

SOUTHWEST HARBOR FLEET

2026 Sailing Instructions

1 Rules

- 1.1 Races will be governed by the current rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing and these sailing instructions.
- 1.2 Races are informal, assisted by volunteer help.
- 1.3 All races are sailed as **non-spinnaker**.

2 Entries

- 2.1 Membership Registration is required for each entry.
- 2.2 A “Family” membership in the Southwest Harbor Fleet is required.

3 Notices to Competitors

- 3.1 Notices and schedule changes shall be announced over VHF 65, by email or posted on the SWH Fleet’s web page.
- 3.2 On the day of a race, all competitors should assume that racing is a go. Cancellations, postponements and changes to the starting area will be announced on VHF channel 65 between 1200 & 1210 hrs.

4. Schedule of Races

- 4.1 Series races shall be each Friday starting July 11th through August 15th.
- 4.2 Amendments may be made per SI 3.1

5. Race Area

- 5.1 Races shall be conducted in upon the waters of the Great Harbor of Mt. Desert and Somes Sound.
- 5.2 Races will normally start at 1:30 pm North of Greening Island, aka AREA “A”, unless an alternate area and time is announced over VHF 65

6 Course

- 6.1 The course will be determined and announced over VHF Ch 65 prior to the warning signal for each class.

7. Marks

- 7.1 Marks of the course may be Northeast Harbor Fleet letter designated buoys (colored flag buoys), a portable pole buoy, inflatable buoys, islands, or combinations thereof
- 7.2 All marks are to be rounded to port unless otherwise instructed.
- 7.3 All government navigational buoys, except those shown on the official Race Chart as racing marks must be properly observed unless they are posted as rounding marks of the course.

8. The Start

- 8.1 The 3-minute Sound Starting System will be used. This changes RRS 26.
- 8.2 The starting line will be between a staff with an orange flag on the Signal Boat and an inflatable mark or a to port of the Signal Boat.
- 8.3 If there are fewer than three (3) Skippers intending to start a race there will be no start.
- 8.4 A Skipper starting later than 5 minutes after the starting signal will be scored “Did Not Start” without a hearing. This changes RRS A4 and A5.

9 Recalls

- 9.1 Individual Recall is made by raising code flag “X” with one sound signal and announcing the sail number by loud-hailer and/or VHF radio.
- 9.2 General Recall is made by raising “1st Substitute” with two sound signals.
- 9.3 Failure to make a broadcast or to accurately time it will not be grounds for a request for redress. This changes RRS 62.1(a).

10 The Finish

- 10.1 The Signal Boat will fly a solid blue flag indicating it is on station for the Finish.
- 10.2 The finish line will be between a staff with an orange flag on the Signal Boat and the course side of the Finish Mark.
- 10.3 **In the event a Signal Boat is unavailable to record finishes**, each Skipper shall finish as close to the Finish Mark as possible and record who was nearest ahead and behind.

11 Time Limits

- 11.1 The time limit for each class is 45 MINUTES.
- 11.2 Skippers unable to finish within 10 MINUTES after the first Skipper in the class will be scored as “Did Not Finish” (DNF).
- 11.3 No race will be started after 1515 hrs (3:15pm).

12 Scoring

- 12.1 Averaged scoring will be for each Skipper, not for each boat.
- 12.2 All points recorded will be used for averaging.
- 12.3 A Skipper who did not finish, retired after finishing, or was disqualified shall be scored one (1) place more than the number of Skippers who finished the race. This changes RRS A4.2 and A9.

13. Safety Equipment

- 13.1 Each boat should have on board the following **recommended** equipment:

- Compass
- Anchor and Rode, 120 ft min.
- Racing Rules of Sailing 2021-2024
- Current Copy of SWHF Sailing Instructions
- Bucket
- Valid Protest Flag (bright red rectangle)
- Paddle
- Knife
- Minimum First Aid Kit (i.e., West Marine Lifeline First Aid - \$4.99)
- A means of retrieval for a man overboard

- 13.2 Each boat shall have on board the following **required** Equipment:

- 1 USCG serviceable, approved PFD for each person on board
- 1 USCG serviceable, approved throwable PFD
- 1 USCG current, approved Flare Kit
- 1 Handheld VHF radio, **charged and operational**
- 1 Foghorn or whistle

14 Electronic Communication

- 14.1 VHF Radio may be used at any time for communication between the Race Committee and race participants. Normally, VHF Channel 65 will be used for all SWH Fleet communications. However, traffic override by other vessels may require use of an alternative channel (66 or 68) that shall be announced by the RC when needed.
- 14.2 The use of electronic devices for assistance with navigation and timing is allowed.

15 Disclaimer of Liability

Competitors participate in a race entirely at their own risk. See RRS 4, Decision to Race. The Southwest Harbor Fleet will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with, prior to, during, or after a race.

16 Arbitration and Alternative Penalties

Appendix T – Arbitration and Appendix V – Alternative Penalties shall be in effect.

ATTACHMENT “A”

NEH Fleet Race Mark Chart

