



The 43rd Annual  
**BLACKLINE MARINE**  
**PATOS ISLAND RACE**  
Sidney North Saanich Yacht Club  
1949 Marina Way, North Saanich, B.C.  
**March 21 & 22, 2026**

**Notice of Race (NoR) - Offshore Long and Short Courses**  
Version 1.0 – December 31, 2025

The Sidney North Saanich Yacht Club will be hosting its 43rd Blackline Marine Patos Island Race on March 21 & 22, 2026.

This event is a Vancouver Island Racing Series (VIRS) event and results will count towards the 2026 series. This event is a Van Isle 360 qualifier.

This event is a designated BC Offshore Series event and results will count towards the 2026 series. More information about this series will be available at [bcsailing.bc.ca](http://bcsailing.bc.ca).

There will be a long course of 67 nm and a short course of 43 nm. Boats may register for either the Long Course or the Short Course. There will be a double handed division for the Long or Short Course if a four-boat minimum is attained.

SNSYC will attempt to provide moorage for participating yachts. Larger/deep draft vessels may need to secure moorage at local marinas.

## 1 SCHEDULE

	Date	From	To
Registration Packages Available	Friday March 20th	16:00	20:00
BBQ Dinner		17:30	19:30
Weather and Currents Briefing		19:30	20:00
Skippers Meeting		20:00	
Pancake and Sausage Breakfast	Saturday March 21st	07:00	08:00
Bagged Lunch Pick-Up		07:00	08:30
<b>Warning Signal</b>	(no earlier than)	09:55	
Complimentary Chili & Buns		18:00	08:00
<b>Time Limit Expires</b>	Sunday March 22nd	10:00	
Continental Breakfast		08:00	11:00
Awards Presentation		11:00	

All social activities are held at SNSYC. The race start is in the vicinity of the Sidney downtown waterfront.



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**2 RULES**

*The notation '[DP]' in a rule means that the penalty for a breach of that rule may, at the discretion of the protest committee, be less than disqualification. The notation '[NP]' in a rule means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1.*

- 2.1** The event is governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing, available at [sailing.org/racingrules](http://sailing.org/racingrules). The prescriptions of Sail Canada apply, available at [sailing.ca/rules-prescriptions](http://sailing.ca/rules-prescriptions).
- 2.2** The Rules of PHRF BC, available at [bcsailing.bc.ca/phrf](http://bcsailing.bc.ca/phrf).
- 2.3** [DP] All monohull boats shall comply with Category 3 of the 2026–2027 World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations for Monohulls with Canadian Prescriptions available at [sailing.ca/special-regulations](http://sailing.ca/special-regulations) as amended by The BC Sailing Keelboat Committee available at [bcsailing.bc.ca/keelboat-regattas](http://bcsailing.bc.ca/keelboat-regattas).
- 2.4** [DP] All multihull boats shall comply with Category 3 of the 2026–2027 World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations for Multihulls with Canadian Prescriptions available at [sailing.ca/special-regulations](http://sailing.ca/special-regulations) as amended by The BC Sailing Keelboat Committee available at [bcsailing.bc.ca/keelboat-regattas](http://bcsailing.bc.ca/keelboat-regattas). The following amendments are for multihulls only:
  - 2.4.1** 3.07.6 Escape hatches for multihulls less than 12m, prepend “recommended:”.
  - 2.4.2** 3.29.6 e) VHF antenna for multihulls, prepend “recommended:”.
  - 2.4.3** 3.14 Pulpits, Stanchions, Lifelines, prepend “recommended” for multihulls only.
  - 2.4.4** 3.14.2, append “On a multihull boat with no lifelines the use of a harness tethered to jackstays and/or clipping points (see 4.04) is recommended at all times when not below deck.”
- 2.5** For information on significant changes in the 2026/2027 OSR's that may affect your ability to enter this event, a help document is available on the event website at [patosislandrace.com](http://patosislandrace.com)



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- 2.6** [DP] Note that an AIS transponder is now required as per 3.29.7 of the Offshore Special Regulations. The AIS transponder must remain on from the prep signal until after the boat has finished.
- 2.7** The navigation rules of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (IRPCAS) replaces RRS Part 2 between sunset and sunrise. IRPCAS is available at [laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/pdf/C.R.C.,\\_c.\\_1416.pdf](https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/pdf/C.R.C.,_c._1416.pdf).
- 2.8** RRS Appendix TS, Traffic Separation Schemes, Version 4.0, Section A and TS1 apply to the following TSS: Haro Strait and Boundary Passage. This changes rule 56.2.
- 2.9** Boats entered as a double-handed crew are allowed to use self-steering and/or autopilot mechanisms for sail changes and other situations where having one crew member assigned to steering the yacht may compromise the safety of crew and craft. This changes RRS 52.
- 2.10** [NP] [DP] The race will be tracked for entertainment using SAP Sailing Analytics. Racers are requested to install the SAP Sail Insight app on their smart phone and to have it running for the duration of the race. This will require a data plan (including the USA) and a means of keeping the device charged throughout the race duration. Instructions and assistance with setting up the app will be provided at registration.

**3 SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

- 3.1** The Sailing Instructions for the Long and Short Course will be available after 08:00 on March 1st at [patosislandrace.com](http://patosislandrace.com).

**4 COMMUNICATION**

- 4.1** The official notice board is located in the entrance of the SNSYC clubhouse and online at [patosislandrace.com](http://patosislandrace.com).
- 4.2** All boats shall carry a VHF radio capable of communicating on channels 16, 11 and 72.



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**5 ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY**

**5.1** The event is open to all boats with a valid 2026 PHRF BC certificate. 2026 PHRF NW certificates will be accepted and will be normalized to PHRF BC regulations.

**5.2** Classes are defined as follows:

Long Course	PHRF BC
Short Course	PHRF BC

Division splits will be announced at the Skippers Meeting.

**5.3** Eligible boats may enter by registering online at [patosislandrace.com](http://patosislandrace.com) together with the required fee by 23:59, March 16th, 2026.

There will be no course selection changes allowed by race participants after 11:00 March 17th, 2026.

**5.4** The number of boats entered in the event (all courses) is limited to 55. Boats will be placed on a waiting list once there are 55 entries.

**6 FEES**

**6.1** Entry fees are as follows:

Class	Early Entry Fee until February 1st , 2026	Standard Fee
Long Course	\$140 Cdn	\$175 Cdn
Short Course	\$110 Cdn	\$140 Cdn

**6.2** Social activity fees:

BBQ Dinner (Friday)	\$20.00 / person
Pancake & Sausage Breakfast (Saturday)	\$10.00 / person
Bagged Lunch to Go (Saturday)	\$18.00 / bag
Complimentary Chili & Buns (Saturday/Sunday)	Free
Continental Breakfast (Sunday)	Free



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**7 CREW LIMITATIONS**

- 7.1** As per OSR 6.01.2, At least 30% but not fewer than two crew members, including the Person in Charge, shall have undertaken a one-day Sail Canada accredited (or equivalent) coastal personal survival course within five years before the start of the race. For double handed entries, OSR 6.01.3 requires that at least one shall have undertaken training.

BC Sailing and The Sailing Foundation both offer Safety at Sea programs. At this time, BC Sailing has four 1-day courses scheduled:

- a) Saturday February 28th, 2026 – Sidney North Saanich YC
- b) Sunday March 1st, 2026 – Royal Victoria YC (subject to demand)
- c) Saturday March 7th , 2026 – West Vancouver YC
- d) Sunday March 8th , 2026 – West Vancouver YC (subject to demand)

More information: [bcsailing.bc.ca/coastal-personal-survival-course-cpsc](https://bcsailing.bc.ca/coastal-personal-survival-course-cpsc).

**8 COURSES**

- 8.1** The race start is in the vicinity of the Sidney downtown waterfront.
- 8.2** The Racing Area is shown in Appendix A, Course Description. Competitors are strongly advised to check the appropriate charts for navigational hazards.

**9 PENALTY SYSTEM**

- 9.1** RRS 44.1 will apply (two-turns penalty).

**10 RISK STATEMENT**

- 10.1** RRS 3 states: 'The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone.' By participating in this event each competitor agrees and acknowledges that sailing is a potentially dangerous activity with inherent risks. These risks include strong winds and rough seas, sudden changes in weather, failure of equipment, boat handling errors, poor seamanship by other boats, loss of balance on an unstable platform and fatigue resulting in increased risk of injury.



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**Inherent in the sport of sailing is the risk of permanent, catastrophic injury or death by drowning, trauma, hypothermia or other causes.**

**11 INSURANCE**

- 11.1** Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of \$3,000,000 Cdn per incident or the equivalent. A hard copy of the insurance policy must be on board while racing.

**12 FURTHER INFORMATION**

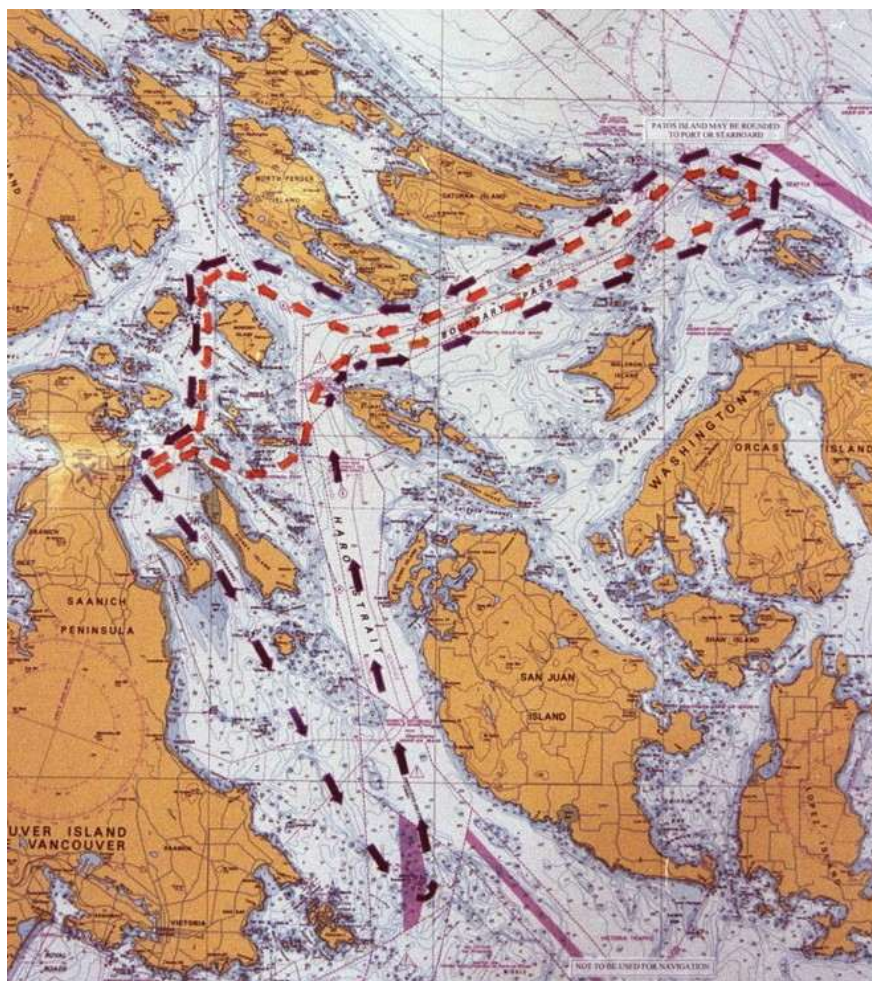
- 12.1** For further information please contact Heather Meads, [info@patosislandrace.com](mailto:info@patosislandrace.com)





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**Appendix A COURSE DESCRIPTION**



**Not to be used for Navigation**

-  Short Course
-  Long Course

Patos Island may be rounded either to port or to starboard. Port option shown.