

2026 Spring Race to Oxford

Saturday, May 9, 2026

CBYRA Sanction #26-305

Organizing Authority: Annapolis Yacht Club, Annapolis, MD USA

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



SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

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

1 RULES

- 1.1 The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing* (RRS).
- 1.2 For all monohull boats competing, the “Nearshore” category of the US Sailing Safety Equipment Requirements (SER), available at <https://www.ussailing.org/competition/offshore/safety-information/ser-world-sailingspecial-regulations>) will apply as changed below.
 - (a) In the event of a conflict between the SER and applicable class rules, the class rules shall govern
 - (b) All monohulls must also meet SER 2.4.1 LIFELINES, or alternatively, all persons must wear a USCG approved PFD at all times when racing.
- 1.3 For all multihull boats competing, the “Nearshore” category of the US Sailing Safety Equipment Requirements (SER, available at <https://www.ussailing.org/competition/offshore/safety-information/ser-world-sailingspecial-regulations>) will apply as changed below.
 - (a) In the event of a conflict between the SER and applicable class rules, the class rules shall govern.
 - (b) All persons aboard a Multihull must wear a USCG approved PFD at all times when racing.
- 1.4 All competitors aboard a boat racing double handed, must wear a USCG approved PFD at all times when racing. This changes RRS 40.
- 1.5 All boats in all classes are to have a minimum crew of two persons.
- 1.6 ORC Open and ORC Performance Cruiser class rules are modified by ORC of the Chesapeake and can be found at: <http://www.orcches.org>

2 CHANGES TO THE SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1 Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted before 0800 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.

3 COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

- 3.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located on the event website at: <https://www.yachtscoring.com/emenu/50567>
- 3.2 The race office can be reached by email at raceoffice@annapolisyc.org. Forms can be found online at <https://www.annapolisyc.com/on-the-water/racing-and-results/race-office>.
- 3.3 On the water, the race committee intends to monitor and communicate with competitors via VHF radio on channel 73. This includes announcements and confirmation of race committee signals before, during, and after racing.
- 3.4 While racing, 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.

5 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

5.1 Signals ashore will be displayed and posted on the event website and notice emailed to each entry.

<https://www.yachtscoring.com/emenu/50567>

5.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, the approximate time of the next warning signal will be posted on the event website and notice emailed to each entry. This changes Race Signals.

6 SCHEDULE

6.1 The first warning signal is scheduled for 0945. Classes will be started in approximate "reverse order" with slower classes starting first.

6.2 The organizing authority will post assignments of boats in handicap classes and starting order no later than 1700 on Wednesday, May 6. The organizing authority may change the assignment of a handicap boat's starting class until 1700 on Friday, May 8.

7 CLASS FLAGS

7.1 The class flags are:

Class	Flag
ORC OPEN 1	Flag O over # 1
ORC OPEN 2	Flag O over # 2
ORC OPEN 3	Flag O over #3
ORC Performance Cruiser 1	Flag O over # 5
ORC Performance Cruiser 2	Flag O over # 6
J-105	Pennant 4
PHRF A	Pennant 9
PHRF B	Pennant 6
PHRF C	Pennant 7
CHESSS	Pennant 3 rd Sub
Multihull	Flag F or W

7.2 [DP] All boats shall clearly display their assigned class flag at the stern.

8 THE COURSE

8.1 The start will be south east of Thomas Point Light between the signal boat and a drop mark.

8.2 After starting, the following marks shall be rounded or passed in the following order:

- (a) Bloody Pt. Warning Light (LLNR 7751), passed to port,
- (b) R"84", passed to port,
- (c) RN "80A", passed to port,
- (d) G"9" (off Black Walnut Pt.), rounded to port,
- (e) R"10", passed to starboard, and
- (f) Choptank River Light, rounded to port

8.3 The finish will be at R"2" off Tred Avon Yacht Club.

9 THE START

9.1 Races will be started using RRS 26.

9.2 The starting line will be between the staff or halyard with an orange flag displayed on the race committee signal vessel and the course side of the starting mark, which will be a green inflatable.

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

9.4 The race committee will attempt to 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 62.1(a).

9.5 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.

9.6 *[NP]* **MANDATORY CHECK-IN** - Prior to starting, each boat shall pass astern of a RC boat displaying flag "L", hail her sail number and the number of persons on board, and receive a verbal confirmation by the race committee. A boat that starts without checking in will receive a 20% scoring penalty (see RRS 44.3(c)) without a hearing. This changes RRS 63.1 and A5.

10 SHORTENING COURSE

10.1 Before the start, the race committee may shorten the course by displaying Flag L with a sound and move the starting area south.

10.2 After the start, the race committee may shorten the course in accordance with RRS 32 at G"9" or at the Choptank River Light.

10.3 If the race committee shortens course in accordance with either SI 10.1 or 10.2, it will make an announcement on VHF radio.

11 THE FINISH

11.1 The finishing line will be between a staff or halyard displaying a blue flag on the race committee finishing vessel and the course side of the finishing mark which will be R"2" off Tred Avon Yacht Club.

11.2 If the race committee finish vessel is not present when finishing off Tred Avon Yacht Club, boats shall

- (a) pass R"2" on the channel side,
- (b) record their finish time when R"2" bears 100 degrees magnetic, and
- (c) report their finish time to the race office as soon as practical after finishing.

12 PENALTY SYSTEM

12.1 Penalties while racing: RRS 44.1, One-Turn and Two-Turns Penalties will apply.

12.2 Penalties after racing: RRS/US Appendix V2, Penalty Taken After the Race, will apply.

13 TIME LIMITS

13.1 Time Limit of 1900 for all boats. Boats failing to finish within the Time Limit, 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 more than the points scored by the last boat that finished within the Time Limit. This changes RRS 35, A5.1 and A5.2 and A 10.

14 PROTESTS, REQUESTS FOR REDRESS, SCORING INQUIRIES

- 14.1 Protest forms are available on the event website (see SI 3.1 & 3.2). Protests, requests for redress or reopening shall be delivered electronically to the event site within the protest time limit.
- 14.2 Scoring inquiry forms are available on the event website (see SI 3.1 & 3.2). When the race committee receives a scoring inquiry form, it will review its records and respond as soon as practicable.
- 14.3 The protest time limit for each boat is 60 minutes after the boat finishes.
- 14.4 Notices of protests by the race committee or protest committee will be posted to the official notice board to inform boats under RRS 61.1(b).
- 14.5 The protest committee will post a notice to inform competitors of the schedule and location of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Information on the process will be emailed to the parties and posted on the official notice board.
- 14.7 As soon as practicable after a protest is filed, the protest committee will post a notice to inform competitors of the schedule and location of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses.

15 SCORING

- 15.1 RRS Appendix A4, Low Point System, will apply.
- 15.2 Corrected times for PHRF will be calculated using PHRF Time-on-Time scoring. The race committee will determine the course type rating (“Handicap (Spinnaker)” or “Random Course Handicap (Spinnaker)”) prior to scoring the race. A boat's corrected time will be her elapsed time multiplied by: $(650 / (550 + \text{PHRF Rating}))$. A boat may not base a redress request on a race committee decision on course type. This changes RRS 60.1.
- 15.3 Corrected times for the ORC classes will be calculated using the appropriate ORC Time-on-Time ratings. The race committee will determine the proper course type and the wind speed rating prior to scoring the race. A boat may not base a redress request on the race committee's decision of course type and wind speed band. This changes RRS 60.1.

16 SAFETY REGULATIONS

- 16.1 [DP] A boat that retires from the race shall notify the race committee at the first reasonable opportunity.
- 16.2 [NP] [DP] 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.
- 16.3 A boat without way may use any means of propulsion to avoid commercial traffic that is under way provided: (a) the boat does not gain an advantage; (b) use of the propulsion is the boat's only means of avoiding the commercial traffic; and (c) the boat submits a report to the race office (see SI 3) by the protest filing deadline describing the incident and the boat's actions.
- 16.4 The race committee or protest committee may protest a boat for SI 16.2 and 16.3 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 present. This changes RRS 60.2, 60.3, 61.3, and 63.6.

17 PRIZES

- 17.1 Prizes will be given in each class for 1st place with 3 or more starters, 2nd place with 6 or more starters, and 3rd place with 9 or more starters.
- 17.2 The organizing authority anticipates that the following perpetual trophies will be awarded:
 - (a) Sherman Hoyt Trophy: best overall corrected time within the ORC 1, 2, and 3 classes.
 - (b) America's Trophy: this event will be part of the season AYC series for overall performance in ORC fully crewed classes.
 - (c) AYC J / 105 Regatta Series Trophy: this event will be part of the season AYC series for overall performance in the J/105 class.
- 17.3 Additional prizes may be awarded at the discretion of the organizing authority.

17.4 Awards will be presented during the post-race regatta party at Tred Avon Yacht Club. For information on the Awards Party visit the event website <https://www.yachtscoring.com/emenu/17008id=16352>

18 RISK STATEMENT

18.1 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 the event each competitor agrees and acknowledges that sailing is a potentially dangerous activity with inherent risks, which are assumed by the competitor.