



# THOMAS S. WILLETS MEMORIAL RACE

Saturday October 4, 2025

Organizing Authority: Essex Yacht Club, Essex, CT

## SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

### 1. RULES

1.1. This event will be governed by the Racing Rules of Sailing.

### 2. NOTICE TO COMPETITORS

2.1. Notices to competitors will be posted on the Official Regatta Bulletin Board located in the lobby of the Essex Yacht Club.

### 3. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

3.1. Changes to the sailing instructions will be broadcast on VHF Ch. 72 prior to the first warning signal.

### 4. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

4.1. A postponement or abandonment ashore will be signaled on the flagpole at Essex Yacht Club with an announcement on VHF Ch. 72. If a postponement is signaled ashore, the first warning signal will be made no less than one hour after the AP flag is lowered.

### 5. CLASSES AND SCHEDULE OF RACES

5.1. Class 1 shall be cruising boats over 23.5' LOA. Spinnakers may not be used. All headsails must be attached along their length to the head stay by means of either hanks or a slotted head stay. This does not exclude roller furling head sails. Stay sails are allowed if properly rated for their use. There is no limit to the length of whisker poles, including spinnaker poles.

5.2. Class 2 shall be Ideal 18 one-design sailboats. Spinnakers may be used.

5.3. The first Warning Signal will be at 1100. The Race Committee is not required to start the classes in numerical order.

### 6. STARTING AREA

6.1. The Starting Area will be located on the Connecticut River in the area east of nun "R26".

6.2. Competitors shall check in with the RC boat on VHF Channel 72 when it is on station.

### 7. COURSE

7.1. The Course to be sailed will be signaled by code flag A or B on the Race Committee boat

7.1.1. Course A: Start – A – B – A – B – Finish

7.1.2. Course B: Start – B – A – B – A – Finish

7.2. Marks of the course:

7.2.1. Mark A: A yellow inflatable mark located near channel marker "29" south of Brockway Island

7.2.2. Mark B: Channel marker G "23" north of Calves Island

7.3. Both marks shall be rounded to port

7.4. Competitors must sail through the Start-Finish line on each leg of the course

7.5. The Race Committee may shorten the Course for any class at one of the crossings of the Start-Finish line. The Race Committee boat shall display code flag "S" with the Numeral Pennant(s) of the Class(es) to be finished with two sounds.

## **8. THE START**

- 8.1. The races will be started by using Rule 26 with the Warning signal made 5 minutes before the Start.
- 8.2. The starting line will be between the orange flag on the Race Committee boat and an orange inflatable.

## **9. THE FINISH**

- 9.1. The Finish Line will be between the blue flag on the Race Committee boat and an orange inflatable
- 9.2. If the Race Committee boat is not on station competitors shall record their own finish time when channel marker R “26” bears 270°M.
- 9.3. A boat retiring from the race shall notify the Race Committee using VHF Channel 72

## **10. PENALTY SYSTEM**

- 10.1. Rule 44.1 is changed so that the Two-Turns Penalty is replaced by the One-Turn penalty

## **11. PROTESTS**

- 11.1. A boat initiating a protest shall inform the Race Committee as they finish, stating the boat name and sail number they are protesting.
- 11.2. Protests must be filed with the Race Committee no later than one hour after the Race Committee Boat docks.

## **12. TIME LIMIT**

- 12.1. The Time Limit for the first boat to finish shall be 1500, regardless of postponements.
- 12.2. One boat finishing prior to the Time Limit constitutes a race.

## **13. SCORING**

- 13.1. Class 1 boats shall be scored on Corrected Time using PHRF Time-on-Time handicaps
- 13.2. Class 2 boats shall be scored based on finishing order
- 13.3. The Thomas S. Willetts Memorial Trophy will be awarded to the winner of Class 1 at the Awards Party commencing at 1700 on Saturday October 4, 2025 at the Essex Yacht Club.
- 13.4. The scores for Class 1 boats will be used in determining the overall winner of the Tri-Club Trophy in combination with each boat’s scores from the Clark and Birch Memorial races. Class 2 boats are not eligible for the Tri-Club Trophy

## **14. SAFETY REGULATIONS**

- 14.1. The Race Committee will monitor Channel 72 for safety and to communicate information to racers. All boats are required to carry a VHF radio on board
- 14.2. All Class 2 racers must wear USCG-approved life vests
- 14.3. Boats must not enter the Essex mooring field as defined by the yellow marker buoys
- 14.4. Boats must keep clear of all commercial river traffic. The Race Committee will disqualify any boat that requires a commercial vessel to change course or speed for safety

## **15. RISK STATEMENT**

- 15.1. ‘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.**