21st Annual Halloween Howl
November 6th-8th, 2026

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

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

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 regattas 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.

1.3 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 CHANGES TO THE SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

2.1 Any change to the SIs will be posted no later than 2 hours before the first scheduled warning signal on the day it 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 will be posted on the official notice board on the event website https://bit.ly/26HowlONB

3.2 The race office will be located on the ground floor deck on the water side of the AYC Sailing Center. The race office can also be reached by telephone at 410-858-4964 or by email at raceoffice@annapolisyc.org

3.3 On the water, the race committee intends to monitor and communicate with support persons via VHF radio on channel 63A for the Opti RWB circle, channel 69 for Optimist Green Fleet circle, and 71 for the Club 420/ILCA circle.

4 CODE OF CONDUCT

4.1 Competitors and support persons shall comply with reasonable requests from race officials and the organizing authority.

5 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

5.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed from a pole on a hoist at the AYC Sailing Center nearest to the bridge.

5.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 60 minutes' in the race signal AP "This changes Race Signals".

6 SCHEDULE

6.1 Onsite registration will be between 0800 and 0900 on Saturday, November 7th.

6.2 A coaches and competitors meeting will be held on Saturday morning at 0900 in the parking lot on the water side of the AYC Sailing Center.

6.3 The warning signal for the first race of the regatta is scheduled for 1030 each day.

6.4 No warning signal will be made after 1500 on Sunday.

7 OPTIMIST GREEN INFORMATION

7.1 Racing Area - The Optimist Green fleet will race in Area Green as shown on SI Attachment 1.

7.2 Courses - The course is shown in SI Attachment 2.

7.3 Marks - All marks will be orange balls.

7.4 Start

(a) Races will be started under Appendix U, audible sound signals

(b) The starting line will be between the staff with an orange flag displayed on the race committee signal vessel and the course side of the start/finish mark.

(c) A boat that does not start within 10 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes RRS A4 and A5.

7.5 Finish - The finishing line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the race committee finishing vessel and the course side of the start/finish mark.

8 CLUB 420, C420 Non-Spin, ILCA INFORMATION

8.1 Races will be started under Appendix U, audible sound signals.

8.2 Racing Area

(a) SI Attachment 1 shows the location of the racing areas.

(b) The C420 and ILCA classes will race in Area A.

8.3 Marks

(a) All course marks, except the start and finish marks, will be orange inflatables.

(b) A race committee starting or finishing vessel may set a stand-off buoy. When present, this stand-off buoy, the line attaching it to the race committee vessel, and the race committee vessel are all part of the starting or finishing mark.

8.4 Start

(a) The start will be according to RRS/US Appendix U (Audible-Signal Racing System).

(b) The starting line will be between the staff with an orange flag displayed on the race committee signal vessel and the course side of the starting mark, a yellow inflatable.

(c) Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area during the starting sequence for other races.

(d) A boat that does not start within 10 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes RRS A4 and A5.

8.5 Finish - the finishing line will be between a staff displaying a blue flag on the race committee finishing vessel and the course side of the finishing mark, a yellow inflatable.

9 OPTIMIST RED, BLUE, and WHITE FLEET INFORMATION

9.1 Start

(a) Races will be started using RRS 26. The class flag shall be the Optimist insignia on a white flag.

(b) The starting line will be between the staff displaying an orange flag on the race committee signal vessel and the course side of the starting mark, a green inflatable.

9.2 Course & Racing Area

(a) The Optimist RWB class will race in Area B as detailed in SI Attachment 1.

(b) The course will be an IODA Trapezoid as described in SI Attachment 2, as (OT).

(c) The course area could be between Lake Ogleton and Tolly Point.

9.3 Marks - Marks 1, 2, 3p and 3s will be orange inflatables.

9.4 Finish - The finish line will be between the staff displaying a blue flag on the finish boat and the course side of the finishing mark, a green inflatable.

9.5 **Protest Requirements** - A optimist wishing to file a protest shall report their intention to the finish boat as soon as practicable after finishing, and before consulting with their coach, parent, or other support boats.

10 CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

10.1 To change the next leg of the course, the race committee may 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. Alternatively, the race committee may move the original marks, provided no boats have begun that leg of the course.

11 PENALTY SYSTEM

11.1 Penalties while racing: RRS 44.1 and 44.2, One-Turn and Two-Turns Penalties will apply.

12 TIME LIMITS

12.1 For each class, the time limit is 90 minutes.

12.2 Boats still racing, but failing to finish within 25 minutes after the first boat in her class sails the course and finishes, and not subsequently retiring, penalized or given redress, will be scored Time Limit Expired (TLE) without a hearing. This changes RRS 35, A4 and A5.

13 PROTESTS, REQUESTS FOR REDRESS, SCORING INQUIRIES

13.1 Protest forms, scoring inquiry forms, and penalty acceptance forms can be found at the race office or online at https://annapolisyc.com/racing/raceoffice

13.2 Protests, requests for redress or reopening shall be delivered to the race office (see SI 3.2) by the protest time limit.

13.3 When the race committee receives a scoring inquiry form, it will review its records and respond as soon as practicable.

13.4 The protest time limit is 30 minutes after the race committee signal vessel docks. The race committee will post the protest time limit.

13.5 The race committee will post a list of race committee scoring actions no later than the protest time limit.

13.6 Notices of protests by the race committee or protest committee will be posted to inform boats under RRS 61.1(b).

13.7 The protest committee will post a notice to inform competitors of the schedule and location of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses.

14 SCORING

14.1 RRS Appendix A4, Low Point System, will apply.

14.2 One race is required to be completed to constitute a series.

14.3 When 4 or fewer races have been completed a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores. When 5 or more races have been completed a boats series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.

14.4 Boats to be scored TLE will be scored points equal to the number of boats finishing within the finishing window plus two points by the race committee without a hearing. This changes RRS A4 and A5.2.

15 SAFETY REGULATIONS

15.1 Each boat shall check in before the warning of their first race sailed each day by sailing past the stern of the race committee signal boat and hailing her sail number until acknowledged.

15.2 A boat that retires from a race, or leaves the racing area between races, shall notify the race committee at the first reasonable opportunity.

16 COACHING

16.1 All support 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.

16.2 Support vessels may be responsible for up to a maximum of 10 sailors.

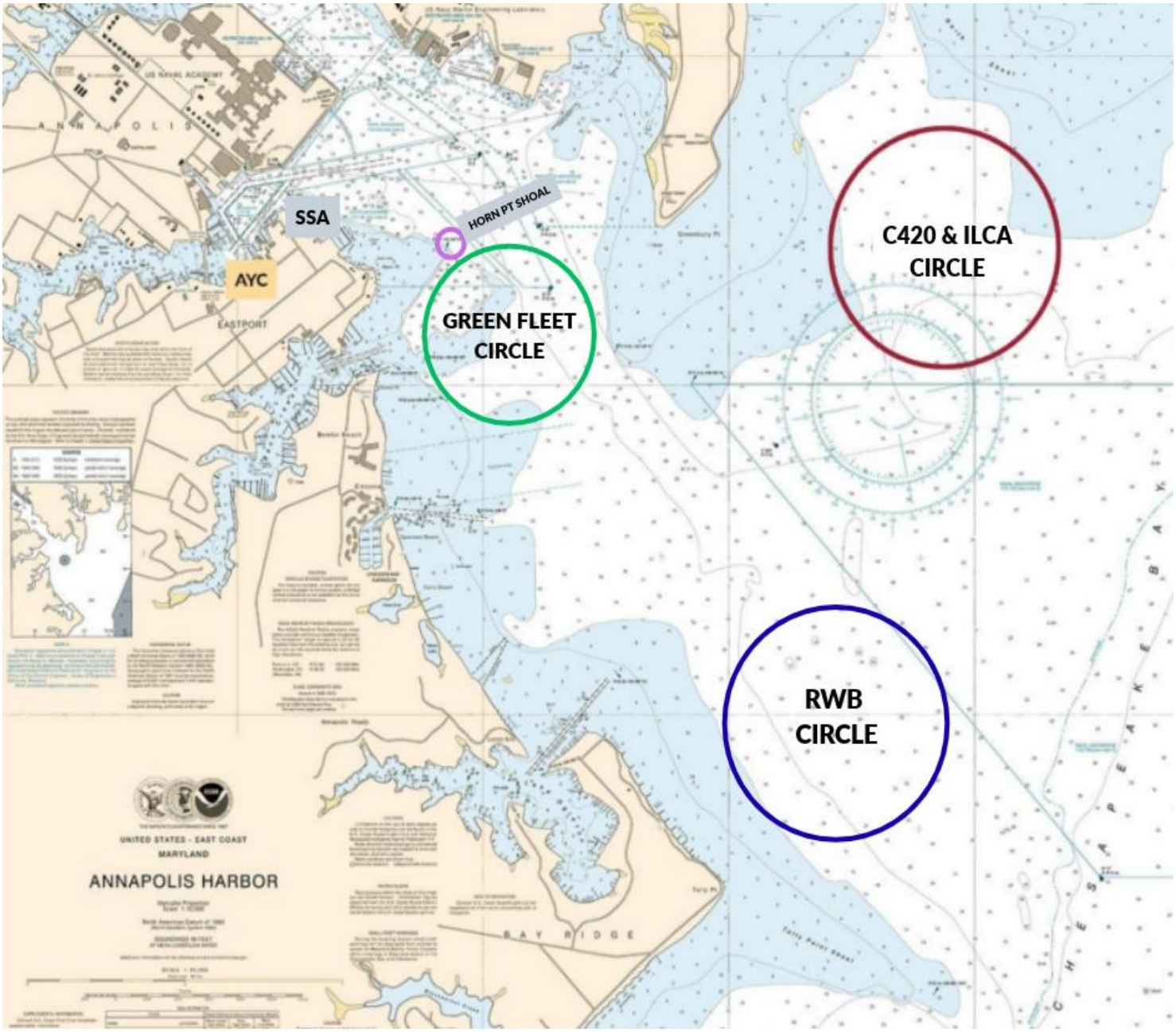
16.3 All person's aboard support vessels shall wear a USCG approved personal flotation device (PFD), if not a US Citizen, then an "approved" flotation aid (PFD) of the coach's nationality requirements will be accepted, at all times while afloat, except briefly while changing or adjusting clothing or personal equipment. The PFD shall be the proper size for the wearer, and in good and serviceable condition. Inflatable PFDs are permitted.

16.4 Except in the case of emergency, support vessels shall not enter the racing area from the preparatory signal until the last boat finishes or permission is given by the race committee.

17 DECISION TO RACE: (RISK STATEMENT)

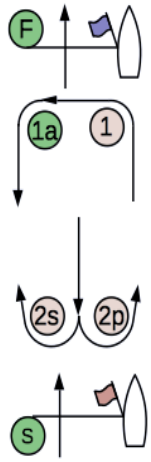
17.1 RRS #3 DECISION TO RACE states: 'The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue to race is hers alone.' By participating in this event each competitor agrees and acknowledges that sailing is a potentially dangerous activity with inherent risks. These risks include 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.**

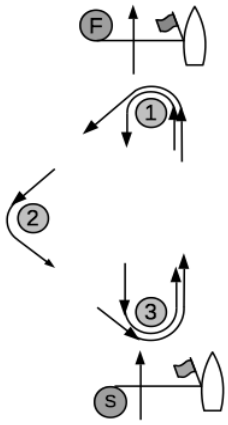
SI ATTACHMENT 1 - RACE AREA

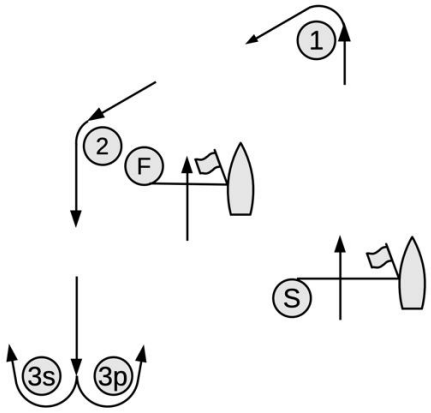


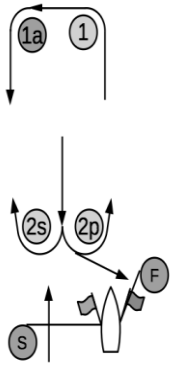
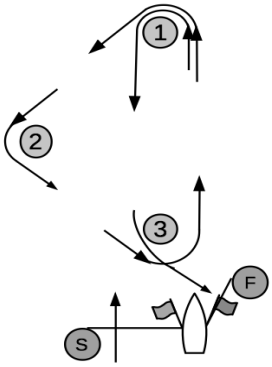
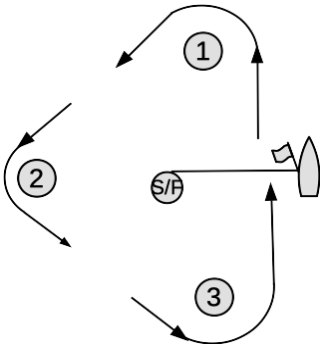
SI ATTACHMENT 2 – COURSES

In the below table, the course designation is followed by the mark rounding order for that course. All marks except 2S and 3S are to be rounded to port. If the race committee displays "NO GATE" near the course designation or only one mark is set, then only mark 2P will be set.

<table>
<tr>
<td>WA


WA2: Start-1-1a-2s/2p-Finish
WA3: Start-1-1a-2s/2p-1-1a-2s/2p-Finish</td>
<td colspan="2">TW


TW2: Start-1-2-3-Finish
TW3: Start-1-2-3-1-3-Finish</td>
<td colspan="2">OT


OT: Start-1-2-3s/3p-Finish</td>
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<tr>
<td>LR

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<td>TR</td>
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<td>OG</td>
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<tr>
<td>LR1: Start-1-1a-2p-Finish
LR2: Start-1-1a-2s/2p-1-1a-2p-Finish</td>
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<td>TR2: Start-1-2-3-1-3p-Finish</td>
<td>OG</td>
<td>OG1: Start-1-2-3-Finish
OG2: Start-1-2-3-1-2-3-Finish</td>
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