



Santa Barbara Yacht Club
2026 California Offshore Race Week
Santa Barbara Wet Wednesday Race
Sailing Instructions
May 27th, 2026



The Organizing Authority for the 2026 California Offshore Race Week Wet Wednesday Race will be:
The Santa Barbara Yacht Club (SBYC), 130 Harbor Way, Santa Barbara, CA 93109

Welcome California Offshore Race Week competitors! The SBYC is pleased to invite out of town boats to compete in our 'Wet Wednesday' races. Because boats from up and down the coast are competing together, we will be assigning visiting boats without a SoCal PHRF certificate a rating if they do not already have one. You will find course charts at the front desk of SBYC and [online](#). We hope you enjoy this opportunity to sail with our local fleet!

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) 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 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]

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3. ENTRY & ELIGIBILITY

3.1 The event is open to all members of the Santa Barbara Yacht Club and visiting boats for California Offshore Race Week. Members of other clubs belonging to US Sailing may race as a guest of Santa Barbara Yacht Club.

3.2 Invited classes include PHRF, H fleet, Harbor 20, J/70, J/105, and Melges 24.

3.3 Eligible boats may enter the event by submitting a completed race entry form including current and valid boat insurance information to the Santa Barbara Yacht Club at least two hours prior to the first warning. 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.

4. FEES

There is no entry fee for the 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 on the lower deck of the Santa Barbara Yacht Club next to the race office and 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.

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

The California Offshore Race Week In-Port Wet Wednesday Race is scheduled for May 27, 2026.

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 38 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 39 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 38 and less.

9.3.3 PHRF B fleet will consist of boats with a windward-leeward rating of 39 and greater.

10. CREW

There will be awards given out to boats with women at the helm. If you wish to enter the Women's Wet Wednesday series, please do so here: <https://forms.gle/YPeLk9ER3D5CWZe4A>.

11. RACING AREA

The racing area will be as designated on the current SBYC course chart, which is available on the SBYC website at <https://www.sbyc.org/documents/10184/15928/SBYCCourseChart.pdf> or at the front desk of SBYC.

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

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 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.
- 18. THE FINISH**
- The finish 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 racings@sbyc.org or delivered to the SBYC Race Office and shall be submitted within the appropriate time limit.
- 21.2 For each class, the filing time limit is one hour after the last boat in that class finishes the last race of the day or the race committee signals no more racing today, whichever is later.
- 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

The low-point scoring system of Appendix A will apply

23. 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.

24. 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.