

2026 Magothy River Wednesday Night Races

General Sailing Instructions

Wednesdays: April 22 – September 23, 2026

ORGANIZING AUTHORITIES

Magothy River Sailing Association, Inc., Potapskut Sailing Association, Gibson Island Yacht Club,
Yacht Club of Cape Saint Claire

1 RULES

- 1.1 The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) for 2025-2028, Including the US Prescriptions.
- 1.2 All boats shall comply with the US Sailing Safety Equipment Requirements (SER) Nearshore Category Revision 2025.0.
- 1.3 The EZ Racing Rule will apply to all monohulled sailboats. Boats racing in the Non-Spinnaker class shall hoist only one headsail at a time, except during sail changes.
- 1.4 Rules of the Chesapeake Multihull Association will apply to boats rated by CMA.

2 COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

- 2.1 Notices to competitors will be published on www.magothysailing.org and may also be communicated to skippers via e-mail.
- 2.2 The Race Committee may, at its option, use VHF channel 72 to communicate with competitors.

3 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 3.1 Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted before 1200 on the day before the race (Tuesday) that it will take effect (Wednesday Evening Race).

4 SCHEDULE OF RACES

- 4.1 Dates of racing: Wednesdays: April 22 – September 23, 2026 inclusive.
- 4.2 Rendezvous for racing is at 1730 hours in the vicinity of racing mark "A"
- 4.3 The scheduled time of the Warning Signal for the first start is:
 - 4.3.1 Series 1 – 4: 1805 HOURS
 - 4.3.2 Series 5: 1755 HOURS
- 4.4 Abandoned/Postponed Races
 - 4.4.1 In the event of extreme weather conditions, the race committee may signal Postponement or Abandonment of the race. NOTE: Skippers are reminded that

they are ultimately responsible for the safety of their boat and crew and are urged to monitor weather conditions and take appropriate action as needed.

- 4.4.2 Postponement shall be indicated by hoisting “AP” flag with two sounds in succession.
- 4.4.3 Abandonment shall be indicated by hoisting code flag “N” over “A” and three sound signals in succession.
- 4.4.4 If the Race Committee does not go on station, the abandonment signal will be announced by at least one of the following options:
 - 4.4.4.1 E-mail: before the first scheduled start of the race,
 - 4.4.4.2 Hail via VHF channel 72: starting at 30 minutes before the start and continuing at five- minute intervals until the start time if the scheduled RC can safely access their boat, and
 - 4.4.4.3 Phone via MRSA’s Automated Race Cancellation Alert System
- 4.4.5 Abandoned Races will not be rescheduled.

5 CLASS SPLITS AND FLAGS

5.1 Class splits and flags will be as follows:

Class	Class Ratings	Code Flag
MULTIHULL	All	
SPINNAKER	All	
		
NON-SPINNAKER	All	

5.2 Either Code Flag 9 or 7 can be flown for the Spinnaker class and racer’s Class flags shall be displayed from the bow pulpit and backstay or mizzen boom.

6 RACING AREA

6.1 The racing area shall be the Magothy River and the Chesapeake Bay from the mouth of the Magothy River to Baltimore Light

7 THE COURSES

- 7.1 Courses shall be designated by letters displayed on the Race Committee boat.
- 7.2 All mark designations are rounding marks. Competitors shall pass each mark on the required side in the order displayed, from left to right or from top to bottom. Marks designated by RED letters or background shall be passed to PORT. Marks designated by GREEN letters or background shall be passed to STARBOARD. All channel markers shall be passed on the channel side. One circuit shall be sailed unless the course description is followed by a numeral (e.g., "2" or "3") that designates the number of laps. The Committee Boat will always post the finishing mark of the course, regardless of the number of laps posted.
- 7.3 If the Race Committee makes a change to the course after posting it, the Race Committee will discontinue the starting sequence by displaying code flag "L" (come within hail) and code flag "C" (change of course) accompanied by a series of short horn signals. After posting the new course the Race Committee will wait approximately 5 minutes before removing code flag "C" with one long horn signal at 1 minute prior to the warning signal for the next class to start. The Race Committee will continue to display code flag "L" for the duration of the starting sequence. It is the competitors' responsibility to make note of the new course.
- 7.4 If conditions warrant, the Race Committee has the option of setting a course to round Baltimore Light.

8 MARKS

- 8.1 Fixed yellow race marks as identified in the Magothy River Chart, Rev. 3 posted on the MRSA Website.
- 8.2 Inflatable drop marks may be used in the place of fixed race marks.






9 THE START

- 9.1 All races will be started in accordance with RRS Rule 26, except that an Attention signal will be made 5 minutes before the first warning with code flag "F" displayed. The Starting Line will be between a code flag "Q" (Yellow Flag) displayed on the Race Committee boat and a nearby fixed MRSA race mark.
- 9.2 Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area during the starting sequence for other races.

9.3 Individual starting classes and signals for Series 1 - 4 will be as follows:

Target Time*	RC Signal	Flag Displayed	Purpose	Sound
1730	L flag		Rendezvous	Horn
1805	F flag hoisted		Attention-5 minutes to starting sequence	Gun
1810	W flag raised		Warning- 5 minutes to the Start of MULTIHULL	Gun
1815	W flag lowered		START MULTIHULL	Gun
	9 flag Hoisted		Warning - 5 minutes to Start for PHRF SPINNAKER	
1820	9 flag lowered		START SPINNAKER	Gun
	5 flag raised		Warning - 5 minutes to start for PHRF NON-SPIN	
1825	5 flag lowered		START NON-SPINNAKER	Gun

9.4 Individual starting classes and signals for Series 5 will be as follows:

Target Time*	RC Signal	Flag Displayed	Purpose	Sound
1730	L flag		Rendezvous	Horn
1755	F flag hoisted		Attention-5 minutes to starting sequence	Gun
1800	W flag raised		Warning- 5 minutes to the Start of MULTIHULL	Gun
1805	W flag lowered		START MULTIHULL	Gun
	9 flag Hoisted		Warning - 5 minutes to Start for PHRF SPINNAKER	
1810	9 flag lowered		START SPINNAKER	Gun
	5 flag raised		Warning - 5 minutes to start for PHRF NON-SPIN	
1815	5 flag lowered		START NON-SPINNAKER	Gun

- 9.5 Individual recalls will be signaled in accordance with RRS Rule 29.1. The Race Committee may attempt to verbally notify all on-course-side (OCS) starters via VHF 72, but it is the responsibility of each boat to start correctly. The Race Committee's failure to verbally notify an OCS starter will not be grounds for redress.
- 9.5 General recalls will be signaled in accordance with RRS Rule 29.2, except that the warning signal for a new start for the first recalled class will be made one minute after the last class scheduled to start has started, and the starts for any succeeding recalled class(es) will follow that start or the first recalled start. This changes RRS Rule 29.2 (a)
- 9.6 If there is any postponement during the starting sequence for a succeeding class, an attention signal consisting of several horn signals and removal of the AP flag shall be used 1 minute prior to the warning signal for the next start.

10 CHANGE OF COURSE AFTER THE START

- 10.1 A change of course after the start will be limited to "shorten course". It shall be signaled from the Race Committee boat by displaying the flag "S" with two sound signals. When the code flag "S" is displayed in conjunction with class flags, only those classes whose flags are displayed shall sail the shortened course.

11 THE FINISH

- 11.1 The finish line shall be between code flag "Q" (yellow flag) on the Race Committee boat and the adjacent fixed racing mark of the course. Note: The RRS definition of "Finish" requires a boat to finish in the direction of the course from the last mark, regardless of the color of the letter displayed for the last mark.

12 PENALTY SYSTEM

- 12.1 For any RRS Part 2 infractions, RRS Rule 44.1 through 44.3 shall apply except as modified below:
- 12.2 RRS Rule 44.1 and 44.3(c) shall be modified to allow a One-Turn penalty or accepting a two (2) place on-the-water scoring penalty for infractions when:
 - 12.2.1 There is no contact between boats, AND
 - 12.2.2 The incident does not occur within three boat-lengths of a finish line, or rounding mark, AND
 - 12.2.3 The incident does not occur between the removal of the preparatory flag (1 minute before the start) and prior to both boats clearing the starting line.
- 12.3 RRS Rule 44.1 and 44.3(c) shall be modified to allow a Two-Turn penalty or accepting a four (4) place on-the-water scoring penalty for infractions when:
 - 12.3.1 There is contact between boats, but no damage or injury, OR
 - 12.3.2 The incident occurs within three boat-lengths of a rounding mark, OR
 - 12.3.3 The incident occurs between the removal of the preparatory flag (1 minute before the start) and prior to both boats clearing the starting line.
- 12.4 The resulting penalized score for on-the-water Scoring Penalties (SCP) described above can be no worse than the score of DNC (Did Not Compete).
- 12.5 Any boat causing serious damage to another shall retire.

- 12.6 RRS Rule 44.3 (a) & (b) are modified to allow either a yellow or an "I" code flag to indicate acceptance of an on-the-water scoring penalty. (Please note that RRS Rule 44.3(a) requires that a boat taking an on-the-water scoring penalty must display the flag "at the first reasonable opportunity after the incident, keeping it displayed until finishing, and calling the race committee's attention to it at the finishing line.")
- 12.7 A boat that does not comply with RRS Rules 44.1 through 44.3, but that acknowledges an infringement during mediation prior to a protest hearing being scheduled, shall be penalized two places in addition to the scoring penalties described above, but shall not be limited by a score of DNC.

13 TIME LIMITS

- 13.1 The time limit for each race shall be two (2) hours for the first boat to finish in each class.
- 13.2 If no boat in that class finishes within the time limit, that race will be abandoned for that class.
- 13.3 If one boat in a class finishes within the time limit, the remaining boats in that class must finish within two and one-half (2 ½) hours after the start; otherwise, they will be scored DNF (Did Not Finish). This changes RRS Rule 35.

14 PROTESTS

- 14.1 Protests shall be submitted on a copy or likeness of the US Sailing Protest Form, available on the MRSA website. This changes RRS Rule 61.2
- 14.2 A written protest shall be emailed to the Protest Committee Chair:
Email: protests@magothysailing.org
- 14.3 The protest shall be transmitted no later than 2100 hours on the day following the race.
- 14.4 Protests shall conform to RRS Part 5 except that pre-hearing mediation is possible, in which case the involved parties will be contacted.
- 14.5 Protests will be heard at the place and time specified by the Rear Commodore or Protest Committee Chair.

15 SCORING

- 15.1 The Low Point Scoring System, RRS Appendix A4 (Low Point) will apply for a series as modified below:
 - 15.1.1 Each boat will have one drop per series for Series 1-4 if all five (5) races are sailed. There shall be no drops allowed for Series 1-4 if four (4) or fewer races are sailed. A score of DSQ (Disqualified) cannot be dropped. There shall be no drops for Series 5.
 - 15.1.2 A boat's series score shall be the sum of scores for all races in the series, excluding any drops.
 - 15.1.3 If a boat performs Race Committee duty for one race of the series, her score for that race shall be the average of her scores for the remaining races in that series but no worse than a DNF in that race.

- 15.1.4 A boat may only do Race Committee duty for one race of a series and remain qualified for that series.
- 15.1.5 The completion of one race in a series will constitute a completed series.
- 15.2 Ties will not be broken
- 15.3 Boats that started, but did not finish, will be scored points for that race equal to one (1) plus the number of boats that finished that race.
- 15.4 Boats that did not start will be scored points for that race equal to the number of starters plus two (2).
- 15.5 The Race Committee shall send a copy of the Race Committee Finish Form to the scorer as soon as possible after the finish of racing. Email: scorer@magothysailing.org
- 15.6 All monohull classes will be scored in accordance with EZ Standard 5 Wind ToD ratings. The rating band selected is not subject to redress. Multihull CMA ratings will be used for ToT scoring. CMA ratings will be converted to PHRF-type numbers for calculation of pursuit start times.

16 AWARDS

- 16.1 Awards for first place will be awarded with at least three (3) boats entered for a series. Second place will be awarded with at least five (5) boats entered; third place with six (6) to ten (10) boats entered, fourth place with 11 to 14 boats entered, and fifth place with 15 or more boats entered
- 16.2 "Entered" means that the entry was received by the last race of the series and the boat started in at least one race in that series.
- 16.3 An award, Best in Fleet, will be given for the lowest overall scoring boat in each Class (with at least 5 boats entered) for the season. All of the completed races of the five regular series will be scored using the Low Point System. Each boat will be allowed three throw outs, excluding DSQs, which cannot be dropped. The Magothy Cup Trophy will be awarded to the boat with the lowest overall score based on the Best in Fleet calculations across Classes.
- 16.4 Additional awards may be given at the discretion of the organizing authority

17 DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

- 17.1 Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. See RRS Rule 4, Decision to Race. The organizing authority will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury, or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the regatta.

Attachment A – Pursuit Race Instructions (Dedicated RC Boat)

1 PURSUIT RACE

- 1.1 A pursuit race is one in which the start times for each boat are pre-computed based on PHRF rating and length of course. The race results are then simply the order of finish.

2 SCHEDULING

- 2.1. One race in each of the series 1 - 5 may be run as a pursuit.
- 2.2 Pursuit races involve the entire fleet and a wide range of handicaps work best in moderate and consistent breeze.
- 2.3 Designation of a pursuit will be made by email no later than 1200 on Tuesday, the day before the race.

3 COURSES








- 3.1. Pre-defined Pursuit courses will be posted on the MRSA website.
- 3.2. The race committee will post the letter of the course to be sailed. The color of the letter will have no meaning.
- 3.4. All channel markers shall be passed on the channel side

4 STARTING TIMES

- 4.1. Pursuit races are started with each boat's start time determined as a function of its EZ PHRF Single Wind Random Course rating and course length for monohulls and ToT ratings converted to ToD for multihulls.
- 4.2. All delay times will be computed relative to the highest rated EZ PHRF rating in the fleet.
- 4.3. Delay time for your boat (in seconds) = (Highest Rate EZ PHRF Random Course Boat Rating – Your Boat's EZ PHRF Random Course Rating) x (length of course).
- 4.4. A table listing all of the start times for each registered boat in the fleet, for each of the five courses, will be posted on the MRSA website.

5 STARTING

5.1. The starting sequence for the pursuit race will be as follows (this changes RRS rule 26):

PURSUIT RACE STARTING SEQUENCE				
Target Time*	RC Signal	Flag Displayed	Purpose	Sound
1730	L Flag		Rendezvous	Horn
1804			Warning Sounds Fleet	Six (6) Short Horns
1805	L flag removed		Attention – 5 minutes to starting sequence	Gun
	F flag hoisted			
1810	F flag Lowered		Five Minutes to Pursuit Race Start	Gun
	3 rd Substitute flag hoisted			
1811	"P" Flag hoisted		Four Minutes to Start of Pursuit Race	Short Horn
1814	"P" Flag Lowered		One Minute to Start of Pursuit Race	Long Horn
1815	"3 rd Substitute" Flag Lowered		Pursuit Race Start Signal	Gun
Table Times	MRSA Burgee		Individual Starts	Short Horn
* GPS Time				

- 5.2. Each boat in the fleet will start at its predetermined delay time after the start signal at 1815.
- 5.3. For the purposes of the definition of "racing," each boat's preparatory signal shall be four (4) minutes prior to their scheduled start. After the warning signal for the first start, boats shall stay clear of the starting area until four (4) minutes before their scheduled starting time.
- 5.4. The Race Committee will briefly raise and then immediately lower the MRSA Burgee with one (1) short horn sound for each boat's starting time.
- 5.5. In the event a postponement is signaled on the water, the Race Committee shall announce the revised start time for the fleet before lowering the postponement flag. All delay times are then calculated from the Pursuit Class Flag, "3rd Substitute," being lowered. Individual start times will then be calculated from that new base time.
- 5.6. If any part of a boat's hull is on the course side of the starting line at her starting signal and she is identified, she shall be considered On Course Side (OCS).

- 5.7. An OCS boat shall be signaled by the Race Committee by briefly displaying the “X” code flag with one (1) sound.
- 5.8. In the event of an OCS, the Race Committee may attempt to verbally notify the OCS starter via VHF channel 72. The Race Committee’s failure to verbally notify an OCS starter will not be grounds for redress.
- 5.9. A boat that is OCS shall continue sailing to the first mark and shall not sail back to restart but will be considered as starting properly. She will receive a three (3) position scoring penalty, the resulting penalized score can be no worse than the score of DNC. This changes RRS rules 28.1 and 44.3(c).

6 SCORING

- 6.1 Pursuit race results will be scored for the Series in which they are held based on the boat’s finish position within her Class. All Pursuit races held in the season may also be scored as an additional series in the following classes: Multi-hull, Spinnaker, Non-Spinnaker

Attachment B – Pursuit Race Instructions (RC and Race Option)

1 PURSUIT RACE (RC and Race Option)

- 1.1 In the event that a RC slot has not been filled, a substitute RC boat that has already performed or is scheduled for RC duty may use this option.

2 SCHEDULING

- 2.1 Designation of a pursuit will be made by email no later than 1200 on Tuesday, the day before the race and will include the name of the boat performing Race Committee duty for the “RC and Race” Option.

3 COURSES

- 3.1. Pre-defined Pursuit courses will be posted on the MRSA website
- 3.2. The race committee will post the letter of the course to be sailed (the color of the letter will have no meaning) or broadcast the course selection over the VHF radio on channel 72.
- 3.3. All channel markers shall be passed on the channel side

4 STARTING TIMES

- 4.1. Pursuit races are started with each boat’s start time determined as a function of its EZ PHRF Single Wind Random Course rating and course length for monohulls and ToT ratings converted to ToD for multihulls.
- 4.2. All delay times will be computed relative to the highest rated EZ PHRF rating in the fleet.
- 4.3. Delay time for your boat (in seconds) = (Highest Rate EZ PHRF Random Course Boat Rating – Your Boat’s EZ PHRF Random Course Rating) x (length of course).
- 4.4. A table listing all of the start times for each registered boat in the fleet, for each of the five courses, will be posted on the MRSA website.

5 STARTING

- 5.1. The starting sequence for the pursuit race will be as follows (this changes RRS rule 26):
- 5.2. Each boat in the fleet will start at its predetermined delay time after the start signal at 1815.
- 5.3. For the purposes of the definition of "racing," each boat's preparatory signal shall be four (4) minutes prior to their scheduled start. After the warning signal for the first start, boats shall stay clear of the starting area until four (4) minutes before their scheduled starting time.
- 5.4 The Race Committee will broadcast the Rendezvous, Warning, Attention, and Pursuit Race Start Signals on VHF Channel 72. These events will be synchronized to GPS time and no other visual or sound signals will be used.

- 5.5. In the event a postponement is signaled on the water, the Race Committee shall announce the revised start time for the fleet via VHF Channel 72. All delay times are then calculated using the revised start time.
- 5.6. It is up to each competitor to determine if they were OCS and to notify the scorer when submitting their time. She will receive a three (3) position scoring penalty, the resulting penalized score can be no worse than the score of DNC. This changes RRS rules 28.1 and 44.3(c).
- 5.7 The start line will be either:
 - 5.7.1 Between Mark "A" and a drop mark located approximately 150 feet due East (90 Magnetic) or;
 - 5.7.2 Between Mark "D" and a drop mark located approximately 150 feet due North (0 Magnetic).
 - 5.7.3 Between Mark "J" and a drop mark located approximately 150 feet due North (0 Magnetic).

6 FINISHING

- 6.1 The finishing line will be the same as the starting line
- 6.2 Each boat shall record their finish time using GPS time. It is also recommended that they record the boat finishing just ahead and behind them and their finishing times.
- 6.3 The boat's finishing time and other related information should be sent to the scorer via email or entered on the website as soon as practical following the race.

7 SCORING

- 7.1 General Sailing Instruction 15.1.3 is modified so that the boat performing RC using this "RC and Race" option shall receive her score for that race.
- 7.2 The boat performing RC shall also include the course and the list of boats competing as well as the finish time in their submission to the Scorer.
- 7.2 Pursuit race results will be scored for the Series in which they are held based on the boat's finish position within her Class.