



PETTIPAUG YACHT CLUB

54TH ANNUAL CHARLES BIRCH MEMORIAL TROPHY

Saturday, October 17th, 2026

NOTICE OF RACE

1. Rules

- 1.1. This event will be governed by:
 - 1.1.1. The Racing Rules of Sailing 2025 – 2028
 - 1.1.2. ECSA PHRF Regulations (<https://ecsa.net/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/ECSA-ELIYA-2026-Regs-3.1.26.pdf>)
 - 1.1.3. This Notice of Race (NoR)
 - 1.1.4. The event Sailing Instructions (SIs)
- 1.2. RRS Appendix V1 and V2 shall apply.
- 1.3. RRS Rule 60.4(a)(2) is changed to: “(2) if it alleges a breach of a rule of Part 2 or rule 31 and is from a boat that was not involved in, and did not see, the incident, or”.

2. Eligibility and Registration

- 2.1. This race is open to sailboats 20 feet and longer, sailing without spinnaker, with a PHRF Handicap.
- 2.2. There will be one class.
- 2.3. Online Registration is available at: <https://tinyurl.com/2026BirchRace>
- 2.4. Registration deadline: October 16, 2026 at midnight.
- 2.5. Late entries may be accepted at the discretion of the Race Committee.

3. Communication

- 3.1. Except in an emergency, while racing a sailor shall neither make radio transmissions nor receive radio communications not available to all boats. This restriction also applies to mobile telephones, other electronics, and any other signaling system.
- 3.2. All Notices before the warning signal will be posted on the Pettipaug Yacht Club web site for this event. (<https://pettipaug.org/PYC-racingPage.html>).
- 3.3. Notices after the warning signal will be posted on the Pettipaug bulletin board on the clubhouse deck.
- 3.4. All competitors shall carry a functioning VHF marine radio and monitor it during the event. The channel will be stated in the SIs.

4. Entry Fee

- 4.1. There is no entry fee for racing.
- 4.2. The cost for the awards party is \$5 per person.

5. Schedule

- 5.1. The race will be held on Saturday, October 17, 2026.
- 5.2. The warning signal will be at 1100 or shortly thereafter.
- 5.3. Awards will be presented at the after-race party at Pettipaug Yacht Club. The party is scheduled for the same day as racing, however the party is subject to a rain delay until 5pm Sunday, October 18.

6. Venue and Course

- 6.1. The race venue is Connecticut River between and including Old Saybrook and Essex, Connecticut.
- 6.2. The starting area will be just south of Brockway Island.
- 6.3. The course will be described in the sailing instructions. The course will be random leg using government and/or drop marks, and is planned to be approximately 9 miles total length.

7. Scoring

- 7.1. One race is planned.
- 7.2. Finishing Place will be calculated based on the Time-on-Time calculation formula using $650/(PHRF+550)$ as the Time Correction Factor (TCF).
- 7.3. Boats with a current ECSA PHRF certificate will be scored using the ECSA assigned Random Leg PHRF handicap.
- 7.4. Bots without a current ECSA PHRF certificate will use a PHRF handicap assigned by the OA. The assignment of the PHRF rating by the OA is final for this regatta and shall not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 61.1(a).
- 7.5. RRS Appendix A will be used. RRS A5.3 will apply.

8. Sailing Instructions

- 8.1. The Sailing Instructions will be published on the online Notice page detailed in NoR 3.2 or before October 16, 2026.

9. Food and drinks

- 9.1. Food and drinks will be available at the Decommissioning Party. Otherwise, bring your own

10. Prizes

- 10.1. The Charles Birch Memorial Trophy will be awarded to the first-place finisher.
- 10.2. Prizes will be awarded to the top three finishers.

11. Safety Regulations

- 11.1. All class required safety equipment is mandatory.

12. Conduct, Waiver, and Content Consent

- 12.1. Competitors and support persons shall comply with reasonable requests from race officials.
- 12.2. Responsibility for Safety - As a condition of participation of any boat in any race or related activity sponsored or undertaken by Pettipaug Yacht Club or Pettipaug Junior Sailing Academy (PYC/PJSA), the owner, helmsman and each crew member agree that the safety of the boat and crew and the decision to race or not, to start or continue to race is solely their responsibility, and each waives all claims which he or she, or another representative, successor, or assignee, may have against PYC/PJSA, and any of their officers, trustees, members, committees, employees or agents, arising out of or in any way connected with participation in such race or activity. Responsibility for evaluating wind, sea and weather conditions rests with each competitor as does the responsibility for the safe condition and operation of their boat. Assistance from race committee, patrol boats, or other support boats and from personnel manning them is at the risk of the participant.
- 12.3. Content - By participating in this regatta, all competitors grant to the organizing authority and its sponsors the right in perpetuity to make, use and show, from time to time at their discretion, any photographs, motion pictures and live, taped or filmed television or other productions of him or her during the period of the competition without compensation.