

SOUTH SOUND SAILING SOCIETY

2026 PHRF SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

1. RULES

- 1.1. The races will be governed by the 2025 - 2028 Racing Rules of Sailing (hereinafter referred to as **RRS**), including the USSA Prescriptions, class rules, Notice of Race (NOR), and these sailing instructions.
- 1.2. The sailing instructions for each race or series are attached as an appendix to these sailing instructions: Appendix A, Buoy Racing; Appendix B, Distance Races; Appendix C, Individual Races not in a Series.

2. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS – Notices to competitors will be posted on the South Sound Sailing Society (SSSS) website notice board at <https://www.ssssclub.com/>

3. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS – Changes to the sailing instructions will be posted on the SSSS website notice board one week prior to them taking effect.

4. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE – The Race Committee will not make signals ashore. If the race is canceled prior to the Race Committee leaving the dock, competitors will be notified by email from the Race Chair or their designate, and posted per Sailing Instruction 2.

5. SCHEDULE OF RACES

- 5.1. The schedule of races for the season is published on the SSSS website.
- 5.2. The scheduled time of the first warning signal for each race is found in the individual race or series sailing instructions, which are attached as an appendix to these sailing instructions.

6. CLASS FLAGS – The following are the class flags that will be displayed as class flags by the signal boat during the starting sequence (see the NOR for the flag a boat is requested to fly while racing):

Class 1 - Numeral Pennant No. 1



Class 2 - Numeral Pennant No. 2



See the NOR for class descriptions

7. RACING AREA

- 7.1. The racing area for Buoy Racing is Budd Inlet north of Government Mark No. 5.
- 7.2. Distance races will be as given in the Sailing Instructions for the series provided in the Appendix.

8. COURSES

- 8.1. Distance race courses are described in Appendix B for each race.
- 8.2. Buoy race courses are signaled from the Signal Boat at, or before the warning signal. See Appendix A, Buoy Racing, for the course signals.
- 8.3. The races may be shortened at any mark of the course, as defined in the individual race Sailing Instructions. The race will be shortened in accordance with rule 32.2.
- 8.4. If the race is shortened for some, but not all classes, the class flags for the classes for which the race is shorted will also be displayed.

**SOUTH SOUND SAILING SOCIETY
2026 PHRF SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

9. MARKS

- 9.1. Distance race marks are landmarks such as islands and points of land, government navigational marks, mark boats, or temporary orange, red and yellow inflatable marks as described in the individual race Sailing Instructions.
- 9.2. The marks for Buoy Racing will be white cylindrical South Sound Sailing Society marks approximately 2 feet tall, government navigation marks, or inflatable orange, red and yellow drop marks.

10. THE START

- 10.1. The races will be started using rule 26 with a warning signal 5 minutes before the start.
- 10.2. For the first class to start, one minute prior to the warning signal, an attention signal will be made using multiple sound signals.
- 10.3. The starting line will be between the orange flag on the signal boat and the course side of the starting mark.
- 10.4. General and Individual Recalls will be signaled in accordance with rule 29, Recalls.
- 10.5. After the Preparatory Signal has been given for a start, all boats whose warning signal has not been given shall stay clear of the Starting Area. The Starting Area lies within 200 feet of either side of the starting line and 200 feet of its ends.

11. THE FINISH

- 11.1. The finish line is between the blue flag on the signal boat and the course side of the finish mark.
- 11.2. If the race committee is absent when a boat finishes, she should report her finishing time, and her position in relation to nearby boats, to the race committee at the first reasonable opportunity.

12. PENALTIES

- 12.1. The one and two-turns penalties, in accordance with rule 44.2, will apply for all races.
- 12.2. When the term, "serious damage", is used in the rules it is defined as \$1000 total repair cost for the damaged boat(s) involved in the incident.

13. PROPULSION

- 13.1. In accordance with rule 42, Propulsion, a boat shall not use her engine to gain ground in the direction of the race, hold position in adverse current or otherwise gain advantage over its competition while racing, with the following exceptions, this amends rule 42.3, Exceptions.
- 13.2. A boat that has not started may use her engine for propulsion after her Preparatory Signal to position herself to start. She shall not start until five minutes after shutting off her engine. This use is not allowed inside the starting area, as defined in Sailing Instruction 10.5, and must stop upon reaching the edge of the starting area. The one exception is that a boat inside the starting area can power out of it, but only by the most direct route to the nearest edge and if taking care not to interfere with any boat that is racing. She is then treated like other boats subject to this rule.
- 13.3. An engine may always be used to aid another vessel or its crew, racing or not. A record of the time devoted to such aid and the circumstances requiring it shall be kept and submitted in writing, within the protest time limit, to the Protest Chair to be considered for redress. The time spent giving aid may be deducted from a yacht's elapsed time.

**SOUTH SOUND SAILING SOCIETY
2026 PHRF SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

- 13.4. An engine may be used to rescue one's own crew. Such use shall be reported to the Protest Chair, in writing, within the protest time limit. Time lost in making a rescue will be the yacht's penalty for use of engine propulsion.
- 13.5. A boat becalmed and in danger of being run down by a vessel under power may use her engine to gain a safe position. A record of where she was when starting the engine, how long it ran, and where she was when she turned it off shall be kept. This, along with a written report, shall be submitted to the Protest Chair within the protest time limit.
- 13.6. An engine may be used to charge batteries or operate ship's domestic systems at any time without penalty, if it is disconnected from any means of propulsion. It shall be the skipper's responsibility to ensure that the propeller is not turning.

14.TIME LIMITS

- 14.1. Time limits are given in the individual race Sailing Instructions. If no boat in a class has sailed the course in accordance with rule 28, Sailing the Course, and finished within the specified time limit, the race will be abandoned for that class.
- 14.2. Unless the individual race Sailing Instruction state otherwise, if at least one boat in a class has sailed the course and finished within the time limit, the time limit for the other boats in the class will be her finish time plus 30 minutes, or the given time limit for the race, whichever is smaller. All boats in that class that have started, but not finished when the time limit expires, are scored Did Not Finish. This changes rule 35, Race Time Limit and Scores.

15.PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

- 15.1. Protests, and requests for redress shall be made in accordance with [RRS](#) Part 5 Section A, except that all boats, regardless of length, must fly a protest flag. This amends rule 60.2 a (1), Intention to Protest.
- 15.2. The Race Committee shall be notified of the intent to protest, and the boat being protested immediately upon finishing or, if unable to finish, as soon as possible after reaching port.
- 15.3. All protests and requests for redress shall be in writing, hand delivered to the Protest Chair, or by email to protests@ssssclub.com, 24 hours after the start of the race in which the protested incident occurred.
- 15.4. Protests and requests for redress will be heard as soon as possible in a place designated by the Protest Chair. The Protest Chair will give ample notice to all parties if a change of location is necessary.
- 15.5. Concession by withdrawing from the race in question, or withdrawal of a protest, may be made at any time prior to the hearing. This amends rule 63.1, Requirement for a Hearing. The Protest Chair must be notified promptly of such intent to allow notification of all parties.
- 15.6. The protest committee will, if notified from any source, protest a boat for sailing across a topline or impeding commercial traffic by sailing too close. This amends rule 60.3. If a boat is disqualified, she will be scored DNE, and the score will not be excluded from any series.
- 15.7. In the event there is a collision resulting in personal injury or serious damage, as defined in Sailing Instruction 12, the protest committee will protest the boats involved in the incident, if no protest has been filed, or one of the boats has not taken responsibility, and notified the Protest Chair in writing. If a boat is disqualified by a protest committee-initiated protest, she will be scored DNE, and the score will not be excluded from any series.

**SOUTH SOUND SAILING SOCIETY
2026 PHRF SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

15.8. A boat causing damage to the race committee boat, will be scored DNE without a hearing. This amends [RRS](#) rule 63.1, Requirement for a Hearing. If she believes she was caused to do so by another boat, she must protest that boat, file a written protest within the time limit, and the other boat found responsible by the protest committee after a hearing; or the other boat may notify the Protest Chair in writing that she was responsible for the damage prior to the hearing. The boat responsible for damage will be held liable for such damage, and scored DNE.

16.SCORING

- 16.1. The low point scoring system of [RRS](#) Appendix A will be used, except as modified herein. Race results will be determined based on a boats corrected time using the PHRF time on distance handicap system. See the NOR for determining classes and handicaps.
- 16.2. The number of races scheduled for a series is as shown in the Sailing Instructions for that series. One race is needed to constitute a series. When the series sailing instructions indicate a throw out, it will apply only if all the all the scheduled number of races are sailed.
- 16.3. The following scoring penalties will apply, and modifies rule A5, Scores Determined by the Race Committee:

DNC	Number of finishers plus 2	
DNS	Number of finishers plus 1	
OCS	Number of finishers plus 1	
DNF	Number of finishers plus 1	
NSC	Number of finishers plus 1	
RET	Number of finishers plus 1	
DSQ	Number of finishers plus 3	
DNE	Number of finishers plus 3, not excludable	

See rule A10, Scoring Abbreviations, for the descriptions.

- 16.4. For series scoring first place will be given 0.75 points. This modifies rule A4, Low Point System.
- 16.5. Race ties are scored as provided in rule A7, Race Ties.
- 16.6. Series ties will be broken using the following criteria in succession, which replaces rule A8, Series Ties:
 - 16.6.1. Total score including excluded races.
 - 16.6.2. If still tied the boat finishing ahead of the others in the most races.
 - 16.6.3. If still tied they will be declared tied, and will be placed in the highest position in question in a series. No boat will be placed above her actual place as a result of a tie between boats above her.

**SOUTH SOUND SAILING SOCIETY
2026 PHRF SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

16.7. A boat serving as race committee, if participating in at least two additional races in that series, will be scored the lower of: the average of her finishes for that series, or DNF for the race she was race committee. If she does not race at least two additional races in that series, she will be scored as DNC for the race she was Committee Boat.

17.SAFETY

- 17.1. Check-In Procedure: A boat shall check in with the race committee prior to the race by announcing her boat name, and/or sail number by radio call on channel 72.
- 17.2. A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee as soon as possible. A boat that does not report their withdrawal will be scored DNC.

18.EQUIPMENT

- 18.1. Boats must comply with USCG equipment requirements for vessels of their class. In addition, see the specific series sailing instructions for when compliance with US Sailing Nearshore safety equipment requirements, as amended by the South Sound Sailing Society, is required.
- 18.2. Single or double-handed crews must wear a Coast Guard approved PFD when racing.
- 18.3. A boats equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the equipment requirements.
- 18.4. Failure to comply with these requirements will be cause for disqualification by protest by either the Race Committee or a participating boat.

19.COMMUNICATIONS

- 19.1. The race committee will monitor channel 72 during the race. In addition, there will be a cell phone on board, phone number (360) 890-8450. In fairness to all competitors, the race committee is not required to answer any call from contestants except in emergency, or acknowledging check-ins and withdrawals.
- 19.2. Except in an emergency, checking in, or notice of withdrawals, a boat shall neither make radio transmissions while racing nor receive radio communications not available to all boats. This restriction also applies to mobile telephones.

20. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY - 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 rule 3, Decision to Race. 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 injury to any competitor, including death, sustained as a result of participation in these events. By participating, each competitor agrees to release the race organizers from any and all liability associated with such competitor's participation to the fullest extent permitted by law.