



*Santa Barbara Yacht Club*  
**2026 Wet Wednesday Series**

**NOTICE OF RACE & SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

The Organizing Authority for the 2026 Wet Wednesday (WW) Series 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.
- 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](http://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](http://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 All 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 up to disqualification without hearing at the discretion of the Race Committee. This Changes Rule 63.1. [DP]
- 2.2 One Design classes shall adhere to their One Design class rules’ safety standards in addition to US Coast Guard Regulations, except as provided in 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]
- 2.3 PHRF and H fleet boats shall comply with the US Safety Equipment Requirements (USSER) “Near Shore” except as modified by the notice of race and these sailing instructions. The USSER 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:
  - 2.3.1 For USSER 3.19.1, the words ‘permanently mounted’ are deleted. A permanently mounted magnetic compass is a recommendation for the race.
  - 2.3.2 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. [DP]

### 3. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

- 3.1 The event is open to members of the Santa Barbara Yacht Club. Members of other clubs belonging to US Sailing may race as a guest of Santa Barbara Yacht Club a maximum of two times over the course of the year before they must adhere to the fee schedule listed in instruction 4.
- 3.2 Invited classes include PHRF A, PHRF B, H fleet, Harbor 20, J/70, J/105, and Melges 24.
- 3.3 The Wet Wednesday series is open only to keel boat monohull vessels and multihulls that are essentially unsinkable.

#### Exceptions:

- Any boat that competed in the 2025 Wet Wednesday series is exempt from these rules (i.e. they are 'grandfathered' in) and may continue to compete until the boat is sold to a new owner, chartered to a new skipper, or it is not sailed for an entire Wet Wednesday season.

The Race Committee reserves the right to deny entry to any vessel it deems "unstable" or "non-self-righting."

- 3.4 Fleets that would like to obtain their own start time must show strong potential for five (5) active starting boats on any given Wednesday. It is at the sole discretion of the SBYC Sail Policy Committee as to whether or not a fleet is granted their own start.
- 3.5 Sub fleets may be allowed. At least four (4) entries for a given sub fleet must be received to be considered for an active status as a one design sub fleet or a PHRF sub fleet. Sail Policy prescribes that an active status allows for additional scoring of a sub fleet that is starting within a PHRF start. Sub fleets sailing in a PHRF fleet shall have valid and current PHRF of Southern California rating certificate. Additional sub fleets with less than four (4) entries may also request separate scoring in addition to their PHRF scoring at the discretion of the Sail Policy Committee. Requests for sub fleet scoring shall be made to the Sail Policy Committee in writing.
- 3.6 Eligible boats may enter the event by submitting a completed race entry form including current and valid boat insurance information and paying all applicable fees to the Santa Barbara Yacht Club at least two hours prior to the first race in which the boat intends to compete. Online race entry form is available at: <http://www.sbyc.org/racing> or at [https://www.regattanetwork.com/clubmgmt/applet\\_registration\\_form.php?regatta\\_id=31006](https://www.regattanetwork.com/clubmgmt/applet_registration_form.php?regatta_id=31006).
- 3.7 Changes made in sail number or PHRF rating during the course of the series must be communicated to the SBYC Race Director ([racing@sbyc.org](mailto:racing@sbyc.org)) 24 hours in advance of the first warning signal in the race in which the changes will occur. Exceptions are at the sole discretion of the race committee.
- 3.8 Any PHRF or One Design boat may also enter as an H Fleet competitor, but they must inform the Race Committee at least one hour before the first warning of its election to do so.

### 4. FEES

- 4.1 There is no entry fee for members of SBYC.
- 4.2 Entry fee for competitors who are not members of SBYC will be \$200 for each Spring, Summer, and Fall segment of the Wet Wednesday Series, or \$500 entry fee for all three segments.
- 4.3 There is no entry fee for the May 27, 2026 California Offshore Race Week Wet Wednesday.

### 5. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any change in the sailing instructions will be posted at least one hour prior to the warning signal for the first class to start on the day of the race.

## 6. COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

- 6.1 Notices to competitors and amendments to these Sailing Instructions will be posted on the official notice board located online at <https://sbyc.org/wet-wednesday/>.
- 6.2 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](mailto:racing@sbyc.org).
- 6.3 On the water, the race committee intends to monitor and communicate with competitors on VHF radio channel 71.
- 6.4 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 or general recalls

## 7. SIGNALS

All signals will be displayed from the yardarm on the upper deck of the Santa Barbara Yacht Club.

## 8. SCHEDULE OF RACES

- 8.1 The Wet Wednesday Series will be sailed in 3 separate segments designated as: ‘Spring’, ‘Summer’, and ‘Fall’. Each segment will last 8 weeks with the following schedule:  
2026 WW Spring: April 1 through May 20  
2026 WW Summer: June 3 through July 22  
2026 WW Fall: August 5 through September 23
- 8.2 There will be Wet Wednesday ‘Fun’ Races on the following dates:  
March 11, March 18, March 25, May 27, July 29, September 30, October 7, and October 14.
- 8.3 These races may have separate sailing instructions that will be posted online at <https://sbyc.org/wet-wednesday/>. The races will not count towards any overall Wet Wednesday Series scoring and will be scored as individual races independent of one another.

## 9. CLASSES, FLAGS, AND PLACARDS

- 9.1 Class flags and placards shall be as follows:

CLASS	FLAG	PLACARD	RATING
Harbor 20	Numeral Pennant ‘1’	Black with white ‘D’	One Design (216)
H Fleet	Numeral Pennant ‘2’	Black with white ‘H’	Per H Fleet Rules
PHRF A	Numeral Pennant ‘3’	Black with white ‘A’	Rating 69 and less
J/105	Numeral Pennant ‘4’	Black with white ‘S’	One Design (90)
Melges 24	Numeral Pennant ‘5’	Black with white ‘M’	One Design (90)
PHRF B	Numeral Pennant ‘6’	Black with white ‘B’	Rating 70 and greater
J/70	Numeral Pennant ‘7’	Black with white ‘J’	One Design (114)

- 9.2 Class flags shall be used for the starting system as described in RRS 26. Class Placards shall be used to signal the course for each class and for signaling classes to be shortened as referenced in Sailing Instruction 15.
- 9.3.1 A PHRF boat’s Area I PHRF windward-leeward spinnaker rating shall determine her fleet.
- 9.3.2 PHRF A fleet will consist of boats with a windward-leeward rating of 70 and less.
- 9.3.3 PHRF B fleet will consist of boats with a windward-leeward rating of 71 and greater.

## 10. SPINNAKERS

Non-spinnaker rating adjustments will be given to PHRF boats that request the rating change at least one hour in advance of their scheduled start for that race day.

## 11. RACING AREA

The racing area will be as shown on the current [SBYC course chart](#).

## 12. OBSTRUCTIONS

12.1 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.*

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

## 13. THE COURSE

13.1 Courses will be taken from the current SBYC Course Chart made available online at <https://www.sbyc.org/documents/10184/15928/SBYCCourseChart.pdf>.

13.2 The course for each race will be posted on placards from the SBYC deck prior to the preparatory signal for each class. 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.

13.3 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.

13.4 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.

## 14. MARKS

14.1 Marks will be as designated 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.

14.2 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'.

14.3 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.

14.4 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.

## 15. THE START

15.1 The start shall be in accordance with RRS 26, except as changed by the following:

a.) The warning signal for the Harbor 20, H, PHRF A, and J/105 fleets shall be made five (5) minutes prior to their starting signal.

b.) The warning signal for the Melges 24, PHRF B, and J/70 fleets shall be made three (3) minutes prior to their starting signal. The preparatory (P) flag shall be displayed two (2) minutes prior to their start.

15.2 The starting line shall be between marks 'F' and 'G', as shown on the SBYC course chart.

15.3 The start times are as follows:

<u>Time</u>	<u>Signal</u>
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16:45	Warning Signal for H20 Fleet
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16:50	Harbor 20 Start
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16:55	H Fleet Start
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17:00	Warning Signal for A fleet
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17:05	PHRF A Start
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17:10	J/105 Start
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17:13	Melges 24 Start
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17:16	PHRF B Start
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17:19	J/70 Start
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15.4 Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area. [NP] [DP]

15.5 To maintain a fleet's individual start time, Sail Policy prescribes that the fleets in question must maintain an average of four (4) active starting boats for the duration of a Wet Wednesday Series (Spring, Summer, Fall). Fleets that do not maintain this average may lose their start time and be combined with a PHRF fleet start, though they may still be scored additionally as a sub fleet at the discretion of the Sail Policy Committee. It is at the discretion of the RC and Sail Policy Committee whether a fleet should retain their start time if their average falls below 4 starters.

## 16. GENERAL RECALLS

16.1 After a general recall is signaled, the 'First Substitute' flag shall remain flying and will be lowered with the Preparatory flag of the following class's start sequence. A general recall in any class shall not affect the start times of the remaining classes to start.

16.2 Warning Signals for recalled classes shall be made as follows:

i.) The warning signal for the first recalled class shall be made with the start of the last regularly scheduled class.

ii.) The warning signal for the second recalled class shall be made with the start of the first recalled class.

iii.) The warning signal for the third recalled class shall be made with the start of the second recalled class.

iv.) Subsequent recalled classes will receive their warning signals with the start of the class that was recalled ahead of them.

v.) The warning signal for the recalled class shall be made three (3) minutes prior to its starting signal.

**17. SHORTENED COURSE AFTER THE START**

- 17.1 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.
- 17.2 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.
- 17.3 The finishing 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.

**18. THE FINISH**

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

**19. PENALTY SYSTEM**

- 19.1 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.'
- 19.2 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.

**20. TIME LIMIT & ABANDONMENT**

- 20.1 The first boat in each class must finish by sunset or the race will be abandoned for that class.
- 20.2 The time of sunset will be taken from a reliable public source and may be posted at the discretion of the race committee.
- 20.3 In the event of an abandoned race, the race committee will notify competitors on VHF Channel 71 following the raising of code flag 'N' with the class flags of the abandoned classes. Abandonment of one class does not constitute abandonment of other classes.

**21. HEARING REQUESTS**

- 21.1 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](mailto:racing@sbyc.org) or delivered to the SBYC Race Office and shall be submitted within the appropriate time limit.

- 21.2 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.
- 21.3 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.
- 21.4 At the discretion of the Race Committee, protests may be heard on a subsequent Wednesday.

## **22. SCORING**

- 22.1 The low-point scoring system of Appendix A will apply for each segment (Spring, Summer, Fall). One race is required to be completed to constitute a series for each segment.
- 22.2 For the Wet Wednesday Class perpetual trophies, Appendix A will apply. A boat's series score shall be the sum of all individual scores in the Spring, Summer, and Fall segments excluding each boat's worst six scores. WW Fun Races scores shall not be used. Three races are required to be completed to constitute a series.
- 22.3 Race Committee duty will be scored as a first place if the race for R/C boat's class is completed, except, if the R/C boat races, the boat's score for that race will be used. Race committee duty will count only once during the series. Race Committee assignments can be found at <https://sbyc.org/wet-wednesday>.
- 22.4 Boats that register for a segment but fail to compete shall be excluded from that segment's scoring.
- 22.5 The number of boats to compete in each segment shall be counted independently of the other segments.
- 22.6 Boats that compete in more than one fleet shall be scored as a separate boat in each fleet and shall receive a 'DNC' in each race missed.
- 22.7 Any boat not from the Santa Barbara area that participates in no more than one race shall be removed from a segment and overall series scoring.
- 22.8 If a race is not raced for any reason or a race is abandoned for a class, no boat in that class will receive a score (including no DNC's) for that race per RRS 90.3.
- 22.9 Boats wishing to retire from a race shall notify the race committee of their desire to do so no later than 72 hours after the protest time limit for the race they wish to retire from unless that retirement is a subject of a protest or arbitration hearing.
- 22.10 Rule A5.3 will apply.

## **23. REPLACEMENT OF EQUIPMENT**

Request for replacement of equipment may be submitted via written request and may be allowed with approval from the SBYC Sail Policy Committee.

## **24. PRIZES**

Daily trophies will be given out to the top finishers in each class. Season winners will be acknowledged at the SBYC Annual Awards Banquet.

## **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.**