



Corinthian Yacht Club of Bellingham

2023 Racing Series Race Packet

"We sail friendly. It's what sets us apart."

Series 1	April 13	April 20	April 27	May 4	May 11
Series 2	May 18	May 25	June 1	June 8	June 15
Series 3	June 22	June 29	July 6	July 13	July 20
Series 4	July 27	Aug 3	Aug 10	Aug 17	Aug 24
Short Course Series 5*	Aug 31**	Sept 7	Sept 14	Sept 21	Sept 28

* Series may be reduced to fewer races based on sunset times.

** Slow-Pitch will be scored as part of Series 5 and scored separately.

*All racers should read the Racing Instructions as posted on the CYC Bellingham website (cycbellingham.org) and compete in the manner they were intended. Thursday evening races are intended to be fun and casual. However, an adherence to the rules is important for all racers so that we **all** can enjoy the evening and can also avoid accidents that hurt people and/or damage boats.*

General Sailing Instructions

I. Rules

Races are to be sailed in accordance with:

- 1) The US Sailing Association (USSA) Racing Rules of Sailing for 2021-2024 except as modified by specific reference in these instructions.
- 2) The rules and regulations of PHRF and respective one-design class association rules, when not in conflict with these instructions. Any changes to these instructions will be announced on VHF Channel 69 by the Committee Boat prior to the 1800 race time.

II. Eligibility and Entry Requirements

To be eligible to participate and compete, all yachts must:

- 1) Return the completed registration form
- 2) Be assigned a rating
- 3) Pay the race packet fee
- 4) Be accepted, prior to the start of a series

III. USSA Requirements

US Sailing Association equipment for nearshore racing and U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment will be required for all races unless superseded by class rules.

IV. Notices, Divisions and Starts

Divisions and starts along with any notices to competitors will be announced prior to the first series.

V. Starting Time

Thursday racing shall commence at 1800. **All times are per GPS PDT.**

VI. Time Limit

- 1) The time limit for a class shall be 120 minutes from the start or Official Sunset, whichever comes first.
- 2) If at least one yacht in a class finishes within the 120-minute time limit, the remaining yachts shall have an additional 15 minutes **or until sunset, whichever comes first**, to finish.
- 3) If only one yacht in a class finishes within the time limits as above, **and** half course times are available for all yachts, the race will be scored with half course times for that class.

VII. Racing Signals

The start sequence will be conducted as per Rule 26 in the Racing Rules of sailing. An audible signal will be given 1 minute prior to the starting sequence of the race. The course for the day will be posted on the starboard side of the Committee Boat and/or announced on VHF Channel 69 prior to or with the warning signal. (See RRS 27.1)

The signal sequence for each race will be as follows:

*1750 Course Declared on Channel 69 and/or Course Board Displayed
1759 Audible ALERT, Race is about to begin. ° 5 Horn Blasts*

*1800 1 Horn ° Warning Signal for 1st Start ° Class Flag #1 Raised
1801 1 Horn ° Preparatory Signal for 1st Start ° Blue Flag Raised
1804 1 Long Horn ° Preparatory Flag down
1805 1 Horn ° **Class 1 Starts** ° Class Flag #1 down ° Class Flag #2 Raised*

*1806 1 Horn ° Preparatory Signal for 2nd Start ° Blue Flag Raised
1809 1 Long Horn ° Preparatory Flag Down
1810 1 Horn ° **Class 2 starts** ° Class #2 Flag Down ° Class #3 Flag Raised*

*1811 1 Horn ° Preparatory Signal for 3rd Start ° Blue Flag Raised
1814 1 Long Horn ° Preparatory Flag Down
1815 1 Horn ° **Class 3 Starts** ° Class #3 Flag Down ° Class #4 Flag Raised*

*1816 1 Horn ° Preparatory Signal for 4th Start ° Blue Flag Raised
1819 1 Long Horn ° Preparatory Flag Down
1820 1 Horn ° **Class 4 Starts** ° Class Flag 4 Down ° Class #5 Flag Raised*

*1821 1 Horn ° Preparatory signal for 5th Start ° Blue Flag Raised
1824 1 Long Horn ° Preparatory Flag Down
1825 1 Horn ° **Class 5 Starts** ° Class #5 Flag Down*

The postponement flag and shortened course flag will be flown from the Race Committee Boat as appropriate. Two horn blasts in quick succession will be sounded together with the hoisting of the AP flag for postponement. One horn will proceed lowering of the AP flag. The AP flag will be lowered 60 seconds before the next warning signal.

The Committee Boat will attempt to notify any yacht that is over early by sounding one horn blast, displaying code flag X, and calling out her name or sail number on VHF 69. Failure to display the flag or acknowledge the hail shall not constitute grounds for redress. A General Recall of a division will result in that division starting 5 minutes after the last scheduled start.

VIII. Courses

Courses are set out on the last pages of this race packet. It shall be the responsibility of each participant to verify the course. In the event of a question between the written instructions and the diagram of the course, WRITTEN INSTRUCTIONS DICTATE THE PROPER COURSE. Course changes will be made and signaled in accordance with USSA rules and announced on VHF Channel 69.

If a short course is called, the normal short course finish line will be a line at right angles to a line from the last mark to the short course finish mark. In all cases the decision of the Race Committee will be final in establishing the short course finish line.

IX. Start and Finish Lines

1. The start/finish line will be between a temporary mark (S) and a staff displaying an orange flag on the Committee Boat (A). No yacht shall pass through the start/finish line on a downwind leg unless required to do so by the Race Committee. Yachts shall stay at least 200 feet clear of the start line until their preparatory flag has been raised. Yachts may be disqualified by the Race Committee without protest for infringement of this rule.

IX. Rabbit Start and Finish

- 1) If no Committee Boat is on station for a start, a course or courses may be determined by the designated Race Officer and shall be started with a rabbit start.
- 2) The starts for all classes may be combined or not at the discretion of the Race Officer and the availability of boats volunteering to act as rabbits.
- 3) The start shall be conducted as a standard 5-minute sequence with sound signals, and VHF hails. Flags **will not be used**.
- 4) During the starting sequence, the rabbit shall have right of way over all other yachts, and any yacht interfering with her course may be disqualified at the rabbit's discretion.
- 5) The rabbit shall endeavor to cross a designated mark on a close-hauled, port tack course with approximately one minute to go before the start time.
- 6) The rabbit shall hold a steady close-hauled course after crossing the mark for at least one minute after the start time.
- 7) Once the start time is reached and the line opens, racing yachts shall cross a line between the stern of the rabbit and the designated mark *on starboard tack* in the direction of the first mark.
- 8) Yachts crossing the line prior to the start time, or on port tack will be considered "over early" and scored OCS (On Course Side) unless they restart. The rabbit will attempt to announce any OCS on VHF.
- 9) The rabbit will remain close hauled on port tack for 1 minute past the start time, and then she is free to maneuver.

- 10) In the case of light wind or other contingencies, a rabbit may use an engine to maintain course and open the starting line in a timely manner, but she shall turn off the engine at the first opportunity and shall not race for at least 2 minutes after turning off the engine.
- 11) Yachts designated OCS or who start after the rabbit becomes free to maneuver shall start within one boat length to starboard of the designated mark.
- 12) A yacht shall finish at the designated mark and **record her GPS time** as she passes within three boat lengths and the finish mark bears 270 degrees.
- 13) All yachts wishing points in a series shall submit their times to the Race Committee by email or text within 24 hours of the finish.

X. Use of Engine Propulsion

A yacht late for her start may use engine propulsion after her preparatory signal, but only to traverse to a normal, direct course from her mooring to the edge of the starting area, and she shall not start until five minutes after turning off her engine.

XI. Points and Scoring

- 1) Points will be awarded as provided by USSA Low Point System RRS Appendix A
- 2) Yachts not finishing, not starting, starting on the course side of the line, disqualified or not competing will be scored as follows:
 - a.i) DNF: number of finishers +1
 - a.ii) DNS, OCS, DSQ: Number of starters +1
 - a.iii) DNC: Number registered in class +1
- 3) Winner for the series shall be the yacht with the lowest score. A series may constitute 1 race. There will be one throw-out race in each series, provided that five or more races are completed for that series. A yacht shall receive a series score if she competes in at least three of the five races, or all races if 3 or fewer are completed. DSQs can NOT be used as throw outs.
- 4) A registered captain that serves on a Race Committee for a series will receive a 2nd in their class for that series, whether their boat is used as Committee Boat or not, unless the boat races with an alternative skipper.
- 5) Yachts registered for the season but not sailing a previous series may not be carried for scoring in subsequent series. This does not preclude them from competing, nor drop their registration.

XII. Ties

Ties will be settled using USSA RRS Appendix A 8.1 and 8.2.

XIII. Protests (CYC Bellingham does not have a protest committee)

- 1) In the spirit of fun and learning, we encourage yachts that violate the rules to exonerate themselves from their infractions by utilizing the Alternative Turns Penalty as provided in USSA RRS 20.2, 31.2, 44.1, 44.2.
- 2) The Race Committee may disqualify any yacht without protest for contact with another yacht.

XIV. Alternative Penalties

An infringing yacht may use a 360-degree, one-turn penalty as provided in the current USSA RRS 31.2 for touching a mark, and the 720-degree, two-turns penalty on RRS 44.1 and 44.2 for breaking any of the rules of RRS Part 2.

XV. Miscellaneous

- 1) Borrowed sails may be used provided they do not affect the yacht's handicap. Borrowed sails must be registered by sail number with the Race Committee prior to starting any race in which they will be used.
- 2) Yachts racing in the Cruising or Non-Flying Sails class may not use any "unhanked" or "flying" sails.
- 3) Communications between the racing fleet and the Race Committee will be on VHF channel 69.

XVI. Responsibilities of the Yacht Captain

It is the sole responsibility of each yacht's captain to decide whether to start, continue, or withdraw from any event. It is not the responsibility of the Race committee to point out hazards on the race course. It is the responsibility of each captain to use sufficient charts and aids for navigation as well as determine his own abilities and crew limitations for safety.

XVII. Life Jackets

All dingy competitors shall wear life jackets or other adequate personal buoyancy at all times while racing, and while traveling to and from the racecourse. In accordance with USAA Part 4 RRS 40.1, ALL PHRF and One-Design keelboat competitors shall wear personal floatation devices when code flag Y is displayed on the Committee Boat. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a DSQ.

XVIII. Fouling Committee Boat

Any yacht hitting the Committee Boat at any time or for any reason will be disqualified from the race, without protest. Any yacht forcing another yacht to hit the Committee Boat will also be disqualified. A second violation shall result in disqualification for the series. Any damage to the Committee Boat will be the responsibility of the disqualified yacht.

XIX. Race Committee Personnel

Race Committee personnel donate their time and effort. If you have a problem with the administration of a race, contact Sean Jones at (360) 333-7791. Any harassment of the Race Committee will result in a disqualification under USSA Section CRRS 69.

XX. Trophies and Awards

Trophies will be awarded to the top four finishers in each division. In addition, the "TOP BANANA" trophy will be awarded to the boat with the best overall performance, THE MIDDLEST to the Boat with closest to overall average performance, and THE GOLDEN B-HIND to the boat with the most room for improvement.

XXI. Entry Fees and Registration

The entry fee for participation in CYC of Bellingham's racing calendar is \$55. This includes all Thursday night series and any CYC sponsored long distance races.

For cruisers interested in racing, a \$20 fee for one series of racing is available. First-time racers who have completed the registration form and acknowledged receipt of the 2022 Race Packet will pay no fee for their first race or series.

Registration will require proof of liability insurance to \$300,000 and a current PHRF certificate. If your yacht doesn't have a current PHRF rating, please state so on your registration and a fair rating

will be determined by CYC of Bellingham and the Race Committee. If you require a PHRF certificate, please contact Todd Koetje at PHRF@cycbellingham.org

XXII. Cooperation with BYC Racing Program

2022 CYC members who have paid the racing fee are eligible to participate in all Bellingham Yacht Club races. Racers will need a valid PHRF certificate. Please contact sailfleet@byc.org for registration details.

CYC Racing Officer Sean Jones - Cell 360-333-7791
Corinthian Yacht Club of Bellingham "We Sail Friendly. It's what sets us apart."

Notes: _____

Appendix A

*******PLEASE NOTE*******

PUGET SOUND ORCA WHALE AVOIDANCE

WASHINGTON STATE LAW RCW 77.15.740 MAKES IT ILLEGAL TO:

- 1) Cause a vessel or other object to approach, in any manner, within 300 yards of a southern resident orca whale
- 2) Position a vessel to be in the path of a southern resident orca whale at any point located within 400 yards of the whale. This includes intercepting a Southern resident orca whale by positioning a vessel so that the prevailing wind or water current carries the vessel into the path of the whale at any point located within 400 yards of the whale.
- 3) Fail to disengage the transmission of a vessel that is within 300 yards of a southern resident orca whale
- 4) Cause a vessel or other object to exceed a speed greater than 7 knots over ground at any point located within one-half nautical mile (1,013 yards) of a southern resident orca whale
- 5) Feed a southern resident orca whale

Appendix B

The Ten Commandments of CYC Racing

1. Thou shalt not take anything other than safety too seriously. If you can only remember one commandment, this is the one. Relax, have fun, and keep it light. Late to the start? So what? Over early? No big deal. Too windy? Quit. Not enough wind? Break out the beverages. The point is to have fun but stay safe. As the ad says, "Safe boating is no accident."
2. Thou shalt honor the racing rules if you know them. The 2021-2024 US Sailing Association Racing rules is the current rules bible. Few sailors have actually studied it cover to cover: it's about as interesting as reading tax code or the phone book. For CYC racing, just remember some of the biggies (port tack boats shall avoid starboard ones; windward shall avoid leeward ones; and outside boats shall give room at the mark). Stay out of the way of bigger boats, pay your insurance premiums, and keep a low profile unless you are sure you know what you're doing. Like most things, it boils down to common sense.
3. Thou shalt not covet thy competitor's boat, sails, equipment, crew, or PHRF rating. No excuses or whining; if you're lucky enough to own a sailboat, just go use it! You don't need the latest widgetry or unobtainium sailcloth to have a great time out on the water with friends. Even if your boat is less than competitive, make modest goals and work toward improving on them from week to week, or don't. The goal is to have fun.
4. Thou shalt not amp out. No screaming, swearing, or overly aggressive tactics. Save that stuff for the office or, if you must, for a real race. If you're going to lose it on a Thursday night, you're going to run out of crew, not to mention friends in a big hurry.
5. Thou shalt not protest thy neighbor. This is extremely tacky at this level of competition and should be avoided. Perhaps it's justified if one's boat is damaged and blame needs to
6. be established. If an infraction has occurred then do your turns on the course and exonerate yourself. Remember there is no protest committee.
7. Thou shalt not mess up your boat. Everybody knows some hardcore racer who ripped up his sails on a Thursday evening and had to sit out race week. The point is that it's not worth risking your boat and gear in such casual competition: As the song says, you gotta know when to hold 'em, and know when to fold 'em. Avoid other boats at all costs, not to mention buoys and other hard objects. If you have the luxury of two sets of sails, use the old ones.
8. Thou shalt always go to the favorite watering hole afterwards. Etiquette demands that you congratulate the winners, as well as buying a round for your crew. Besides the bar is where the results are calculated and announced. Also the bar is a great place to see old friends and to make new ones.
9. Thou shalt bring you spouse, kids, friends, and whoever else wants to go. CYC Thursday evening races are great forums for introducing new people to sailing, such as our neighbors, out-of-town visitors, co-workers and maybe even the family dog. Always bring your significant other along. Co-ed crews are happy crews, and don't just make newcomers watch. Give them a job on the boat. Get everyone involved.
10. Thou shalt not worry; be happy. Leave the cell phone in the car, bring some tunes. Lighten up, it's not the America's Cup.
11. And above all remember Bill's 10th commandment "In the event of a potential conflict, assume that the other skipper is less knowledgeable than you and that his boat is less maneuverable than yours. Have fun!"