



# 70<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL STRATFORD SHOAL RACE THE GEARBUSTER

Saturday, October 11, 2025

**Organizing Authority: Indian Harbor Yacht Club**

**NOTE: Gearbuster is back to Saturday of Columbus Day WKND**

## NOTICE OF RACE

As of 12/16/2024

*The notation [NP] at the beginning of a rule means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1(a).*

*The notation [DP] at the beginning of a rule means that a discretionary penalty applies, which may be less than disqualification.*

### 1. RULES

- 1.1. The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in the *Racing Rules of Sailing*.
- 1.2. The measurement rules are YRA of LIS PHRF Spinnaker, Double-Handed, Non-Spinnaker rules, IMS Rules and ORC Rating Systems and any applicable one-design class rules.
- 1.3. Participants shall comply with [US Sailing Safety Equipment Requirements](#) (SER) 2025 for Nearshore Category Races except that US Sailing SER 3.19.1 is changed as follows:
  - If no magnetic compass is permanently mounted, a handheld magnetic compass, suitable for steering may be used.
  - One-design class(es) shall comply with class safety rules.
- 1.4. [NP][DP] Each boat shall fly conspicuously from its backstay six or more feet above the deck a numeral pennant corresponding to its class as designated by the Scratch Sheet.
- 1.5. This race is a qualifier for the YRALIS Windigo, Sagola, du Moulin, King's Point, Mertz and Youth Challenge Cup trophies.

### 2. ELIGIBILITY, FLEETS & ENTRY

- 2.1. This event is open to boats with current YRALIS PHRF or ORC certificates.
  - To be eligible to race, any one-design class(es) must have five or more entries.
  - One-designs with PHRF ratings consistent with their class configuration, will be included in the PHRF fully crewed fleet.
- 2.2. Eligible boats may enter by completing the entry form and paying the entry fee via the [yachtscoring.com](http://yachtscoring.com) event site.
- 2.3. The event will be comprised of:
  - Four Long course fleets (Double Handed, ORC, PHRF Spinnaker)
  - Two short course fleets (SC PHRF Spinnaker, SC PHRF Non-Spinnaker)
- 2.4. Prior to Midnight of Friday, September 28th, the entry fee is \$125, after which the fee is \$150.
- 2.5. Entry and payment must be completed by Saturday, October 4, 2025.
- 2.6. Long or Short course designation must be made before October 4th, 2025. No Refunds or fleet selections will be honored after that date.

### 3. DOUBLE-HANDED RULES

- 3.1. Crew limit is two persons, one of whom must be 18 years of age or older.
- 3.2. Wind vanes or electric self-steering devices may be used.
- 3.3. Jack lines must be rigged both port and starboard, and run from the cockpit to the bow.

#### **4. YOUTH CHALLENGE RULES**

- 4.1. Youth Challenge entries shall meet the requirement that 1/3 of the crew's ages are between 14 and 23 (rounded to the nearest whole number) and shall send a confirmation email to [scores@yralis.org](mailto:scores@yralis.org) indicating the total number of crew and the number of qualified youth on board.
- 4.2. Youth Challenge entries shall fly code flag "Juliet" along with its class flag on its backstay and add the initials "YC" after the yacht's name on the entry form.

#### **5. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

- 5.1. Sailing Instructions will be available online at [yachtscoring.com](http://yachtscoring.com) (search for "Gearbuster") prior to Friday, October 10, 2025.
  - 5.1.1. A Provisional Scratch Sheet will be available online but is subject to change up until this deadline.

#### **6. COMMUNICATIONS**

- 6.1. The Official Notice Board is located online at the [yachtscoring.com](http://yachtscoring.com) event site.
- 6.2. The race committee will make courtesy broadcasts to competitors on VHF 65A.
- 6.3. [DP] While racing, except in an emergency or when communicating with the race committee, a boat shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats.
- 6.4. [DP] Each boat shall carry a cellphone, the number of which shall correspond with the boat's Yacht Score entry, and shall be kept on during the race and for two hours after finishing.
- 6.5. [TBD] Each boat will be required to use a phone/app based tracking software, to be announced in tandem with the Sailing Instructions.

#### **7. SCHEDULE**

The first warning is scheduled for 1055, Saturday, October 11, 2025.

*Following racing, please join us for complimentary beer, food and the announcement of the winners.*

*We invite winners to join us at our Annual Awards Dinner on the evening of Friday, November 7th, 2025 to accept their physical awards.*

#### **8. VENUE**

The venue is western Long Island Sound with the start off Flat Neck Point, Greenwich CT and finish outside of Indian Harbor.

#### **9. COURSES**

Full course descriptions will appear in the Sailing Instructions but in summary:

- The standard "long" course is from Flat Neck to Stratford Shoal Light and back(46nm).
- The standard "short" course is from Flat Neck to Eatons Neck and back (19.0nm).
- All fleets finish inside Captain Harbor between the Finish Boat and Indian Harbor Chanel Marker 2.

#### **10. SCORING**

- 10.1. PHRF results will be scored using YRALIS PHRF distance ratings using time-on-time.
- 10.2. ORC classes will be scored using either single or triple number all purpose ratings using time-on-time. The RC shall announce its intended scoring option prior to the first warning signal.

## 11. MOORINGS

Complimentary guest moorings are available from Friday October 3rd through October 12, 2025. Reservations are required and should be made through [Dockwa](#). The standard mooring fee will be credited back through the app after a mooring request is made.

Please enter "Gearbuster 2025" into the notes section for the refund.

IHYC operates on VHF 68. Longer-duration moorings related to the event are available, at a discounted event price of \$25/night.

## 12. PRIZES

- 12.1. First, second and third place prizes will be awarded in each class.
- 12.2. The following perpetual trophies will be awarded:
  - The Windward Cup will be awarded to the winner of the fleet with the largest number of starters sailing the long course.
  - The William H. Todd Trophy will be awarded to the winner of the fleet with the second largest number of starters sailing the long course.
  - [TBD] \_\_\_\_\_ will be awarded to the winner of the short course spinnaker fleet.
  - The Philip F. Miller III Trophy will be awarded to the winner of the short course non-spinnaker fleet.
- 12.3. New combined scoring from Geartester and Gearbuster awards will be announced at the discretion of the OA.

## 13. RISK STATEMENT

RRS 3 states: 'The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue to race is hers alone.' By participating in this event each competitor agrees and acknowledges that sailing is a potentially dangerous activity with inherent risks. These risks include strong winds and rough seas, sudden changes in weather, failure of equipment, boat handling errors, poor seamanship by other boats, loss of balance on an unstable platform and fatigue resulting in increased risk of injury. Inherent in the sport of sailing is the risk of permanent, catastrophic injury or death by drowning, trauma, hypothermia, or other causes.

A waiver may be required per boat before check in.

Please see [IHYC's Emergency Plan](#) for our procedures and contacts

## 14. PHOTOGRAPHER & MEDIA RIGHTS

Competitors give absolute right and permission for any photographs or video footage taken of them or their competing boat to be published in any media whatsoever; for editorial or advertising purposes, or to be used in press information.

## 15. FURTHER INFORMATION

Organizing Authority: Indian Harbor YC

Event Chairman: Greg Neumann [gneumann@kariscp.com](mailto:gneumann@kariscp.com)

Sailing Office, [Sailing@indianharboryc.com](mailto:Sailing@indianharboryc.com)

Principal Race Officer: \_\_\_\_\_

Protest Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

Technical Committee: PHRF Technical Committee, Yacht Racing Association of Long Island Sound

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