



SORC OCEAN RACE

NOTICE OF RACE

NOVEMBER 19-21, 2026

Organizing Authority - The Southern Ocean Racing Conference (SORC).

NOTE: this year, SORC introduces a day of optional inshore buoys racing on Thursday intended as a preview for the 2027 ORC North American Championships, before the SORC Ocean Race offshore race that begins on Friday.

1 RULES

- 1.1 The race will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing (Rules, RRS), and the US Sailing Safety Regulations (SERs) (Monohull and Multihull) for Ocean Racing in effect at the start of the race, and the 2026-2027 SORC Notice of Series, including the class rules of the respective classes involved. RRS 90.3(e) will apply.
- 1.2 Only the US Sailing prescriptions to Appendix R, the preamble to Part 5, and to RRS 65.1, 70.3(b) and 76.1 apply.
- 1.3 From sunset to sunrise, Part 2 of the RRS shall not apply and shall be replaced by Part B, The Steering and Sailing Rules, of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREGS).
- 1.4 In case of conflict between the NOR and the SIs, the SIs shall prevail. This changes RRS 63.5(c)
- 1.5 Boats not in the doublehanded class may carry one more spinnaker than shown on their current rating certificate, of area not greater than rated SPA without an increase in rating.
- 1.6 Doublehanded classes may use a powered autopilot to control steering. This changes RRS 52.
- 1.7 Boats shall carry an AIS Transponder consistent with SER 3.9 and capable of transmitting and receiving throughout the race. Competitors shall use their best efforts to ensure that their AIS Transponder is switched on (i.e. transmitting and receiving) one hour before the warning signal and throughout the race. Competitors shall ensure that the name of the boat is transmitted rather than just the MMSI number.
- 1.8 Personal AIS transponders are required for each crewmember.
- 1.9 Advertising shall be per World Sailing Advertising Code.
- 1.10 Provided that her rating certificate indicates that power winches have been declared, a boat is permitted to use power winches when racing. This changes RRS 52.
- 1.11 Rule 60.4(a)(2) is changed as follows: "60.4(a)(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 ELIGIBILITY

- 2.1 The race is open to ocean racing/cruising monohull and multihull boats of the following classes whose owner is a member of his/her national authority and who comply with the requirements of the following classes:
 - 2.1.1 Monohulls and multihulls rated by the Offshore Racing Congress (ORC) with an offshore long-distance Time on Time rating factor of 0.880 and higher.
 - 2.1.2 Double-handed boats meeting the listed safety requirements.
 - 2.1.3 PHRF boats rated by PHRF of Southeast Florida with a maximum handicap of 160.
- 2.2 Prior to the Early Entry Deadline, the race committee may create a new class when five or more boats so request, or reassign registered boats to other classes if at least five boats have not registered in a class.
- 2.3 Boats must meet at least one of the following to be eligible:
 - 2.3.1 Has a minimum Stability Index of 110.
 - 2.3.2 Is a true sister ship of a boat in the US Sailing IMS Master File with a Stability Factor of at least 110.
 - 2.3.3 Meets the requirements of ISO 12217-2 Design Category B.
- 2.4 Have a minimum LOA of 25 feet.

3 CREW LIMITS

- 3.1 Crew Limits for the following classes are:
 - 3.1.1 ORC: Total crew weight limits are shown on rating certificates, and individual crew weights must be declared during registration. To change the weight limit from the default value, contact the national rating authority for a certificate issued with the declared weight limit.
 - 3.1.2 Offshore One Design Classes: class limit plus one.
 - 3.1.3 PHRF: class limit plus one.
- 3.2 Doublehanded classes shall carry a crew of two, all others shall carry a minimum crew of 4 (four). Each race may change limits in its NOR.
- 3.3 Each boat will comply with any crew weight limit declared in her rating.

4 ENTRY

- 4.1 Entry Fees are as follows:

	Entry fee on or before <u>Early Entry Deadline</u> \$375	Entry Fee after Early Entry Deadline until <u>Final Entry Deadline</u> \$475
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- 4.2 Boats may enter the SORC Ocean Race race www.sorcsailing.org. Boats intending to race the optional Thursday inshore buoy races should email thomaslihan@comcast.net.
- 4.3 A boat shall submit her final rating certificate and crew weight list no later than the Final Entry Deadline. Ratings and preliminary class assignments will be posted on each race's web site and Official Notice Board prior to the Skippers Meeting.
- 4.4 Each boat shall be required to complete and submit to the Race Committee at or prior to the Skippers Meeting an accurate crew list, required waiver(s) and equipment declaration form in exchange for completing their entry and receiving their race packet.

5 SCHEDULE

Early Entry Deadline		September 23, 2026
Sailing Instructions Posted		November 5, 2026
Final Entry and Rating Application Deadline		November 5, 2026
Registration and Skippers Meeting	1800 hours	November 18, 2026
First Warning Signal - Inshore Racing	1100 hours	November 19, 2026
First Warning Signal - Offshore Race	1000 hours	November 20, 2026
Awards Party	1800 hours	November 21, 2026

6 SKIPPERS MEETING

The skippers meeting shall commence on Wednesday November 18, 2026, at 1800 hours at the Outdoor Patio of Lauderdale Yacht Club. A representative of each boat shall attend.

7 RACE TRACKING DEVICES

- 7.1 Each boat may be required to carry a race tracker separate from AIS devices.
- 7.2 The tracking unit shall be mounted and operated throughout the race in accordance with the instructions provided. Only the race committee may protest a boat for an alleged violation of this section.
- 7.3 Tracking data from devices required under this section may not be used as evidence in a protest. This changes RRS 63.6(a).

8 SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Sailing Instructions will be posted on the Official Notice Board on or before November 15, 2026.

9 OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE

While racing, boats may not receive weather, current, or navigational information except from published sources available to all competitors. Subscription services, password protected or restricted access web pages, as well as phone conversations and text messages that contain any such information are not allowed. Accessing other information during the race will be considered a violation of RRS 41.

10 SAFETY

- 10.1 All boats must conform to the current US Sailing Safety Equipment Requirements (SERs) for Ocean Racing with the following changes:
- 10.1.1 Engine and Fuel (SER 2.7.1) is amended as follows: A boat shall have a mechanical propulsion system that is quickly available and capable of driving the boat a minimum speed in knots equivalent to the square root of the Length at Water Line (LWL) in feet. (1.81 times square root of the waterline in meters) with sufficient fuel to provide range under power of 75 miles.
 - 10.1.2 Operative VHF/FM transceiver with channels 9, 16, 68, 69, 71, and 72. (DSC and GMDSS equipped and MMSI registered VHF radios are required per SER 3.8.1 and 3.8.2)
 - 10.1.3 An operational AIS Transponder shall be carried and switched on, such that it is receiving and transmitting throughout the race.
 - 10.1.4 Life Raft need not have a canopy or insulated floor.
 - 10.1.5 A boat shall carry either a 406MHz EPIRB which is properly registered to the boat, or a floating 406MHz Personal Locator Beacon, registered to the owner with notation in the registration that it is aboard the boat. This device shall be equipped with an Internal GPS.
 - 10.1.6 At least 30% of those aboard the boat, but not fewer than two members of the crew, unless sailing single handed, including the person in charge shall have attended a half day, one-day, or two day US Sailing Safety at Sea Seminar within the last 5 years including online courses when available, or hold a valid US Sailing Safety at Sea Certificate, or have attended other courses as accepted by US Sailing or another National Authority.
 - 10.1.7 Each crewmember shall have a personal safety knife, preferably a straight blade or, if folding, able to be opened with one hand, to be attached to or carried on each crew member at all times while afloat. The personal safety knife should be readily accessible at all times including while wearing foul weather gear and PFD/safety harness. This requirement is in addition to the requirement of SER 3.32.
- 10.2 The following additional safety requirements to the US Sailing SERs apply to the Doublehanded classes.
- 10.2.1 The VHF /FM transceiver required by 11.1.2 above, shall be switched on and accessible from the cockpit at all times while afloat.
 - 10.2.2 Added to SER 3.7.2 is to require that each crew shall wear a personal locator beacon at all times while afloat. SER 3.16.1 is also changed to allow the substitution of the specified EPIRB beacon with a Personal AIS MOB beacon.
 - 10.2.3 The mainsail shall have reef points capable of reducing at least 20% of the sail's area.
- 10.3 Each boat shall carry non-electronic charts appropriate for the race area, including NOAA chart numbers 11462, 11452, and 11442.
- 10.4 Multihull division boats are required to carry either life rafts as in 11.1.4 above, or an Immersion (Survival) suit for each person on board, having an inherent reserve buoyancy of at least 15.5 lbs. and that otherwise meets SOLAS requirements. Wet suits or dry suits do not comply with the requirement. It is strongly recommended that Multihull boats also carry life rafts in accordance with ISAF OSR as an additional safety measure.
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- 10.5 The Race Committee may inspect any boat for compliance with this section without prior warning before the start or after the finish.

11 COURSES

- 11.1 Inshore Racing on Thursday will be windward-leeward courses approximately one mile north or south of the Port Everglades Channel entrance.
- 11.2 The Offshore Race will start on Friday and finish near the Port Everglades Sea Buoy. Competitors will honor physical marks and virtual marks, to be announced.
- 11.2.1 The general race area is east of Florida, west of the Bahamas, north of Miami, and south of Palm Beach.
- 11.2.2 It is the intent of the RC to choose physical and virtual marks that will deliver an overnight race where the slowest rated boat will finish no later than approximately four hours prior to the Awards, with a variety of sailing angles.
- 11.2.3 The Offshore course will be announced no later than the Skippers Meeting.
- 11.3 The Race Committee may inspect any boat for compliance with all provisions of this NOR without prior warning before the start or after the finish.

12 PENALTY SYSTEM

Appendix V2 shall apply.

13 SCORING AND TIME ALLOWANCES

- 13.1 The Low Point Scoring System as described in Appendix "A" will be used.
- 13.2 The course distance for rating purposes is calculated as 160 nautical miles.
- 13.3 Boats are required to have a valid rating certificate. Changes after the Rating and Final Application Deadline (NOR 4.4) will not be accepted unless they were required to correct genuine errors or due to exceptional circumstances, only as approved by the race Technical Committee. This changes RRS 78.2.
- 13.4 Rating formulas (ORC, PHRF, MOCRA, etc.) will be the formula in effect for 2026.

14 AWARDS PARTY

- 14.1 The Awards Party is scheduled for 1800 hours on November 21, 2026, at the Lauderdale Yacht Club.
- 14.2 Prizes will be awarded for the SORC Ocean Race in each class for First to Finish and Best Corrected Time. Other prizes may be awarded.

15 INSURANCE

Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum coverage of \$500,000.

16 DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

Sailing is an activity that has an inherent risk of damage and injury. Competitors in this event, including skippers and crew, are participating entirely at their own risk. (See Rule 3, Decision to Race). The Organizing Authority and Race Committee, sponsors, or any other organization or official will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during or after the race.

For More Information:

<https://www.facebook.com/sorcsailing>

Tom Lihan, Race Chairman

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