



BENICIA YACHT CLUB 2026 THURSDAY NIGHT BEER CAN RACING SERIES

Organizing Authority:
Benicia Yacht Club
400 East Second Street
Benicia, CA 94540-3305
PRO Mark Campbell

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS (SI)

- 1.0 **NOTICES TO COMPETITORS:** Notices will be posted on the Benicia Yacht Club Racing Website <https://beniciayachtclub.org/racing> and on the Racing Board located in the BYC Norton Lounge
- 2.0 **RULES:** The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing 2025 to 2028 except where modifications are noted in the SIs and NOR.
- 3.0 **CHANGES IN SAILING INSTRUCTIONS:**
Any change in Sailing Instructions will be posted on the Benicia Yacht Club Racing website <https://beniciayachtclub.org/racing> and on the Racing Board located in the BYC Norton Lounge at least 2 days prior to application of the change. In addition, at least one email will be sent to the registered competitors to alert them of the change when possible.
- 4.0 **FLAGS:**
 - 4.1 **Y Flag-** will not be required however all racing participants shall wear a coast guard approved PFD from time of leaving the dock until returning to their dock following their participation in the race.
 - 4.2 **CLASS FLAGS** are not required to be flown by competitors.
 - 4.3 **SAIL NUMBERS:** Sail numbers are required to race. Only the main sail number will be used for identification. Numbers on all other sails are not necessary and/or do not have to match the main sail number.
- 5.0 **NON-SPINNAKER:** Boats racing without a spinnaker are limited to using one head sail at a time unless they are changing from one sail to another. All boats must declare if they will be non-spinnaker at the start of each session.
- 6.0 **COMMUNICATIONS TO COMPETITORS:**
 - 6.1 **ON-THE WATER COMMUNICATIONS:** Each boat intending to race must check in with the Race Committee before starting each race. Check in may be by hail or on VHF Channel 71.
 - 6.1.1 Note: There will be no need to declare spinnaker or non-spinnaker for each race at check-in. This is now decided at the start of each of the sessions, recorded in Jibeset for scoring purposes and as per the Nor's.
 - 6.2 The Race Committee will monitor VHF channel 71 for traffic, withdrawals, and emergencies during the race. The Race Committee will broadcast on VHF channel 71 instructions relating to postponement, cancellation, modification, or abandonment of a race. The Race Committee will also monitor channel 14 for vessel traffic and may receive communications from VTS, Coast Guard, and or Commercial Vessels via phone.
 - 6.3 While racing, except in an emergency, a boat shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or communication that is not available to all boats. This excludes use of tracking systems used to monitor and record the race on Jibeset.
 - 6.4 **RETIRING:** A boat retiring from a race must notify the Race Committee and receive a confirmation of that fact by hail, on VHF channel 71, or by phone.

7.0 COURSES AND MARK DESCRIPTIONS: The Course Sheet is part of the Sailing Instructions and included as SI Addendum 2. The course sheet includes all marks with their descriptions.

7.1 **COURSE SELECTION:** Each race, an assigned skipper (generally the one providing the meal for RC boat) will select the initial courses for all Fleets from the course sheet. The courses selected are to be sent to the PRO on the day of the race by 1700 hours. Courses selected will be in SI addendum 2.

7.1.1 **CHANGING COURSE:** The assigned skipper for the respective race can change the course no later than 15 minutes prior to the first warning signal. The PRO/Race Committee shall have final approval for all courses selected and may make adjustments as conditions warrant.

7.2 **COMMITTEE BOAT:** The committee boat when available will be one of the marks for the **start and finish lines** and display a colored flag to designate the respective lines, along with a colored or white buoy as stated in 9.4 of this document.

8.0 AREAS OF OBSTRUCTIONS OR RESTRICTED:

8.1 **RESTRICTED:** Daymark "23" (near Benicia's 1st Street Pier) must be left to the north. Boats may not pass between the islands or visible rocks and the North shore of the Carquinez strait.

8.2 **INTERFERENCE WITH COMMERCIAL TRAFFIC:** Boats must not interfere with commercial vessels, naval vessels, tugs, or fishing boats. Boats so doing and thereby endangering their own safety and that of others will be subject to disqualification by protest from competitors and/or the RC. This includes, sounding of 5 horns, the RC receiving a call from Vessels Traffic or the Coast Guard. (This score will not be subject to being a non-excludable score from the standings.)

9.0 THE START/FINISH:

9.1 **START SEQUENCE:** Races will be started with a warning signal made 5 minutes before the first fleet start with subsequent fleets starting at 5-minute intervals in a rolling start order. The Start procedure will comply as described in RRS 2025-2028 Rule 26. Starting Sequence by fleet is as follows:

Time (PST)	Visual Signal	Means	Visual Signal	Means
18:00:00	B Fleet	Warning		
18:05:00	B Fleet	Start	A Fleet	Warning
18:10:00	A Fleet	Start		

9.2 Boats whose class and preparatory signal has not been made shall keep clear of the starting area. Starting times for each fleet are shown above in the sailing instructions. Courses will be signaled by international code number pennants as prescribed in RRS 2025-2028 and via VHF Channel 71.

9.3 If any part of a boat's hull is on the course side of the starting line prior to the starting signal and she is identified, the race committee will attempt to broadcast her sail number or boat name on VHF channel 71. Failure to make a broadcast or to time it accurately will not be grounds for a request for redress. This changes RRS 2025-2028 62.1(a).

9.4 **Start Line:** The starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag or shape on the Race Committee boat and the starting mark or as noted in 9.5 below.

- 9.5 **Alternate Start Line:** The race committee may choose to start and finish the race from onshore in the absence of a committee boat.
- 9.5.1 The start and finish line shall be a line extending 100 yards south from the start buoy in line with an orange flag on shore at the Harbor Masters Building by the fuel dock. The race committee will make every attempt to coordinate the flag sequence with radio transmission on channel 71.
- 9.5.2 The Starting Pin can be the Bales buoy for some courses that are listed on the course sheet in SI Addendum 2.
- 9.6 **LIMITING BOUY:** The race committee may place a limiting buoy near the committee boat. Boats will be disqualified for passing between the committee boat and the limiting buoy. Boats touching the limiting buoy during their starting sequence must complete a 360 degree turn before rounding the first mark of the course.
- 9.7 **INDIVIDUAL RECALLS:** Individual recalls will be signaled in accordance with RRS 2025-2028 rule 29.1. The Race Committee may hail an over early boat by sail number or name, but hailing is not required. Failure of any boat to be aware of the Race Committee signal shall not relieve the boat of her obligation to start correctly. Returning boats must yield to all properly starting boats.
- 9.8 **GENERAL RECALLS:** When at the starting signal, one or more unidentified boats are on the course side of the starting line, or there has been an error in the starting procedure, the Race Committee may signal a General Recall.
- 9.8.1 Recall of an entire starting fleet will be signaled by radio. All boats will immediately return for restart immediately after the following fleet has started. All following fleets will start in their assigned sequence.
- 9.9 **ABANDONMENT OF RACE:** The race committee may determine to abandon a started race. An announcement over VHF radio Channel 71 will be made immediately.
- 9.10 **THE FINISH:** The finish line will be between a staff displaying a colored flag or shape on the Race Committee boat and the finishing mark or as noted in paragraph 7.2. The direction for finishing will be described in the course sheet. The finish line can also include the alternate start lines.
- 9.11 **Boats shall not cross the finish line in either direction to fetch a mark if not starting or finishing.**
- 9.12 **TIME LIMIT:** All boats must finish before the time limit which is calculated as the official sunset plus 30 minutes. However, for a given fleet, if any boat finishes within the time limit, then the limit for that fleet is extended for an additional 20 minutes after the first boat's finish time. Boats not finishing within the time limit will be scored "Did Not Finish" (DNF).
- 10.0 CHANGING OR SHORTENING COURSE:**
- 10.1 **SHORTENED COURSE:** Courses may be shortened by input of the fleet and approval by the Race Committee. The Race Committee will broadcast the course change over VHF radio, and they will make a reasonable effort to ensure that all applicable boats are aware of the change. This is change to RRS 2025-2028 Part 3 32 and 33 which require signals and sounds to be made.
- 11.0 PENALTY SYSTEM:**
- 11.1 **ALTERNATIVE PENALTY:** The two-turn penalty as written in paragraph 44.1 of the RRS 2025-2028 will be in effect. If fouled by another boat, you must immediately hail your intent to protest so that the offending boat can elect to perform the penalty turns. To absolve the protest, the protested boat must get clear and perform two turns in the same direction, staying clear of all boats until on the proper course for the next mark. However as stated in RRS Part 4 paragraph 44.1b if the boat caused injury or serious damage, or despite taking a penalty gained a significant advantage in the race or series by her breach her penalty shall be to retire. Fouling a mark is a one turn penalty.
- 12.0 PROTESTS AND REDRESS:** Protests must be filed with the Race Committee no later than sixty (60) minutes after the official time limit for the race (see paragraph 9.11 above). Protests must conform to RRS 2025-2028 rules.

12.1 Protest mediation may occur on the night of the race for protests involving a rule of part 2 and 4 of The Racing Rules of Sailing 2025-2028 and paragraph 8.0 and 8.2 of this document. Mediation will be conducted per the "Protest Mediation" document posted on the racing bulletin board at BYC Norton Lounge and also located on the BYC Racing page <https://beniciayachtclub.org/racing> . A boat that accepts fault at a mediation hearing shall receive a DNF score. The scores for the other boats will be adjusted accordingly.

12.2 If necessary, the protest mediation meeting will be held at an agreed time by both skippers and the Protest Committee Chairman or designated alternative to Race Chair.

13.0 SAFETY REGULATIONS:

13.1 **MINIMUM EQUIPMENT:** All boats must comply with the U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment requirements for recreational vessels. All boats must display the proper running lights.

14.0 DISPOSAL OF WASTE OR TRASH: Boats observed willfully discharging trash overboard shall be disqualified from all races sailed on the day that the infraction is observed. The onus is on the protesting boat to provide evidence of the infraction.

15.0 RISK STATEMENT:

15.1 RRS 2025-2028 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.**

It is the boat captain's responsibility to have all crew members sign the BYC Crew Release Form for 2026/27 **PRIOR** to participating in any BYC races or race related events.

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SAILING INSTRUCTIONS (SIs) Addendum 1 "Schedule of Events"

2026 Date	Race
Session 1	
April	
Thursday, April 02, 2026	BenYC Thursday Night Beer Can #1
Thursday, April 09, 2026	BenYC Thursday Night Beer Can #2
Thursday, April 16, 2026	BenYC Thursday Night Beer Can #3
Thursday, April 23, 2026	BenYC Thursday Night Beer Can #4
Thursday, April 30, 2026	BenYC Thursday Night Beer Can #5
May	
Thursday, May 07, 2026	BenYC Thursday Night Beer Can #6
Thursday, May 14, 2026	BenYC Thursday Night Beer Can #7
Thursday, May 21, 2026	BenYC Thursday Night Beer Can #8
Thursday, May 28, 2026	BenYC Thursday Night Beer Can #9
June	
Thursday, June 04, 2026	BenYC Thursday Night Beer Can #10
Thursday, June 11, 2026	BenYC Thursday Night Beer Can #11
Thursday, June 18, 2026	BenYC Thursday Night Beer Can #12
Session 2	
Thursday, June 25, 2026	BenYC Thursday Night Beer Can #1
July	
Thursday, July 09, 2026	BenYC Thursday Night Beer Can #2
Thursday, July 16, 2026	BenYC Thursday Night Beer Can #3
Thursday, July 23, 2026	BenYC Thursday Night Beer Can #4
Thursday, July 30, 2026	BenYC Thursday Night Beer Can #5
August	
Thursday, August 6, 2026	BenYC Thursday Night Beer Can #6
Thursday, August 13, 2026	BenYC Thursday Night Beer Can #7
Thursday, August 20, 2026	BenYC Thursday Night Beer Can #8
Thursday, August 27, 2026	BenYC Thursday Night Beer Can #9
September	
Thursday, September 3, 2026	BenYC Thursday Night Beer Can #10
Thursday, September 10, 2026	BenYC Thursday Night Beer Can #11
Thursday, September 17, 2026	BenYC Thursday Night Beer Can #12



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SAILING INSTRUCTIONS (SIs) Addendum 2 “Course and Mark Descriptions”

1.0 Courses:

S=Starboard, P=Port

No./Flags	CB Courses	Distance
1	CB-Xs, 21Ap, Xp-CB (Finish)	3.00
2	CB-Xs, 25p, Bp, 25p, Bp, Xs-CB (Finish)	3.40
3	CB-Xs, 25s, 21As, Xp-CB (Finish)	3.70
4	CB-Xs, 21Ap, Bs, Xs-CB (Finish)	3.90
5	CB-Xs, 25p, 3p, Xs-CB (Finish)	4.00
6	CB-Xs, 21Ap, 25p, Bp, Xs-CB (Finish)	4.40
7	CB-Xp, 3s, 25s, Bp, Xs-CB (Finish)	4.70
8	CB-Xs, 21Ap, Bs, 25p, Bp, Xs-CB (Finish)	5.50
9	CB-Xs, JMp, Xp-CB (Finish)	5.70
12	CB-Xs, 21Ap, 3p, Xs-CB (Finish)	6.00
13	CB-Xs, 21Ap, 25p, 21As, Xp-CB (Finish)	6.30
14	CB-Xs, 25s, JMs, Xp-CB (Finish)	6.30
15	CB-Xs, 21Ap, 25p, 3p, Xs-CB (Finish)	6.60
16	CB-Xs, JMp, Bs, Xs-CB (Finish)	6.70
17	CB-Xs, JMp, 25p, Bp, Xs-CB (Finish)	7.00
18	CB-Xs, Bpp, Xp-CB (Finish)	7.20
19	CB-Xs, 21Ap, Bpp, Xp-CB (Finish)	7.30
23	CB-Xs, 25s, BPs, Xp-CB (Finish)	7.70
24	CB-Xs, 21Ap, 25p, 21Ap, 25p, Bp, Xs-CB (Finish)	7.70
25	CB-Xs, Bpp, Bs, Xs-CB (Finish)	8.10
26	CB-Xs, JMp, 25p, 21As, Xp-CB (Finish)	8.90
27	CB-Xs, 21Ap, 25p, JMs, Xp-CB (Finish)	8.90
28	CB-Xs, Bpp, 3p, Xs-CB (Finish)	10.30
No./Flags	CB Bales Courses	Distance
29	CB-Bs, Xp, 3p, CB-Bs (Finish)	3.20
34	CB-Bs, Xp, 25s, 21As, CB-Bp (Finish)	4.70
35	CB-Bs, Xp, 25s, 21As, 25p, CB-Bp (Finish)	5.20

2.0 Descriptions of Marks:

Mark	Description	
CB	Committee Boat	
X	Mark at the Start/Finish line	N38°02.510' W122°09.35'
B	Bales mark between Sander's Tug & Valero Dock	N38°02.300' W122°08.80'
21A	Buoy 21A (green) off Ninth Street	N38°03.394' W122°10.897'
BP	Red/Green buoy 50 yds west of Carquinez Bridge	N38°03'395' W122°13'387'
3	Buoy 3 (green) west of Benicia Bridge	N38°02.304' W122°09.750'
25	Buoy 25 (green) in shipping channel	N38°01.989' W122°07.345'
7	Green buoy east of Benicia Bridge	N38°02.900' W122°05.952'
JM	Joe Marra (JM) near Glen Cove Marina	N38°03.884' W122°12.514'

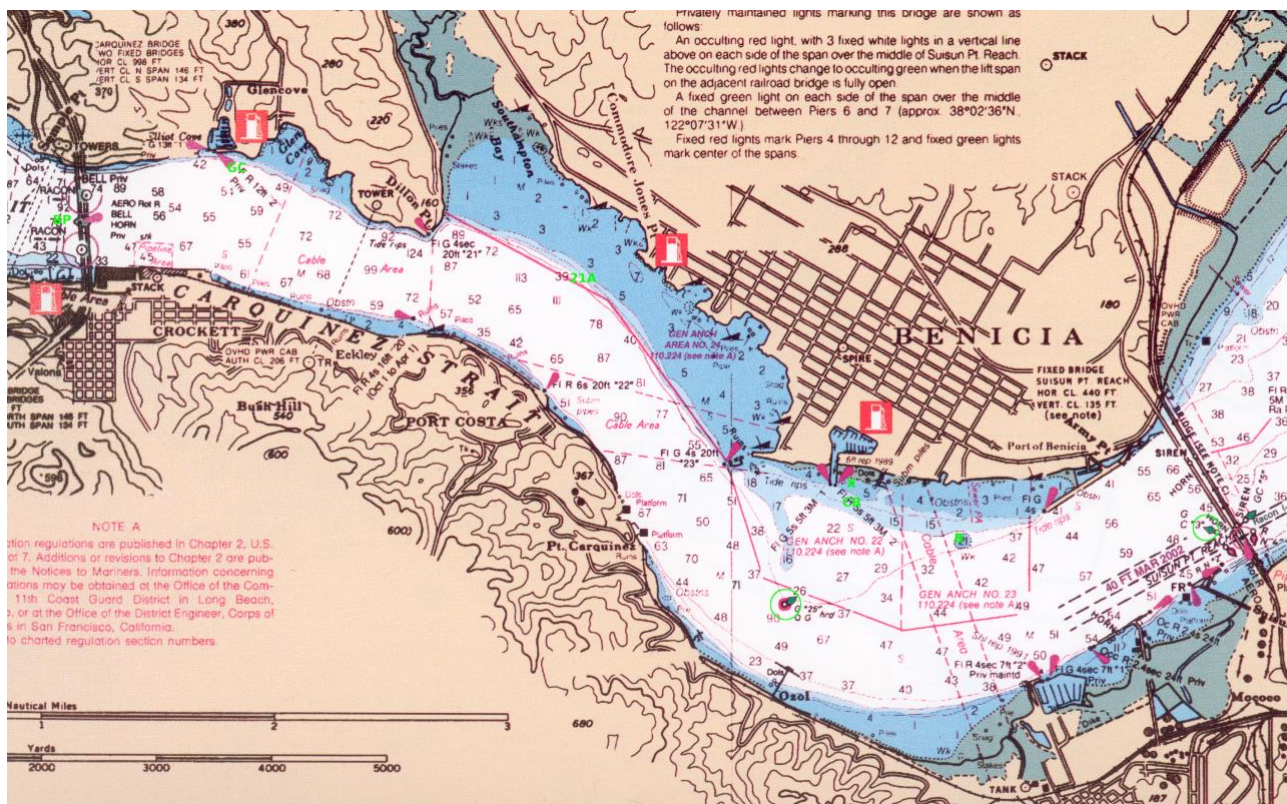


Chart image above to be used for descriptive purposes only and not a navigational aid.