that trial and, if they elect to continue racing after that first free race, they must pay the full \$160 entry fee by the Monday preceding their next race.

A yacht may register at any time during the season, understanding that late entries may limit their ability to qualify for the series and compete for awards.

A yacht's registration will be valid for the single boat hull indicated on the entry. There can be no substitution of an alternate hull or boat and merging of the series race scores for any reason.

BTWNS may require an entry to change sail numbers to avoid conflict with boats previously registered in the series. All boats shall properly display the sail number indicated on the scratch sheet on mainsail or foresail or both.

4. SCHEDULE, LOCATION AND START TIME:

The races take place each Wednesday at 7:00PM from May 22, 2024, through September 4, 2024. **The 16 race season will be scored as two separate series, an early season series from May 22, 2024 to July 10, 2024 and a late season series from July 17, 2024 to September 4, 2024.**

A practice race will be held on Wednesday, May 15, 2024 at 7:00PM. Results of that race will not be included in series final scoring.

The default start line will be a race committee boat and the BTYR “S” mark, to the southwest of City Island Lighted Buoy 2 (R “2” Fl R 4s - near Big Tom). Courses will be determined by the race committee at race time. Unless there are delays the first warning signal will be at 6:55 PM with intended 7:00 PM start time followed by 5:00 minute rolling starts until all classes have started.

5. CANCELLATION POLICY:

Big Tom Wednesday Night Series management will attempt to notify racers via email and/or other telecommunication by 4:30 PM if conditions beyond our control or severe weather (e.g. sustained winds of 25 knots or more) indicate that cancellation of the scheduled race would be necessary or prudent. Skippers are encouraged to provide an email address and a mobile phone number on the Yachtscoring.com entry form to receive timely notifications of race status.

A race cancelled or abandoned will not be re-scheduled for a later time.

6. COURSES:

Courses will be signaled from the committee boat according to the 2024 Big Tom Wednesday Night Series Sailing Instructions document(s) posted on Yachtscoring.com. Laminated course charts will be available upon request.

7. DIVISIONS:

Division splits will reflect the goal of making fair and competitive groupings for the series. The factors considered will be the number of entries, the type of boat, the boat's sailing characteristics and PHRF rating. One-design divisions will be established if there are sufficient entries to ensure competitive racing throughout the season.

8. SCORING:

For each race, scoring will be done using the PHRF Time on Time computation. Finish positions in any "one design" class will be determined by the order of finishers.

Overall scoring for each series for all divisions will be calculated using the RRS Appendix A Low Point Scoring System including Appendix A5.3. Yachts will be scored for each 8 race series based on the sum of their 5 best (lowest) scores of the races sailed for their division. If only 6 races are completed for a division, the series score shall be the sum of their best 4 race scores. If only 4 or 5 races are completed, the series score shall be the sum of their best 3 scores. The scoring program will exclude "throw-out" races allowing it to produce a boat's lowest cumulative score for the series. Note: A DSQ or withdrawal as a result of a protest hearing shall not be excludable.

9. AWARDS:

First place trophies will be awarded for each division in each series in which there are 3 or more registered yachts; Second place for 5 or more registrants; Third place for 7 or more registrants. Additionally, Big Tom Yacht Racing may choose to make other awards as it sees fit for the good of our racing community.

Participants will be notified of the exact date and location of the awards event.

10. INFORMATION AND AMENDMENTS:

NEW RACERS ARE WELCOME!!!!

In order to encourage newcomers to yacht racing, a pre-season “Sailboat Racing 101” open house will be held Wednesday, April 10, 2024, at 7:30PM at City Island Yacht Club. The event will provide basic racing instructions and strategies for novice and moderately experienced skippers and crews. Listen to stories from veteran sailors who turned from racing neophytes to enthusiasts and how they made the transition. Meet and greet the competition and race committee. Raise any questions or concerns for immediate clarification. Additional details will be available at cityislandyc.org.

Up-To-Date additions or changes to the sailing instructions and Scratch Sheet will be posted on yachtscoring.com by no later than the Tuesday before the next race in a series. This scratch sheet will be updated to include later entries after the series’ starting date.

Additionally, the Big Tom Wednesday Night Series will periodically distribute informal Newsletters as it sees fit via the Yachtscoring web site.