

CCK Racing Rules Changes for 2026

Woods Hole Yacht Club

All sailing instructions, club rules, course sheets, etc. will be readily available both at the club and on the WHYC website.

TL;DR: Updates to Sailing Instructions / Course Sheet

- Added Green Can #11 in Woods Hole Passage, Red #4 Flasher off Little Harbor as marks. Reassigned Mark N.
- Cleaned up and clarified language for respecting marks to remove confusion that arose in 2025
- Fly Code Flag R to indicate Mandatory Reefs
- Make one sound for each boat that crosses the finish line on all non-club finishes
- Added alternate finish lines at Little Harbor (Mark J) and Woods Hole Passage (Mark R) that we often used in 2025

Changed Marks on the Course Sheet

- Added Green Can #11 at the west end of Woods Hole Passage as Mark O
- Added the #4 Red Flasher off Little Harbor as Mark C
- Reassigned Mark N (Middle Ground) to a drop mark 0.55 mi due south of Mark A and 1.4 mi due east of Mark I.
 - If you draw a line due south from Mark A and a line due east from Mark I, the spot where they intersect is where the new Mark N will be located.
- Clarified the definition and purpose of the “HB” harbor buoy as a “drop mark in Great Harbor.”
 - Starting in 2026, we will use HB for the short windward leg in the harbor instead of pi/theta.
- We are also providing photos of all race marks, respecting marks, and alternate finish lines as a courtesy to racers.

Language for Mark Descriptions is Consistent Across the Course Sheet

- Permanent WHYC Marks (Range, E, H, I, and P) are called “WHYC Buoy”
- Portable and drop marks, including K, N, and X, are called “Drop Mark”
- Government marks mirror language on nautical charts

Respecting Marks

Language around the respecting marks has been cleaned up and clarify to remove confusion that arose in 2025. All lettered course marks have been assigned as either a “Vineyard Sound Mark” or “Buzzards Bay Mark”. Mark HB (Harbor Buoy) is listed with pi and theta under “Special Marks”.

The following respecting marks are always in effect:

- Red Nun 6 off Juniper Point
- Red Nun 18 and Red Nun 20 off Nobska Point
- Green Can 1 at the entrance to Broadway (which is now marked on the chart on the back of the course sheet)
- The Range Marks (A, A', and B)

When transiting between Great Harbor and Vineyard Sound Marks in both directions, boats must pass

- East of Red Ledge
- East of Red Nun 2 at the entrance to The Strait
- On the channel side of Green Can 9 at the entrance to Great Harbor

We are naming the rule where you must pass between Mark D and Nonamesset as the “Nonamesset Gate Rule.” It will be in effect when transiting between Great Harbor/Buzzards Bay Marks and the following marks in both directions:

- In 2025, it was in effect to Marks A, B, H, I, and P
- Starting in 2026, it is also in effect to Marks A', G, N, and S.
- The Race Committee may put this rule into effect for additional marks at its discretion

Provided as a courtesy to racers. Not an official racing document.

The rules for respecting marks for courses through Woods Hole Passage remain the same. We just clarified the language to make it consistent with the changes above.

The exoneration penalty for violating respecting marks is now consistent across the board: Boats in violation of respecting marks shall exonerate themselves by returning to the course side of the respecting mark and doing a single penalty turn (Rule 31.2). Failure to exonerate yourself will result in automatic disqualification without a hearing.

Note the penalty for failure to exonerate yourself is more severe, as you will now be scored DSQ instead of DNF.

Mandatory Reefs

To indicate Mandatory Reefs, the race committee will fly Code Flag R from the WHYC flagpole and/or the committee boat.

Make Sounds for Signals During the Race Multiple Times

As a courtesy to racers, the race committee may make sound signals listed in Part 3 (Conduct of a Race) of the RRS multiple times if needed. This does not change the RRS, as failure to hear the repeated sound signals is not grounds for redress. This courtesy does not apply to starting signals.

Announcements over VHF Channel 69

As a courtesy to racers, the Race Committee may announce all signals listed in Part 3 of the RRS over VHF channel 69. This courtesy does not apply to starting signals.

Sound Signals for Boats Crossing the Finish Line

On all non-club finishes, the Race Committee will make one sound for each boat that crosses the finish line.

Alternate Finish Lines

In addition to the “Nobska Finish” at Mark Q, we have added/clarified the following alternate finish lines. The alternate finish lines are now on the chart on the back of the course sheet.

Clarified:

- **Nonamesset Finish:** Mark D and the northernmost tip of the point at the south end of Sheep Pen Harbor

Added:

- **Little Harbor Finish:** Mark J and the end of the concrete dock to the northeast of it on shore
- **Woods Hole Passage Finish:** Mark R and the point at the east end of the cove that Mark X sits in

Spinnaker Races

Will be sailed under the Sunday Series rules

- 2.5-hour time limit
- Harbor Start or Alternate Starting Line (see below)
- We will be able to run both longer Wednesday night courses and regatta-style W and M courses

Alternate Starting Lines

To be used in Spinnaker Races

- **Vineyard Sound Start:** East of Nobska
- **Little Harbor Start:** Near Marks J and E
- **Buzzards Bay Start:** Off Stoney Beach
- **Woods Hole Passage Start:** At or near Mark R