



# Notice of Race & Sailing Instructions

2026 Shaw Island Winter Classic

Saturday, February 7th 2026

# ORCAS HOTEL

Our sponsors, the Orcas Hotel, West Sound Marina, and the Orcas Island Yacht Club, are pleased to invite you to participate in the annual Shaw Island Winter Classic sailboat race.

## **RULES**

The regatta will be governed by [The Racing Rules of Sailing \(RRS, 2025-2028\)](#), the [prescriptions of PHRF-NW](#), and this Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions.

## **ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY**

All boats must have a valid PHRF certificate or be listed on the current PHRF-NW roster. Boats not meeting this requirement may be disqualified without a hearing. All boats must also meet the [U.S Sailing Safety Equipment Requirements \(SER\)](#) for "Nearshore."

Advance registration is required via the registration form found on the event website [oiyc.org/shawwinter](http://oiyc.org/shawwinter)

## **DIVISIONS**

There will be one or two PHRF divisions depending on the number of boats registered. Divisions will be posted to the event website at [oiyc.org/shawwinter](http://oiyc.org/shawwinter) in advance of the start.

## **ENTRY FEE AND REGISTRATION**

The entry fee is \$40. Registration must be done online at [oiyc.org/shawwinter](http://oiyc.org/shawwinter)

## **SCHEDULE**

The deadline for registration is 12PM February 6th, 2026. The postponement flag will drop at 9:54AM, the first warning at 9:55AM and the start will be at 10:00AM unless postponed by the race committee. All divisions will start at the same time. Racing will be concluded no later than 1700. No finish times will be recorded after that time.

## **SOCIAL EVENTS**

A dinner and awards ceremony will be held at the Orcas Hotel on Saturday after racing. Dinner will be served between 1600 hours and 1800 hours. Please support our sponsor by planning to stay for dinner. Discount pricing is available for racers. Call the Orcas Hotel if you have questions about pricing and menu. 360-376-4300

Transportation to/from the Orcas Hotel can be arranged from West Sound Marina and the OIYC facilities upon request.

## **MOORAGE**

Moorage is available at West Sound Marina or the OIYC dock (no power or water at the OIYC dock), both in West Sound about 20 minutes from the start/finish line. Moorage is free for racers. Call West Sound Marina at 360-376-2314 to reserve dock space. Moorage at the OIYC dock is first-come, first-served for racers who are members of reciprocal yacht clubs.

## **LAND ACCOMMODATIONS**

The [Orcas Hotel](#) has rooms available for racers and crew. Call the Orcas Hotel at 360-376-4300 for reservations. Be sure to mention that you are sailing in this race to receive a special discount.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

VHF channel 68 will be used for race communications. Except in the case of an emergency or retirement, radio communications to the race committee are discouraged during the prerace sequence.

Boats that retire or do not finish by the time limit MUST contact the race committee by VHF channel 68 (and receive a reply), or by phone (360) 317-4053 (and send a text if not answered) by 1700 on the day of racing. Boats that fail to do this will be scored DSQ without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.

#### **STARTING AND FINISHING**

All signals will be flown/sounded from the balcony of the Orcas Hotel. The postponement flag will drop promptly at 9:54AM and the start will be at 10:00AM. Please stay out of the way of all ferries. An announcement will be made by radio VHF channel 68 prior to the start sequence. The starting sequence will be as specified in [RRS Rule 26](#). **Competitors are encouraged to monitor VHF channel 68 during the starting sequence.** The cutoff time for finishing is 1700 hours.

#### **COURSE**

The start/finish line will be in Cayou Channel. A flag on the upper balcony of the Orcas Hotel will mark the STARBOARD end of the line. The flagpole on Shaw Island at approximately 48° 35.170 N and 122° 56.534 W will mark the PORT end of the line.

The course will be clockwise around Shaw Island. Competitors shall be considerate of narrow waterways and provide sufficient space for larger vessels to navigate regardless of competitive position at the time. Each boat must have a VHF radio to take directions given by WSF. Monitor bridge to bridge.

There will be a shortened course between the southern tip of Canoe Island (48°33.280'N 122°55.514'W) and Flat Point Warning Light 2 on Lopez (48°33.091'N 122°55.206'W). Please record your finish times there. The full course finish line will still be the same as the starting line (but from the other direction).

#### **PROTESTS AND REDRESS**

Protests shall be filed in accordance with [RRS 60](#) by 1730. Protest forms will not be provided. On Course Side (OCS) boats that did not return and properly start will have no grounds for redress. Failure to hear an announcement by the race committee or failure by the race committee to make a broadcast or to time it accurately will not be grounds for a request for redress. This changes [RRS 62.1\(a\)](#).

#### **SCORING**

The race will be scored by division using Time on Distance (TOD), where 12 nautical miles will be the reference.

#### **PRIZES**

Awards for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> will be awarded to each division. Additionally, the fastest overall winner on corrected time will be memorialized on the perpetual trophy on display in the Orcas Hotel dining room.

#### **WHALES**

Vessels may not approach within 200 yards of a southern resident killer whale. Boaters may not position a vessel to be in the path of a southern resident whale at any point located within 400 yards of the whale. This includes 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. Boaters are obligated to disengage the transmission [Move away] of a vessel that is within 200 yards of a southern resident whale and boaters may not feed a southern resident whale.

#### **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 member, 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.

#### **INSURANCE**

The owner must have third-party liability insurance for their boat, applicable for sailboat racing, having a minimum coverage of \$500,000 USD. If the owner is not on board, the policy must be valid for a non-owner person in charge.

Register today on OIYC website: <https://oiyc.org/shawwinter>

For questions or further information, please email  
Ryan Forbes [rifski76@gmail.com](mailto:rifski76@gmail.com) or call 206-914-6495

