



# AMERICAN YACHT CLUB 2025 CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

for the

Thomas A. Williams Trophy

Organizing Authority (OA): American Yacht Club (AYC), Rye, NY

Saturday, August 29, 2026

## SAILING INSTRUCTIONS (SIs)

*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 RULES

- 1.1 The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing* (RRS).
- 1.2 RRS 40.1 will apply.
- 1.3 Ideal 18 class rules shall not apply.

### 2 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1 Any change to the SIs will be posted on the official notice board located at [Clubspot](#) before 0900 on the day it will take effect, except that any change in the schedule of races will be posted by 1800 on the day before it will take effect.
- 2.2 Changes to the sailing instructions may be made on the water. The Principal Race Officer will signal the change by displaying Flag L with one sound signal and broadcasting the change on VHF channel 69 prior to the warning signal. Hailing the change directly to boats is also permitted.

### 3 COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

- 3.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located at [Clubspot](#) (<https://sailing.americanyc.org/regatta/ACB8cf0IYY>).
- 3.2 On the water, the race committee intends to monitor and communicate with competitors on VHF radio channel 69. Failure of a competitor to receive or hear this information shall not be grounds for a request for redress by a boat. This changes RRS 61.4(b).
- 3.3 [DP] From the first warning signal until the end of the last race of the day, except in an emergency, a boat shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats.

### 4 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 4.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed at the flagpole in front of the JAYC House at American Yacht Club.

- 4.2** When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 30 minutes' in the race signal AP.

## **5 SCHEDULE OF RACES**

- 5.1** Racing is scheduled for Saturday, August 29, 2026.
- 5.2** A mandatory competitors meeting will be held at 1230 Saturday, August 29, 2026 on the front porch of the American Yacht Club clubhouse. At the meeting, Ideal 18 boat assignments will be drawn by lot.
- 5.3** The scheduled time of the warning signal for the first race is 1400.
- 5.4** Multiple races are scheduled.
- 5.5** No warning signal will be made after 1700.

## **6 RACING AREA**

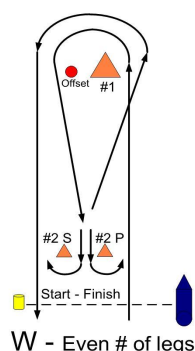
- 6.1** The racing area shall be in the vicinity of Red Bell 42.

## **7 FORMAT**

- 7.1** Ideal 18 boat assignments will be drawn by lot.
- 7.2** Based on the number of registrations, the event will be one of two formats.
- a) If there are more skipper/crew teams than boats, competitors will be separated into two (2) groups, by random draw. Each group will sail a preliminary series of no more than three (3) races. Top finishers in each group will sail a final series of no more than five (5) races. The number of finishers in each group competing in the final series will be dependent upon the number of boats available (e.g., top 4 from each group if 9 boats are available or top 5 from each group if 10 boats are available). Scores from the preliminary series will not carry over to the final series. Competitors who are not in rotation in a race that is underway are encouraged to stay in close vicinity of the race area until it is time for their rotation.
  - b) If the number of skipper/crew teams is equal to or fewer than the number of boats available, then one series will be run. The number of races will be at the discretion of the race committee.

## **8 COURSES**

- 8.1** No later than the warning signal, the race committee signal vessel shall display a whiteboard with the course designation (W2 = two legs, W4 = four legs, etc.) and the approximate compass bearing for the first leg.



## 9 MARKS

9.1 Rounding marks are orange inflatable marks or red hippity-hops.

9.2 The starting and finishing mark is a yellow inflatable mark.

## 10 THE START

10.1 US Sailing Prescription Appendix U “AUDIBLE-SIGNAL RACING SYSTEM” applies except as modified by SI Appendix B.

10.2 Boats will start according to Appendix B, Vakaros RaceSense.

10.3 A boat that does not start within four (4) minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.1 and A5.2.

## 11 CHANGES TO THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

11.1 To change the next leg of the course, the race committee will move the original mark to a new position.

11.2 The race committee may change the next leg of the course up to 15 degrees in direction or 0.1 nm in length during a race without signaling a course change. This changes RRS 33.

## 12 THE FINISH

12.1 Boats will finish according to Appendix B, Vakaros RaceSense.

## 13 PENALTY SYSTEM

13.1 RRS Appendix V applies.

## 14 TIME LIMIT

14.1 The Race Time Limit, and the Finishing Window are shown in the table below.

| Race Time Limit | Finishing Window |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 45 minutes      | 10 minutes       |

14.2 The Finishing Window is the time for boats to finish after the first boat sails the course and finishes. Boats still racing who fail to finish within the finishing window will be scored TLE, unless they retire or are subject to a scoring decision from a committee, without a hearing. A boat scored TLE shall be scored points for the finishing place one (1) more than the

points scored by the last boat that finished within the Finishing Window. This changes RRS 35, A5.1, A5.2 and A10.

## **15 HEARING REQUESTS**

- 15.1** The protest time limit is 45 minutes after the race committee signal boat has docked. The time will be posted on the official notice board.
- 15.2** Hearing request forms are available at the front desk of the main AYU clubhouse.
- 15.3** American Yacht Club Expedited Hearing Procedures apply and are attached as Appendix A.

## **16 SCORING**

- 16.1** One (1) race is required to be completed to constitute a series.
- 16.2** A boat's series score is the total of her race scores.

## **17 SUPPLIED BOATS**

- 17.1** Boats will be supplied by the OA. See SI Appendix B.

## **18 BREAKDOWNS**

- 18.1** A boat whose finishing place, through no fault of her own, is made significantly worse because of a breakdown may seek redress. This amends RRS 61.4(b).

## **19 PRIZES**

- 19.1** Following the event, the event winner (skipper & crew) will be awarded the Thomas A. Williams Trophy and a separate prize.
- 19.2** At the AYU Annual Awards Dinner in November 2026, additional prizes will be awarded to the skippers and crews placing first, second and third.
- 19.3** The event winner will also win a table on Picnic Point for the fireworks event in July 2027. The winner can select a specific table, so long as the skipper notifies the General Manager of the desired table by Monday, May 31, 2027.

## **20 RISK STATEMENT**

- 20.1** 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 and any related activity sponsored, undertaken, administered, managed, or allowed to be conducted by American Yacht Club, the owner, helmsman and each crew member agree, understand and accept, for themselves and their respective successors, assigns, representatives, administrators, executors, agents, heirs or any person acting or purporting to act on their behalf ("Releasers") that sailing is an inherently dangerous and unpredictable activity due to multiple factors that cannot be anticipated or predicted with certainty, including but not limited to weather, equipment failure or malfunction, and the actions of others on or off the water, injury, sickness and disease (including communicable diseases such as Covid-19). Releasers also agree, understand and accept that sailing presents inherent risks of serious bodily injury (including permanent disability, paralysis, and death, whether by drowning or

otherwise, sickness and disease (including communicable diseases), property damage and other economic loss. Accordingly, and in consideration for being permitted to enter into and participate in this or any other sailing event sponsored, undertaken, administered, managed or allowed to be conducted by American Yacht Club, Releasors forever release and waive, to the fullest extent allowed by law, any and all claims, actions, accounts, causes of action and choses in action, whether in law, equity or admiralty, that Releasors now have, may have had or may come to have, against American Yacht Club, including its officers, directors, trustees, members, employees, agents, volunteers, staff, committees, and anyone acting on its behalf ("Releasees"), for anything arising out of or relating to Releasors' participation in such sailing events (including contracting communicable diseases such as Covid-19). Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, and without in any way limiting or lessening the effect or breadth of the foregoing release and waiver, and solely for the avoidance of doubt and clarification, Releasors agree, acknowledge and understand that this release and waiver applies to any and all claims of any kind at all against Releasees arising out of or relating to injuries, deaths, sickness and disease (including communicable diseases such as Covid-19), damage to vessels or damage to personal property sustained during or as a result of any and all sailing events sponsored, undertaken, administered, managed or allowed to be conducted by American Yacht Club.

## **FURTHER INFORMATION:**

Event Chair:  
Principal Race Officer:  
Chief Judge:

Jenn Leary  
Jenn Leary  
Clemmie Everett

[jenniferaleary@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferaleary@gmail.com)

## APPENDIX A



# American Yacht Club Expedited Hearing Procedures

**These rules apply to all hearings except hearings under RRS 69.**

1. A boat intending to protest or request redress based on an incident in the racing area that she is involved in or sees shall, at the first reasonable opportunity after she finishes, inform the race committee at the finishing line of her intent to protest or request redress and, when applicable, the identity of the protestee.
2. A boat seeking redress for breakdown shall inform the race committee immediately after finishing, or immediately if she withdraws from the race.
3. If the protest committee is able to assemble the parties to a hearing before the protest or redress time limit, it may begin the hearing and may waive the requirements of RRS 60.3, and thus 60.4(a)(1), or RRS 61.2, and thus 61.3.
4. The US Sailing prescriptions to the preamble to RRS Part 5, Section B and RRS 63.1 are deleted.
5. RRS 63.4(a) is changed to: 'If there is no objection, the protest or request is valid. If an objection is made, the protest committee shall consider validity. The hearing shall be closed if'
6. Replace the third sentence of RRS 63.4(b) with the following: 'However, the committee may limit the number of witnesses and the time during which parties may present evidence and ask questions.'
7. RRS 63.6(b) is changed to: 'If requested by a *party* in writing within 30 minutes of being informed of the decision, the above information shall be provided promptly in writing and the protest committee may, if it considers it relevant to do so, prepare or endorse a diagram.'
8. RRS 63.7(b) is changed to: 'A party to the hearing may not ask for a reopening.'
9. Committee Protests - A *committee* intending to protest a boat, following an incident that is observed in the racing area, may, at the first reasonable opportunity, inform the boat by making a sound signal, hailing "protest" and her sail number. The signaled boat may then take a penalty as available under RRS 44. This changes rules RRS 60.2(a)(2) and Appendix D1.2(b).

## APPENDIX B



### Vakaros RaceSense

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

1. Each boat shall have a working Vakaros Atlas 2 turned on at all times which shall be provided and configured by the OA.
2. The Vakaros RaceSense system will be used by the Race Committee and the relevant information will be available to all boats.
3. Competitors shall take all reasonable measures to keep the Atlas 2 safe and operational and promptly notify the Race Committee on the water or ashore of any device issues.
4. US Sailing Prescription Appendix U is changed. The countdown to the start on the Atlas 2 from RaceSense will be the official time. Signal flags shall not be used.
5. The starting line is between a staff displaying an orange flag on each of the Race Committee signal vessel at the starboard end, and on the port end starting mark.
6. The visual identification of boats infringing RRS 29 and RRS 30 by the Race Committee is replaced with electronic identification through the Vakaros RaceSense system, modifying RRS 29.1, 30.1, 30.2, 30.3, and 30.4. In the event a start needs to be recalled, for fairness or safety reasons, the Race Committee will display signal flag N with three sounds and the race will be abandoned.
7. Any failure of the Atlas 2, RaceSense system, or communication systems will not constitute grounds to request redress by a boat or the Protest Committee. This changes RRS 41(c), 61.1(a), 61.1(c).
8. If the Race Committee vessel displays signal flag O with a sound signal before the warning signal of a race, B.4 to B.6 inclusive will not apply to that race, in which case the starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the Race Committee signal vessel at the starboard end, and the course side of the port end starting mark.
9. The finishing line is between staffs displaying an orange flag on each of the Race Committee signal vessel at the port end and on the starboard end finishing mark. This changes RRS Race Signals.
10. If the Race Committee vessel displays signal flag O when a boat is finishing a race, B.9 will not apply to that race, in which case the finishing line is between a staff displaying an orange flag on the signal vessel at the port end, and the course side of the starboard end finishing mark. This changes RRS Race Signals.
11. If the Race Committee vessel displays signal flag R with a sound signal before the warning signal of a race, Competitors shall restart their Vakaros Atlas 2 unit by switching it off, waiting 10 seconds and then switching it back on to reconnect to the RaceSense network. Signal flag R will remain displayed for a minimum of 2 minutes and will be removed with the next warning signal.