



**VARC Opener**  
Royal Vancouver Yacht Club  
Saturday, March 28, 2026  
Vancouver Canada



**Notice to Competitors No 1 dated February 1, 2026**

In recent years sailmakers and boat owners have moved toward black mainsails, which seem to provide longer life and improved performance. Unhappily, in the early stages of development it became popular to use sail numbers of various colours other than white. This poses two problems for race committees: First of all, dark blue, dark red, dark green on black sails are extremely difficult to read, both at starting lines and at finishes. Some boats have bow numbers and other identifiers, but generally we look to the mainsail to determine both our OCS calls and our finish times.

Secondly, these dark coloured numbers do not comply with Appendix G of the racing rules. The requirement is that numbers be "clearly legible", and these colours are not. The specifications in Appendix G have been in place for many years; we just haven't been complying with them. Also please note numbers do not have to be white, but that's a good fall back for most of us.

Please be advised that, in conjunction with West Vancouver YC and other VARC clubs, Royal Van race committees in 2026 will protest boats with sail numbers that do not comply with the rule in Appendix G.

John Culter NRO CAN  
Race Officer