



U32 Lightning Invitational Regatta

Charleston Yacht Club

27 Lockwood Dr

Charleston, SC

October 23 – 25, 2026

NOTICE OF RACE

Version: May 15, 2026

International Lightning Class Association, Charleston Yacht Club, & Lightning Fleet 429 are the organizing authorities.

1. RULES

- 1.1. The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), the [ILCA Constitution](#), [ILCA By-Laws](#), Lightning Specifications, and the [Document Governing All Sanctioned Lightning Class Championships](#) (hereafter referred to as Document Governing)
- 1.2. RRS 42.3(c) is changed to read: "Except on a beat to windward, when surfing (rapidly accelerating down the front of a wave) or planing is possible, the boat's crew may pull the sheet only, (not the guy), in order to initiate surfing or planing, but each sail may be pulled only once for each wave or gust of wind. When the mainsail is pumped, only that part of the sheet between the crew member handling the sheet and the first block on the boom shall be used."
- 1.3. RRS 44 is changed to add the following: "The two turns penalty as provided in RRS Rule 44 will apply with the additional provision that when an infringing yacht has its spinnaker drawing at the time of the infringement, drops it completely (below the gooseneck) while taking her penalty, and resets it immediately and has it drawing after the penalty, the penalty is one turn instead of two."
- 1.4. The US Sailing prescriptions to RRS 63.1 do not apply.

2. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

- 2.1. Competitors must have reached their 21st birthday but not their 33rd birthday prior to the start of the event.
- 2.2. **Competitors shall register as a complete team.** *A team shall consist of (1) skipper and (2) crew.*
- 2.3. Eligibility for boats, skippers and crew shall be in accordance with ILCA By-Laws and shall be in accordance with the Document Governing, which Articles apply in their entirety. Skipper must be a Life, Active or Associate Member of the ILCA. Crew must be Life, Active, Associate or Crew Member of the ILCA. Membership sign-up: [Membership Info - International Lightning Class Association](#)
- 2.4. Boats and housing may be provided upon request and are subject to availability and on a first come, first serve basis, and are not guaranteed.

3. FEES

- 3.1. Register online at the following link: [2026 Lightning U32 Invitational Regatta](#)

- 3.2. Entry Fee:
Entry fees paid on or before September 1, 2026 will be \$180
Entry fees paid after September 2 until the deadline October 9, 2026 will be subject to a \$100 late fee.
Entries after the deadline may be accepted solely at the discretion of the OA.
- 3.3. Registration includes racing, Saturday night dinner, two drink tickets, Sunday snacks post-racing, and awards
- 3.4. Damage Deposit: See NOR 15.1

4. SCHEDULE

- 4.1. The Race Committee may adjust the racing schedule and racing area to suit weather conditions. The number of races shall be a maximum of eight.

Friday, October 23rd

0900	Arrival Accepted
1700 - 1830	Check In & Registration
1800	Club Bar Opens (Cash/Card)

Saturday, October 24th

0800	Check In & Registration Opens
1000	Competitors' Meeting
1130	First Warning Signal
	Sailing debrief and refreshments following racing
1830	Dinner at CHYC

Sunday, October 25th

1030	First Warning Signal
1400	No Warning Signal after this time
	Light snacks, refreshments, and awards following racing

5. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 5.1. The sailing instructions will be available online approximately one week before the event on the ClubSpot event page: [2026 Lightning U32 Invitational Regatta](#)

6. ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

- 6.1. RRS 41 is changed to permit the use of hand-held VHF radios to receive communications from the Race Committee on a predetermined channel. The Race Committee intends to use VHF radio to identify OCS (On the Course Side of the starting line) after starts and otherwise communicate with the fleet on the water. Failure to receive a hail, for a hail to be made, or the order of hails shall not be grounds for requesting redress.

7. VENUE & RACING AREA

- 7.1. The racing Area will be on the Charleston Harbor.
- 7.2. Launching, hauling, and all boat storage will take place at Charleston Yacht Club. Boats will be launched and hauled on all days.

8. COURSES

- 8.1. Preferred courses will be windward/leeward that may include an offset mark and a gate, as described in the sailing instructions. The Race Committee may choose to sail a custom course with an announcement on land or via VHF radio.

9. PENALTY SYSTEM

- 9.1. RRS Appendix V shall apply.

10. SCORING

- 10.1. The Low Point System of RRS Appendix A 4.1 will apply.
- 10.2. All scores will count except if at least five (5) races are completed, each boat's worst score will be excluded from her series score.
- 10.3. One (1) completed race shall constitute a series.

11. SUPPORT VESSELS [DP]

- 11.1. Team leaders, coaches, and other support personnel shall stay outside the racing area (defined as 100 yards outside the lay-lines of the course including the start area) and comply with other requirements as specified in the Sailing Instructions. These requirements begin from the start of the first race of the regatta until the finish of the last race of the regatta. Individual competitors may not use support boats at any time during the regatta unless such support is available to all competitors or is authorized by the Race Committee. The penalty for failure to comply with any of these requirements may result in disqualification of all boats associated with the infringing support personnel.

12. CHARTERED OR LOANED BOATS [DP]

- 12.1. Damages or failures in the boats supplied by the Organizing Authority, due to their use and natural wear and tear will not be grounds for redress. This modifies RRS 61.1(a).

13. PRIZES

- 13.1. Prizes will be awarded to skippers and crews placing first through fifth.
- 13.2. Additional prizes may be awarded at the discretion of the OA.

14. 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 *racing* 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. The organizing authority will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury, or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the regatta.

15. Insurance

- 15.1. Borrowed/loaned/chartered boat insurance will be run through the Class Office covering the event. A deposit of \$ 250.00 USD in cash (two hundred and fifty US dollars) per boat is required for all participants at registration to cover possible damage. Deposits will be returned at the end of the event if there has been no damage or missing parts on the boat loaned.

16. ADVERTISING

- 16.1. Boats may be required to display advertising chosen if supplied by the OA. As per World Sailing Regulation 20 (the Advertising Code), the International Lightning Class Association restricts competitor advertising to hulls only.

17. FURTHER INFORMATION

Organizing Chairperson, Allison Hannigan: hansenallisonp@gmail.com or 540-645-7327
Principal Race Officer, Ryan Davidson: r.davidson9630@gmail.com or 949-422-9013
Chief Judge, TBD
International Lightning Class Association: office@lightningclass.org or 727-942-7969

Regatta Website: <https://charlestonyachtclub.com/regatta/mLvw7HsEFG>