

Sailing Instructions - George Town Cruising Regatta In Harbor Race February 21, 2026 - First warning 9:30 am

This is a FUN race. We all live on these boats. Safety must remain paramount in the mind of all skippers at all times. Remember, sailboat racing is a non-contact sport!

1. **Rules:** The race will be governed by the Rules as defined in the *Racing Rules of Sailing* of World Sailing. In addition, the *International Rules of Navigation (72 COLREGS)* are in force and apply to meetings and passings between a racing boat and a non-racing boat. A racing boat is any boat sailing in one of the Classes defined and assigned under Paragraph 9, herein. A non-racing boat is any other boat on the water, including those participating in the Around Stocking Island Fun Sail, wherever found. Racing boats and non-racing boats may be fishing during this race. Fishing gear in the water or extending from any boat shall constitute part of the boat; contact with such gear constitutes contact with that boat and shall be treated as such under the rules. If you are uncertain whether a boat has fishing gear in the water, please hail them and establish terms for a safe, no-contact passage.

2. **Entries:** Entry is made by completing an entry form and paying the entry fee to one of the Race Committee (RC) co-Chairs, Lesley or Gary Engelson, on Registration Day, February 18, 2026. Entry forms (must include the entry fee) delivered to the RC co-Chairs in person, including aboard *Happy Together* on her anchor off Monument Beach any time up to February 20, 2026 at 9:30 am (one day prior to the race) will be considered timely.

3. **Radio Communication:** The official Race Communication channel is VHF 78. **All participants are required to monitor VHF 78 during the race for communication with the race committee and the race commentator.** Please limit communications on this channel to race questions and safety communications between boats. Race Committee mark boats will monitor VHF 78, repeat Race Committee broadcast communications for participants who may be out of range, and act as relays between the Race Committee and distant participants as needed. Race commentary will be broadcast on VHF 78.

4. **Racing Area.** The Racing area will be Elizabeth Harbor in the area generally shown by the exemplary course outlined on the *In Harbor Course Chart* included with these Sailing Instructions. The starting line will be located as close as practical to the location shown on that *Chart* without impinging on the Channel by which the Government Dock and Kid Cove are accessed.

5. **Course and Marks:** The course will be clockwise around the marks (orange buoys), leaving all marks to starboard (unless reversed by the Race Committee via VHF 78 before the start of the race). There are three marks: starting mark, one off Monument, one at the south end of Sand Dollar Beach. All marks are to be left to starboard. In case of a reverse course the marks will be left to port. The course will be twice-around finishing at the committee boat. When going back to the starting mark you must round the mark to starboard on the second time around and finish between the mark and the committee boat. **It is the competitor's responsibility to navigate the course safely. The course shown only exemplifies legal roundings of the marks.**

Start mark	North Mark	South Mark
23°30.60' N	23°32.00' N	23°30.40' N
75°45.80' W	75°46.80' W	75°44.80' W

6. Starting and Finishing Lines:

The Start/Finish line will be located off George Town. The Start/Finish Line will be between the RC Flag on the Race Committee Boat (*SuzyLyn*, a 51' Leopard power cat) and an orange buoy approximately 400' west of the committee boat. You must keep clear of any dinghy or buoy tied to the Committee Boat.

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7. **Engines:** Engines must be turned off five minutes before your class starts and remain off until after your boat completely clears the finish line. Violation of this rule will result in an automatic DSQ.

8. **Time:** The race committee will use GPS time for the race.

9. **Classes:** There will be two divisions: monohulls and catamarans. Classes will be assigned at the Skippers' Meeting.

10. **Starting:** Windward boats must keep clear of leeward boats during the start. Barging at the windward or leeward end of the line and other aggressive starting maneuvers will be penalized one turn. This is a fun race; let's keep it that way.

11. **The Start:** There will be 10 minutes between starts. The Race Committee will give a 10 second countdown on VHF 78 for each signal in the starting sequence after the 10 minute warning horn. Over early boats will need to go back and recross the start line.

12. **Starting Sequence:**

There may be up to seven classes, as follows:

Class 1 - Red flag

9:30 10 minute warning - horn + radio announcement
9:35 5 minute warning - aqua flag up + horn
9:36 4 minute prep signal - NATO "P" flag up + horn
9:39 1 minute prep signal - NATO "P" flag down + long horn
9:40 Class 1 start – aqua flag down + horn

Class 2 - Green flag

— Radio announcement: Under 5 minutes to a Class 2 warning
9:45 5 minute warning - green flag up + horn
9:46 4 minute prep signal - NATO "P" flag up + horn
9:49 1 minute prep signal - NATO "P" flag down + long horn
9:50 Class 2 start – green flag down + horn

Class 3 - Black flag

— Radio announcement: Under 5 minutes to a Class 3 warning
9:55 5 minute warning - purple flag up + horn
9:56 4 minute prep signal - NATO "P" flag up + horn
9:59 1 minute prep signal - NATO "P" flag down + long horn
10:00 Class 3 start – purple flag down + horn

Boats not in their starting sequence must stay clear of the starting area including both the start box and anywhere on the course side of the start line. Any boat not of the class whose sequence is in progress interfering with a boat whose sequence is in progress shall be penalized one turn after their start.

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13. The Race:

We will make every attempt to use the course as outlined on the course sketch. If weather conditions warrant, the RC may reverse course direction by announcing on VHF 78 prior to the first warning signal. In that case, the South Mark will be a turning mark to be left to port, the North Mark will be a turning mark to be left to port, and the second lap of the course begins by leaving the Start Mark to port, with the finish between the RC Boat and the Start Mark (again left to port).

- * If a mark goes missing, RC will attempt to station a mark boat to round. In the absence of both, boats must round the location given in these Sailing Instructions for the mark, on their honor.
- * Port tack boats must keep clear of starboard tack boats.
- * Overtaking boats must keep clear.
- * When rounding a mark, an inside boat that has established an overlap as you enter the three boat length circle of the mark, must be given room to round the mark.
- * All boats must be given sea room to keep clear of any obstruction (i.e. reef, rocks, shallow water, and boats at anchor, etc.) by hailing the other boat their intentions and giving the other boat time to react. Any boat being asked to give room to pass an obstruction by another boat must provide a generous amount of room to the other boat so they may safely pass the obstruction. If a collision occurs, both boats will be disqualified.
- * The finish line will be as stated in ¶6.

14. **Distance** is approximately 10.5 nautical miles.

15. The **Finish**: When approaching the finish line, boats must announce on VHF 78 to the RC your boat name just prior to finishing. A horn will be sounded as you finish. The RC will acknowledge your finish and you must clear the finish line immediately.

16. **Time Limit**: A boat must finish within four and one-half hours of her start, or she will be scored DNF.

17. **Protests**: There will be no protests allowed. The RC reserves the right to penalize any yacht. Please act at all times in a Corinthian and sportsmanlike spirit. You can have fun and be competitive without being crazy. **Please bring any issues or disagreements directly to the attention of Gary Engelson on the RC boat *SuzyLyn*; no other course official has the authority or responsibility to respond.**

18. **Scoring**: In each class, the first boat across the finish line will be the winner, 2nd will be 2nd and so on.

19. **Awards & Prize Ceremony and Party** will be on a date to be announced, at the Peace and Plenty Hotel Pool Bar beginning at 4:00 pm. Food and drinks will be available for purchase. Door prizes will be given (one ticket per boat) throughout the party.

20. **Weather Day**: will be announced if necessary.

