



2026 Portland Yacht Services J/24 US National Championship



Organizing Authority: J/24 Fleet 43 in conjunction with Portland Yacht Club, Sail Maine and the US J/24 Class Association



**September 09-13, 2026
Portland, ME – USA**

Sailing Instructions

(version 08/31/2026)

Preamble: The notation [NP] in a rule means that a boat may not protest another boat for a breach of this rule. This changes RRS 60.1.

1 RULES

1.1 The event is governed by the *rules* as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing*.

1.2 The Regatta Regulations of the IJCA (IJCA RR) shall apply.

<https://www.j24class.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/J24-Regatta-Regulations-2021.pdf>

1.3 The US Sailing prescriptions that apply are listed in NoR 1.3.

1.4 RRS 41 shall apply from the time a boat leaves her mooring for the first race of each day and until she returns to her mooring after her last race of the day, except in an emergency. This changes the preamble to Part 4 rules.

1.5 If there is a conflict between languages, the English text will take precedence.

- 1.6 RRS Appendix T shall apply as modified by SI 15.4.
- 1.7 RC will use the Vakaros RaceSense System which is further detailed in Addendum RS.
- 1.8 The Protest Committee may impose penalties less than disqualification (DPI), for violations of the racing rules other than those of Part 1 and Part 2. For violations of class rules a DPI penalty shall be a minimum of 5% as calculated in RRS 44.3(c).
- 1.9 Class rules change(s) as permitted by the IJCA Class Rules (CR), Section H:
 - (a) Class rule C.10.2 is replaced by class rule H.2 that allows a spare spinnaker with restrictions.
- 1.10 In accordance with RRS G3, a boat chartered or loaned for this event may carry national letters or a sail number in contravention of the class rules.
- 1.11 RRS 60.1 is changed to read: “.....or committee may protest a boat, but the technical committee may not protest under the rules of Parts 1, 2, 3, 4 Section A., and RRS 49.2 sentences 1 and 2”

2 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1 Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted before 0930 on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 2000 on the day before it will take effect.
- 2.2 Any questions regarding these Sailing Instructions shall be submitted in writing to the PRO. The questions and any answers will be posted on the official notice board as soon as possible.

3 COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

- 3.1 Notices to competitors will be published on the official notice board located at:

<https://yachtscoring.com/emenu/50488>

- 3.2 The race office is located in Building G at Portland Yacht Services.
- 3.3 On the water, the race committee intends to monitor and communicate with competitors on VHF channel 69.
- 3.4 [DP] From the first warning signal until the end of the last race of the day, except in an emergency, a boat shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats.

4 CODE OF CONDUCT

- 4.1 [DP] Competitors and support persons shall comply with reasonable requests from race officials.
- 4.2 [DP] Competitors and support persons shall place advertising provided by the Organizing Authority with care, seamanship, in accordance with any instructions for its use and without interfering with its functionality.

5 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 5.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed on the RC Signal Vessel docked next Portland Yacht Services.
- 5.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, ‘1 minute’ is replaced with ‘not less than 45 minutes’ in Race Signals AP.

6 SCHEDULE OF RACES

The schedule is detailed in NOR 7.

7 CLASS FLAGS

The Class flag is a white flag with a blue J/24 insignia or numeral pennant 1.

8 RACING AREA

NoR Attachment A shows the location of the venue and racing area.

9 COURSES

- 9.1 Courses will be windward/leeward with five legs (Course 5) or four legs (Course 4).
- 9.2 The diagrams in SI Addendum C show the courses.
- 9.3 No later than the warning signal, the race committee signal vessel will display the course designator, the approximate compass bearing and distance to the first mark. The RC may also broadcast this information. Failure to broadcast or to receive this information does not constitute grounds for granting redress. This changes RRS 61.4(b)(1).
- 9.4 An offset mark (designated mark 1a) will be used in conjunction with mark 1. The offset mark will be placed to the left of the weather mark (looking upwind) at approximately a right angle to the weather leg and approximately 10 boat lengths to port of mark 1. There will be no offset if there is a change to mark 1.
- 9.5 Mark 2 will be a gate consisting of two marks (mark 2p and mark 2s). If the gate is not present, the remaining mark 2 shall be rounded to port. Except when there is a change of course, the gate will be positioned approximately to windward of the RC signal vessel at a distance at the discretion of the RC. The gate may be laid after the starting signal.
- 9.6 Except for a change of course, the finish for course 5 will be to windward of mark 1.
- 9.7 No 5-leg course will be shortened to less than four legs in length, and no 4-leg course will be shortened to less than three legs in length. For purpose of this SI only, the distance between mark 1 and the offset mark will not be regarded as a leg of the course. This changes RRS 32.

10 MARKS

Mark	Original Mark	Change Mark
1	Orange tetrahedron	Green tetrahedron
1a	Yellow cylinder	<i>(none)</i>
2p and 2s	Orange tetrahedron	<i>(original marks)</i>
Start & finish pin	Orange robotic mark	

11 OBSTRUCTIONS

No areas are designated as obstructions.

12 THE START

- 12.1 The starting line is between a Vakaros device mounted to the staff displaying an orange flag on the starboard-end RC signal vessel and a Vakaros device attached to the port-end starting mark.
- 12.2 [NP] A boat that does not start within 4 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start (DNS) without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.

13 CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

- 13.1 To change the next leg of the course in accordance with RRS 33, the RC will lay a new mark (or move the finishing line) and remove the original mark as soon as practicable. When in a subsequent change a new mark is replaced, it will be replaced by an original mark. There will be no offset mark.
- 13.2 The RC may make minor adjustments to the racecourse during a race to maintain fair course geometry of no more than 0.1nm or 10-degrees without signalling a change. This is added to RRS 33.

14 THE FINISH

- 14.1 The finishing line is between a Vakaros device mounted to the staff displaying an orange flag on the RC signal vessel and a Vakaros device attached to the finishing mark. This changes Race Signal Blue flag.
- 14.2 Unless Addendum RS.10 applies, the Vakaros RaceSense system will be used by the Race Committee at the finishing line.

15 PENALTY SYSTEM

- 15.1 All scoring penalties shall be calculated as directed in RRS 44.3(c).
- 15.2 RRS Appendix V shall apply.
- 15.3 Except if the course is shortened to finish at the windward mark, penalties while in the zone of the windward mark or on the offset leg may be delayed and taken as soon as possible on the downwind leg. This changes RRS 44.2.
- 15.4 RRS Appendix T will apply, as modified below.
- (a) A boat may accept a post-race scoring penalty of 20% only until the end of the protest time limit by completing a penalty acceptance form available at the protest desk. This changes RRS Appendix T.1.(a) and T.1.(b).
- (b) A boat accepting a post-race scoring penalty after an arbitration hearing shall be penalized 30%. This changes RRS Appendix T.1.(b).
- 15.5 A boat found in violation of the boat's event measurement certificate by the Technical Committee may accept a scoring penalty of 10% by completing a penalty acceptance form available at the protest desk at the first reasonable opportunity, else the boat will be protested.

16 TIME LIMITS AND TARGET TIMES

- 16.1 The Mark 1 Time Limit, Race Time Limit (see RRS 35), and the Finishing Window are shown in the table below.

Mark 1 Time Limit	Race Target Time	Finishing Window
25 minutes	45 to 60 minutes	30 minutes after 1 st boat to Finish

- 16.2 If no boat has passed the first mark within the Mark 1 Time Limit, the race will be abandoned.
- 16.3 The Finishing Window is the time for boats to finish after the first boat sails the course. Boats starting but failing to sail the course within the Finishing Window, and not subsequently retiring, penalized or given redress, will be scored Time Limit Expired (TLE) without a hearing. A boat scored TLE shall be scored points for the finishing place two (2) more than the finishing place of the last boat that sailed the course within the Finishing Window and was not penalised under RRS 30.3 or 30.4 but not to exceed the score for DNF. This changes RRS 35, A5.1, A5.2 and A10.

- 16.4 Failure to meet the Target Time will not be grounds for requesting redress.
This is added to RRS 61.4(b)(1).

17 HEARING REQUESTS

- 17.1 The protest time limit is 60 minutes after the race committee signal vessel docks. The time will be posted on the official notice board.
- 17.2 Hearing request forms will be available at and delivered to the jury desk in Building G at Portland Yacht Services.
- 17.3 Notices will be posted no later than 30 minutes after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties. Hearings will be held in the protest room, located inside Building G at Portland Yacht Services, as scheduled on the official notice board.

18 SCORING

- 18.1 Three (3) races are required to be scored to constitute a championship.
- 18.2 When fewer than 5 races have been completed, a boat's series score is the total of her race scores. When 5 or more races have been completed, a boat's series score is the total of her race scores excluding her worst score subject to RRS 90.3(b).
- 18.3 The Corinthian Division shall be scored as a subdivision of the whole fleet using the competitor's actual scores and in accordance with Regatta Regulations 28 and 33.3.

19 SAFETY REGULATIONS

- 19.1 [NP] [DP] A boat that retires from a race or does not intend to compete in a race or returns to the racing area shall notify the race committee as soon as possible.
- 19.2 [NP] [DP] Before the warning signal of the first race each day, each boat shall sail by the RC signal boat displaying code flag L and hail her sail number until acknowledged by the race committee repeating her sail number.

20 REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT

- 20.1 [DP] Substitution of competitors is not allowed except with prior written approval of the Chief Judge, Technical Chair or the PRO.
- 20.2 [DP] Substitution of damaged or lost equipment is not allowed unless authorized in writing by the Technical Chair. Requests for substitution shall be made to the committee at the first reasonable opportunity, which may be after the race. Substitution of spinnakers, spinnaker poles or rudders with spares that have been measured and carry event limitation marks for this event may be done without advanced notification but shall be reported to the Technical Chair upon returning to shore.

21 EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

- 21.1 A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules, notice of race and sailing instructions.
- 21.2 [DP] When instructed by a race official on the water, a boat shall proceed to a designated area for inspection.

23 OFFICIAL VESSELS

Judge vessels may display a flag with "Judge" or code flag J.

24 [DP] SUPPORT TEAMS

- 24.1 All support persons and support person vessels shall comply with NoR 14.

- 24.2 All support persons and support person vessels shall stay 100 yards outside areas where boats are racing from the time of the preparatory signal for the first start until all boats have finished or retired or the race committee signals a postponement, general recall or abandonment.

25 TRASH DISPOSAL

[NP][DP] Competitors shall follow RRS 47.

26 BERTHING

[DP] If designated, boats shall be kept in their assigned places while in the water.

27 HAUL-OUT RESTRICTIONS

[DP][NP] Boats shall not be hauled out during the event except in accordance with the prior written permission and terms of the Technical Committee Chair. This restriction also applies to rudders.

28 DIVING EQUIPMENT AND PLASTIC POOLS

- 28.1 [DP] Underwater breathing apparatus and plastic pools or their equivalent shall not be used between the time the boat is afloat and the end of the regatta. The hull may be cleaned at any time by swimming or keelhauling using ropes, cloth or other equipment.

- 28.2 [DP] Careening by any means for the purpose of cleaning or inspecting the hull is prohibited during the regatta.

- 28.3 [DP] Use of dehumidifiers or electric fans and/or electric power cords are prohibited at all times while boats are afloat.

29 PRIZES

Prizes will be awarded in accordance with NoR 19.

30 RISK STATEMENT

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

31 INSURANCE

Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party Marine liability insurance with a minimum coverage of USD \$300,000 per incident or the equivalent.

32 MEDIA RIGHTS

Competitors give absolute right and permission to the International J/24 Class Association, the US J/24 Class Association, the Florida Yacht Club and the event sponsors to use, publish, broadcast or otherwise distribute for promotional, advertising or any other purpose, any images and sound recorded during the event of persons and boats free of any charge.

33 COMPETITOR DRONES

- 33.1 [DP] Teams or their representatives shall not fly drones over the shore base or over the race area during training or racing days without complying with local legislation and without prior written approval of the Organizing Authority.

- 33.2 The approval granted at the sole discretion of the Organizing Authority may impose limitations on where and when drones may fly and will appear on the official notice board.
- 33.3 At all times, the risk and responsibility for flying any drone is with the person flying the drone and images made inside the race area shall be shared with the Organizing Authority, race committee, competitors or jury upon reasonable request.

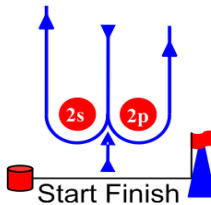
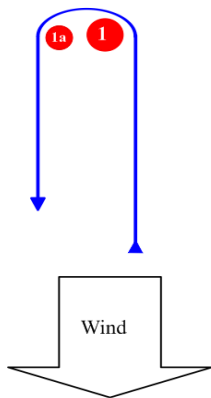
34 DATA PROTECTION

By entering this event, you agree to provide personal data to the OA. The OA will process your personal data for the purpose of administering the event.

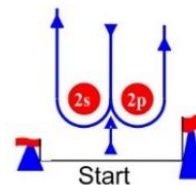
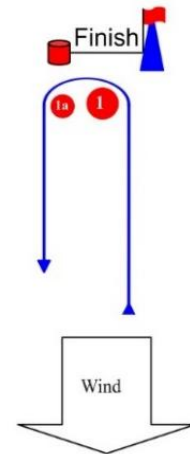
35 ADDITIONAL CONTACTS

Regatta Chair	Finn Hadlock – WfinnHadlock@gmail.com 207-252-8920
J/24 Class	Christopher Howell (CAE, IM – USA) – director@j24class.org 440-796-3100
Technical Chair	Stephanie Helms
Principal Race Officer	Chip Till (NRO – USA) – chiptill5351@gmail.com 843-556-6554
Chief Judge	Jason Maher (NJ – USA) – jasonmaher@hotmail.com 8781-249-1166

ADDENDUM C – Courses



Course	Mark Rounding Order
4	Start-1-1a-2s/2p 1-1a-Finish



Course	Mark Rounding Order
5	Start-1-1a-2s/2p 1-1a-2s/2p-Finish

Note: *The actual shape, color and size of the marks used may vary from the depictions in these diagrams.*

Addendum RS: RaceSense RRS changes

(rev 06-03-2026)

[NP] [DP] Rules and Instructions for Using the Vakaros and RaceSense System

- RS.1** Each boat shall have a working Vakaros Atlas 2 or Atlas Edge configured for RaceSense at check-in. Boats without a configured Atlas 2 or Atlas Edge may have one provided by the OA, for applicable fees. This shall be mounted on the aft side of the mast, and preferably above any existing instruments and below the boom at all times while *racing*.
- RS.2** Competitors shall:
- a) calibrate their Atlas 2 or Atlas Edge before registration/check-in. It is the responsibility of the competitor to ensure their device remains in proper calibration throughout the event.
https://youtu.be/CA68kFUbPgl?si=2wRoIEEx_FD7Y0f3 
 - b) turn their Atlas 2 or Atlas Edge on and keep it on until after sailing each day.
 - c) turn their Atlas 2 or Atlas Edge off after sailing each day. Battery life is approximately 100 hours.
 - d) ensure their device Firmware and GPS are updated to the most recent versions:
Firmware: <https://youtu.be/qgelN4KS3f0?si=mcZpd5HvVegHH7xO> 
GPS: https://youtu.be/b0nkHbl_jDc?si=1qZANR5MdqmhHMAk 
 - e) ensure their Atlas 2 or Atlas Edge is configured for the events proper One-Design Class compliance mode.
- RS.3** The Vakaros RaceSense system will be used by the Race Committee (RC) and the relevant information will be available to all boats.
- RS.4** Instructions for using the electronic Atlas 2 can be found here [Atlas 2 User Guide](#) or Atlas Edge can be found here [Atlas Edge User Guide](#).
- RS.5** Competitors shall take all reasonable measures to keep their Atlas 2 or Atlas Edge safe and operational and promptly notify Vakaros staff or RC on the water or ashore of any device issues.
- RS.6** The countdown to the start on the Atlas 2 or Atlas Edge from RaceSense will be the official time. RRS 26 visual signal flags and sound signals will only be used for informational purposes. This changes RRS 26.
- RS.7** The visual identification of boats infringing RRS 29 and 30 by the RC is replaced with electronic identification through the Vakaros RaceSense system, no VHF hail will be made, flag X will not be displayed and no sound will be made modifying RRS 29.1, 30.1, 30.2, 30.3, and 30.4. RaceSense will also be used to call the Finish Line.
- RS.9** Any alleged failure of the Atlas 2 or Atlas Edge, RaceSense system, or communication systems will not constitute grounds to request redress by a boat. This changes RRS 61.1(a) and RRS 61.1(c).
- RS.10** If the RC vessel displays flag DELTA with a long sound signal before the warning signal of a race, RS.6 and RS.7 inclusive will not apply to that race.
- RS.11** If the RC vessel displays flag ECHO with a long sound signal before the warning signal of a race, Competitors shall restart their Vakaros Atlas 2 or Atlas Edge unit by switching it off, waiting 10 seconds and then switching it back on to reconnect to the RaceSense network. Flag ECHO will remain displayed for a minimum of two (2) minutes and will be removed with the next warning signal.
- RS.12** If firmware updates to Atlas 2 or Atlas Edge devices are required between scheduled race days, a notice will be sent to all boats via email and/or SMS and posted on the Official Notice Board.