



# Seattle Yacht Club

Established in 1892

## Tri-Island Series

Smith Island Race – April 25, 2026

Vashon Island Race – May 9, 2026

Blake Island Race – May 30, 2026

## Sailing Instructions

### 1 RULES

- 1.1 This regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS).
- 1.2 The prescriptions of US Sailing shall apply.
- 1.3 A boat rated by her handicap class in consideration of water ballast may use water ballast as rated. This changes RRS 51.
- 1.4 Other changes to the rules may be noted elsewhere in the Notice of Race or Sailing Instructions.
- 1.5 When the protest committee decides that a boat has broken a rule of Part 4, it is not required to disqualify the party, but may impose a lesser penalty or issue a warning. This changes RRS 64.
- 1.6 Fleet rules specific to the J/105 class as described in the Rule 87 authorization letter posted on the Notice Board.

### 2 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

- 2.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board, and on the Regattas page on the Seattle Yacht Club website at [www.SeattleYachtClub.org](http://www.SeattleYachtClub.org)
- 2.2 The official notice board will be located on the Seattle Yacht Club web site at [www.seattleyachtclub.org](http://www.seattleyachtclub.org). on the Regattas page. Notices will also be posted at the south entrance of the Seattle Yacht Club Portage Bay clubhouse. After the start of the Blake Island Race, the official notice board will move temporarily near the entrance to the Seattle Yacht Club clubhouse at Elliott Bay Marina and return to the original location the following day.
- 2.3 The race committee VHF channel is 72. The race committee may provide unofficial information at any time by hail or over VHF 72. Any information not defined by the rules is unofficial information. A request for redress may not be based on any aspect of unofficial information, including content, timeliness, existence, or failure to hear. This changes RRS 62.1(a).

### 3 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 3.1 Written changes to the Sailing Instructions will be posted on the official notice board by 1800 the day before it will take effect.
- 3.2 The race committee intends to repeat changes in Sailing Instructions on VHF 72 ten minutes before the scheduled time of the first warning signal each day. This

announcement is unofficial communication per Sailing Instructions 2.3.

### 4 SCHEDULE OF RACES

- 4.1 Races start on the following dates:

<u>Race</u>	<u>Start Date</u>
Smith Island	April 25, 2026
Vashon Island	May 9, 2026
Blake Island	May 30, 2026

- 4.2 The scheduled time of the first warning signal is 0900 each day.
- 4.3 No warning signal will be made after 1300.

### 5 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 5.1 There is no provision for signals made ashore.

### 6 RACING AREA AND RACE COMMITTEE SIGNAL BOAT

- 6.1 The racing area is Puget Sound, Admiralty Inlet, and southeastern Straits of Juan de Fuca.
- 6.2 The starting line will be in Shilshole Bay in the area between Meadow Point and West Point. The finishing line for each race will be as described for each individual race in SI 8 COURSES.
- 6.3 The race committee signal boat will be the Seattle Yacht Club M/V *Portage Bay*. If necessary, an alternate race committee signal boat may be used. The race committee signal boat will display the Seattle Yacht Club burgee and a blue "R/C" flag or sign.

### 7 CLASSES AND CLASS FLAGS

- 7.1 Classes to race are ORC and PHRF-NW, including multi-hulls, Cruiser/Racer, and one-design keelboat.
- 7.2 The Classes, Class Flags, and Course Assignments will be announced as a notice to competitors issued by 1800 on Thursday before the first race. Subsequent changes may be made with the same process as changes to the Sailing Instructions.
- 7.3 The short course is available to boats rating 75 and slower. The sport boat course is open to boats 33 feet and less rating faster than 75.



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## 8 COURSES

### **Smith Island Race**

Long Course: Start by leaving the starting mark to port, round Minor Island to port, round Smith Island to port, and Finish by leaving the day marker on the north end of the Shilshole breakwater (Fl R 2.5s 5M "2") to port, and the Race Committee Boat to starboard.

Short Course: Start by leaving the starting mark buoy to port, round Double Bluff Lighted Buoy 1 (LL #16525) to port, and Finish by leaving the day marker on the north end of the Shilshole breakwater (Fl R 2.5s 5M "2") to port, and the Race Committee Boat to starboard.

Sport Boat Course: Same as short course.

Cruiser/Racer Course: Start by leaving the starting mark to port, round Scatchet Head Lighted Gong Buoy (LL#16555) to port, and Finish by leaving the day marker on the north end of the Shilshole breakwater (Fl R 2.5s 5M "2") to port, and the Race Committee Boat to starboard.

### **Vashon Island Race**

Long Course: Start by leaving the starting mark buoy to port, round Maury Island and Vashon Island to starboard, and Finish by leaving the finishing mark buoy to port, and the Race Committee boat to starboard.

Short Course: Start by leaving the starting mark buoy to port, round a temporary buoy north of Point Robinson at approximately 47° 24.0' N, 122° 23.0' W (47.400N 122.383W) to port, and Finish by leaving the finishing mark buoy to port, and the Race Committee boat to starboard.

Sport Boat Course: Same as short course.

Cruiser/Racer Course: Start by leaving the starting mark buoy to port, round Blakely Rock (LL #16830) "K" to port. Round Duwamish Head Lt. (LL #16910) "D" to port, and Finish by leaving the finishing mark buoy to port, and the Race Committee boat to starboard.

### **Blake Island Race**

Long Course: Start by leaving the starting mark buoy to port, round Blake Island to port or starboard, round a temporary mark approximately 0.3 NM S of West Point Lighted Buoy 1 (LL #16805) at approximately 47° 39.3' N, 122° 26.4' W (47.655N 122.440W) to starboard, and Finish by leaving the finishing mark buoy to port, and the Race Committee boat to starboard. The finishing line will be between a staff displaying a blue flag on the race committee signal boat and the finishing mark buoy or marker.

The finishing line will be in the northern part of Elliott Bay south of the Elliott Bay Marina breakwater.

Short Course: Same as long course.

Sport Boat Course: Same as long course (scored separately).

Cruiser/Racer Course: Start by leaving the starting mark buoy to port, round Blakely Rock ("K") to port, round a temporary mark approximately 0.3 NM S of West Point Lighted Buoy 1 (LL #16805) at approximately 47° 39.3' N, 122° 26.4' W (47.655N 122.440W) to starboard, and Finish by leaving the finishing mark buoy to port, and the Race Committee boat to starboard. The finishing line will be between a staff displaying a blue flag on the race committee signal boat and the finishing mark buoy or marker.

The finishing line will be in the northern part of Elliott Bay south of the Elliott Bay Marina breakwater.

## 9 THE START

- 9.1 The starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the race committee signal boat and the starting mark buoy.
- 9.2 If a general recall for a preceding class is signaled after the warning signal of a succeeding class, then the visual signals for the succeeding class will be removed and the start of the succeeding class will be considered abandoned without further signal.
- 9.3 If a boat is subject to RRS 29.1, Individual Recall, or RRS 30, Starting Penalties, the race committee may attempt to hail her sail number directly and/or on VHF 72. This is unofficial communication as in Sailing Instructions 2.3.
- 9.4 A boat starting later than ten minutes after her starting signal may be scored Did Not Start (DNS). This changes RRS A4 and A5.
- 9.5 A boat whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area when other boats are racing but have not yet started. Boats violating this rule will be subject to a discretionary penalty.
- 9.6 The race committee signal boat may maneuver to maintain the starting line at any time, including while anchored.

## 10 THE FINISH

- 10.1 The finishing line will be between a staff displaying a blue flag on the race committee signal boat and the finishing mark buoy or marker, as described for each individual race in SI 8 COURSES.
- 10.2 The race committee may adjust the finishing marks to maintain the finishing line at any time without regard to RRS 33.



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- 10.3 The race committee signal boat may display a flashing green and yellow light when on station at the finishing line at night.
- 10.4 A boat approaching the finishing line to finish at night shall illuminate her sail number for identification.
- 10.5 If the finishing line is missing at the finish of the Smith Island Race or Vashon Island Race, a boat finishes by passing within 100 yards offshore of the Meadow Point Buoy (LL #16765) when the buoy bears 090 degrees magnetic. If the race committee or finishing line is missing at the finish of the Blake Island Race, a boat finishes by passing within 100 yards offshore of the platform on the Elliott Bay Marina breakwater when the platform first bears 340 degrees magnetic. If a boat finishes under these circumstances, to be scored as finishing she shall note her finishing time accurately to the second (e.g. using GPS time) and her finishing position in relation to any nearby boats and report them to the race committee as soon as reasonably possible. This changes US Sailing prescription to RRS 34.
- ## 11 TIME LIMITS
- 11.1 The time limit is the maximum allowable time from each boat's starting signal to her finish time or a time of day. Boats that do not finish within their time limit will be scored Did Not Finish (DNF). This changes RRS 35.
- 11.2 Time limits for each race and course are as follows:
- Smith Island Race  
Long Course: 30 hours  
Short Course / Sport Boat Course: 14 hours  
Cruiser/Racer Course: 12 hours
- Vashon Island Race  
Long Course: 19 hours  
Short Course / Sport Boat Course: 14 hours  
Cruiser/Racer Course: 10 hours
- Blake Island Race  
Long Course: Earlier of 8 hours or 1900  
Short Course/Sport Boat: Earlier of 8 hours or 1900  
Cruiser/Racer Course: Earlier of 8 hours or 1900
- ## 12 PROTESTS
- 12.1 A boat intending to protest or request redress for an incident that occurred while racing must orally notify the race committee signal boat as soon as reasonably possible after retiring or finishing by hail, VHF 72 or on the Race Committee Boat phone at 206.960.0609 until she receives an oral confirmation from the race committee. This changes RRS 61.1(a). If unable to do so, a boat shall notify the Seattle Yacht Club front desk by telephone at 206.325.1000 at their earliest opportunity.
- 12.2 For Smith Island Race and Vashon Island Race:
- (a) Written protests and requests for redress must be delivered within the protest time limit to the front desk of the Seattle Yacht Club Portage Bay clubhouse.
  - (b) The protest time limit is at 1000 the Monday after the start of the race.
  - (c) Hearing notices will be posted on the official notice board within 60 minutes after the protest time limit to inform parties of the time and place of the hearing. Unless otherwise posted, hearings will be held on the Tuesday following the race at 1900 at the Seattle Yacht Club Portage Bay clubhouse. The posting of hearing notices shall be considered notice as required by RRS 63.2.
- 12.3 For Blake Island Race:
- (a) Written protests and requests for redress must be delivered within the protest time limit to a representative of the protest committee near the official notice board.
  - (b) The protest time limit will be posted on the official notice board and will be 45 minutes after the end of the race or 10 minutes after the posting of the time limit, whichever is later.
  - (c) Hearing notices will be posted on the official notice board within 10 minutes after the protest time limit to inform parties of the time and place of the hearing. Hearings may commence at any time if parties are present and prepared; otherwise, hearings may be scheduled as early as 10 minutes after the protest time limit. The posting of hearing notices shall be considered notice as required by RRS 63.2.
- 12.4 A boat may not protest another boat for Sailing Instructions 9.5 or 10.4. This changes RRS 60.1(a).
- 12.5 Penalties under Sailing Instructions 9.5, 10.4 or 14 may be less than disqualification. This changes RRS 64.
- ## 13 SCORING
- 13.1 Boats will be scored in class and course overall for each race and the series. Course overall scoring for monohulls and multihulls will be separate.
- 13.2 Corrected times for PHRF Northwest handicap classes will be calculated using the Time on Distance method. Corrected times for ORC classes will be calculated using the Time on Time method.
- 13.3 The Low Point Scoring System in Appendix A of the Racing Rules of Sailing will apply. A boat that did not start (DNC, DNS, OCS), did not finish (DNF), retired (RET), or is disqualified (DSQ, DNE, DGM, BFD) will be scored the number of finishers plus one. This changes RRS A2 and A5.
- 13.4 A boat's series score will be the total of her race scores with no scores excluded. This changes RRS A2.1.
- 13.5 One race will constitute a series.



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- 13.6 If the race committee does not shorten course under RRS 32, Shortening or Abandoning after the Start, a shortened course option is available to boats on all courses that sail to a predetermined shortened course option finishing line (the “short line”) and subsequently retire. Boats using this option must reach the short line within their full course time limit, and report their finishing time to the race committee when they retire as per Sailing Instruction 14.3.

Boats should record their shortened course finishing time accurately to the second (e.g., using GPS time) and at the time she finishes as per RRS definition of “finish” at the short line. Boats using the shortened course option will be considered finishers and will be scored in class and overall based on their time and the distance for the shortened course starting immediately behind boats finishing the full course that are not subject to Sailing Instruction 13.3. For races using handicaps based on time on distance, the distance will be based on the shortest navigable distance along the course to the short line.

The location of the short finish line is as follows:

### **Smith Island Race**

Long Course: A line on which the **Smith Island Light (LL #16375)** bears 180 degrees magnetic.

Short Course / Sport Boat Course: A line on which the rounding mark bears 180 degrees magnetic.

Cruiser/Racer Course: A line on which the rounding mark bears 180 degrees magnetic.

### **Vashon Island Race**

Long Course: A line on which the Point Robinson Light (LL #17070) bears 270 degrees magnetic.

Short Course / Sport Boat Course: A line on which the rounding mark bears 000 degrees magnetic.

Cruiser/Racer Course: A line on which the Blakely Rock Light bears 000 degrees magnetic.

### **Blake Island Race**

Long Course: After rounding the Blake Island mark, a line through Decatur Reef Lighted Buoy 2 off Restoration Pt. (LL #16835) and Alki Pt. Light (LL #16915) on which Decatur Reef Buoy bears 262 or 082 degrees magnetic and Alki Pt. Light bears 082 degrees magnetic.

Short Course / Sport Boat Course: Same as long course.

Cruiser/Racer Course: A line on which the Blakely Rock Light bears 000 degrees magnetic.

## **14 OPERATING AND EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS**

- 14.1 Sailing is an activity that has an inherent risk of damage and injury. Competitors in this event are participating entirely at their own risk. See RRS 3, Decision to Race. The responsibility for a boat’s decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone. The race organizers (organizing authority, race committee, protest committee, host club, sponsors, or any other organization or official) will not be responsible for damage to any boat or other property or the injury to any competitor, including death, sustained as a result of participation in this event. By participating in this event, each competitor agrees to release the race organizers from all liability associated with such competitor’s participation in this event to the fullest extent permitted by law.

- 14.2 Boats must check in with the race committee signal boat at the starting area each day before their first warning signal. Boats should check in by hail unless safety requires checking in by VHF 72.

- 14.3 **A boat that retires while racing must orally notify the race committee as soon as possible after retiring by hail, on VHF 72, or by calling the Race Committee boat on cell number: 206.960.0609.**

- 14.4 A boat racing in a handicap class must comply with: *World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations (OSR)*, according to the category requirement identified in the Notice of Race and below. The text of these regulations is available from the World Sailing website at [OffshoreSpecialRegs](http://www.worldsailing.org/OffshoreSpecialRegs).

### **Smith Island Race**

Long Course: OSR 3

Short / Sport Boat Course: OSR 4

Cruiser/Racer Course: OSR 4

### **Vashon Island Race**

Long Course: OSR 4

Short / Sport Boat Course: OSR 4

Cruiser/Racer Course: OSR 4

### **Blake Island Race**

Long Course: OSR 4

Short / Sport Boat Course: OSR 4

Cruiser/Racer Course: OSR 4

- 14.5 Boats must comply with U.S. Coast Guard regulations.

- 14.6 Boats must be operated in accordance with the Puget Sound Sailboat Safety Regulations, available in the Seattle Yacht Club Sailboat Race Book available at [www.seattleyachtclub.org](http://www.seattleyachtclub.org).



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14.7 The race committee may inspect a boat at any time before or after racing for compliance with requirements.

14.8 A boat may use its propulsion engine as described in RRS 42.3(i) for any purpose described in 42.3(h), or to stay clear of a vessel not participating in the race. The use of a propulsion engine shall be reported to the Race Committee with the reason for the use and a description of any benefit to the boat's position resulting from said use.

## **15 SOCIAL ACTIVITIES AND AWARDS**

15.1 The series awards party will be at the Seattle Yacht Club Elliott Bay clubhouse at Elliott Bay Marina from 4pm to 7pm after the Blake Island Race. The party will have a trophy presentation at approximately 6pm.

15.2 Awards will be presented for first place overall on each course. Series awards will be presented for first, second and third overall on each course and first, second and third in class.