



SANTA BARBARA YACHT CLUB
SWEETHEARTS' RACE

February 7, 2026



Notice of Race / Sailing Instructions

The Organizing Authority for the 2026 Sweetheart Race will be:
The Santa Barbara Yacht Club (SBYC), 130 Harbor Way, Santa Barbara, CA 93109

1 RULES

- 1.1 The event is governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS)*, applicable rules for One Design and PHRF classes and the US Safety Equipment Requirements "Near Shore".
- 1.2 The notation [NP] in a rule means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1.
- 1.3 The notation [DP] in a rule means that the penalty for a breach of a rule may, at the discretion of the protest committee, be less than disqualification.
- 1.4 US Sailing prescriptions to rule 63.2 will not apply.
- 1.5 Membership for the appropriate class association is required. For Performance Handicap Racing Fleet (PHRF) classes, valid and current Southern Californian PHRF certificate in the online PHRF database (www.phrfsocal.org) shall constitute proof of membership for each entrant. PHRF of Southern California (PHRF) is the Rating Authority (RA) for this event.
- 1.6 PHRF boats shall use Area I windward-leeward ratings and have current and valid PHRF rating certificates on the PHRF of Southern California website (www.phrfsocal.org). Competitors from outside Area I shall use their PHRF regional windward-leeward rating.
- 1.7 Appendix V, Alternative Penalties, Rule V1 – Penalties at the time of the incident and Rule V2 – Post-Race Penalties will apply.
- 1.8 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 SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

- 2.1 Boats shall comply with orders from the United States Coast Guard and adhere to US Coast Guard Regulations. Failure to comply with orders from the United States Coast Guard, Santa Barbara Harbor Patrol or any other recognized authority is grounds for disqualification without hearing at the discretion of the Race Committee. This Changes Rule 63.1. [DP]
- 2.2 Boats shall comply with the US Safety Equipment Requirements (USSER) except as modified by the notice of race and these sailing instructions. The course is classified as a Near Shore Race. The equipment requirements are available at: <https://www.ussailing.org/competition/offshore/safety-information/ser-world-sailing-special-regulations/>. [DP]
The US Safety Equipment Requirements (USSER) are changed for the following sections:
 - 2.2.1 For USSER 3.19.1, the words 'permanently mounted' are deleted. A permanently mounted magnetic compass is a recommendation for the race.
 - 2.2.2 Boats using a 'One Design' PHRF configuration may use that One Design classes' published safety standards instead of the US Sailing Near Shore Safety Equipment Requirements, except as provided in 2.2.2(a). [DP]
(a) Harbor 20 class rules are changed so that all harbor 20's must carry an anchor and rode capable of anchoring a Harbor 20 firmly in place in non-harbor local waters in a minimum depth of 50 feet. [DP]

3 ENTRY, ELIGIBILITY, AND FEES

- 3.1 This regatta is open to all members of the Santa Barbara Yacht Club (SBYC). Members of other

clubs belonging to US Sailing may race as guests of Santa Barbara Yacht Club.

- 3.2 Classes invited include: PHRF classes.
- 3.3 Eligible boats may enter by submitting a completed race entry form to the Santa Barbara Yacht Club no later than 1100 hours on the day of the race. Race entry forms are available online at <https://sbyc.org/racing> or https://www.regattanetwork.com/clubmgmt/applet_registration_form.php?regatta_id=30698. Exceptions are at the discretion of the Race Committee.
- 3.4 Eligible boats shall have valid PHRF Certificates or use SBYC recognized one design class ratings listed in Sailing Instruction 3.5. Valid PHRF rating certificates for PHRF boats must be on file with the Race Committee no later than 1100 hours on the day of the race.
- 3.5 One Design boats in SBYC recognized classes may enter this regatta without a PHRF certificate using the class ratings listed below, and at the discretion of the race committee.

Standard Ratings:

Harbor 20 = 216; J/70 = 114 J/105 = 90; Melges 24 = 90

Non-Spinnaker Ratings:

Harbor 20 = 239; J/70 = 158; J/105 = 111; Melges 24 = 110

- 3.6 Non-Spinnaker offsets may be used if indicated on the entry form.
- 3.7 **All entries must conform to Sailing Instruction 12 (CREW).**
- 3.8 There is no entry fee for this event.

4 COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

- 4.1 Notices to competitors and amendments to these Sailing Instructions will be posted on the official notice board located at <https://sbyc.org/racing> under the event heading.
- 4.2 The race office is located at the Santa Barbara Yacht Club - 130 Harbor Way, Santa Barbara, CA 93109, on the southwest corner of the building.
Telephone – (805) 965-8112, ext 114. Email – racing@sbyc.org.
- 4.3 On the water, the race committee intends to monitor and communicate with competitors on VHF radio channel 71.
- 4.4 The following communications may be made by the race committee on VHF radio channel 71:
 - Course number
 - Count downs to warning, preparatory, and start signals
 - Shortened course for one or more fleets
 - Abandonment of one or more fleets
 - On course side boats

5 CHANGES IN SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Changes to these sailing instructions will be posted on the official notice board no later than one hour prior to the start of the race.

6 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 6.1 All signals made ashore will be displayed from the SBYC yardarm.
- 6.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than sixty (60) minutes' in race signal AP.

7 SCHEDULE

7.1 Saturday, February 7

1200 First Warning Signal

After Racing Awards and post-race hors d'oeuvres at SBYC

7.2 One race will be held simultaneously for the two divisions (double-handed & standard divisions). The race will be started in reverse handicap order. The starting time for each boat will be available at the SBYC front desk and posted online at <https://sbyc.org/racing>.

8 ON THE WATER POSTPONEMENT

In the event of an on the water postponement, instructions will be hailed by the Race Committee over VHF channel 71. Flag AP will come down one minute prior to the new warning signal. Competitors are responsible for computing their new scheduled start times. Any incorrect calculations made by the competitors shall not be grounds for redress.

9 CLASS FLAGS

The class flag will be numeral pennant '1'.

10 CLASS DESIGNATIONS

Class breaks, if any, will be posted on the notice board by 1100 on the day of the race.

11 SPINNAKERS

Non-Spinnaker offsets may be used if indicated on the entry form prior to the entry deadline.

12 CREW

12.1 Double-Handed Division: Crewmembers are limited to 2 persons per boat with at least 1 being female. Boats sailing with two persons total shall be scored in the double-handed division. [DP]

12.2 Standard Division: Crew (including the skipper) shall consist of an equal number of male and female competitors, except in the event of an odd number of crewmembers, in which case the final crew member may be either male or female. Boats that race with more than the prescribed number of male or female crew shall receive a discretionary penalty up to disqualification. [DP]

12.3 Children under 11 years of age as of the day of the race are not counted towards crew count. [DP]

13 RACING AREA

13.1 The racing area will be as designated on the current SBYC course chart, which is available on the SBYC website – <https://www.sbyc.org>.

14. AREAS THAT ARE OBSTRUCTIONS

14.1 The following areas defined by lines commencing at the nearest shores and connecting each contiguous City of Santa Barbara (SB) swim buoy are designated as obstructions:

a. City of SB swim buoys located in the vicinity to the south and within an estimated distance of 300 yards of Ledbetter Beach and Ledbetter Point.

b. City of SB swim buoys immediately adjacent to Point Castillo at the SB harbor entrance.

Boats crossing these lines shall exit the area immediately and retire from the race. [DP]

Competitors are reminded that crossing any other government designated swim area lines not listed in these Sailing Instructions may result in citations from the coast guard, SB Harbor Patrol, or other government authority.

14.2 Visiting Cruise Ships including a 100-yard perimeter around the vessel are designated as obstructions. [DP]

15 THE COURSE

15.1 Courses to be sailed will be taken from the current [SBYC Course Chart](#) which is available online and at the SBYC front desk.

15.2 The course for each race will be posted on placards from the SBYC deck prior to the warning signal. Additionally, courses will be hailed over VHF radio channel 71. Failure for a radio to transmit or a competitor to hear the course hail shall not be grounds for redress.

15.3 When a letter 'R' placard follows the course number, the course shall be sailed in the reverse direction. Marks shall be passed in reverse order and on the opposite side listed on the course chart.

15.4 When a letter 'T' placard follows the course number, the course shall be sailed two times around. The start/finish line will be required at the beginning of the second lap.

16 MARKS

16.1 Marks will be as shown on the current version of the [SBYC course chart](#). All marks are situated near the GPS coordinates shown on the course chart but are subject to natural influence.

16.2 Description of marks:

- A, D, K, H, G, F, X, E – White cylinders with a yellow band around the middle.
- C, M – White city anchorage boundary buoys with lights on top.
- E – Outfall buoy. White cylinder with orange stripes and orange diamond on it with the words 'No Mooring' and 'Outfall'.
- The gate designated as 'Gt' on the current SBYC course chart shall be between mark 'F' and mark 'X'.

16.3 Any permanent mark may be substituted with a temporary or inflatable mark without prior notice. When Mark 'C' is not present, the white, cylindrical outfall buoy that is situated the closest to the GPS coordinates of Mark 'C' shall be rounded instead.

16.4 In the event of a missing mark with no temporary mark replacement, boats shall round the corresponding GPS waypoint shown on the SBYC course chart.

17 START

17.1 All boats will start in one reverse handicap staggered start. The start shall be in accordance with RRS 26 with the warning given 5 minutes before the start.

17.2 The starting line will be between mark 'G' and mark 'F' as shown on the SBYC course chart.

17.3 A boat's starting time for the posted course is listed on the 'Attachment A – Sweethearts Race Start Times'. This attachment will be made available at the competitor meeting and at the SBYC front desk.

17.4 The official race clock to be used will be taken from atomic time for the Pacific Time (PT) zone.

17.5 Boats whose start time is more than three minutes away shall keep clear of the starting area. [DP]

18. ON COURSE SIDE (OCS) NOTIFICATION

18.1 The race committee will signal boats On Course Side (OCS) by displaying code flag 'X' and may hail the yacht on VHF channel 71. The flag will be displayed for four minutes or until the OCS start is corrected (whichever comes first).

- 18.2 OCS boats that do not return within four minutes must start correctly even if the X flag is lowered. It is the responsibility of each boat to start correctly.

19 SHORTENED COURSE AFTER THE START

- 19.1 The race committee may shorten a course. A shortened course will be signaled from the Santa Barbara Yacht Club deck before the leading boat has finished the leg.
- 19.2 The shortened course shall be signaled by displaying code flag 'S' with two sound signals and displaying the class placard(s) for the class or classes to be shortened.
- 19.3 The finish line for the shortened course shall be at the next required mark or gate.
- i.) For legs to mark 'X', the shortened course will be finished between mark 'X' and the flagpole on the SBYC deck.
 - ii.) For legs to the start/finish line at the beginning of a second lap, the finish shall be between mark 'F' and mark 'G'.
 - iii.) For legs to the gate, boats will be finished between mark 'X' and mark 'F'.
 - iv.) For legs to mark 'F', the shortened course will be finished between mark 'F' and the flagpole on the SBYC deck.
- 19.4 In the event of an abandoned race, the race committee may notify competitors on VHF Channel 71 following the raising of code flag 'N'. Separate announcements will be made for each class abandoned. Abandonment of one class does not constitute abandonment of other classes.

20 THE FINISH

The finishing line will be between mark 'G' and mark 'F' as shown on the SBYC course chart.

21 PENALTY SYSTEM

- 21.1 Appendix V, Rule V1 will apply: The first two sentences of rule 44.1 are changed to: 'A boat may take a One-Turn Penalty when she may have broken one or more rules of Part 2 or rule 31 in an incident while *racing*. However, when she may have broken one or more rules of Part 2 while in the *zone* around a *mark* other than a starting *mark*, her penalty shall be a Two-Turns Penalty.'
- 21.2 Appendix V, Rule V2 – Post Race Penalties will apply:
- (a) Provided that rule 44.1(b) does not apply, a boat that may have broken one or more rules of Part 2 or rule 31 in an incident may take a Post-Race Penalty at any time after the race until the beginning of a protest hearing involving the incident.
 - (b) A Post-Race Penalty is a 30% Scoring Penalty calculated as stated in rule 44.3(c). However, rule 44.1(a) applies.
 - (c) A boat takes a Post-Race Penalty by delivering to the arbitrator or a member of the protest committee a written statement that she accepts the penalty and that identifies the race number and where and when the incident occurred.

22 TIME LIMIT

- 22.1 The first boat must finish by 1500 or the race will be abandoned.
- 22.2 All boats must finish within one hour of the first boat to finish, or they will be scored DNF.

23 HEARING REQUESTS

- 23.1 Hearing request forms for protests, requests for redress, and reopening of a hearing are available at the front desk of SBYC or through the US Sailing Racing Rules of Sailing App. Hearing request forms may be emailed to racing@sbyc.org or delivered to the SBYC Race Office and shall be submitted within the appropriate time limit.

- 23.2 The filing time limit for protests or requests for redress about an incident observed in the racing area is 60 minutes after the protesting boat's finish time or the race committee signals no more racing today, whichever is later. The filing time limit for other hearing requests is 60 minutes after the relevant information is available to the filing party.
- 23.3 Protest times and locations will be posted on the official notice board no later than 30 minutes after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses.

24 SCORING

- 24.1 The low-point scoring system of Appendix A will apply.
- 24.2 Boats will be scored by order of finish with the exception of a shortened course, in which case boats will be scored by corrected time on distance according to each boat's handicap rating.

24 PRIZES

Prizes will be awarded to the top finishers in the double-handed and short-handed division.

25 RISK STATEMENT

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