



2026 Wednesday Night Races

April 22 - August 26, 2026

Organizing Authority: Annapolis Yacht Club,
Annapolis, Maryland, USA

<http://www.annapolisyc.com/racing/regattas>

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS inc. Amendment No. 1

(Amendment in bold *italics*)

*The notation '[NP]' in a rule of the NoR or SIs means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule.
This changes RRS 60.1(a).*

1 RULES

- 1.1 The event is governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing*.
- 1.2 For ORC and PHRF classes, the “Nearshore” category of the US Sailing Safety Equipment Requirements (available at <https://www.ussailing.org/competition/offshore/safety-information/ser-world-sailing-special-regulations>) will apply.
- 1.3 Rule 60.4 (a) (2) is changed as follows: “(2) if it alleges a breach of a rule of Part 2 or rule 31 and is from a boat that was not involved in, and did not see, the incident, or”

2 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1 Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted before 1500 on the day it will take effect.

3 COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

- 3.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the Official Notice Board(s).
 - Series 1 - <https://www.yachtscoring.com/emenue/50566>
 - Series 2 <https://www.yachtscoring.com/emenue/50568>
 - Series 3 <https://www.yachtscoring.com/emenue/50569>
- 3.2 On the water, the race committee intends to monitor and communicate with boats via VHF radio.
 - (a) In the starting areas, the race committee will use the following radio channels to communicate course and recall information:
 - Club starting line (Herreshoff 12½): VHF 81A
 - Inner starting line (Harbor 20 & Sonar): VHF 69
 - Outer starting line (All other classes): VHF 72After starting, the race committee will use VHF 72 for any further communications.
- 3.3 The race office can be reached by telephone at 410-858-4964 or by email at raceoffice@annapolisyc.org. See SI 13 (Penalty System) and SI 15 (Hearing Requests) for information about obtaining and filing forms and request for hearings.
- 3.4 Forms are available online at: <https://www.annapolisyc.com/on-the-water/racing-and-results/race-office>.

4 CODE OF CONDUCT

- 4.1 [DP] Competitors and support persons shall comply with reasonable requests from race officials.

5 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 5.1 Signals displayed ashore will be flown for the flagpole at the AYC Clubhouse.
- 5.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, the approximate time of the next warning signal will be announced to all competitors before it is removed on VHS 72 and electronically.

6 SCHEDULE OF RACES

- 6.1 The regatta will consist of three series:
 - (a) First Series: April 22 - May 27
 - (b) Second Series: June 3 - July 15 (no racing on July 1)
 - (c) Third Series: July 22 - August 26
- 6.2 Fleet splits, scheduled racing dates, and warning signal timing are all contained in SI Attachment A.
- 6.3 The first warning signal for the first race of each Wednesday is scheduled for 1745 for the Herreshoff 12½ class. The first warning signal for all other classes is 1800.
- 6.5 An awards party is scheduled to be held at AYC at 1900 on September 9.

7 CLASS FLAGS

- 7.1 See SI Attachment A.
- 7.2 A fleet consists of one or more classes that start together. When a fleet flag is flown under any visual race signal, it applies to all classes in that fleet.
- 7.4 [DP] Fleet flags shall be displayed prominently at the stern for boats in the ORC, PHRF, and Harbor 20 classes.

8 COURSES

- 8.1 The courses are shown in SI Attachment B.
- 8.2 No later than the preparatory signal, the race committee will display the course designation for the next fleet to start.
- 8.3 When the course designation is changed, the race committee will announce the change on VHF radio and raise a green flag. This changes RRS 27.1.

9 MARKS

- 9.1 See SI Attachment B.

10 THE START

- 10.1 See SI Attachments A and B.
- 10.2 Races will be started using RRS 26 for all classes except the Herreshoff 12.5, Sonar and Harbor 20 classes which will be started using RRS/US Appendix U.
- 10.3 [DP] Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area during the starting sequence for other fleets.
- 10.4 A boat that does not start within 10 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes RRS A4 and A5.
- 10.7 The starting line is between a staff displaying an orange flag on the starting vessel and the course side of the pin end starting mark.

10.8 The J/105 Class may be started using the Vakaros/RaceSense starting system. See SI Addendum RS to be posted>

11 RECALLS

- 11.1 The race committee will announce on VHF radio boats identified as OCS, UFD, or BFD. 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).
- 11.2 The last sentence of RRS 29.2 is deleted and replaced by “in the event of a General Recall, the starting order and timing of subsequent starts will proceed as if there had been no general recall. The recalled fleet will be restarted after the last fleet in the scheduled starting order. If more than one fleet has been recalled, they will restart in the order they were recalled.

12 THE FINISH

- 12.1 The finish line will be between the course side of an orange placard on the 2nd deck of the AYC Clubhouse and the course side of an orange piling cover located at the end of A dock at the Annapolis City Marina.
- 12.2 As a courtesy, the race committee may announce, via loud hailer, the sail number as boats approach the finish line, and then the phrase “Over” as they cross the finish line. 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 PENALTY SYSTEM

13.1 RRS 44.2 applies to the Harbor 20 and Sonar Classes on their separate course. RRS 41.1 is changed so that the Two-Turns Penalty is replaced with a One-Turn penalty.

13.2 RRS 44.3 to all classes except the Harbor 20 and Sonar Classes.

13.3 RRS 44.3 (b) is changed such that a boat taking a scoring penalty shall inform the race committee by submitting a Penalty Acknowledgment Form available online at: <https://www.annapolisyc.com/on-the-water/racing-and-results/race-office> to the race office (BY EMAIL at raceoffice@annapolisyc.com) no later than 1100 on the day after the incident.

13.4 If taken at the first reasonable opportunity after the incident, the penalties will be:

- (a) For breaking a rule of Part 2 or RRS 30.2 at the time of the incident, the percentage will be 20%, but not less than 2 places.
- (b) For breaking RRS 31 (Touching a Mark) at the time of the incident, the percentage will be 10%, but not less than 1 place.
- (c) For a boat that complies with some, but not all the requirements of RRS 44.3(a) and 44.3(b), the percentage will be 30%, but not less than 3 places.

13.5 For penalties after racing, RRS/US Appendix V2 will apply, changed such that the percentage will be 30%, but not less than 3 places.

14 TIME LIMITS [AND TARGET TIMES]

14.1 RRS 35 is replaced by SI 14.

14.2 The time limit for all boats is:

- (a) April 22 through May 27: 2020 hours
- (b) June 3 through July 15: 2040 hours
- (c) July 22 through August 26: 2020 hours

14.3 If no boat in a class sails the course as required by RRS 28 and finishes within the time limit, the race committee shall abandon the race for that class.

14.4 If at least one boat meets the requirements of SI 14.3, then a boat still racing at the time limit will be scored with points for 'Did Not Finish' and will be given a scoring abbreviation of TLE (Time Limit Expired). This changes RRS A4 and A5.

15 HEARING REQUESTS

15.1 The protest time limit is 1100 on the day following the incident.

15.2 Hearing requests, scoring inquiry and other forms can be found online at: <https://www.annapolisyc.com/on-the-water/racing-and-results/race-office>. ALL FORMS shall be delivered to the race office **BY EMAIL** at raceoffice@annapolisyc.com. Neither the Front Desk of AYC nor the AYC Harborside Director will accept forms.

15.3 Hearing requests shall be delivered to the race office by the protest time limit.

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

15.5 The protest hearing schedule including date and time of the hearing will be posted by 2000 the day after a race. Unless notified otherwise, hearings will be held in the protest room on the 3rd deck of the AYC Sailing Center the following Wednesday night PROMPTLY after the racing.

15.6 The race committee will post a list of race committee scoring actions no later than the protest time limit.

15.7 RRS 61.2(b)(2) and 63.7(b) do not apply.

16 SCORING

16.1 RRS Appendix A4, Low Point System, will apply.

16.2 The first sentence of RRS Appendix A5.1 is deleted and replaced by: "A boat that did not start, did not finish, retired, was TLE, did not come to the starting area, or was disqualified shall be scored points for the finishing place one more than the number of boats that finished."

- 16.3 Up to 6 races are scheduled for the first, second, and third series.
- 16.4 When 3 or fewer races in a series have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores. When 4 or more races in a series have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.
- 16.5 The first sentence of RRS Appendix A5.2 is deleted and replaced by: "A boat that did not come to the starting area, did not *start*, did not *sail the course*, did not *finish*, retired, was TLE, or was disqualified shall be scored points for the finishing place one more than the number of boats that finished."
- 16.6 Corrected times for PHRF will be calculated using PHRF Time-on-Time scoring and "Random Course Handicap (Spinnaker)" ratings. A boat's corrected time will be her elapsed time multiplied by: $(650 / (550 + \text{PHRF Rating}))$. A boat may not base a request for redress on the race committee's decision of course type (this changes RRS 61.1).
- 16.7 Corrected times for the ORC class will be calculated using ORC Time-on-Time ratings, with five (5) band wind ranges. The race committee will determine the proper course type and wind speed ratings to be used prior to scoring. A boat may not base a request for redress on the race committee's decision of course type or wind speed band. This changes RRS 61.1.
- 16.8 A boat that does not start within 10 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.1 and A5.2.

17 [DP] SAFETY REGULATIONS

- 17.1 A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee or race office (see SI 3) at the first reasonable opportunity.

18 [DP] [NP] INTERACTION WITH NON-RACING VESSELS AND PROPERTY

- 18.1 AYC reminds all our boats that it is important to respect the rights of vessels that are not racing. The race committee or protest committee may protest a boat based on information that a boat may have broken a government right-of-way (i.e., inland) rule (see RRS Preamble to Part 2) in an incident with a vessel that is not racing.
- 18.2 Boats shall not touch anchored, moored, or docked vessels.
- 18.3 Boats shall not tie up to or touch the docks belonging to the Yacht Basin immediately next to the Yacht Club. Boats that break this SI will be responsible for all charges from the Yacht Basin.
- 18.4 Only boats that launch out of the AYC Sailing Center, may tie up at the docks at the AYC Sailing Center. Competitors may tie up to the docks in front of the Main Clubhouse only in accordance with posted AYC policies and posted signage.
- 18.5 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.
- 18.6 The race committee or protest committee may protest a boat for breaking SI 18 based on information received from any source. The protest time limit does not apply. A written statement from the US Coast Guard, a ship captain, or a bay pilot will be accepted as evidence without the author of the statement present. Such incidents may also be reported to the protest committee for action under RRS 69 (Misconduct) or the AYC Board of Governors for disciplinary action. This changes RRS 60.3 and 60.4.

19 PRIZES

- 19.1 Prizes will be given for the top 3 boats in each class in each series.
- 19.2 The OA anticipates that the following perpetual trophies will be awarded:
 - (a) Charles Dell Trophy: best overall performance.
 - (b) Fred W. Carlson Trophy: best overall performance in ORC.
 - (c) Geiger Memorial: best overall performance in PHRF.
 - (d) Harvey Clap Trophy: first place in the Etchells class.
 - (e) Spadone Trophy: first place in the Herreshoff 12½ class.
 - (f) Commodore Bing Downing Trophy: best overall performance in Harbor 20 class.

- 19.3 Additional prizes may be awarded at the discretion of the OA.

19.4 A prize-giving party is scheduled to be held at AYC at 1900 on September 9th.

20 DECISION TO RACE

20.1 RRS 3 states: 'The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue *racing* is hers alone.'

21 INSURANCE

21.1 Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum coverage of \$300,000 combined single limit per incident.

22 FURTHER INFORMATION

22.1 For more information contact:

AYC Harborside Director: Linda Ambrose, lambrose@annapolisyc.org, 410.858.4964