

The 53rd Annual



to benefit



Sunday August 17, 2025
Nantucket, Massachusetts USA

NOTICE OF RACE

As of April 1, 2025

Organizing Authority (OA):
Nantucket Community Sailing

Affiliated Organizations:
Nantucket Yacht Club (NYC)
Great Harbor Yacht Club (GHYC)
The Opera House Cup Committee
The Nantucket Race Week Committee
Classic Yacht Owners Association (CYOA)

The Opera House Cup encourages the appreciation, understanding, restoration and celebration of classic wooden boats sailed by amateur crews. It is part of the 2025 CLASSIC YACHTS CHALLENGE SERIES, organized by the CYOA.

1 RULES

- 1.1 The event will be governed by the *rules* as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing* (RRS).
- 1.2 The US Sailing Prescriptions shall apply, except the US Sailing Prescriptions to (i) the preamble of Part 5, Section B, and (ii) to RRS 63.1 shall not apply.
- 1.3 Competitors from outside the U.S. may carry personal flotation devices approved by their nation's certification authority to meet the carriage requirements.
- 1.4 The protest committee may impose penalties less than disqualification [DP], for violation of the class rules and racing rules other than those of RRS Part 1 and Part 2. The notation "[DP]" in a rule in this Notice of Race means that the penalty for a breach of that rule may, at the discretion of the protest committee, be less than disqualification.
- 1.5 The rules of the 2025 CYOA Classic Yachts Challenge Series, except as may have been modified herein, will apply for boats participating in that Series. Rules may be found at [Classic Yacht Series](#).
- 1.6 Under World Sailing Development Rule DR21-01, the definition of *Start* is changed as follows:
Start: A boat *starts* when her hull having been entirely on the pre-start side of the starting line, and having complied with rule 30.1 if it applies, any part of her hull crosses the starting line from the pre-start side to the course side either
 - (a) at or after her starting signal, or
 - (b) during the last five (5) minutes before her assigned starting time.When a boat *starts* in accordance with item (b) of the definition *Start*, she shall not return to the pre-start side of the line, and the starting penalty shall be ten (10) minutes added to her elapsed time.

2 SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

The Sailing Instructions will be posted on the Official Notice Board three days prior to the regatta.

3 COMMUNICATIONS

- 3.1 The Official Notice Board is online at www.operahousecup.org.
- 3.2 Boats shall carry a VHF radio capable of communicating on channels 71-74.
- 3.3 On the water, the race committee will make courtesy broadcasts to competitors on VHF radio. The channel will be stated in the SIs.
- 3.4 [DP] Except in an emergency, a boat that is racing shall not make or receive voice or data transmissions that are not available to all boats.

4 ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

- 4.1 Entry is open to boats with wood or wood-based cold molded hulls with a minimum LOA of 24 feet. Boats having hull material other than wood may be considered for the Invitational Division. Exceptions may be granted at the sole discretion of the organizing authority (OA).
- 4.2 A current, valid CRF 2025 rating is required for each boat to be eligible for prizes. A CRF application is available at <http://www.classicyachts.org/ratings/certificates>.
- 4.3 Eligible boats may enter by completing the entry form available at www.operahousecup.org along with the applicable fee.
- 4.4 Entries close at 1200 Saturday August 16, 2025.
- 4.5 All entries will be reviewed by the OA using all available information to assess eligibility and

confirm proper division. Applications deemed unacceptable will be rejected and fees returned.

4.6 The OA may, in its sole discretion, accept any late entry.

5 DIVISION ASSIGNMENTS

5.1 Divisions:

a) All eligible boats will compete in the division assigned by the CYOA on their respective CRF 2025 certificate: Vintage, Classic, Modern Classic, or Spirit of Tradition.

b) The OA, at its sole discretion, may combine divisions or reassign boats to another division.

c) The OA, at its sole discretion, may create a separate division if three or more boats of a one-design or rating rule are registered (e.g. Alerions, Wianno Seniors, Concordias or 12 Metres).

5.2 The Invitational Division includes historic boats, classic designs, and replicas with hulls other than wood that the OA believes add to the spectacle of the event. The OA has the final authority in determining those boats invited to participate in this division. Boats in this division will be eligible for division trophies but are not eligible to win the Opera House Cup trophy.

5.3 Boats shall display Division flags provided by the OA.

6 REGISTRATION & FEES

6.1 Registration is online at www.operahousecup.org.

6.2 **Entry Fee:** The entry fee is \$450 if received by June 15, 2025, of which \$170 is a tax-deductible charitable contribution to Nantucket Community Sailing. The entry fee includes two event tickets and two drink tickets to the OHC Awards Party on August 17, 2025.

6.3 **Late Fee:** Registrations received after June 15, 2025 will be assessed an additional late fee of \$100. This fee is a tax-deductible charitable contribution to Nantucket Community Sailing.

6.4 **Nantucket Regatta:** The Nantucket Regatta, also part of the Classic Yacht Challenge Series, is a two-day regatta open to boats with either a PHRF or CRF rating. Boats wishing to compete in both events are eligible for discounted registration pricing for two or three consecutive days of racing. Details are available on the Nantucket Regatta [web page](#) and in the event's Notice of Race.

7 ADVERTISING

Boats may be required to display advertising chosen and supplied by CYOA and/or the OA.

8 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

All times are in Eastern Daylight Time (EDT).

Thursday, August 14	1400 - 1700	Registration at the NRW Registration Desk in the NYC Ballroom. Pick up skippers' bags, SIs, Division flags
Friday, August 15	0800 - 1700	Registration at the NRW Registration Desk.

Saturday, August 16	0800 - 1700	Registration at the NRW Registration Desk.
	1200	Entries Close
	1800	OHC Scratch Sheets showing individual start times and SI and course charts available online at www.operahousecup.org
	1730 - 1930	Classic Yacht Exhibition at Straight Wharf *
	1830 - 2200	Brewery Night Dinner at Nantucket Yacht Club.* Tickets are limited and may be purchased separately from Nantucket Community Sailing.
Sunday, August 17	0900	Announcement of racecourse on official VHF channel
	0930	Parade of Wooden Boats out of Nantucket Harbor
	0940	Rainbow Parade start (please be aware of the smaller boats around Brant Point Lighthouse)
	1045	OHC Base Starting Time
	1800	Opera House Cup Awards Party* at Jetties Beach Skippers may purchase a team table*, which includes a reserved table with your boat name, 10 tickets to the party, and 10 drink tickets. Limited availability, first come, first served. Tickets for all social events, as well as OHC Party tables, are limited and may be purchased on the regatta registration site .
	1930	Awards Ceremony at Jetties Beach

* Tickets for all social events, as well as OHC Party tables, are limited and may be purchased on the [regatta registration site](#)

9 SAILS AND EQUIPMENT LIMITATIONS

- 9.1 [DP] Forestays and headsail tacks, including those of staysails, shall be attached approximately on a boat's centerline. This changes RRS 54.
- 9.2 All headsails and staysails shall be fully attached to stays, except while being set or struck. A sail is defined as "fully attached" to a stay when it is secured to the stay by at least four evenly spaced hanks or other attachments or is continuously secured to the stay by a luff-rope in a groove or other continuous attachment.
- 9.3 Under these guidelines, a stay is defined as a permanently secured and taut cable that supports a headsail. A removable stay shall only be considered permanent if it is secured and kept in a taut condition for the duration of the event. This definition includes luff-ropes that allow a sail to be rolled on the rope.
- 9.4 Only one headsail may be flown on each stay in the fore-triangle at a time. This requires that when sail changes are made, the sail to be replaced must be dropped to the deck before its replacement is set on the same stay. This changes RRS 55.1.
- 9.5 Spinnakers, including mizzen spinnakers and 'code zero' sails, are not allowed.
- 9.6 No modern square-top mainsails are allowed.

- 9.7 For yawls and ketches, mizzen staysails are permitted. A mizzen staysail is an off-wind sail hoisted from the mizzen mast whose mid-girth is less than 75% of its foot length.
- 9.8 On schooners, a fisherman or gollywobbler is permitted.
- 9.9 [DP] Whisker poles shall not be a variable length type and shall not exceed 110% of the boat's J-measurement.
- 9.10 Shifting ballast of any kind during a race, other than shifting crew weight, is not permitted. All ballast must be fixed in place against shifting. Other temporary means of augmenting stability are prohibited, including the use of trapezes. All crew must keep their torsos within the perimeter of the boat except as allowed by RRS 49.
- 9.11 A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the Notice of Race and the Sailing Instructions.
- 9.12 Sail Materials
 - a) Yachts in the Vintage and Classic Divisions shall race with sails fabricated from materials limited to Polyester (e.g. Dacron), Nylon, or Ultra-PE (e.g. Spectra, Dyneema, UHMWPE, etc.). Inclusion of carbon fiber in the materials used is specifically not allowed.
 - b) [DP] Sail colors: Restricted to white, cream, or tan bark, or a light color acceptable to the OA for headsails, main and mizzen sails. Mizzen staysails may be colored.
- 9.13 [DP] In accordance with RRS Appendix G1.2(a)(3), "*National letters and sail numbers shall be...of a contrasting color to the body of the sail...*"
- 9.14 Resolution of uncertainties or disputes regarding sails may be at the discretion of the OA.

10 VENUE

The Opera House Cup race will be held on Nantucket Sound. The OHC Signal Boat will be approximately 0.5 nautical miles ENE of the Red and White striped entrance buoy NB Mo (A). The location of the OHC Signal Boat maybe redesignated to accommodate the conditions. If so, the new location will be posted on the Official Notice Board no later than 0845, and communicated by radio at 0900, together with the racecourse, on the morning of the race, on the official VHF channel.

11 START

A Pursuit Starting Sequence utilizing GPS time is planned. Each boat will have an assigned starting time calculated using her CRF 2025 Non-Spinnaker rating. This changes RRS 26. This may result in a starting sequence of up to 2 hours.

12 COURSE

- 12.1 The racecourse will be announced on the official VHF channel at 0900 on the morning of the race.
- 12.2 One race is scheduled of approximately 15 – 20 miles. The course may include a mix of upwind, reaching and downwind legs.
- 12.3
- 12.4 All boats will sail the same course, utilizing permanent marks in Nantucket Sound as well as drop marks.
- 12.5 The course assignment will determine the starting time for each boat.

13 WIND LIMIT

The race will not be started when the Race Committee deems that winds are sustained at or above

23 knots or gusting to 25 knots and above. If a race has been started and the wind increases to 25 knots and above, it remains at the discretion of the Race Committee whether or not to abandon the race. The race will not be started unless sustained winds are above five (5) knots at the base starting time. This changes Classic Yachts Challenge Series NOS 3.5.

14 PENALTY SYSTEM

- 14.1 The Scoring Penalty, RRS 44.3, will apply. RRS 44.3(c) is changed by replacing 20% with 30%. There are no penalty turns.
- 14.2 As required in 44.3(a) "A boat takes a Scoring Penalty by displaying a yellow flag at the first reasonable opportunity after the incident."
- 14.3 Boats shall provide their own yellow flag.

15 SCORING

The race will be scored using the CRF 2025 Handicap system, with a time-on-distance allowance applied to each boat's starting time.

16 PRIZES

- 16.1 Opera House Cup Prizes
 - a) The Opera House Cup is a perpetual Trophy on which will be inscribed the name(s) of:
 - 1.) The plank-on-frame boat which is first to cross finish line.
 - 2.) The boat in any division (except Invitational), including one-design divisions added by the OA, which is first to cross finish line.
 - b) A trophy will be awarded to the boat from any division with the best elapsed time.
 - c) If a Division is constituted of four or more boats, prizes will be awarded to the top three finishers based on finish time in each Division. In Divisions of three or fewer boats, only a first prize shall be awarded.
 - d) If a boat has been assigned to a one-design division, it will not be eligible for an award in one of the CYOA divisions.
 - e) The Gwen Gaillard Spirit of the Race trophy will be awarded to the person or boat that best exemplifies the spirit of the Opera House Cup.
 - f) The Robert H. Tiedemann trophy will be awarded to the best example of a restored or maintained boat.
 - g) The Corinthian trophy will be awarded to the boat with the best finish time sailed by an all-amateur crew and skipper, as declared by the skipper at OHC registration.
 - h) The Commodores' Cup will be presented to the boat with the best combined performance in the Nantucket Regatta and the Opera House Cup.
- 16.2 Additional trophies may be awarded at the discretion of the OA.

17 CLEAN REGATTA

Nantucket Race Week is committed to maintaining Nantucket's clean waters and shores. All NRW participants are encouraged to follow clean and responsible practices.

18 INSURANCE

Each participating boat shall be insured with valid and adequate third-party liability insurance.

19 LIABILITY

- 19.1 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, Nantucket Community Sailing, Opera House Cup Committee, Nantucket Race Week Committee, Nantucket Race Week LLC, Nantucket Yacht Club, Great Harbor Yacht Club, race committee, protest committee, technical committee, volunteers, sponsors, agents, employees, or any other organization, or official providing services at the request of any of the foregoing in connection with the events, will not be responsible for damage to any boat or other property or the injury, disease or illness to any person sustained as a result of participation in this event. By participating in this event, each competitor (owners, skippers, crews and support persons) agrees to release the race organizers and all persons and groups listed above from any and all liability associated with such competitor's participation in this event to the fullest extent permitted by law.
- 19.2 RRS 3 states: 'The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue to race is hers alone.' By participating in this event each competitor agrees and acknowledges that sailing is a potentially dangerous activity with inherent risks. These risks include strong winds and rough seas, sudden changes in weather, failure of equipment, boat handling errors, poor seamanship by other boats, loss of balance on an unstable platform and fatigue resulting in increased risk of injury. **Inherent in the sport of sailing is the risk of permanent, catastrophic injury or death by drowning, trauma, hypothermia or other causes.**

20 FURTHER INFORMATION

Bobby Constable Phone: 917-584-9337 Email: bobby@nantucketcommunitysailing.org
Website: www.operahousecup.org

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

PRINCIPAL RACE OFFICER

Hank Stuart, International Race Officer

Hstuart8m@gmail.com

585-414-6105

EVENT CHAIR

Phil Smith

MOORINGS, DOCK SPACE, AND ANCHORAGE

A limited number of moorings have been reserved for competitors in the Nantucket Regatta and Opera House Cup and are available on a first-come basis. To reserve one of these moorings, please email info@operahousecup.org. For any other moorings reserve through [Dockwa](#) or contact Nantucket Moorings at 508-228-4472, VHF 68. The Nantucket Harbor Launch can also be contacted on VHF 68.

For dock space, contact the Nantucket Boat Basin at 508-228-1333, VHF 9 and 11. The Nantucket Boat Basin has asked that all vessels hail them on VHF channel 11 when they are departing their slip and returning to their slip, in an effort to control traffic and avoid the possibility of collisions and accidents.

The Nantucket Harbor Master (VHF 14) has asked that any of the fleet anchoring in the harbor anchor within the designated anchoring areas near First Point be well clear of the channel. Anchoring East of First Point is not permitted. To protect the sensitive eel grass beds and shellfish habitat, use only Danforth anchors with ample scope. Please avoid using plow anchors since they do not hold in that area.

ATTENTION SAILORS

A REMINDER TO COMPETITORS THAT THE CHANNEL LEADING INTO NANTUCKET HARBOR AND AREAS OF NANTUCKET HARBOR ARE RESTRICTED AND SAILING VESSELS DO NOT HAVE RIGHT OF WAY OVER A VESSEL UNDER POWER WHICH MAY BE RESTRICTED IN HER ABILITY TO MANEUVER.