



BENSON CUP

Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions

[Orcas Island Yacht Club](#) is pleased to invite you to the 2021 edition of our annual Benson Cup on Saturday, October 2, 2021. This is our club's end-of-season race and we welcome our friends from other clubs to join us. As is traditionally done, net proceeds will be donated to the [Orcas Island Children's House](#) non-profit, who provide a dynamic play-based curriculum that prepares children for kindergarten and life.

IMPORTANT COVID-19 INFORMATION

Competitors are expected to adhere to current Washington State and San Juan County rules and guidelines in effect on the day of the race. With recognition that COVID-19 continues to be a threat to our local community, OIYC requests that only competitors **who are fully vaccinated or who have had a negative COVID test within 72 hours of the event** attend the after-racing socializing at the Jones Island State Park dock.

1. RULES

- 1.1. The race will be governed by the rules as defined in [The Racing Rules of Sailing](#) and the [prescriptions of the U.S. Sailing Association](#).
- 1.2. The rules of PHRF-NW shall apply to boats sailing under PHRF ratings. All boats must have a valid 2021 PHRF certificate or be listed on the current PHRF-NW roster.
- 1.3. Any rules of the individual Class Associations shall apply for each participating class.
- 1.4. U.S. Sailing [Safety Equipment Requirements \(SER\)](#) for "Nearshore" shall apply to all PHRF boats.
- 1.5. RRS 52, Manual Power, is amended to include: Boats sailing single- or double-handed are allowed to use autopilot mechanisms for sail changes and other situations where having one crew member assigned to steering the yacht may compromise the safety of crew and craft.

2. REGISTRATION

The entry fee is \$40 with [advance registration](#) before Thursday, September 30 at 1800.

3. CLASSES

- 3.1. Fully crewed (3+) and shorthanded (1-2) classes will be offered. A class may be split into multiple divisions based on PHRF rating at the discretion of the race committee.
- 3.2. Fleet splits will be posted by Friday, October 1 at 1800.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

- 4.1. Updates to this NOR and SIs will be posted to the [Benson Cup site](#).
- 4.2. Race committee will monitor VHF channel 68 and use this channel for the starting sequence.
- 4.3. Notices to competitors may be made on VHF channel 68. Failure to do so, the failure to hear the communication, or any other issues regarding the communication shall not constitute grounds for redress. This changes RRS 62.1(a).
- 4.4. Changes to the SIs may be made by the Principal Race Officer (PRO) on the water on VHF 68.

5. THE COURSE

- 5.1. The start will be off the northeast corner of Jones Island in Spring Passage between the permanent marker at 48° 37.217' N and 123° 02.562' W and the orange flag on the committee boat. The pin end area of the line is an obstruction, so watch the depth. If the race committee cannot set the line as described, it may move into the cove and instruct the fleet on VHF radio as to how the new line will work. The starting direction will be from the south to the north.
- 5.2. A race committee member may attempt to notify OCS boats by VHF radio. Failure to notify will not be grounds for a request for redress. This changes rule 62.1(a).
- 5.3. The course is around Waldron Island in any direction.
- 5.4. The finish will be at the same location as the start. The finishing direction will be from the north to the south.
- 5.5. The time on distance formula will be used for scoring with a course distance of 15 miles.

6. SCHEDULE

- 6.1. The scheduled start time is 1100 but may be modified to a later time by the race committee. All classes will start together. Races will be started by using Rule 26.
- 6.2. All boats MUST check in with the race committee before the scheduled start time. The race committee will acknowledge a check-in with the boat's name and/or sail number. It is the responsibility of each boat to ensure that the race committee acknowledges her check-in.
- 6.3. The time limit for the race shall be 1700. No signals will be made after this time.
- 6.4. After racing, competitors are invited to the Jones Island State Park dock for post-event socializing. Please bring your own beverages and food (no potluck).

7. PROTESTS

- 7.1. Protests will be heard at the conclusion of the race at the Jones Island State Park dock or via Zoom if parties are not present. Forms will not be provided.
- 7.2. A boat intending to protest must inform the race committee by VHF or in person when finishing or at the time limit, whichever is earlier.
- 7.3. The protest time limit will be 30 MINUTES from the time of the last boat to finish or 1730 hours, whichever is earlier.

8. SAFETY

- 8.1. Each boat must have a VHF radio and charts of the area around Orcas Island.
- 8.2. A boat retiring from the race is required to notify the race committee before leaving the race area or as soon as possible thereafter. The race committee will monitor VHF channel 68. You may also call or text 253.405.1498 or email stephanie@dashracing.org.
- 8.3. The race committee reserves the right to cancel or postpone due to unsafe conditions. However, the fact that the race committee has not cancelled a race, nor the fact that other boats are still racing, should not be interpreted to mean that conditions are necessarily safe for all vessels. It is the responsibility of the individual yacht to decide when conditions are unsafe for their vessel and to take appropriate safety measures.

9. AWARDS

- 9.1. There will be overall scoring and divisional scoring for all boats.
- 9.2. Awards will be provided for first, second, and third in each class based on corrected time. The first overall finisher based on correct time will also be memorialized on the perpetual event trophy.

10. INSURANCE

The owner must have third-party liability insurance for their boat, applicable for sailboat racing, having a minimum coverage of \$400,000. If the owner is not on board, the policy must be valid for a non-owner person in charge.

11. 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 3, Decision to Race](#). The race organizers (Orcas Island Yacht Club, organizing authority, race committee, protest committee, sponsors, OIYC Board members, 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 any and all liability associated with such competitor's participation in this event to the fullest extent permitted by law.