



## 2026 Boat of the Year (BOTY) Championship

### **NOTICE OF RACE (NOR)** **V: 6.1.26**

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#### 1. Organizing Authority

- 1.1 The 2026 NBYA Boat of the Year (BOTY) Championship is organized by the Narragansett Bay Yachting Association (NBYA).

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#### 2. Objective

The BOTY Championship is a season-long series intended to:

- Recognize excellence in PHRF racing across Narragansett Bay
- Encourage broad participation in NBYA-sanctioned events
- Establish NBYA as the central hub and convener of keelboat racing on Narragansett Bay
- Determine the winner of the GMT Composites Boat of the Year Trophy
- Determine the winner of the Tenacious Trophy

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#### 3. Rules

- 3.1 The championship will be governed by the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) 2025–2028, and the Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions of each individual event, except as modified by this NOR
- 3.2 The championship will also be governed by current PHRF Narragansett Bay rules and valid rating certificates.
- 3.3 In the event of a conflict between this NOR and an individual event's documents, this NOR shall govern for BOTY scoring purposes only.

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#### 4. Eligibility & Entry

- 4.1 The series is open to all boats holding a valid PHRF Narragansett Bay certificate, or NBYA Adult Membership
- 4.2 Automatic Entry:  
All eligible boats are automatically entered upon participation in any NBYA-sanctioned BOTY event.

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#### 5. Championship Season & Series Format

- 5.1 The BOTY is a season championship consisting of multiple NBYA-sanctioned events conducted during the 2026 racing season.
  - 5.2 Events are assigned point values:
    - 3-point events
    - 2-point events
    - 1-point events
  - 5.3 Events may apply for inclusion prior to June 1, 2026. Acceptance is at the discretion of NBYA.
  - 5.4 The official list of events and their point designations is provided in Appendix A and may be amended by NBYA. Events can be amended at NBYA sole discretion until June 15, 2026.
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## 6. Scoring

- 6.1 The Cox-Sprague scoring system will be used for all BOTY scoring. Cox-Sprague scoring assigns points based on a boat's finishing position relative to the number of boats competing in its class, thereby normalizing results across classes of different sizes.
- 6.2 Scoring is based on class results, not overall standings.
- 6.3 Only PHRF classes are eligible for BOTY scoring.
- 6.4 In events that use additional handicaps or other penalties (e.g. the 2000 Club uses additional time penalties for last year's 1st, 2nd or 3rd place finishers), these handicaps or penalties will be excluded for the purposes of the BOTY scoring
- 6.5 Separate rankings will be maintained for both Spinnaker boats and Non-spinnaker boats. A boat may qualify for both if they meet the criteria for qualification.
- 6.6 Weighted Events:  
Higher-point events will be scored as if sailed multiple times:
  - 3-point event = counted three times
  - 2-point event = counted twice
  - point event = counted onceApplication of Weighted Events- The Cox-Sprague score from a weighted event shall be applied multiple times according to the event's point value. Each instance shall be treated as a separate scoring result for purposes of aggregation and throwouts
- 6.7 Event-Level Scoring Basis  
Each event shall produce a single Cox-Sprague score per boat per eligible class  
That score shall be based on the final published results of that event.
- 6.8 Non-Participation and Starts
  - If a boat registers but does not come to the starting area or notifies the RC of their intention not to race prior to the first warning signal of the first race, they will not be scored for that race.
  - Only events in which a boat starts at least one race shall be included in BOTY scoring

### 6.9 Minimum Class Size Requirement

For an event to be eligible for BOTY scoring, a class must consist of at least two (2) boats that start at least one race in that class. If this requirement is not met:

- The event shall not be scored for BOTY purposes,
- The event shall not count toward qualification or point accumulation, and
- No Cox-Sprague score shall be recorded or applied for that event.

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## 7. Qualification

7.1 A minimum of 8 points is required to qualify for BOTY standings.

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## 8. Throwouts

8.1 To encourage participation, the following throwouts apply:

- At 10 points: discard one 1-point event
- At 12 points: discard one 2-point event or two 1-point events
- At 15 points: discard one 3-point event or equivalent

8.2 Throwouts shall be applied to maximize a boat's score in the Cox-Sprague Scoring System.

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## 9. Event Exclusions

A boat may request exclusion from a specific event by notifying NBYA at least 48 hours prior to the event start. Exclusion notices shall be sent to: PHRF.Racing@nbya.org.

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## 10. Awards

10.1 Boat of the Year (BOTY)

Awarded to the top-scoring boat (highest Cox-Sprague score) in each class (Spinnaker / Non-Spinnaker). The winning boat's name will be engraved on the permanent GMT Composites Boat Of The Year Trophy and may be displayed at the winner's yacht club. The winners will also receive a keeper award. The prize giving will be at NBYA's Awards Banquet.

10.2 Tenacious Trophy

Awarded to the boat accumulating the highest total points during the season. Ties shall be broken by the best Cox-Sprague score.

10.3 Category Awards

In addition to overall standings, the following category awards may be presented:

- Top qualifying Junior Helm (<25 years of age)
  - Top qualifying Grand Master Helm (≥75 years of age)
  - Top qualifying Female Helm
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## 11. Category Award Requirements

Section 11 only applies to the determination of the Category Awards

11.1 Basis of Scoring

Category awards are scored by boat, based on participation in events where the boat is helmed by a qualifying individual for a category.

11.2 Helms Person Qualification Requirement

- The qualifying helm must be the primary and dominant driver of the boat for the race or event.
- Relief helming is permitted only for short durations and must not materially change who is considered the primary helm.
- Qualification for the award will follow the BOTY points qualification requirements in section 7.

11.3 Declaration Requirement (Honor System)

Because official results are recorded by boat and do not identify the helms person:

- o Category qualification is self-declared and operates under an honor system.

- o The owner or representative must notify NBYA of qualifying events. Notifications can be made by sending an email to: [info@nbya.org](mailto:info@nbya.org)

#### 11.4 All-Inclusive Reporting Requirement

Boats seeking a category award must declare all NBYA-sanctioned events in which they met the category criteria (i.e. Partial or selective reporting is not permitted).

For clarity: A boat may not submit only its best results. If a boat qualifies in multiple events, all must be reported. Failure to comply may result in disqualification from the category award.

#### 11.5 Responsibility and Verification

- Responsibility for accurate reporting lies solely with the boat owner
- NBYA reserves the right to:
  - o Request clarification or supporting information
  - o Adjust or remove eligibility if reporting is incomplete or inconsistent

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### 12. Ties

12.1 Except as provided for the Tenacious Trophy, ties shall be broken by the better Cox-Sprague score in the highest weighted event.

12.2 If still tied, NBYA may review overall results or declare a tie.

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### 13. Communication & Results

13.1 A season leaderboard will be maintained and published by NBYA.

13.2 Official communications and standings will be available via [NBYA.org](http://NBYA.org).

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### 14. Disclaimer of Liability

Competitors participate in the series entirely at their own risk. See RRS 3, Decision to Race. The organizing authority will not accept any liability for material damage, personal injury, or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the series.

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### 15. Additional Information

For questions or event submissions, contact: Narragansett Bay Yachting Association (NBYA) PHRF. [Racing@nbya.org](mailto:Racing@nbya.org)

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## Appendix A – 2026 BOTY Eligible Events

### A1. 3-Point Events

- Summer Evening Series "Beercan/Buoy Racing".
    - o Full series ranking
    - o Must include at least three races for Fall and Spring Series and 8 Races for Summer Series.
    - o Only qualifying boats in that series are eligible
    - o A boat may count participation in a second distinct Evening Series, run by another club or organizing authority.
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## A2. 2-Point Events

- NBYA Fall/Challenge Regatta
  - EGYC Regatta
  - Safe Harbor Regatta
  - CYC – Around the Island Race
  - NYYC Annual Regatta
  - 2000 Club Three Bridge Fiasco
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## A3. 1-Point Events

- Evening Club – Spring Series:
  - Full series ranking
  - Only qualifying boats in that series are eligible
- Evening or Weekend Club – Fall Series
  - Full series ranking
  - Only qualifying boats in that series are eligible
- Pret Gladding
- IYAC Newport Cup
- Sail for Hope
- MOHOSA Worlds
- MOHOSA Regatta
- 2000 Club Fall Race – Around Prudence Island
- 2000 Club Prince Henry
- 2000 Club Cuttyhunk Race
- 2000 Club Spring Race – Around Aquidneck Island
- Bud Humphrey
- Rhody Regatta
- NE Solo-Twin
- Ida Lewis Distance Race
- BI Race Week