

# HELLY HANSEN



## SAILING WORLD

### 2026 REGATTA SERIES

Helly Hansen Sailing World Regatta Series

May 1-3, 2026

Annapolis Yacht Club

Annapolis, MD

**INCLUDING AMENDMENT**

***NO. 1 IN ITALICS***

## SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Sailing World and the Annapolis Yacht Club are co-organizing authorities (OA) for this regatta. The Annapolis Yacht Club (AYC) is the host club and will provide race management assisted by Eastport Yacht Club and the Severn Sailing Association. This is an official US Sailing sanctioned event.

The notation '[NP]' in the rule means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1.

### 1. RULES

**1.1** The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS).

**1.2 [DP]** For the J/70 Class: Class Rules Part III Sections I.3 (Support Boat) and I.4 (Corinthian Division) will apply.

**1.3 [DP]** Entries shall not fly drones while racing or in the racing area.

**1.4** The RRS changes for the classes who will use the Vakaros RaceSense (VRS) are identified in Addendum 4. All classes utilizing this start system shall grant approval as per RRS 87.

### 2. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

**2.1** Amendments to the Sailing Instructions will be posted on the Official Notice Board (ONB) before 0800 on the day it will take effect, except any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 2000 on the day before it will take effect. It is the responsibility of each competitor to check the Official Notice Board for any amendments or notices.

**2.2** Separate Sailing Instructions (SIs) will be available for the Distance Races in SI Addendum 2 and the Waspz Class in SI Addendum 3.

### 3. COMMUNICATION WITH COMPETITORS

**3.1** The Official Notice Board (ONB) is located online at: <https://www.sailingworld.com/regatta-series-annapolis/>

**3.2 [DP]** All boats shall carry a VHF radio capable of communicating on US channels. This may change a class rule.

**3.3** On the water, the race committee will make courtesy broadcasts to competitors on VHF radio. The channel for each Division will be stated in SI Addendum 1.

**3.4 [DP]** 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.

**3.5 [DP]** Check-In: [Boats shall check-in on the water by motoring, or sailing on starboard tack, by their Division signal boat and hailing their sail or bow number until acknowledged. There will be no check-in by radio.

#### **4. ADVERTISING, BOW NUMBERS**

**4.1** Boats are to refrain from displaying advertisements for businesses or products competing with those of the primary and support sponsors of the event.

**4.2** Boats may be required to display advertising chosen and supplied by the OA, e.g., bow stickers, bow numbers, boom stickers, and/or flags.

**4.3** Bow numbers may be required for some classes.

#### **5. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE**

No official signals will be displayed ashore. Notifications to competitors will be posted on the ONB.

#### **6. SCHEDULE OF RACES**

**6.1** As many races as are viable will be sailed on each scheduled day of racing. Except for the Waszp class, a maximum of ten races may be sailed for each class.

**6.2** The scheduled time of the warning signal for the first start of the first race each day is 1100.

**6.3** On the last scheduled day of the regatta no warning signal will be made after 1500.

#### **7. DIVISION CLASS ASSIGNMENTS, INITIAL STARTING ORDER AND WARNING SIGNAL FLAGS**

**7.1** Division class assignments, initial starting order and warning signal flags, will be described in SI Addendum 1 which will be posted on the ONB.

#### **8. RACING AREA**

**8.1** The racing area will be the Chesapeake Bay near Annapolis. The general racing area of each Division will be included in SI Addendum 1.

**8.2** Approximately 60 minutes prior to the first scheduled warning signal, the race committee will announce the location of the race committee signal vessel on VHF radio.

#### **9. COURSES**

**9.1** The courses are as shown in the Course Diagrams and Descriptions in SI Addendum 1, Attachment 1.

**9.2** Prior to the warning signal, the race committee signal vessel will announce on VHF radio the course to be sailed, the approximate distance between the starting line and windward marks, and the approximate compass bearing of the first leg of the course.

#### **10. MARKS**

**10.1** Marks will be described in SI Addendum 1.

**10.2** When the first mark of the course is to be a change mark, the race committee signal vessel will display flag “C” prior to the warning signal, accompanied by a series of repetitive sound signals and announce on VHF radio that the first mark will be a change mark. This changes RRS 33.

## **11. THE START**

**11.1** Races will be started using RRS 26, except for the J/24 and Harbor 20 classes which will use RRS Appendix U.

**11.2** Prior to the warning signal, the race committee will announce the next class to start on VHF radio.

**11.3** The starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the race committee signal vessel at the starboard end, and either the course side of the starting mark or a staff displaying an orange flag on the race committee vessel at the port end.

**11.4** [DP] Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area during the starting sequence for other classes.

**11.5** A boat that does not start within 5 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes RRS A4 and A5.

**11.6** For the J/105 and J/70 classes only the Vakaros RaceSense may be used, which is outlined in Addendum 4. This changes RRS 26, 29.1, 30, 41 and Race Signals.

## **12. RECALLS**

**12.1** The race committee may announce on VHF radio, boats identified as OCS. A boat may not base a request for redress on the failure to hear or receive the announcements, the timeliness of announcement or the order in which boats are announced. This changes RRS 61.1(a).

## **13. CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE**

**13.1** The race committee may, without signal, move a mark to change the direction up to 5 degrees or the length up to 5 percent of the previous length, or adjust the angle or width of the leeward gate, provided that no boat is sailing to the mark. This changes RRS 33.

**13.2** The race committee may, when signaled in accordance with RRS 33, lay a new mark, as described in SI Addendum 1 (or move the finishing line or gate) 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.

## **14. THE FINISH**

**14.1** The finishing line will be between the staff displaying a blue flag on the race committee finishing vessel and either the course side of the nearby finishing mark or the staff displaying a blue flag on a race committee vessel on the other end.

## **15. PENALTY SYSTEM**

**15.1** US Sailing Prescription Appendix V1 – ALTERNATIVE PENALTIES will apply.

**15.2** Penalties after racing: RRS Appendix T – ARBITRATION will apply.

## **16. TIME LIMIT**

**16.1** If no boat sails the course and finishes within 2 hours the race will be abandoned.

**16.2** Boats failing to finish 30 minutes after the first boat in each class sails the course and finishes will be scored TLE (Time Limit Expired, see Scoring) and should proceed to the starting area if another race is scheduled. The race committee boat at the finishing line will lower the blue flag with a long sound signal when the 30-minute period has expired for all classes. This changes RRS 35, A4 and A5.

## **17. HEARING REQUESTS**

**17.1** The protest time limit is 60 minutes after the Division signal boat docks. The time will be posted on the ONB.

**17.2** Hearing request forms, scoring inquiry forms, and penalty acceptance forms can be found: <https://www.annapolisyc.com/on-the-water/racing-and-results/race-office>. They shall be delivered to the AYC Race Office by the protest time limit, by email to: [raceoffice@annapolisyc.org](mailto:raceoffice@annapolisyc.org) If not submitted online, forms can be delivered to the Jury Secretary on the 3rd Floor of AYC's Sailing Center, 510 Severn Avenue.

**17.3** The time limit for requesting redress based on a scoring inquiry is 30 minutes after posting of the results of the scoring inquiry. Except on the last day of the event, if this time limit is after 2000 hours, it is extended to 0830 the following morning. This changes RRS 61.

**17.4** The protest committee intends to conduct hearings in person at the AYC Sailing Center. The protest committee will post a notice on the event's Protest Committee console on the Yacht Scoring website to inform competitors of the schedule and location of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses.

## **18. SCORING**

**18.1** One completed race shall constitute a series.

**18.2** A boat's series score will be the total of her race scores without discard.

**18.3** Boats to be scored TLE and not thereafter retiring, being penalized, or given redress will be scored points equal to the number of boats finishing within the time limit plus 2 points by the race committee without a hearing. This changes RRS A4 and A5.

**18.4** When the race committee receives a scoring inquiry form, it will review its records and respond as soon as practicable.

## **19. SAFETY REGULATIONS**

**19.1** A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee as soon as practicable. [DP]

**19.2** RRS 40 (Personal Buoyancy) is replaced by: "It shall be the individual responsibility of each competitor to wear adequate personal buoyancy when conditions warrant."

**19.3** A boat shall not exercise right of way, cross in proximity to, or interfere with reasonable transit of the race area by commercial ships, tugs, or barges. Boats must take evasive action well in advance of a potentially dangerous situation. The US Coast Guard, ship captains, and bay pilots have been encouraged to report any incident they observe. [NP]

**19.4** The race committee or protest committee may protest a boat for breaking SI 19.3 based on information received from any source. The protest time limit does not apply. This changes RRS 60.2, and 60.3.

## **20. RISK STATEMENT**

**20.1** Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. 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. The OA will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the regatta.

**20.2** The Skipper/Owner of each boat participating in the regatta shall be responsible for the behavior of each member of the crew of his/her boat both on the water and while ashore. The destruction of property, the breach of reasonable standards of good sportsmanship by any crew member, or any other person associated with the boat, or the failure of any of those persons to comply with the state and local laws, guidelines and recommendations as well as the host club’s restrictions or with any reasonable request of the Organizing Authorities, Race Officers, Regatta Committee members, or their representatives, may result in the disqualification of the boat, and its exclusion from the regatta.

**20.3** It is the skipper’s obligation to ensure that each crew member’s waiver is reflected on the waiver list prior to closing of on-site registration and check-in.

## **21. PRIZES**

**21.1** Prizes will be awarded, after racing on Sunday, to the top-three finishers of each qualifying class.

**21.2** Each class winner is eligible for the 2026 Helly Hansen Sailing World Regatta Series Championship scheduled for October 31 to November 7, 2026 in the British Virgin Islands. One winner will be drawn at the conclusion of the awards. A representative of the drawn winner must be present to accept. If no representative is present, draws will continue until the award is accepted by present representative.

**21.3** Additional prizes may be awarded to the top J/70 Mixed-Plus Team (50% + female) and top Junior Team (under 21 years of age) in any one-design class with a minimum of 12 boats registered.

## **22. PHOTOGRAPHERS AND TV RIGHTS**

Competitors give absolute right and permission to the OA and its sponsors for any photographs or video footage taken of themselves or their competing boat to be published in any media whatsoever; for either editorial or advertising purposes, or to be used in press information.