

Starting Signals

Races shall be started using the following signals. Times shall be taken from the visual signals; the absence of a sound signal shall be disregarded. The CCK class flag is yellow. Code Flag I flown as the preparatory flag means the one-minute rule (Rule 30.1) is in effect.

Signal	Flag	Sound	What It Means
Warning	 CCK Class	↑ 1 Sound	5 Minutes to Start
Preparatory	 P or  I	↑ 1 Sound	4 Minutes to Start
One Minute	 P or  I	↓ 1 Sound	1 Minute to Start
Start	 CCK Class	↓ 1 Sound	Start of the Race
General Recall	 First Substitute	↑ 2 Sounds ↓ 1 Sound	All return for a new start. New warning signal in 1 minute.
Individual Recall	 X	↑ 1 Sound	On Course Side boats return and restart

Other Signals

Flag	Sound	What It Means
 B	No Sound	Buzzards Bay or Woods Hole Passage Start
 O	No Sound	Little Harbor or Vineyard Sound Start
 L	↑ 1 Sound	Ashore: A notice to competitors has been posted Afloat: Come within hail or follow this boat
 E	↑ 1 Sound	No spinnakers are to be flown during the race
 Y	↑ 1 Sound	Wearing a personal flotation device is mandatory
 R	↑ 1 Sound	Reefing is mandatory
 AP	↑ 2 Sounds ↓ 1 Sound	Races not started are postponed. New warning signal 1 minute after the flag is lowered.
 N	↑ 3 Sounds	Races started are abandoned. Return to the starting area.
 N over  A	↑ 3 Sounds	Races started are abandoned. No more racing today.
 M	↑ Repeated Sounds	The object displaying this signal replaces a missing mark.
 C	↑ Repeated Sounds	The course has changed or the position of next mark has changed.
 S	↑ 2 Sounds	Shorten course. Finish between the object displaying this signal and the nearby mark.

Protests

Protests must be filed with the Race Committee Chairman or Steward in writing on forms available from the Club Steward or a Race Committee member. They must be filed with the Steward not later than two hours after the last boat in your class finishes. Aribtration may be available.

Protest Flags: In accordance with Rule 86.1(b), Rule 61.1(a) is changed. The over 6 meter length requirement does not apply. Protestors must conspicuously display a red flag and shall hail “Protest” at the first reasonable opportunity after the incident. The red flag must clearly be a flag. Code Flag “B” is acceptable.

Additional Notices and Sailing Instructions

Additional notices and supplemental sailing instructions can be found on the WHYC bulletin board.

Woods Hole Yacht Club
Sailing Instructions 2026

General

- All races will be governed by the most recent World Sailing rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing and by the prescriptions of US Sailing, the pre-scriptions of the Woods Hole Yacht Club, and the rules of class racing, except as any of these are changed by these sailing instructions or posted instructions. The Match Racing Rules (RRS Appendix C) do not apply unless specifically stated in a valid notice.
- Any boat interfering with ferries or other vessels over 65 feet in length, having the right of way under government rules within Woods Hole Great Harbor or its channels, will be automatically disqualified from the day’s racing. The Race Committee may impose longer penalties depending on the nature of the infraction. For purposes of Rules 18 and 19, any such vessel is deemed an obstruction.
- All boats must pass offshore of swimming rafts and fish weirs.
- Notices displayed on the yacht club bulletin board more than two hours before a race supersede information on any course sheet or WHYC calendar.
- The Race Committee reserves the right to modify these instructions as required to deal with any extraordinary circumstances that may arise during the course of racing.

Start/Finish

Harbor Start: a line between the mast on the Committee Boat and a colored drop mark off the Fisheries Dock. The Race Committee may modify the starting line at its discretion.

Club Finish: a line between the WHYC Guest Mooring and the southwest piling of the WHYC East Dock. If the Committee Boat is unable to be at the finish, boats should take their own finish time and mark their finish relative to other boats.

Alternate Finish Lines

- Nonamesset Finish:** Mark D and the northernmost tip of the point at the south end of Sheep Pen Harbor
- Nobska Finish:** Mark Q and the tall set of stairs to the west of it on shore
- 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
- In the absence of a suitable finish line, the Race Committee may designate the finish line on the Committee Boat blackboard.

Courses and Marks

- Letters designating turning marks of the course will displayed on the Committee Boat blackboard. Small letters “p” and “s” indicate on which side each mark must be passed.
- For harbor races, the symbols W, L, and R indicate windward, leeward, and reach marks
- Portable and drop marks shall be colored balls or cylinders

Respecting Marks

Respecting Marks are in effect at all times, unless indicated below, on the WHYC bulletin board, or on the Committee Boat blackboard. Boats may pass on the incorrect side of respecting marks without incurring a penalty when they are actively rounding them as marks of the course.

Exoneration: *Boats in violation of respecting marks shall exonerate themselves by returning to the course side of each respecting mark and doing a single penalty turn (Rule 31.2). Failure to exonerate yourself will result in automatic disqualification without a hearing.*

Boats must pass on the channel side of:

- Red Nun “6” off Juniper Point
- Red Nun “18” and Red Nun “20” off Nobska Point
- Green Can “1” at the entrance to Broadway

Boats must pass offshore of a range formed by marks A, A’, and B. The range is a continuous obstruction as well as a mark.

Races to Vineyard Sound Marks

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

Nonamesset Gate Rule: When tranisiting between Great Harbor/Woods Hole Passage and Marks A, A’, B, G, H, I, N, P, and S in both directions, boats must pass between Mark D and Nonamesset Island. The Race Committee may put this rule into effect for other marks at its discretion.

Races to Buzzards Bay Marks

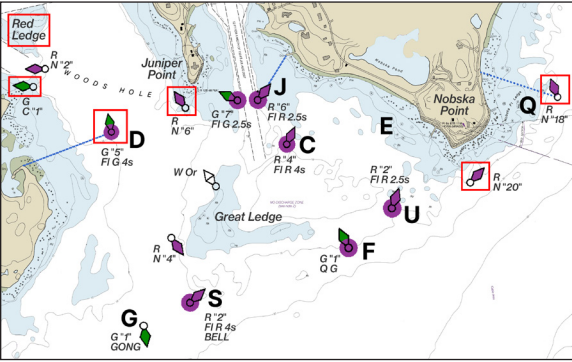
When transiting between Great Harbor and Buzzards Bay Marks in both directions, boats may pass between Can 9 and Devil’s Foot but may not pass between Can 9 and Grassy Island.

When transiting between Great Harbor/Vineyard Sound Marks and Buzzards Bay Marks in both directions, boats must pass south and east of Devil’s Foot.

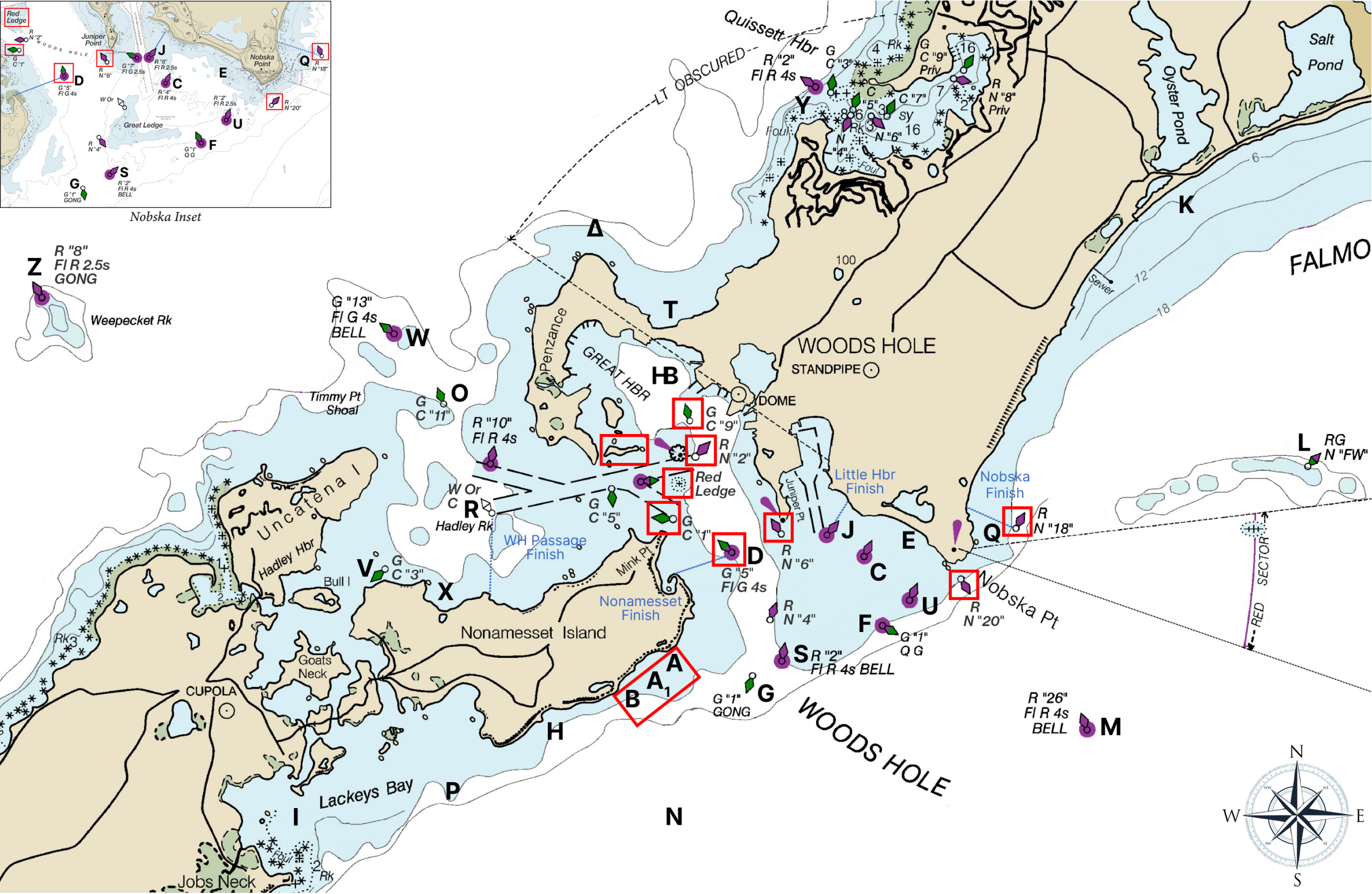
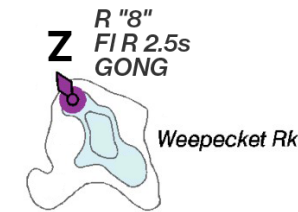
Woods Hole Yacht Club Racing Marks

Not for navigation. Consult published government charts for navigational purposes.

Updated 2026



Nobska Inset



BUZZARDS BAY MARKS					
O	Green Can "11" at west end of Woods Hole Passage	V	Green Can "3" at entrance to Hadley Harbor	Y	Flashing Red "2" at entrance to Quissett Harbor
R	White Can "Rock" at Hadley Rock	W	Flashing Green Bell "13" at west end of Woods Hole Passage	Z	Flashing Red Gong "8" at Weepecket Rock
T	Quissett YC Buoy off Stoney Beach	X	Drop Mark approximately 0.4 mi ESE of the entrance to Hadley Harbor	Δ	Quissett YC Buoy off north end of Penzance Point

VINEYARD SOUND MARKS	
A	WHYC Buoy off east end of Nonamesset
A'	WHYC Buoy off east end of Nonamesset
B	WHYC Buoy off east end of Nonamesset
C	Flashing Red "4" off Little Harbor
D	Flashing Green "5" off Sheep Pen Harbor
E	WHYC Buoy off Nobska Beach
F	Quick Flashing Green "1" at Coffin Rock
G	Green Gong "1" at entrance to Ferry Channel
H	WHYC Buoy at west end of Nonamesset, below the house
I	WHYC Buoy at west end of Lackeys Bay
J	Flashing Red "6" at entrance to Little Harbor
K	Drop Mark off Oyster Pond
L	Red and Green Nun "FW" approximately 1.1 mi ENE of Nobska Point
M	Flashing Red Bell "26" approximately 0.75 mi SE of Nobska Point
N	Drop Mark approximately 0.55 mi S of Mark A and 1.4 mi E of Mark I
P	WHYC Buoy in Lackeys Bay approximately halfway between Marks H and I
Q	Red Nun "18" off Nobska Point
S	Flashing Red Bell "2" at entrance to Ferry Channel
U	Flashing Red "2" 0.2 mi SW of Nobska Point

SPECIAL MARKS	
HB	Drop Mark in Great Harbor
π	Drop Mark used as a Portable Mark
θ	Any mark designated by the race committee in the absence of a suitable regular mark.
	Respecting Marks
.....	Alternate Finish Lines