



Notice of Race  
(Including Amendments 1 & 2)  
Essex Yacht Club's 72<sup>nd</sup>-ANNUAL  
SAMUEL WETHERILL TROPHY RACE - "THE WETHERILL"  
Friday, May 17, 2024  
Organizing Authority: Essex Yacht Club, Essex, CT

**1. Rules**

- 1.1 The regatta will be governed by the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) 2021-2024, except as modified herein and/or the Sailing Instructions.
- 1.2 The race will be defined as a coastal race.
- 1.3 The US SAILING Prescriptions to the RRS prescriptions will apply.
- 1.4 The current ORC Rating Systems rules and regulations.
- 1.5 The current New England Multihull Association (NEMA) Race Rules.
- 1.6 The current PHRF Regulations as administered by PHRF - Eastern Connecticut
- 1.7 The current US Sailing Safety Equipment requirements (USSER) as modified by 2.2.
- 1.8 RRS 17 will be changed to read "Between the hours of sunset and sunrise, when two boats are on the same tack within three boat 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.
- 1.9 RRS 52 will be changed to read: Boats sailing as double-handed entries may use self-steering devices.

**2. Eligibility and Entry**

- 2.1 The race fleet will be divided into separate divisions for ORC, PHRF, and NEMA. Spinnaker, non-spinnaker, and double handed entries will be divided by class within the divisions where applicable.
- 2.2 Boats shall be at least 29 feet LOA (except as provided in (2.4), 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 additions: Each boat shall carry at least one cell phone, the number of which is on file with the Race Committee, and which is kept on and fully charged while racing.
- 2.3 Boats with a valid ORC Club or International certificate:
  - a) ORC Rule 200.1 is hereby changed as follows:
    - i. The combined weight of all crew on board while racing shall not be greater than the maximum crew weight as defined in ORC 102.1 and 102.2;
    - ii. Other than those boats sailing double-handed, one additional crew under the age of 16 is permitted and shall not count against crew or weight limit.
  - b.) Exclusive of storm & heavy weather sails required by the Offshore Special Regulations, a boat shall not carry aboard while racing more sails of each type than the numbers defined as follows:

| CDL             | Above 16.400 | 16.400 - 11.591 | 11.590 - 9.771 | Below 9.771 |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------|
| Mainsail        | 1            | 1               | 1              | 1           |
| Headsails       | 8            | 7               | 6              | 5           |
| Spinnakers      | 6            | 5               | 4              | 4           |
| Mizzen Staysail | 1            | 1               | 1              | 1           |
| Mizzen          | 1            | 1               | 1              | 1           |

- c) Unless authorized by the OA, rating changes will not be accepted after 1200 on Thursday May 16, 2024.

2.4 Boats sailing in PHRF shall have a valid and current or provisional PHRF - Eastern Connecticut certificate rating of 200 or faster. Double-handed (DH) boats will race in a combined Non-Spinnaker (NS) Class using their NS Handicap.

2.5 Boats sailing in ORC, including those sailing DH shall have a valid and current ORC certificate of a GPH of 621 or faster. ORC DH boats will be scored in a separate class. If less than 3 ORC DH boats are registered, they will be placed in an ORC class using their ORC DH rating.

2.6 Multihull boats shall have a minimum length of 26 LOA, not including bowsprit, and have a valid NEMA Rating Certificate.

**3. Entry Fees** - Introduce a new skipper – get a 40% reimbursement on your fee!

3.1 The entry application shall be accompanied by an entry fee on [www.yachtscoring.com](http://www.yachtscoring.com) to be paid by credit card or PayPal. The entry fee is \$6.75 per foot LOA (rounded down to nearest whole number) for entries received and paid before April 1st, 2024. For entries paid between April 1<sup>st</sup> and received before May 1<sup>st</sup> the entry fee is \$7.50 per foot. For entries paid on or after May 1st, the entry fee is \$9.00 per foot LOA. *Any boat that introduces a new entrant who successfully starts the Wetherill will RECEIVE A 40% REIMBURSEMENT OF their entry fee (see Notice Board).* ENTRIES WITHDRAWN BEFORE MAY 13<sup>th</sup> WILL BE FULLY REFUNDED. No entries will be accepted after 1800 on Wednesday May 15th, 2024.

**4. Qualifying Series**

4.1 The Sam Wetherill Trophy Race is a qualifier for the New England Lighthouse series (PHRF).

4.2 The race is included in the ECSA 2024 series.

4.3 Race is included in East End ORC Cup series.

**5. Schedule**

5.1 Skippers Meeting 1800 Thursday, May 16, 2024 at the Essex Yacht Club

5.2 The first signal will be at 1100 on Friday, May 17, 2024 approximately 0.5 miles west of the Old Saybrook lighthouse. Time limit will be 1200 hours Sunday, May 19. The awards presentation on Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at the Essex Yacht Club will be at 1700.

**6. Sailing Instructions**

6.1 Sailing Instructions will be available no later than May 13, 2024. Scratch sheets will be available by or before noon on Thursday, May 16, 2024. Both will be available at [www.yachtscoring.com](http://www.yachtscoring.com) and at the Skipper's Meeting to be held at Essex Yacht Club 1800 hours Thursday May 16, 2024.

**7. Course**

7.1 The course will be from the start 0.5 NM west of the Old Saybrook lighthouse, leaving R8 to port, then leaving G31 northwest of Gay Head, to starboard, then returning, leaving Block Island to starboard, R8 to starboard, then to the finish between the signal boat and the Old Saybrook lighthouse at the outer end of the Connecticut River breakwater.

**8. Penalty System**

8.1 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%. The same applies to a boat that is OCS at her starting signal.

## 9. Scoring

9.1 PHRF classes, including double-handed, will use PHRF Eastern Connecticut using the time-on-time ratings.

9.2 ORC classes, including double-handed, will be scored using the Single Number All Purpose time-on-time rating.

9.3 Multihulls will be scored using NEMA ratings.

## 10. Radio Communications

10.1 The Race Committee may make announcements via VHF Channel 05A

## 11. Protests

11.1 Protest Committee appointed by the Organizing Authority will decide protests. Protests will be held as soon as practicable after the boats involved have finished and must be filed online through Yacht Scoring.

## 12. Prizes

12.1 Awards within each class, as well as perpetual trophies, will be presented at an awards presentation and reception, which will be held at the Essex Yacht Club on Sunday, May 19, 2024 at 1700.

12.2 Prizes will be awarded for:

- a) 1st-3rd for all classes with 5 or more entries (ORC, PHRF, NEMA) spinnaker, non-spinnaker, and multihull.
- b) Best overall performance under ORC by a yacht sailing double-handed.
- c) Best overall performance in the PHRF Non-Spinnaker class by a yacht sailing double-handed.

## 13. Safety

13.1 At least 30% of those aboard the boat, but not fewer than two members of the crew (unless racing single-handed) including the person in charge, shall have a valid Coastal, Offshore, or International Offshore Certificate from US Sailing, or the equivalent from another national authority. Information regarding available Safety at Sea courses may be found on: [www.ussailing.org](http://www.ussailing.org)

13.2 All boats are strongly encouraged to follow the STC Safety Guideline for Rendering Assistance. The Guidelines are available on the Storm Trysail Club website: ([www.stormtrysail.org](http://www.stormtrysail.org)).

13.3 Attention is drawn to RRS 1.2 Life Saving Equipment: and modified as follows "The skipper must alert each competitor of their individual responsibility to wear an approved personal buoyancy device and safety harness for the conditions," including but not limited to the following:

- a) Between the hours of sunset and sunrise;
- b) When alone on deck;
- c) When reefed;
- d) When the true wind speed is 25 knots or more;
- e) When visibility is less than 1 nautical mile; and
- f) With due consideration of the water temperature.

#### **14. Insurance**

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

#### **15. Disclaimer of Liability**

15.1 Competitors participate in the event entirely at their own risk. It is the sole responsibility of the Skipper/Owner of each boat to see that she is seaworthy in all respects and that she is manned by a competent crew. The Skipper/Owner 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 the Essex Yacht Club, its officers, directors, committees, members, employees, sponsors, and agents against any claims arising in any way out of the participation in the Sam Wetherill Race and related activities of such boat, her Skipper/Owner and crew.

#### **16. Risk statement**

16.1 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.

#### **17. Further Information**

17.1 For further information, please contact the Chairman, Sam Wetherill Race at [email@essexyc.com](mailto:email@essexyc.com)

#### **18. WELCOME:**

The use of guest moorings (if available) will be extended to all participants from Thursday, May 16 through Monday, May 20. For mooring reservations, please contact the EYC dockmaster at 860-767-8121 #1 or directly at (860) 581-4612.

Sam, Wetherill Trophy Race committee  
Co-chairs: Joe Standart & Bill Gunther  
Principal, Race Officer - Tom Wilcox,  
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