



NOTICE OF RACE/Sailing Instructions

RACE TO THE STRAITS

Saturday May 4 & Sunday May 5, 2024

1. **Rules:** This race is governed by the current Racing Rules of Sailing except as modified by the [STYC General Sailing Instructions \(GSI\)](#), these Sailing Instructions, and the USCG VTS Navigation Rules.
2. **Eligibility and Entry Deadline:** This is a double handed or single handed race. Double handed boats may consist of any two crew members (male or female). This race will count as part of the Triple Sound Series ([scoring rules here](#)). Entries must be received on the STYC website (www.styc.org), no later than 2400, on Friday, April 26th. A valid PHRF-NW certificate is required for racing. Valid PHRF-NW certificates must be received by the regular registration deadline, or at the time of registration for late entries.

A) SINGLE-HANDED LOA 35' and Under – \$205.00

Registration for this category will be \$205 and will include 2 full days of racing + admission to the mandatory skipper meeting (yes there will be beer AND food) + Halfway Party admission wristband for the skipper (additional admission wristbands for non-racing crew/family can be purchased for \$50 each) + Moorage at Pt Hudson marina or one of the public docks that are included within the reservation that STYC has with the Port.

B) SINGLE-HANDED LOA Over 35' – \$255.00

Registration for this category will be \$255 and will include 2 full days of racing + admission to the mandatory skipper meeting (yes there will be beer AND food) + halfway party admission wristband for the skipper (additional admission wristbands for non-racing crew/family can be purchased for \$50 each) + Moorage at Pt. Hudson marina or one of the public docks that are included within the reservation that STYC has with the Port.

C) DOUBLE-HANDED LOA 35' and Under – \$250.00

Registration for this category will be \$250 and will include 2 full days of racing + admission to the mandatory skipper meeting (yes there will be beer AND food) + Halfway Party admission wristband for the skipper plus 1 crew (additional admission wristbands for non-racing crew/family can be purchased for \$50 each) + Moorage at Pt Hudson marina or one of the public docks that are included within the reservation that STYC has with the Port.

D) DOUBLE-HANDED LOA Over 35' – \$290.00

Registration for this category will be \$290 and will include 2 full days of racing + admission to the mandatory skipper meeting (yes there will be beer AND food) + halfway party admission wristband for the skipper plus 1 crew (additional admission wristbands for non-racing crew/family can be purchased for \$50 each) + Moorage at Pt. Hudson marina or one of the public docks that are included within the reservation that STYC has with the Port. Due to space in the marina, we have limited spots for 40 boats here, with a wait list in this category.

All registrations are available to both members and non-members. There are a limited number of spots available. Registrations are non-transferable and non-refundable.

Additional Halfway Party Tickets - \$50

Party Tickets are for any additional racing and non-racing crew members besides the skipper as well as friends and family who may want to join in the fun! This fee allows entrance to the Maritime Center where attendees will receive a starter course of fresh homemade chowders + a full dinner including dessert + a hosted bar which includes both beer and wine options. Non-alcoholic beverage options will also be available.



3. **Crew Size Limits:** This is a double handed or single handed race. Crew size is limited to no more than 2 total including the skipper. Violation of this rule will result in a DSQ.
4. **Race category:** All sailboats must comply with the World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations - for Inshore Racing (Appendix B), latest version. A list of these requirements is available online at [http://www.sailing.org/tools/documents/WorldSailingOffshoreSpecialRegulations20182019180104-\[23449\].pdf](http://www.sailing.org/tools/documents/WorldSailingOffshoreSpecialRegulations20182019180104-[23449].pdf) – Additionally: (1) all competitors must wear PFDs and single-handed skippers must wear safety harnesses at all times; (2) all boats must have a working VHF radio; (3) All boats must have an engine that is immediately operable and capable of propelling the boat at 90% of hull speed in flat water for 2 hours. We reserve the right to conduct random safety checks which may occur at any time.
5. **Divisions and Starting Times:** Class breaks will be posted on the STYC website (www.styc.org) by 1800 the Friday before the race. This is a pursuit style race with the first start each day at approximately 0800. The class breaks will include starting time. See “Starting” below.
6. **Time Limit:** The time limit for this race is 1900 on each day. The half-way time limit for both days is 1600. There will be no extensions.
7. **Communication:** The race committee will utilize VHF channel 72 for on water communications. A failure by the race committee to issue a communication, the failure of a competitor to hear the communication, or any other issues regarding the communication shall not constitute grounds for redress. This changes RRS 62.1(a).
8. **Race Distance and Course:** The full course length is 30.255 nautical miles each day. Saturday’s race will be from Shilshole Bay to Point Hudson keeping the Double Bluff Buoy to port. Sunday’s race will be from Point Hudson to Shilshole Bay keeping the Double Bluff Buoy to starboard. All boats are prohibited from using the Port Townsend Canal. The short course lengths (if necessary) are 17.868 nautical miles on Saturday and 12.387 nautical miles on Sunday and will finish at the Double Bluff Buoy.

The Port Townsend committee boat will be South of the finish buoy.

The starting line for day one will be between the Shilshole N Buoy (Round Ball) and the committee boat, leaving the buoy to port. The finish line for day one is between the committee boat and the Point Hudson Buoy (R “2”), keeping the buoy to Starboard. The starting line for day two will be between the Point Hudson Buoy and the committee boat, keeping the buoy to Port. The finish on day two will be between the Shilshole N Buoy (Round Ball) and the Race Committee keeping the buoy to starboard.

All boats are required to pass **between** the Double Bluff Buoy (G “1”) and the Whidbey Island shore on both days and to record the exact time the buoy bears 239° magnetic, relative to the helmsman in the normal steering position, which is between the Double Bluff Buoy and the Double Bluff Light on shore (the bearing to the Double Bluff Light will be 59° magnetic at the point of crossing).

MARK	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
Shilshole N Buoy (Round Ball)	47.41.064 N	122.24.679 W
Double Bluff Lighted Buoy 1	47.57.974 N	122.33.271 W
Point Hudson (R “2”)	48.07.457 N	122.44.663 W

This is a two day race. It is scored on cumulative time for both days (see Scoring below).



9. **Starting:** GPS time is your official start time. The Race Committee will make no sound or flag signals during the start sequence except for OCS or delays. All boats, regardless of division or class, will start in reverse order based on the Time on Distance handicapping method. The slowest rated boat(s) will start first and the fastest rated boat(s) will start last. PHRF rating of 250 will start at 0800 each day. Official start time for each entry will be posted with the class breaks.
10. **Delayed Start:** If the Race Committee does not start the race as scheduled, the Answering Pennant (AP) accompanied by two sound signals will signal the delay. A numeric pennant showing the number of the delay will also be displayed while the Answering Pennant (AP) is flying. Each delay will last for 30 minutes. **In the case of a delay, all competitors are responsible for adjusting their individual starting times.** For instance "AP" and the code pennant "1" delays the start by 30 minutes. "AP" and the code pennant "2" delays the start by 60 minutes. Once the race sequence has been started, there will be **NO** postponements for any reason. The Race Committee Boat may leave the starting line after the last boat starts or the starting time for the last boat has passed. There shall be at most two 30 minute postponements after which the starting sequence shall commence.
11. **Daily Logs:** Boats are required to submit a log after each day where they completed the short course, but did not complete the long course. The log will be submitted using the link at <https://www.styc.org/Race-to-the-Straits>. Daily logs must be submitted by 2000 on Saturday, and by 2400 on Sunday (there are no exceptions). It is best to submit them with your phone, while still racing. Failure to comply will result in being scored DNF for the day.

Each day's log will include the following information:

- Exact halfway time using GPS time in hh:mm:ss format (see course description above).
 - Boats ahead of your boat at the halfway point (if possible).
 - Boats behind your boat at the halfway point (if possible).
12. **Scoring:** Scoring will be completed by adding each day's corrected time using (Time on Distance), as follows:
- If any boat in a class finishes the long course, the entire class will be scored for the long course.
 - If no boat in a class finishes the long course in the time limit or the PRO determines that the shortened course option is used, each boat must report their half-way time by using the link at <https://www.styc.org/Race-to-the-Straits>. Failure to turn the half-way time either day will result in a boat being scored as DNF for that day.
 - If any division has more than one class, there will be overall division scoring.
 - If no boats in a class/division finish, the time limit of the slowest rated boat in the class/division will be used for the "slowest corrected finish time."
 - For overall division scoring, if any boat in a division finishes the long course, the division scoring for the entire division will be scored for the long course.
 - If a boat does not reach the finish of the full course (either by sail or power) by 7:00 PM and has not communicated their intent to arrive at the finish or another port by 7:00 PM, they shall be DSQ for that day of racing.
 - Any boat retiring from the race that does not notify the Race Committee shall be scored DSQ.
 - Boats receiving the scores listed below will be scored with the time listed below:

SCORE	TIME
DNF, OCS, or RET	The slowest corrected finish time plus 1 hour*
DSQ, DNS, or DNC	The slowest corrected finish time plus 3 hours*



13. **Safety Requirements:** ISAF Category 5 – All crew must wear PFDs; in addition, single-handed skippers must wear a safety harness with tether at all times. Failure to comply will result in a DSQ score.
14. **Self-Steering:** Any type of self-steering apparatus may be used during this event, but competitors must maintain a watch on deck at all times.
15. **Protests:** Protests must be turned in to the Race Committee or its representative by 2000 each day. There will be a representative at the party on Saturday night. Protests for Sunday must be submitted to the Race Committee by 2000. They can be turned into the RC boat at the finish or put in the dock box at slip G-14 at Shilshole. Protests must be written out clearly using the US Sailing Protest Form. Any boat intending to protest should notify the Race Committee shortly after their finish or retirement. When possible, protests will be heard on the evening of the incident.

Note: When no serious damage is caused, the “360° or 720° Turns” penalty described in the Racing Rules of Sailing Rule 44 may be used for purposes of exoneration. Under Rule 44, a boat exonerating herself subsequent to an infringement must sail clear of other boats as soon as possible after the incident and then complete her required turns. 360° for hitting a mark, and 720° for other infractions. See rule 44 for the exact rules.
16. **Skippers’ Meeting: ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY (either in person or via Zoom).** Date/time/location and Zoom link TBC. Any boats that fail to have at least one crew member attend the Skippers Meeting without making prior arrangements with the STYC Race Program Co-Chairs will forfeit their entry in the race.
17. **Reporting Anticipated Finish, DNS and DNF status:** All boats will contact the Race Committee on VHF channel 72 when they estimate their arrival to be within 1 minute. The Race Committee is not required to acknowledge these calls.
18. **Finishing:** If your boat does not have a sail number (or if the wrong number is on your sails), please come by the committee boat so they know who you are. If finishing with other boats, such that the committee boat cannot see your sail, please come by the committee boat to make sure they recorded your sail number. The Race Committee needs to account for all boats that do not start or retire from the race. Any boat that does not start or abandons a race shall notify the finish line PRO for that day, via phone or text message, and will be scored DNS or DNF as applicable.

If the committee boat is not present when a boat approaches the finish, that boat shall record their own time as they pass the finish mark.

Saturday finish line PRO: TBC

Sunday finish line PRO: TBC

19. **Moorage:** Moorage this year at Point Hudson is extremely limited. Rafting is mandatory. Be prepared and have fenders on both sides of your boat. You must accept the moorage assignment given to you by the dockmaster.

Violation of these moorage rules will result in a DSQ and barred from entering RTTS 2025.

20. **Port Townsend Party and Awards:** On Saturday, there will be a party after racing at the Northwest Maritime Center. The PT party will include catered dinner (with beer and wine) and awards for Saturday’s race. Doors open at 1800 with dinner and beer/wine service starting at 1830.

The final awards (including Saturday’s and Sunday’s race) will be awarded at the Sloop Tavern during a to be confirmed Ballard Cup awards ceremony.



21. **Questions:** If you have any questions, reach out to race@styc.org.