Point Roberts Yacht Club Racing Program

Sailing Instructions

Revised and updated October 2026. This version supersedes all versions prior to this date.

These sailing instructions apply to all race events hosted by the Point Roberts Yacht Club.

1. RULES

1.1. Races will be sailed under the the current World Sailing's Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) except as modified by these instructions and definitions for Part 4, and the relevant definitions in Part 1.

1.2. Handicap corrections will be calculated using the Time on Time method.

1.3. A minimum of three races constitutes a series and a minimum of one boat competing will be considered a race.

1.4. Additional rules and amendments to these Sailing Instructions are provided in the Instructions of Race for each racing event.

1.5. Any amendments to these Sailing Instructions will be posted on the Point Roberts Yacht Club racing website at www.pointrobertsyachtclub.com/racing

2. ELIGIBILITY

2.1. Registration: Entrants shall complete the official Race Registration online form and pay the appropriate fee where applicable for each race or series as required.

2.1.1. Payable by e-transfer to: pryctreasurer@googlegroups.com for the amount of the race/ series/rating. The security answer should be your vessel name. In the comments section, please specify if the payment is for a race, full series, and/or the rating.

2.2. Participating entrants must ensure their insurance includes coverage of organized local racing events.

2.3. Send scanned copies of your rating certificate, signed liability waiver, and proof of insurance to fleetcaptain@pointrobertsyachtclub.com.

2.4. All competitors must have a rating. If a boat does not have a PHRF BC rating certificate then it can receive a Club rating from PRYC for use with club events. There is a $20 fee for using the club rating and must be paid prior to being scored for any event the vessel participates in. Check with PRYC Fleet Captain at fleetcaptain@pointrobertsyachtclub.com if you require a Club rating.

2.5. Your PHRF handicapper MUST be notified of all changes to sails and equipment as soon as possible. Failure to do so may result in disqualification.

2.6. Division splits will be as follows: Div 1 0-109, Div 2 110-175, Div 3 176-250, and Div 4 will be Double Handed and or Cruising. The Fleet Captain retains the authority to move a racing vessel up or down one division as required to ensure fair and competitive racing.

2.7. All yachts shall comply with the World Sailing's Offshore Special Regulations (extract) for either Monohull Category 4, or Multihull Category 4.

2.8. Yachts may be inspected randomly or if protested for failing to comply with 2.7 or its intent. If a yacht is found deficient it will be scored DSQ.

2.9. Participants are required to perform Race Committee (RC) duties during the year as per the Fleet Captain's recommendation. A minimum of one RC duty per boat should be expected by all competing skippers. If a boat fails to perform her required RC duties as assigned she may be disqualified from the series at the discretion of the Fleet Captain.

2.9.1. A boat may act as the Race Committee boat as frequently as she chooses but will only be scored up to 3 times her average race results for a particular series.

2.10. A minimum of 2 competitors registered prior to the start of a series is required for a division to be started and scored. A minimum of 1 boat racing in a division shall constitute a race.

3. COURSE

3.1. Courses laid by the Race Committee (RC) are subject to approval by the Fleet Captain.

3.2. Coloured placards are used to identify the course to be sailed, they shall be posted no later than 5 minutes prior to the start of the race.

3.3. The colour of the plaque signifies the direction to round the identified mark -- red indicates leave the mark to port, green indicates leave the mark to starboard. X2 indicates twice around the designated course. The Race Committee may alter the posted course at any time prior to the Warning Signal, as indicated in the current Rules. This does not apply to the "/" mark.

3.4. Except as noted above under Alternate Race Committee Station, the course will be displayed on the course side of the Committee vessel using coloured placards with number/letters referring to the various temporary and permanent marks. When there are multiple courses used for different divisions, the first placard before the course will be the same colour of the Div flag to sail that course. More then one division may sail the same course. Where there is only a single group of numbered placard, all divisions will sail the course denoted.

3.5. Mark A shall be laid at the discretion of the Race Committee when the regular marks do not produce a fair beat. In that case, Mark A shall constitute one end of the start line. All marks specified in the course instructions need not be laid at the start of the race.

4. STARTING AREA

4.1. The Starting area shall be an area 200 feet from the starting line in any direction.

4.2. Starting Line: The starting line will be a line between a mark of the course and the mast of the Race Committee vessel. If a powerboat is used, a life jacket or cushion should be suspended over the side at the point of sighting. A clearance marker may be laid in the vicinity of the Race Committee boat. A yacht that passes between the clearance marker and the Race Committee vessel must round the Race Committee vessel to start correctly.

4.3. If a separate Starting and finishing line is in use the start line will be from the RC boat to the Orange tetrahedron. The finish line will be from the RC boat to the yellow ball. The Yellow Ball will always be the “A” mark if used. All Lap times will be between the A mark and the committee boat if used.

4.4. Each yacht shall sail past the Race Committee vessel before the Preparatory Signal so that her sail number and name can be recorded and acknowledged.

4.5. Alternate Race Committee Station: In the event of adverse conditions where it is impractical to use a Race Committee vessel, the Race Committee will locate themselves on shore in the vicinity of a starting Mark. The start and finish line will then be a line between the Race Committee station on shore and a Mark.

4.6. In this situation, the course to be sailed will be announced at 09:15 and 09:30 on VHF channel 68 and will be available verbally from Race Committee personnel at the fuel dock until 09:30. These times would be adjusted to 18:15 and 18:30 for weeknight racing.

4.7. Unless otherwise noted in the Notice of Race, the race start time is 10:30 on weekends and 19:00 for weeknights.

4.8. A schedule of all races and amendments can be found at www.pointrobertsyachtclub.com/racing

4.9. The Race Committee will make every attempt to monitor VHF channel 68 before and during the Racing Event.

5. STARTING SEQUENCE

5.1. Attention Signal: Multiple blasts to get the attention of the racing fleet. Aprox 1min prior to sequence start.

5.2. Unless otherwise announced by the Race Committee prior to the 5 minute warning signal, or in the Notice of Race (NOR) the Starting Sequence shall be separate starts for each division, in reverse division order:

Division 4

Warning	Yellow Flag up; 1 sound	5 minutes before start
Preparatory	Preparatory Flag up; 1 sound	4 minutes before start
One Minute	Preparatory Flag down; 1 long sound	1 minute before start
Starting	Yellow Flag down; 1 sound	Start

Divison 3

Warning	Green Flag up; 1 sound	5 minutes before start
Preparatory	Preparatory Flag up; 1 sound	4 minutes before start
One Minute	Preparatory Flag down; 1 long sound	1 minute before start
Starting	Green Flag down; 1 sound	Start

Division 2

Warning	White Flag up; 1 sound	5 minutes before start
Preparatory	Preparatory Flag up; 1 sound	4 minutes before start
One Minute	Preparatory Flag down; 1 long sound	1 minute before start
Starting	White Flag down; 1 sound	Start

Division 1

Warning	Red Flag up; 1 sound	5 minutes before start
Preparatory	Preparatory Flag up; 1 sound	4 minutes before start
One Minute	Preparatory Flag down; 1 long sound	1 minute before start
Starting	Red Flag down; 1 sound	Start

5.3. Division 4 and 3's start signal will be Division 2's five minute warning. And Div 2's start will be Div 1's five minute warning. Unless the Race committee amends starting sequence for a change in the number of divisions or the order of the start.

5.4. The Race committee will attempt to start a second race on Saturday race days if time and weather permits. No start signals will be given after 1300 hours. Monitor VHF 68 for RC instructions.

5.5. Upon completion of the days racing the first boats to finish will contact RC on 68 to assist RC in picking up any race marks no longer in use. Although not a rule enforced by a penalty this practice should be made by all boats to assist the RC and get every one back to the dock as quickly as possible.

6. SIGNALS AFTER THE START

6.1. INDIVIDUAL RECALL: In the event of premature starters, the Race Committee will display code flag X, make one sound signal and attempt to hail the yachts over early on VHF. Yachts are reminded that it remains their responsibility to start correctly. When the Race Committee is satisfied that all premature starters have returned to the pre-start side of the line, or four minutes after the starting signal, whichever is the earlier, they will lower X, except that in the case of multiple starts, code flag X will be lowered one minute before the next starting signal regardless

of whether all premature starters have returned to the pre-start side of the line or not.

6.2. GENERAL RECALL: In the event of a General Recall, the Race Committee shall display the code flag 1st Substitute and make two sound signals. One minute after lowering the 1st Substitute, the Race Committee will display the new Preparatory Signal.

6.3. POSTPONEMENT: The Race Committee may postpone the start of the race at their discretion and will signify that postponement by the displaying of the code flag AP and making two sound signals. The AP shall be lowered one minute prior to the Warning Signal.

6.4. CANCELLATION: The Race Committee may cancel the race by displaying code flag N accompanied by three sound signals. In the event that the race cannot be re-sailed that day, it will be re-sailed as soon as possible after the last finisher of the next race in the series. The Race Committee will not cancel a Saturday race day before 1300 hours.

6.5. FINISH: The Race Committee will signify that it is on station at the finish line of the race by raising the blue shape. This will normally only be used if the RC must move or a separate finish line is used.

6.6. TIME LIMIT: The time limit for each event is 4 hours. If one boat finishes within the time limit, the time limit for the race will be extended an additional 1/2 hour. Any competitors finishing more than 4 1/2 hours after the start will be scored DNF. Designated long distance races will have a time limit of 6 hours.

6.6.1. TIME LIMIT WEEK NIGHT RACING: Week Night racing will have a 2-2.5 hour time limit depending on available daylight with no extended finish time. The time limit will be 2 hours until the end of May then the time limit will extend to 2.5 hours.

6.7. TIME LIMIT EXPIRATION: The Race Committee will signify time limit expiration by lowering the blue RC flag, accompanied by three sound signals. They may also make a general announcement on 68 for the affected DIV.

6.8. SHORTEN COURSE: The Race Committee may shorten course only at a mark of the course by displaying code flag S accompanied by two sound signals.

6.9. Where applicable, interim (lap) times will be taken and used in the event that no boat in a division is able to finish in the allotted time limit. No shortened course flag is required.

6.10. When interim times are taken at a mark of the course, then these shall be used as final times in the event the time limit has been reached before the course is completed by any competitor within each division.

6.11. If a “/” mark is used in conjunction with the start line and is listed as a mark of the course then competitors must pass between “/” mark and the Committee boat on the indicated leg of the race.

6.12. LIFE JACKETS REQUIRED: The Race Committee may signify that approved flotation equipment be worn by all crew members of competing yachts by flying code flag Y. A violation of this rule is subject to immediate protest by the Race Committee.

6.13. All yachts participating in racing events will monitor VHF 68 until it has completed the race or contacted the race committee and informed them of a change in racing status.
6.14. The Race Committee, at their discretion, may finish a boat if they have not completed the course and score them as finishing 30 minutes after the first boat finished in her division. This finish may not better the competitors score in the race as finishing last. The Race Committee may only do this if just one boat per division is still to finish.

7. PENALTIES AND PROTESTS

7.1. Except in the case specified in rule 6.8 of these instructions, protesting yachts shall notify the Race Committee of their intention to protest when crossing the finish line. A copy of the protest must be in the hands of the Race Committee no latter then two hours after the last boat finishes the day's events.
7.2. If the RC witnesses a rule infraction she shall protest the boat committing the rule infraction as soon as it is apparent that no other competitor is protesting the infraction. For this reason RC is allowed a slightly delayed notice of intent to protest. Every effort must still be made to inform the protested boat as soon as possible by all available means of the protest. RC will conspicuously fly a protest flag in accordance with RRS Rule 60.1 and/or 60.2.
7.3. Protest hearings will be scheduled by the Fleet Captain as required.
7.4. RRS Rule 44.1 will apply for any Penalties.

8. SCORING

8.1. Competitors will only be scored if:
  8.1.1. they are PRYC members in good standing or event fees have been paid in full, and
  8.1.2. they have performed race committee duty for one or more races in the past 12 months if they have participated in 5 or more PRYC races in the same period, or
  8.1.3. they have received written approval from the Fleet Captain if one or more of these conditions has not been met.
8.2. Scoring will be calculated using the High Point System, as described in Appendix I and Time on Time format as defined by PHRF-BC.
8.3. Competitors that volunteer to be committee (COM) will receive the average of her results in the series for that race after her throw-out.
8.4. Each boat will be allowed one throw-out provided there have been 7 races completed in the series, For every additional 3 races added to the series another throw out will be allowed.
8.5. DSQ results are not eligible for throw-out.
8.6. Ties shall be broken as outlined in current RRS, A7, A8.1 and A8.2.
8.7. Awards for these events, will be awarded at the current year's Commodore's Ball.

9. ORAL INSTRUCTIONS

9.1. Oral instructions may be made by the Race Committee when displaying the Code Flag L (Come Within Hail), or as outlined above under Alternate Race Committee Station. The Race Committee will attempt to also announce course instructions over the radio on channel 68 prior to the start of any race.

10. LIABILITY

10.1. Participation in any organized event held by PRYC means you have read and understood the following statement and agree to be bound by it. **In becoming a participant in this event, I hereby release, relieve, and agree to indemnify and hold harmless the POINT ROBERTS YACHT CLUB, it's officers, members, representatives and employees from any and all claims arising out of the participation of my yacht and her crew in this racing event. I further agree to be bound by the racing rules of the ISAF and by all other rules which govern this event. See Rule 4.**

10.2. Any decisions passed down by protest committees, race committees or other executive councils with respect to these rules are to determine if there has been compliance with these rules by race competitors, and whether race results stand as posted by the Race Committee. No decisions regarding fault or liability will be made.

10.3. Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance covering property damage, personal injury and death of not less then 1 million dollars per incident.

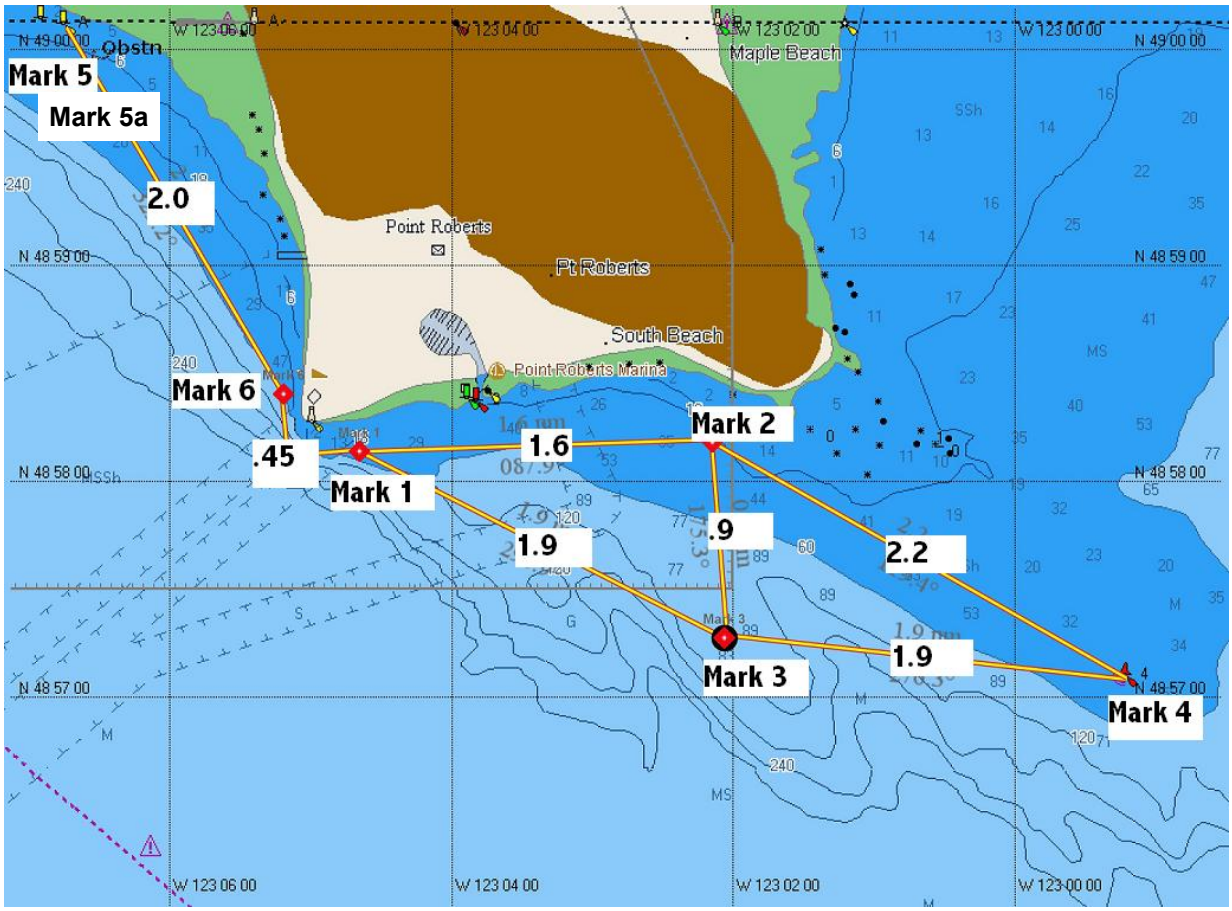
11. COURSE DIAGRAMS

11.1. Be advised that mark positions provided on course diagrams are approximate positions only, and may not be used for purposes of protest or navigation. Mark positioning is ultimately completed at the discretion of the Race Committee, and some deviation from published positions is acceptable. WGS 84 used for positions.

11.2. Racing Marks are indicated on the diagram below.

- Mark 1: Non Permanent Racing Buoy, Approximate position 48º 58'08" N, 123º04'39" W
- Mark 2: Non Permanent Racing Buoy, Approximate position 48º 58'11" N, 123º02'09" W
- Mark 3: Non Permanent or Seasonal Racing Buoy, Approximate position 48º 57'16"N, 123º02' 04" W
- Mark 4: Point Roberts Bell Buoy, Approximate position 48º 57'31" N, 123º01' 08" W

- Mark 5: International marker, located approx. Approximate position 49° 00’07” N, 123°06’44” W
- Mark 5a: SSW of Mark 5. Non Permanent or Seasonal Racing Buoy, Approximate position 48°59’45” N, 123°06’31” W
- Mark 6: Non Permanent Racing Buoy, Approximate position 48° 58’ 24” N, 123°05’ 11” W
- Mark A: Non Permanent Racing Buoy, Positioned in the vicinity of the Race Committee at the Start Line. Mark A is an Orange ball.



- “/” Mark: Non Permanent Racing Buoy, Positioned opposite of the Race Committee at the Start Line. “/” is an Orange ball.
- Mark Y: Non permanent Racing Buoy, Positioned at the discretion of the Race Committee to provide a shorter course on the weather beat for designated divisions. Mark Y is a Yellow tetrahedron.

Mark 5a

Appendix I

"High-Point Percentage Scoring" system

1. Let **n** be the number of boats in a single division that compete in the race. (Boats must be registered for the race or the series to be deemed to have competed in the event.)
2. The points awarded to a boat for her result in an event are determined as follows:
   a. The first place boat receives **n** gross points; the second place boat **n** - 1 points, the third place boat **n** – 2 points, and so on, down to the last place boat.
   b. A boat's gross points are divided by n to give her net points for the event. In this way, net scores are based on the number of boats ahead on corrected time. For example: If five boats in a particular division compete in and finish an event.

Finish	Points Awarded
1st	(n-0) = 5 / 5 = 1.0
2nd	(n-1) = 4 / 5 = 0.8
3rd	(n-2) = 3 / 5 = 0.6
4th	(n-3) = 2 / 5 = 0.4
5th	(n-4) = 1 / 5 = 0.2

3. All boats that are registered but do not compete (DNC) receive zero points for the event.
4. All boats that compete but do not start (DNS), do not finish (DNF), are disqualified (DSQ),are scored over-early (OCS), or are retired after finishing (RAF) receive 1/n points (the same points as a last-place finish).
5. Boat registered but not racing because they are on official race duties (OOD) will be scored at their average score for the series.