



21st Annual Halloween Howl November 7th - 8th, 2026

Organizing Authority: Annapolis Yacht Club, Annapolis, Maryland, USA
<http://www.annapolisyc.com/racing/regattas>



NOTICE OF RACE

The notation '[DP]' in a rule in this Notice of Race (NoR) means that the penalty for a breach of that rule may, at the discretion of the protest committee, be less than disqualification. The notation '[NP]' in a rule of the SIs or NoR means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1(a).

1. RULES

- 1.1 The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS).
- 1.2 The "USODA, ILCA, C420 Conditions for Sanctioned Regattas and Championships" will apply. We strongly encourage every competitor to be a paid member of their respective classes.
- 1.3 [DP] A condition of entry and participation in this regatta is the wearing of a U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation device (PFD), or for international competitors only, an appropriately sized PFD/buoyancy aid as approved for use in the competitor's country of origin. All PFDs/buoyancy aids shall be properly secured at all times while on the water, except for brief periods while removing or adding clothing. All PFDs must be suitable for the competitor's weight. Wet suits, dry suits, and inflatable PFDs are not approved nor permitted as PFDs. Failure to wear a proper PFD will result in a penalty up to and including disqualification at the discretion of the protest committee. These changes are added to RRS 40, and the Preamble to Part 4 will not apply to RRS 40.

2. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1 The sailing instructions will be available at <https://bit.ly/26AYCHowl> approximately 24 hours before the first scheduled race.

3. COMMUNICATIONS

- 3.1 The online official notice board is located at <https://bit.ly/26AYCHowl>
- 3.2 On the water, the race committee intends to make courtesy broadcasts to support persons on VHF radio. The specific channel will be stated in the SIs.
- 3.3 All support boats shall carry a VHF radio capable of communicating on US VHF channels.

4. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

- 4.1 Boats in the Optimist, Club 420, C420 Non-Spin, and all ILCA 4,6,7 classes are invited to participate.
- 4.2 Competitors wishing to enter shall register online at: <https://bit.ly/26AYCHowl>
- 4.3 To be considered an entry and be scored in the regatta, a Competitor shall complete all entry steps including the waiver (see NoR 4.4 and pay all fees).
- 4.4 [NP] A parent or legal guardian of every competitor (skippers and all crew) shall sign the AYC Liability and Waiver Agreement before they participate in any race of the regatta. The document will be available to review in advance on the event website <https://bit.ly/26AYCHowl>. Paper copies will be available at registration.

5. FEES

- 5.1 Early entry and entry fee of \$150 for all ILCAs and Opti RWB Fleets, and \$250 for all Doublehanded Fleets, and \$100 for Green Fleet are due by 2359 on Friday, October 23rd. After that, all entry fees will increase by \$30 and will be accepted until 0900 on Saturday, November 7th, 2026. Entry fees are non-refundable.

5.2 Entry fees are:

Classes	Early Entry	Late Entry
C420 (Double Handed)	\$250	\$280
ILCA 4, ILCA 6, ILCA 7, & Optimist RWB	\$150	\$180
Optimist Green Fleet	\$100	\$130

- 5.3 The entry fee includes, at a minimum, coach boat launching via hoists, trailer storage, racing, and awards. Following racing on Saturday, there will be a Halloween Costume Party with food for all competitors. Additional party tickets will be available on the event website. An awards party and trophy presentation will be held after racing on Sunday. Additional details will be included on the event website. Non-AYC members may organize a guest card for use at all Club facilities.

6. SCHEDULE

- 6.1 Onsite registration will be between 0800 and 0900 on Saturday, November 7th.
- 6.2 Early arrivals will be allowed on Friday, November 6th beginning at 1200 hours. The racing days will be Saturday, November 7th to Sunday, November 8th. Competitors are welcome to practice beginning on Friday.
- 6.3 The warning signal for the first race of the regatta is scheduled for 1030 hours.
- 6.4 Multiple races may be sailed each day, to be further detailed in the sailing instructions.
- 6.5 No warning signal will be made after 1500 hours on the last scheduled day of racing.

7 VENUE

- 7.1 The racing area will be in Whitehall Bay just off of Greenbury Pt. for the Lasers and C420s. Optimist RWB Fleet will be located between Back Creek and Tolly Pt. The Optimist Green Fleet will be located in the Severn River or Spa Creek. Changes to race area locations will be posted on the Official Notice Board and communicated to competitors.
- 7.2 The regatta venue will be the AYC Sailing Center, 510 Severn Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21403.

8. THE COURSES

- 8.1 The courses to be sailed will be drop marks.

9. SCORING

- 9.1 RRS Appendix A4, Low Point System, will apply as changed by the sailing instructions.

10. SAFETY

- 10.1 The race committee may require a competitor to retire from racing if the competitor is determined to be a risk to their own or others' safety.
- 10.2 Competitors with a designated support boat shall inform the organizing authority at registration.

11 [DP] SUPPORT/COACH BOATS

- 11.1 All support/coach vessels shall be equipped with a functioning engine safety cut-off switch (kill switch) which shall remain attached to the operator at all times while the engine is running.
- 11.2 All person's aboard support vessels shall wear a USCG approved personal flotation device (PFD), if not a US Citizen, then an "approved" flotation aid (PFD) of the coach's nationality requirements will be accepted, at all times while afloat, except briefly while changing or adjusting clothing or personal equipment. The PFD shall be the proper size for the wearer, and in good and serviceable condition. Inflatable PFDs are permitted.
- 11.3 Support/Coach vessels may be responsible for up to a maximum of 10 sailors.
- 11.4 Except in the case of emergency, support vessels shall not enter the racing area from the preparatory signal until the last boat finishes or when permission is given by the race committee to do so.

12 [DP] PARKING, TRAILER & SUPPORT BOAT LOGISTICS

- 12.1 Visiting Coach Boats may be launched from AYC's Sailing Center hoists one day prior to the event by appointment only with the AYC Junior Sailing Director (see 15.1) and must be done with the assistance/supervision of AYC's Jr. Sailing Director or a member of AYC's Dockmaster staff. Launching is available between 0900 and 1900. Coach boats may store their trailers at the AYC Sailing Center.
- 12.2 Sailboat trailers may be unloaded and stored at AYC's Sailing Center starting 0900 Friday, November 6th. Competitor parking for private vehicles is on a space available basis each day. Additional parking is available on the surrounding streets in Eastport for free. All boats and coach boat trailers must be removed from the Sailing Center by 1200 Monday, November 9th.

13 AWARDS & Ceremony

- 13.1 Awards will be given to first, second and third places in the C420, ILCA 6, and all Optimist Classes. For ILCA 4, ILCA 7, C420 Non-Spin Classes there will need to be minimum of 8 valid entries in each class by 2359 October 23rd, 2026, in order for awards to be presented.
- 13.2 Overall awards will be given to first through fifth places in the Optimist Red/White/Blue fleet if there are 30 or more entries.
- 13.3 Participation awards will be given to all competitors in the Optimist Green fleet.
- 13.4 An award will be given for the Best Costume in each class at Sunday's Awards Ceremony.
- 13.5 Additional awards may be awarded at the discretion of the organizing authority.

14 DECISION TO RACE: (RISK STATEMENT)

- 14.1 RRS #3 DECISION TO RACE 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 fierce 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.**

15 FURTHER INFORMATION

- 15.1 For more information contact:

Jr. Sailing Management:

Email: juniorfleet@annapolisyc.org Phone: (410)-263-9267

Coach boat/trailer launching/storage arrangements contact:

Bobby Lippincott, Director of Junior Sailing rlippincott@annapolisyc.org or (410)-263-9267 ext. 109