



Santa Barbara Yacht Club

Fiesta Cup & Harbor 20 East-West Challenge



July 18-19, 2026



SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

The Organizing Authority for the 2026 Fiesta Cup Regatta and Harbor 20 East-West Challenge 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).
- 1.2 Appendix V, Alternative Penalties, Rule V1 – Penalties at the time of the incident will apply.
- 1.3 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).
- 1.4 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.
- 1.5 The notation **[SP]** in a rule means that a penalty may be applied by the Race Committee (RC) without a hearing. This changes RRS 63.1, A4, and A5.
- 1.6 RRS 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. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any changes to the sailing instructions will be posted before 1130 on the day they will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 2000 on the day before it will take effect.

3. COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

- 3.1 Notices to competitors and amendments to the Sailing Instructions will be posted on the official notice board located on the event website – <https://sbyc.org/fiesta-cup>.
- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 On the water, the race committee intends to monitor and communicate with competitors on VHF radio channel 71.
- 3.4 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

4. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 4.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed from the SBYC flagpole.
- 4.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 60 minutes' in race signal AP.

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5 SCHEDULE

5.1	Time	Event	Location
	Thursday, July 16		
	0900	Trailers allowed in the SBYC lot after this time	
	Friday, July 17		
	Practice Day (Melges 24, Harbor 20)		
	1100-1400	Registration & Check-In	SBYC Lower Deck
	1200	Harbor 20 Spinnaker Clinic & Practice Sail	To Be Determined
	1400	Practice Starts & Races for Harbor 20's	SB Channel
	1730-2200	Party for H20 Fleet 4, East-West competitors, and their guests	
	Saturday, July 18		
	Racing Day One (Melges 24, Harbor 20)		
	0930-1100	Registration & Check-In	SBYC Lower Deck
	1100	Competitor briefing	SBYC Lower Deck
	1300	First Warning Signal	
	Post racing	Fiesta Cup Beach Party – food & live music	SBYC Beach
	Sunday, July 19		
	Racing Day Two (Melges 24, Harbor 20)		
	1230	First Warning signal	
	1600	No warning signal after this time	
	Post racing	Hors d'oeuvres and awards	SBYC

5.2 A total of eight races are scheduled with no more than four to be sailed on any one day.

6. FORMAT & BOATS FOR THE HARBOR 20 EAST-WEST CHALLENGE

- 6.1 The Harbor 20 East-West Challenge will be sailed in provided Harbor 20's with spinnakers in a fleet race style format. Scores will be tallied for individual competitors. Additionally, 'East' competitors' individual race scores will be combined as a 'team' and West competitors' race scores will be combined as a 'team' to determine an East versus West winner.
- 6.2 [DP] Harbor 20 boats will be provided. Standing rigging including battens shall not be adjusted, unless directed by the RC. Only telltales may be added to boats. Running rigging and fittings shall be used for their intended purposes only. All supplied equipment shall be carried aboard while racing.
- 6.3 While reasonable steps are taken to equalize the boats, variations, including deviations from class rules, will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 62.
- 6.4 Boats will be assigned at the Friday night Harbor 20 East-West party. Teams will be assigned a boat for Saturday and a boat for Sunday at each day's boat drawing. A team shall not sail the same boat on both Saturday and Sunday and they shall not sail their skipper's own boat.
- 6.5 [DP] Hiking is not permitted. All crew shall keep their torsos within the confines of the cockpit at all times while racing, excepting in the need of immediate repair or for safety reasons.
- 6.6 [DP] Timers, digital compasses, VHF radios, and engines (within the confines of rule 42) are the only electronics permitted to be used from 30 minutes prior to the first scheduled warning signal until the end of the last race of each day.
- 6.7 A damage deposit of \$500 per incident may be collected upon damage done to a boat after said incident. This deposit is the maximum payable by the team as a result of any one incident.
- 6.8 [DP] Competitors are responsible for inspecting their assigned boats before each race for possible breakdowns and missing equipment. Competitors should also inspect their boats at the end of each race day. Discrepancies must be reported to the RC immediately.

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- 6.9 [DP] Competitors shall report any damage, breakdown, or loss of equipment, however slight, to the RC at the first reasonable opportunity.

7 CLASS FLAGS AND ORDER OF STARTS

- 7.1 Class flags will be:

Melges 24: Numeral Pennant '1'

Harbor 20: Numeral Pennant '2'

- 7.2 The order of starts for the first race of each day is anticipated to be Melges 24 followed by Harbor 20. The race committee will start fleets in subsequent races based on which fleet is ready to race at the starting area. The race committee may change the order of starts and will announce their intent to do so on VHF channel 71.

8 RACING AREA

The racing area for all races will be the Santa Barbara Channel, within 2 miles of SBYC and will be described in further detail at the competitor meeting.

9 THE COURSES

- 9.1 The diagrams in 'Attachment A – Course Chart' show the courses, including the approximate angles between legs, the order in which marks are to be passed, and the side on which each mark is to be left.
- 9.2 Course numbers will be displayed on placards from the race committee signal boat no later than the preparatory signal.

10 MARKS

- 10.1 Turning marks will be inflatable shapes of colors consistent with those shown in 'Attachment A - Course Chart'.
- 10.2 The starting and finishing pins will be orange inflatable shapes.
- 10.3 Windward mark 'W1' will be a yellow inflatable shape. Windward mark 'W2' will be an orange inflatable shape.
- 10.4 The leeward gate will consist of a pair of yellow inflatable shapes.
- 10.5 New marks as provided in instruction 12.1, will be:
- a.) A green inflatable mark to replace 'W2'
 - b.) A red inflatable mark to replace 'W1'
 - c.) A yellow inflatable mark with a black band to replace a gate mark.

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.*

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

12 THE START

- 12.1 For the Melges 24 class, the RRS changes for using RaceSense are identified in Addendum RS.
- 12.2 Races will be started by using rule 26 with the warning signal made five (5) minutes before the starting signal.
- 12.3 The starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the race committee signal boat at the starboard end and the course side of the port-end starting mark.
- 12.4 A boat starting later than 10 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start (DNS). This changes rule A4.
- 12.5 If any part of a boat's hull is on the course side of the starting line at her starting signal and she is identified, the race committee will attempt to hail her sail number. Failure to hail her number, failure of her to hear such a hail, or the order in which boats are hailed will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 62.1(a).

13 CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

- 13.1 To change the next leg of the course, the race committee will lay a new mark (or move the finishing line) and remove the original mark as soon as practicable. When in a subsequent change a new mark is replaced, it will be replaced by an original mark. The change will be signaled before the leading boat has begun the leg, although the mark may not yet be in the new position.
- 13.2 To move the leeward gate, the race committee will set the new mark at one end of the gate and an original mark at the other.
- 13.3 The race committee may, without signal, move a mark to change the direction up to 10 degrees or the length up to 10% of the previous length, provided that no boat is sailing to the mark. This changes rule 33.

14 THE FINISH

- 14.1 For the Melges 24 class, the RRS changes for using RaceSense are identified in Addendum RS.
- 14.2 The finishing line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the Race Committee Signal Boat and the course side of the finishing mark as shown in 'Attachment A-Course Chart'.
- 14.3 In the interest of starting another race in a timely fashion, the Race Committee may assign a finish position to the last finisher(s) in a class provided that the position(s) can be determined in a reasonable manner.

15 PENALTY SYSTEM

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.'

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16 HEARING REQUESTS

- 16.1 Hearing request forms for protests, requests for redress, and reopening of a hearing are available at the front desk of SBYC. 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.
- 16.2 For all classes, the filing time limit for protests or requests for redress about an incident observed in the racing area is within 60 minutes of the Race Committee's return to the dock. The filing time limit for other hearing requests is 60 minutes after the relevant information is available to the filing party.
- 16.3 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.

17 SCORING

- 17.1 For the Melges 24 class, the low-point scoring system of Appendix A will apply except that when fewer than six races are completed, a boat's series score shall be the total of her race scores.
- 17.2 For the Harbor 20 class, the low-point scoring system of Appendix A will apply except that a competitor's series score shall be the total of their race scores.
- 17.3 (a) The East-West team winner will be decided by totaling all scores for each team (East and West). The team with the lower total score is the winner.
(b) In the event of an East-West Challenge team tie, series ties will be broken using the following method (changes A8): Individual race scores for each boat on the East Team shall be listed in order from best to worst with the same being done for the West Team. These individual boat scores for each team shall then be compared and at the first point where there is a difference the tie shall be broken in favor of the team with the best score. If a tie still remains, the team with the boat that finished first in the last race of the regatta shall be declared the winner.
- 17.4 Two races must be completed to constitute a series.

18 REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT [DP]

- 18.1 Substitution of competitors is not allowed without prior written approval of the SBYC Race Committee.
- 18.2 Substitution of damaged or lost equipment is not allowed unless authorized in writing by the SBYC Race Committee. Requests for substitution shall be made to the committee at the first reasonable opportunity, which may be after race.

19 EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS [DP]

A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules, notice of race and sailing instructions. A valid measurement certificate shall be presented upon request by any regatta or fleet representative.

20 SUPPORT TEAMS [NP][DP]

Team leaders, coaches and other support persons shall stay outside areas where boats are racing from the time of the preparatory signal for the first start until all boats have finished or retired or the race committee signals a postponement, general recall or abandonment.

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21 HAUL-OUT RESTRICTIONS[NP][DP]

All boats shall be afloat by 1200 on the first day of racing and shall remain in the water for the duration of the regatta except with prior written consent from the race committee.

22 PRIZES

Take home trophies will be awarded to the top finisher(s) in each class, based on participation. The Fiesta Cup Perpetual Trophy will be engraved with the winner from each class. The Harbor 20 East-West Challenge Perpetual Trophy will be awarded to the winning team.

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.**

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ADDENDUM RS RaceSense RRS changes

[NP]Rules and Instructions for Using the Vakaros and RaceSense System

- RS.1 Each Melges 24 shall have a working Vakaros Atlas 2 or Atlas Edge configured for RaceSense at check-in. Boats without a configured Atlas 2 or Atlas Edge may have one provided by the OA, for applicable fees. This shall be mounted as required by the OA or class at all times while racing.
- RS.2 Competitors shall
- calibrate their Atlas 2 or Atlas Edge before registration/check-in. It is the responsibility of the competitor to ensure their device remains in proper calibration throughout the event.
 - Turn the Atlas 2 or Atlas Edge off after sailing each day. Battery life is approximately 100 hours.
- RS.3 The Vakaros RaceSense system will be used by the Race Committee (RC) and the relevant information will be available to all boats.
- RS.4 Instructions for using the electronic Atlas 2 can be found here [Atlas 2 User Guide](#) or Atlas Edge can be found here [Atlas Edge User Guide](#).
- RS.5 Competitors shall take all reasonable measures to keep the Atlas 2 or Atlas Edge safe and operational and promptly notify Vakaros staff on the water or ashore of any device issues.
- RS.6 The countdown to the start on the Atlas 2 or Atlas Edge from RaceSense will be the official time. Signal flags will only be used for information purposes. This changes RRS 26.
- RS.7 The visual identification of boats infringing RRS 29 and 30 by the RC is replaced with electronic identification through the Vakaros RaceSense system, modifying RRS 29.1, 30.1, 30.2, 30.3, and 30.4.
- RS.8 RaceSense will be used to call the Finish Line.
- RS.9 Any alleged failure of the Atlas 2 or Atlas Edge, RaceSense system, or communication systems will not constitute grounds to request redress by a boat or the Protest Committee. This changes RRS 61.1(a), 61.1(c).
- RS.10 If the RC vessel displays flag 'O' Oscar (Old School) with a long sound signal before the warning signal of a race, RS.6 and RS.7 inclusive will not apply to that race.
- RS.11 If the RC vessel displays flag 'F' Foxtrot (Fix by Rebooting) with a long sound signal before the warning signal of a race, Competitors shall restart their Vakaros Atlas or Atlas Edge unit by switching it off, waiting 10 seconds and then switching it back on to reconnect to the RaceSense network. Flag F will remain displayed for a minimum of 2 minutes and will be removed with the next warning signal.
- RS.12 If firmware updates to Atlas 2 or Atlas Edge devices are required between scheduled race days, notice will be sent to all boats via email and/or SMS and or the Regatta What's App Group.