

Maine Rocks Race 2016
Sailing Instructions

1) The Start: The starting area is within Rockland Harbor. There will be a separate start for each class with the double handers starting first. There will be a 10 minute starting sequence. There will be a warning signal, several short horn blasts, approximately one minute before the ten minute horn. At five minutes before the first start there will be a yellow flag and a horn. At four minutes the "P" flag will go up with a horn. At one minute the "P" flag will come down with a horn. At the first start the yellow flag will come down with a horn and the red flag will go up. This is the five minute signal for the single handers. At four minutes the "P" flag goes up with a horn. At one minute the "P" flag will come down with a horn. At the start the red flag will come down with a horn. Please note that the official signals are the flags and not the horn. If a boat is over early there will be a blast of the horn. The committee will attempt to notify those who may be over early by voice or radio as a courtesy, but they are not required to. If a boat is over early, and fails to restart, 30 minutes will be added to their elapsed time on the course. The "I" flag rule is in effect.

2) Marks of the course: Red/Green buoy marked "MSB" to the west of Matinicus, that guards South Breaker, must be left to port. Round Matinicus Rock leaving it to port. Round Mount Desert Rock leaving it to port. Round Matinicus Rock leaving it to starboard. Leave the "MSB" buoy to starboard. Finish between Can #1 and the Rockland Breakwater light.

3) Finish times: Record your finish time, according to GPS time, as you pass between the Rockland Breakwater Light and can #1 to the SSW of the light. As soon as is possible call or text 701-1384 with your finish time and vessel name.

4) Channel 68 will be used by the race committee.

5) Safety:

A) Shipping: Please be especially vigilant while crossing the shipping lanes. Large vessels enter Penobscot Bay at all hours. The pilots aboard these vessels do a good job of reporting their positions and intentions at certain points along their route on 13 and 16. Some of these vessels are tugs with barges in tow. Beware of the tow line.

B) All boats must have a radar reflector deployed during the entire race.

C) All crew must wear PFD's while on deck and be clipped in. Jacklines are mandatory.

D) If you are NOT going to finish the race call 701-1384 as soon as possible and leave a message.

E) BEWARE! There is a large Coast Guard mooring buoy to the northwest of Mount Desert Rock. It shows on some electronic charts but not all of them.

6) Use of engines: You may use your engine to charge batteries. You may use your engine if you are in imminent danger of going aground as long as you do not advance your position. Report such use along with time of engine start and shut down.

7) Awards: There will be an award for first to finish. There will be awards for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd on corrected time in each class. There is an award called the Francis Stokes Award for the best corrected time for a single handed boat. Much thanks to Peter and Peggy McCrea for thinking this one up and executing a perpetual trophy.

8) Protests: Please remember that we are all sailing shorthanded. Be courteous and forgiving. RYC has, as a general policy, changed the 720 penalty to a 360. This makes it easier to accept a protest on the water and exonerate ones self. Should you feel the need to file a protest follow the RRS, file it with D.Pope as soon as possible after you finish. The committee will review the protest and try to schedule a hearing at an agreeable time and place.