



Chicago Beer Can Series

2024 Notice of Race

Wednesday Nights May 22 – Sept. 11, 2024

**Organizing Authority (OA) - Columbia Yacht Club (COLYC) Chicago,
Illinois (USA)**

1. RULES

- 1.1. These races will be governed by the rules defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing 2021-2024 (“RRS”).
- 1.2. It is strongly recommended that racers adhere to the US Coast Guard safety requirements and US Sailing Nearshore safety requirements, which are found in the yachtscoring.com event documents.
- 1.3. Registered boats shall not operate a drone at any time.
- 1.4. All competitors shall strictly follow all governmental regulations regarding health, safety, and infectious disease control, including crew limits and requirements for personal protective equipment (PPE).

2. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1. Sailing Instructions (SIs) will be available before May 8, 2024, at <https://yachtscoring.com/emenu.cfm?eid=16415>.
- 2.2. If this Notice of Race conflicts with the Sailing Instructions, the Sailing Instructions shall prevail.

3. COMMUNICATION

- 3.1. Notices to competitors and scheduled protests will be posted on the Official Racing Notice Board <https://yachtscoring.com/emenu.cfm?eid=16415>.
- 3.2. Failure to receive courtesy emails, text messages, or broadcasts from the Race Committee is not grounds for redress. This changes RRS 62.1.
- 3.3. Except in an emergency, a boat that is racing shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats.
- 3.4. Help in the form of information available to all boats and any publicly offered internet or broadcast weather information from sources available to all competitors, whether paid or free, is allowable.

4. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

- 4.1. These races are open to any boat of at least 20 feet in length overall.
- 4.2. Boats shall be equipped with a functioning GPS and VHF radio capable of broadcasting and receiving.
- 4.3. It is recommended, but not required, that each boat have a valid MWPHRF Handicap Certificate. The rating application is available at www.MWPHRF.org. A boat with a valid MWPHRF certificate will be scored with the appropriate handicap from that certificate and must race in compliance with that certificate.
- 4.4. The OA will assign handicaps to boats without a valid MWPHRF certificate. Boats assigned handicaps cannot protest or seek redress for their handicaps. This changes RRS 60.1(a).
- 4.5. A boat may enter by completing the online registration at <https://yachtscoring.com/emenu.cfm?eid=16415> and submitting the required fee at least 24 hours before the start of her first race.
- 4.6. Registration opens on March 24, 2024 and closes on September 1, 2024.
- 4.7. Boats that have not registered or paid the registration fee will not be scored.

5. DIVISIONS

The OA shall provide the following three divisions for entry:

Green

- This class sails a shorter course and is intended for novice/inexperienced buoy racers.
- The OA shall approve Green Class entries and has the authority to reassign boats to other classes.
- Boats may use any sails they declare.

Jib & Main (JAM)

- 5.1. This class is limited to boats with a MWPHRF or Beer Can rating greater than 0.
 - Boats may only use a headsail with a mid-girth no greater than 50% of the foot. This changes RRS 55.4.
 - Spinnakers, including Code 0 and cruising spinnakers, are prohibited. This changes RRS 55.4.
 - A whisker or spinnaker pole of any length may be used.

Spinnaker

- 5.2. If there are fewer than 4 entries for a division by May 1, 2024, that division shall be eliminated, and entrants shall have the opportunity to change their entry to a remaining division or withdraw. Any group of 6 or more one-design boats, desiring to be scored as a separate class, may petition the OA for acceptance as a class. Petitions shall be made no later than May 1, 2024.
- 5.3. One-design boats accepted as a class by the OA must comply with their respective class rules.
- 5.4. Accepted one-design classes may have combined starts with other sections.
- 5.5. Handicap divisions may be divided into multiple sections subject to the number and ratings of registered boats. Final section breaks shall be published in the SI's.

6. FEES

The fee for all boats to enter this event is \$150.00. This covers all races in the series.

7. CREW LIMITATIONS

MWPHRFCertificate crew limitations do not apply.

8. ADVERTISING

Quantum Sails, Revolution Brewing, and Goslings Rum sponsor the regatta. Boats are requested not to display advertising for businesses competing with regatta sponsors.

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9. SCHEDULE

The first warning for all races shall be at 1840.

Date	Event
May 8	Beer Can Orientation/Starting Gun Party
May 15	Tune-Up Race
May 22	Race Week 1
May 29	Race Week 2
June 5	Race Week 3
June 12	Race Week 4
June 19	Race Week 5
June 26	Race Week 6
July 3	Race Week 7
July 10	Break - Mac Race
July 17	Break - Mac Race
July 24	Race Week 8
July 31	Race Week 9
August 7	Break - 100 Boats on a Beer Can
August 14	Race Week 10
August 21	Race Week 11
August 28	Race Week 12
September 4	Race Week 13
September 11	Race Week 14
October 2	Beer Can Bash Awards Ceremony

10. EQUIPMENT INSPECTION

10.1. The OA will not conduct measurements and weigh-ins.

11. VENUE

The Chicago Beer Can Racecourse, a circle of 8 fixed marks (buoys) located southwest of the Four-Mile Crib, will host racing for all classes.

12. COURSES

12.1. All races will start at SA7, the center mark of the racing circle.

12.2. The buoy racecourse options range from approximately 2.17 to 5.48 nautical miles, with specifics outlined in the Sailing Instructions.

13. PENALTY SYSTEM

13.1. A boat may take a one-turn penalty when she has broken one or more rules of Part 2 or Rule 31 in an incident while racing. This changes RRS 44.1.

13.2. RRS 44.3 does not apply.

14. SCORING

14.1. One race is required to be completed to constitute a series.

14.2. Time-on-Distance scoring will be applied.

14.3. The Low Point Scoring System, RRS Appendix A4, will apply with the following changes:

14.3.1. Boats failing to finish by 2100 on the day of the race will be scored TLE (Time Limit Exceeded) and scored points equal to the number of finishers within their section in that race plus four, but in no case will be scored more than the number of starters plus one within their section. This changes RRS 35.

14.3.2. When a boat serves as Race Committee boat for a race, she shall be awarded series points for one race equal to the average points she earned for her best N-1 finishes in other races in that series, rounding up, where N is the number of races counted, pursuant to Section 14.3, to determine series placement. The average points she earned for the one race credit shall be added to the total summation of points making up her N-1 finishes.

14.4. RRS Appendix A2 will be changed as follows:

Races Completed in Series	Worst Scores Excluded
< 4	0
4 - 6	1
7 - 9	2
10 - 11	3
>12	4

15. RISK STATEMENT

- 15.1. 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 an 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.
- 15.2. As part of the registration process on Yachtscoring.com, all skippers must agree to the waiver of liability to be a valid entry.

16. INSURANCE

- 16.1. Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of \$500,000 per event or the equivalent.

17. PRIZES

17.1. Prizes will be awarded to top finishers for the series at the Beer Can Bash as follows:

Average Number of Starters in Section*	Number of Awards per Section
1 - 2	1
3 - 4	2
5 - 14	3
15 or more	4

* The “average number of starters” in a section is defined as [total number of boats that started in completed races in the series] divided by [number of completed races in the series].

18. CONSENT

- 18.1. Competitors consent to the use by organizing authority of their name, image, photo, voice, or visual recordings of their images (“Recordings”) or any statements, whether oral or written, regarding the regatta (“Statements”) and for the organizing authority to use, sell, copy, distribute, perform, display, transmit or otherwise exploit the foregoing Recordings, Statements and personal identifiers by any means and in any media known or hereafter devised.
- 18.2. Competitors waive any rights of privacy or publicity in connection with the use of their name, Recordings or Statements and waive the right to credit or acknowledgment in conjunction with their identity, Recordings or Statements, and acknowledge they shall have no right to inspect or approve any use of their identity, Recordings or Statements.

19. SOCIAL

19.1. Post-race social activities will be held at Columbia Yacht Club.

20. FURTHER INFORMATION

20.1. The Beer Can Series is a casual recreation and crew development race.

20.2. For further information, please contact

Organizing Authority: Columbia Yacht Club, 111 N. Lake Shore Drive Chicago, IL 60601.

Regatta Chair: Dom Merrit - beercan@colyc.org.

Thank You to Our Sponsors!!

