



# **BIG TOM YACHT RACING 2023 WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERIES NOTICE OF RACE**

REV: 09 FEB 2023

## **EVENT: WEDNESDAY NIGHT 17 MAY\* 2023 THROUGH WEDNESDAY NIGHT 06 SEP 2023**

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.

\*The actual racing season for scoring purposes begins on Wednesday, 24 May 2023. The race scheduled on 17 May 2023 is a newcomers/practice race.

The series is sailed in the vicinity of Eastchester Bay, near the Throggs 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 series features easy qualifying, multiple throw-outs and Low Cost! City Island Yacht Club (CIYC) is the organizing authority.

### **1. RULES:**

The series is governed by, in reverse order of prevailing authority, the United States Sailing Association, The Racing Rules of Sailing 2021-2024 (RRS), the Notice of Race, and the Sailing Instructions. Additionally, 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 YRA of LIS 2023 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.

YRA of LIS regulations require PHRF events to have a "Technical Committee" to adjudicate any PHRF certificate compliance issues. CIYC has elected to use the YRA of LIS Technical Committee if necessary. See the YRA of LIS website 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 ([www.yralis.org](http://www.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](mailto:BigTomWNS@cityislandyc.org).

Yachts racing in a "one design" class do not need to apply for a certificate.

### **3. REGISTRATION:**

**NOTE: All Registration must be done through the Yachtscoring Web Site: [www.yachtscoring.com](http://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 "free trial" race at no cost. However, they must register on Yachtscoring.com prior to that "free 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. If a boat is damaged and unable to continue the series, BTWNS will allow the skipper to re-enter another boat without paying an additional entry fee; however, the races scored under the original hull will stand in the series and the scores of the new entry will stand apart. The number of races toward qualifying for each boat, and any throw-outs will be calculated separately for each boat.

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.

### **4. SCHEDULE, LOCATION AND START TIME:**

The races take place each Wednesday from May 24, 2023 through September 6, 2023. A *practice/newcomers* race will be held on Wednesday, May 17, 2023. Results of that race will not be included in the final scoring for the season. The default start line will be at the "S" mark, to the southwest of City Island Buoy "R-2" (Big Tom). Courses will be determined by the race committee at race time. Unless there are delays the first warning gun 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 text-able 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 at a later time.

### **6. COURSES:**

Courses will be signaled from the committee boat according to the 2023 Big Tom Wednesday Night Series Sailing Instructions document(s) posted on Yachtscoring.com.

## **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. QUALIFYING AND THROW-OUTS:**

Boats will need to be scored in half of the races sailed, rounded down, plus 1 to qualify for the series. Races started but with no finishers in division will count as races not sailed and will therefore lower the number of races needed to qualify.

Competitors will earn throw-outs after qualifying for the series, as follows: For each additional race sailed above and beyond the minimum number of races required to qualify, a throw-out will be earned. Thus, multiple throw-outs can be accumulated for the series by continuing to sail in additional races.

## **9. SCORING:**

For each race, scoring will be done using the PHRF Time on Time computation. Finish position for PHRF divisions will be established on corrected time using time-on-time factors derived from a boat's PHRF certificate rating and the formula  $F = 600 / (480 + \text{PHRF})$ . Finish positions in any "one design" class will be determined in the order of finishers.

Overall scoring for the series for all divisions will be calculated using the RRS Appendix A Low Point Scoring System including Appendix A5.3. Qualifying yachts will be scored for the series based on the sum of their best (lowest) scores in half the races sailed for their division plus one. The scoring program will discard "throw-out" races allowing it to produce a boat's highest cumulative score for the series. Note: A DSQ or withdrawal as a result of a protest hearing may not be thrown-out.

## **10. AWARDS:**

First place trophies will be awarded for each division 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, such as: Best Overall Boat, Most Improved Boat, Best Record Having Raced the Most Races, etc.

Participants will be notified of the exact date and location of the awards event, well prior to its date.

## **11. INFORMATION AND AMENDMENTS:**

A **virtual** BTWNS "Town Hall" meeting will be held via Zoom on Wednesday, April 20, 2022 at 7:00PM. This will give participants an opportunity to voice their opinions and provide input on the management of the 2022 racing series.

In order to encourage newcomers to yacht racing, a pre-season "Sailboat Racing 101" open house will be held Wednesday, April 19, 2023 at 7:00PM at City Island Yacht Club. That event will provide basic racing instructions and strategies for novice and moderately experienced skippers and crews with an opportunity to meet and greet your competitors and race committee, and where any last minute questions or concerns can be clarified. Additional details will be provided as soon as possible.

Up-To-Date additions or changes to the sailing instructions and Scratch Sheet will be posted on [yachtscoring.com](http://yachtscoring.com) by no later than Tuesday May 16, 2023, the night prior to the first race on May 17, 2023 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.

**12. ADMINISTRATION:**

The Big Tom Wednesday Night Series is administered 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](mailto:BigTomWNS@cityislandyc.org)**.