



Santa Barbara Yacht Club

Opening Day Race

April 18, 2026

NOTICE OF RACE & SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

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

1 RULES

- 1.1 The event will be governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS)* and applicable rules for One Design, Performance Handicap Racing Fleet (PHRF), and Club Handicap Racing Fleet (CHRF) classes.
- 1.2 Membership with a valid rating certificate is required for the appropriate class association. For PHRF classes, PHRF of Southern California is the Rating Authority (RA) for this event. Valid and current PHRF of Southern Californian certificate in the online database (www.phrfsocal.org) shall constitute proof of membership.
- 1.3 PHRF boats shall use Area I windward-leeward ratings and shall 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.
- 1.4 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).
- 1.5 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.
- 1.6 US Sailing prescriptions to rule 63.2 will not apply.
- 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 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 ENTRY & ELIGIBILITY

- 3.1 The regatta is open to all boats of the CHRF, PHRF, Harbor 20, J/105, J/70, and Melges 24 classes. New classes not listed and wishing to be considered for a separate start must notify the SBYC Race Director (racing@sbyc.org) one week prior to the race. Members of other clubs belonging to US Sailing may race as guests of SBYC but are not eligible for the R.W. Caspers Trophy.
- 3.2 Eligible boats may enter by submitting a completed race entry form to the SBYC no later than 1200 on the day of the race. Race entry forms are available at online at <https://sbyc.org/racing>. Exceptions are at the discretion of the Race Committee.
- 3.3 Eligible boats shall have valid PHRF Certificates, or in the case of Harbor 20's, J/70's, J/105's, Melges 24's, and CHRF, shall have applicable fleet membership and sail in class legal configurations. Valid PHRF rating certificates or proof of application for a certificate for PHRF boats must be on file with PHRF of Southern California (<http://phrfsocal.org>) no later than the entry deadline.
- 3.4 One design fleets must have a minimum of three (3) entries on file before 1200 hours to qualify for an independent start. One design classes with less than three (3) entries may be started together with other classes. This will be indicated on the order of starts.
- 3.5 Eligible competitors for CHRF shall notify the CHRF Race Committee of intention to race by 1300 hours on the day of the race.

4 FEES

There is no entry fee for this event.

5 COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

- 5.1 Notices to competitors and amendments to these Sailing Instructions will be posted on the official notice board located on the lower deck of the Santa Barbara Yacht Club next to the race office and online at <https://sbyc.org/racing>.
- 5.2 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.
- 5.3 On the water, the race committee intends to monitor and communicate with competitors on VHF radio channel 71.
- 5.4 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

6 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any change in the sailing instructions will be posted by 1215 on the day that it will take effect.

7 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

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

8 SCHEDULE

1200	PHRF and One Design Registration Closes
1215	Order of starts and class breaks will be posted
1300	CHRF Registration Closes
1445	First Warning
1450	First Start
After Racing	Trophy Presentation at SBYC

9 CLASSES, FLAGS, AND PLACARDS

- 9.1 The order of starts, class flags, and class placards will be posted on the Notice Board at 1215.
- 9.2 PHRF class breaks, if any, will be posted on the notice board at 1215.
- 9.3 One design fleets must have a minimum of three (3) entries present before 1230 to qualify for an independent start. One design boats with less than three entries may be started with another fleet.

10 RACING AREA

The racing area will be as designated on the current SBYC course chart.

11 OBSTRUCTIONS

- 11.1 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.

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

12. THE COURSE

- 12.1 Courses will be taken from the current SBYC Course Chart made available online at <https://www.sbyc.org/documents/10184/15928/SBYCCourseChart.pdf>.
- 12.2 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.
- 12.3 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.
- 12.4 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.
- 12.5 For classes sharing a start sequence, the course placards will be posted adjacent to the corresponding class's fleet placard.

13 MARKS

- 13.1 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.
- 13.2 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'.

13.3 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.

13.4 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.

14 THE START

14.1 The race will be started using rule 26 with the warning signal given 5 minutes before the starting signal. The start signal for one class may be the warning signal for the next class to start.

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

15 GENERAL RECALLS

15.1 After a general recall is signaled, the 'First Substitute' flag shall remain flying for 4 minutes 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 following classes.

15.2 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.

16 SHORTENED COURSE AFTER THE START / ABANDONMENT

16.1 The race committee may shorten a course. A shortened course will be signaled from the SBYC deck before the leading boat has finished the leg.

16.2 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.

16.3 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.

16.4 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.

17 THE FINISH

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

18 PENALTY SYSTEM

- 18.1 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.'
- 18.2 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.

19 HEARING REQUESTS

- 19.1 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.
- 19.2 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.
- 19.3 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.
- 19.4 At the discretion of the Race Committee, protests may be heard on a subsequent Wednesday.

20 SCORING

Scores shall be based on corrected times using PHRF Area I WL handicaps for PHRF and current CHRF ratings for CHRF. Established one design fleets shall be scored in order of finish.

21 PRIZES

Trophies will be awarded to the fleet winner(s). The number of trophies will be awarded depending on participation. The R.W. Casper PHRF Trophy will be awarded to the PHRF boat with the lowest corrected time for the race. The R.W. Casper II trophy will be awarded to the CHRF boat with the lowest corrected time for the race.

23 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.**