



BENSON CUP

Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions

[Orcas Island Yacht Club](#) is pleased to invite you to the 2025 edition of our annual Benson Cup on Saturday, October 4th, 2025. 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, which provides a dynamic play-based curriculum that prepares children for kindergarten and life. Children's House is committed to giving every child a chance to come to school, regardless of their family's ability to pay

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 2025 PHRF certificate or be listed on the current PHRF-NW roster.
- 1.3. RRS Appendix T and Rule V1 in Appendix V will apply.
- 1.4. Any rules of the individual Class Associations shall apply for each participating class, except as changed by this Notice of Race and by the Sailing Instructions.
- 1.5. U.S. Sailing [Safety Equipment Requirements \(SER\)](#) for "[Nearshore](#)" shall apply to all boats.
- 1.6. 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.
- 1.7. A boat rated by her handicap class in consideration of water ballast may use water ballast as rated. This changes RRS 51.
- 1.8. All entrants shall be members of clubs in good standing with their respective national authorities.

2. REGISTRATION

The entry fee is **\$30 with online registration** before the race starts. Proceeds net of payment fees go to Orcas Island Children's House. Any additional gift to the OICH can be made voluntarily at the time of registration.

3. CLASSES

- 3.1. The fleet may be split into multiple classes. Class breaks will be published 24 hours prior to the race on the event website.

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 south to 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 north to 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 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.

7. PROTESTS

- 7.1. Protests will be heard at the conclusion of the race at the Jones Island State Park dock or via phone or video conference 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 or whichever is earlier.

8. SAFETY

- 8.1. Each boat must have a VHF radio and charts of the race area.
- 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 360-317-4053.
- 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 canceled a race, or 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 class scoring.
- 9.2. Awards will be provided for the first, second, and third in each class based on corrected time. The first overall finisher based on corrected 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 \$500,000. Insurance must specifically cover racing and allow for "permissive use" if a skipper other than the owner is the 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.

12. SHORTENED COURSE

12.1 In the event that the wind looks to be too light to make it all the way around Waldron Island a shorter course will be used. The course will use the same starting line as previously described. START then leave Flat Top Island to PORT and then leave Jones Island to PORT. FINISH by crossing the same line as the start of the race while sailing NORTH. Leave permanent marker at 48° 37.217' N and 123° 02.562' W to PORT and the committee boat to STARBOARD.

12.2 If the first boat finishes before 2PM and most of the fleet are not far behind and the wind is OK for sailing then the Race Committee can call for a second lap of the same course.

12.3 If this course option is used then the scoring will be done using Time On Time.

12.4 The decision to use this course option will be made by surveying the fleet before the start. Communication about this will be on VHF Channel 68.