



The Patuxent Pursuit Regatta

Southern Maryland Sailing Association (SMSA)

Friday, July 17-Sunday, July 19, 2026

NOTICE OF RACE (NoR)

1 EVENT DESCRIPTION

- 1.1 The Patuxent Pursuit Regatta will consist of two separately scored events: 1) Friday Distance Pursuit race, and 2) Saturday and Sunday racing on two separate courses. On Saturday and Sunday, one course will be a Windward/Leeward drop mark course for Performance Handicap Racing Fleet (PHRF) Spinnaker and One Design boats; and a separate course will be a Navigator/Cruiser course using government marks and SMSA marks in the Bay and River with legs friendly to cruisers for PHRF Cruising Class Non Spinnaker (CCNS), PHRF Non-Spinnaker, and PHRF Spinnaker classes.

2 RULES

- 2.1 The regatta shall be governed by The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) 2025-2028 except as modified by the Sailing Instructions and this Notice of Race.

3 SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 3.1 The sailing instructions (SI) will be available after 5:00 pm on 6 July 2026 at www.smsa.com.

4 COMMUNICATIONS

- 4.1 The official notice board is located online at www.smsa.com.
- 4.2 All boats must carry a VHF radio capable of communicating on channels 9, 13, 16, 68, 69, 71, and 72.
- 4.3 On the water, the race committee intends to make courtesy broadcasts to competitors on VHF radio. The specific channel will be stated in the SIs.
- 4.4 [DP] While racing, 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.

5 ELIGIBILITY:

- 5.1 Regatta is open to boats 22 feet and longer, racing under PHRF or a One-Design class rule.
- 5.2 Boats entered in PHRF shall have a valid 2026 PHRF of the Chesapeake rating no later than 12 July 2026.
- 5.3 Boat must have a minimum of two persons.
- 5.4 One-Design competitors must race in "class legal" configurations.
- 5.5 Groups of at least five (5) boats wishing to sail under other handicap rules are welcome. Please contact PaxPursuitPRO@smsa.com prior to 15 June 2026.
- 5.6 All boats must meet the Nearshore category of the US Sailing Safety Equipment Requirements <https://www.ussailing.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/SER-2025.0-Monohull-Nearshore.pdf>, except One-Design class boats which must meet their class safety standards.

6 ENTRY

- 6.1 Boats may enter the event by registering online at www.smsa.com.
- 6.2 To be considered an entry in the event, a boat must complete all registration requirements and pay all fees.
- 6.3 During registration, boats will designate whether they are racing on Friday. If you need to update this selection, contact PaxPursuitPRO@smsa.com by 14 July 2026.

7 FEES

- 7.1 Go Getter registration (includes a regatta short sleeve T shirt) on or before 15 April 2026: \$130
- 7.2 Early Bird registration on or before 30 June 2026 (includes a regatta short sleeve T shirt): \$160
- 7.3 Just In Time registration after 30 June 2026 (shirt not guaranteed to be included): \$190
- 7.4 \$10 discount for US Sailing Membership, \$20 discount for PHRF CCNS class.
- 7.5 No registrations accepted after 14 July 2026.
- 7.6 Send questions to: PaxPursuit@smsa.com
- 7.7 Other fees:
 - 7.7.1 Saturday evening dinner; Must be purchased no later than 12 July 2026; \$25 per person.
 - 7.7.2 Sunday Social Food; Must be purchased no later than 12 July 2026; \$10 per person.
 - 7.7.3 Additional pre-order shirts on or before 22 June 2026: \$25 T-shirt, \$30 short sleeve tech shirt; \$35 long sleeve tech shirt, \$40 Hooded long sleeve tech shirt, \$40 UV long sleeve tech shirt. Extra shirts may be available for purchase at the regatta.

8 SCHEDULE

- 8.1 Event headquarters will be located at SMSA, 14490 Solomons Island Road, Solomons, MD. All post-race parties and awards will also be held at SMSA.
- 8.2 All skippers/boats must check-in to receive skipper's packet and printed sailing instructions. Check-in will be at SMSA Thursday, 16 July 2026 between 1700 – 1900 hours or Friday, 17 July 2026 between 1700-1900 hours.
- 8.3 **Thursday, 16 July 2026.**
 - 1700 – 1900** - Check-In for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday racing.
 - 1700 – 2100** - Welcome Social.
- 8.4 **Friday, 17 July 2026 (Tentative)**
 - 1200** – First boat(s) (slowest) start for Distance Pursuit Race.
 - 1630** – Pursuit race Time Expires.
 - 1730-1900** - Check-in for Saturday and Sunday racing.
 - 1730** – Welcome Social - Food truck planned.
 - 1830** – Distance race awards.
- 8.5 **Saturday, 18 July 2026 (Tentative)**
 - 1030** - First warning signal for race one on Windward/Leeward course.
 - Note: Additional races will follow at the discretion of the race committee. No warning signal is planned after **1500** on Saturday.
 - 1200** – First boat(s) (slowest) start on Navigator/Cruiser course.

*Social to follow racing.

 - 1800** Dinner. (Pre-Purchased Ticket required for Dinner (see para 7.7.1) - onsite tickets may not be available).
 - 1900** Results.

8.6 Sunday, 19 July 2026 (Tentative)

1030 - First warning signal for race one on Windward/Leeward course.

Note: Additional races will follow at the discretion of the race committee. No warning signal is planned after **1430** on Sunday.

1200 – First boat(s) (slowest) start on Navigator/Cruiser course.

*Social to follow racing.

1630 Social begins.

1730 Food. (Pre-Purchased Ticket required for Social Food (see para 7.7.2) - onsite tickets may not be available).

1830 Results.

9 EQUIPMENT INSPECTION

9.1 Boats and sails are subject to inspection.

9.2 Sail Numbers: Each boat shall display either US SAILING sail numbers, the numbers listed by PHRF of the Chesapeake, or the sail numbers listed in the roster of sail numbers as maintained by her class. It is the responsibility of the entrant to clearly identify the boat and its class. It is acceptable for a boat to race using sails that differ from that boat's proper sail number, so long as the skipper informs the Race Committee of the change prior to the first start of the day and receives its acknowledgment.

9.3 Cruising boats without sail numbers will be accepted.

10 VENUE

10.1 NoR Addendum 1 shows the location of the racing area.

11 COURSES

11.1 Distance Pursuit Race (Friday)

11.1.1 On Friday, 17 July 2026, there will be a distance race open to any boat registered for the regatta. Friday's race will not count towards the Saturday/Sunday series scores.

11.1.2 Intended Classes: PHRF Spinnaker, PHRF Non-Spinnaker, PHRF Cruising Class Non-Spinnaker (PHRF CCNS). Handicap divisions or class splits will be assigned at the discretion of the Organizing Authority.

11.1.3 The racing format for this course will utilize government marks and SMSA marks in the Bay and River to provide a mid-distance course with legs friendly to cruisers and non-spinnaker sailing boats.

11.1.4 This Course will utilize PHRF handicaps using Time on Distance (TOD) scoring.

11.1.5 It is contemplated that racing on this course will use the following format: One race per day, all classes integrated in a reverse, pursuit-style, start with the slowest rated boats starting first. Each boat may be asked to take its own time at designated marks and the finish.

11.1.6 The Sailing Instructions will be the definitive source of information for the conduct of these races, which may be different from the information above.

11.2 Windward/Leeward Course (Sat/Sun)

11.2.1 Intended Classes: PHRF Spinnaker, J-70. Other one design classes are welcome. One Design classes require a minimum of three (3) boats. Other handicap rule classes are welcome as noted in para. 5.5 (minimum of five (5) boats and prior PRO coordination).

- 11.2.2 Handicap divisions or class splits will be assigned at the discretion of the Organizing Authority. More than one class may start at the same time.
- 11.2.3 The racing format for this course will be multiple Windward/Leeward type races per day using drop marks with approximately 1-mile legs.
- 11.2.4 PHRF Spinnaker handicapping will utilize Time on Time (TOT) scoring.
- 11.2.5 Course is intended to be in the area NE of Drum Point, with specific rendezvous location and time to be provided in the SI.

11.3 Navigator/Cruiser Course (Sat/Sun)

- 11.3.1 Intended Classes: PHRF Spinnaker, PHRF Non-Spinnaker, PHRF Cruising Class Non-Spinnaker (PHRF CCNS). Handicap divisions or class splits will be assigned at the discretion of the Organizing Authority.
- 11.3.2 The Navigator/Cruiser Course racing will be the same venue and course as the Distance Pursuit Race (Friday) described above.

11.4 PHRF CCNS

- 11.4.1 The Intent of using PHRF CCNS handicap is to encourage as many true cruising boats as possible to come out and race just as they are.
- 11.4.2 The entry fee for this class has been reduced by the cost of a certificate.
- 11.4.3 If you have questions or need a PHRF CCNS handicap, contact PHRFmeasurers@smsa.com for assistance.
- 11.4.4 The PHRF CCNS rules are given here, <http://www.phrfchesbay.org/page/rules/cruising>.
- 11.4.5 For this event the PHRF CCNS rules are modified as follows:
 - 11.4.5.1 Powered sail handling winches are allowed
 - 11.4.5.2 The headsail(s) used must be on roller furler(s) on fixed forestay(s)
 - 11.4.5.3 The headsail(s), except storm headsails, must have a sewn-on sun cover.
 - 11.4.5.4 Autopilot use is not allowed while racing

12 PENALTY SYSTEM

- 12.1 The first two sentences of RRS 44.1 are changed to: 'A boat may take a One-Turn Penalty when she may have broken a rule of Part 2 or RRS 31 while racing. However, when she may have broken a rule of Part 2 while in the zone around a mark other than a starting mark, her penalty shall be a Two-Turns Penalty.' (Appendix V1).

13 SCORING

- 13.1 The Low Point Scoring System of Appendix A of the Racing Rules of Sailing will apply, as modified: Each boat's total score will be the sum of her scores for all races. There shall be no throw outs. One race constitutes a series.
- 13.2 RRS Appendix A5.3 modified as follows will apply: If the notice of race or sailing instructions state that rule A5.3 will apply, rule A5.2 is changed so that, a boat that came to the starting area (hailing distance of starting boat) but did not start, did not sail the course, did not finish, retired or was disqualified shall be scored points for the finishing place one more than the number of boats that came to the starting area, and a boat that did not come to the starting area shall be scored points for the finishing place two more than the number of boats that came to the starting area.
- 13.3 Windward/Leeward Course boats still racing that do not finish within 45 minutes of the first boat finishing in her class will be scored TLE (Time Limit Expired) which will be equal to the number of finishers plus two. Others will be scored DNF. This changes RRS 35 and A5.2.

14 HAUL-OUT RESTRICTIONS

14.1 All boats must be wet sailed during the regatta.

15 MEDIA RIGHTS

15.1 Competitors give permission for video footage or photographs of themselves or their boat to be published in any media. Commercial video or photographs must be licensed and approved by the Southern Maryland Sailing Association (SMSA).

16 DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

16.1 Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. 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.

16.2 The organizing authority will not accept any liability for material damage, personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the regatta. All participants shall abide by all local, state of Maryland, and federal health and safety guidelines in effect the day of the race(s).

17 INSURANCE

17.1 Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of \$300,000 per incident or the equivalent.

18 AWARDS

18.1 Separate Awards will be provided for Friday's Distance Pursuit race.

18.2 On Saturday and Sunday, awards will be presented for each course, to each PHRF and One-Design class for each day of racing.

18.3 Prizes will be awarded based on the number of registrants in each class as of 22 June 2026.

18.4 For the purposes of ordering trophies, classes will be determined based upon entries received as of 22 June 2026. Post-race awards parties will be held at SMSA.

19 FURTHER INFORMATION

19.1 For further information please contact:

Steve Birchfield, Regatta Chairman at PaxPursuitChairman@smsa.com.

John Herbig, Principal Race Officer at PaxPursuitPro@smsa.com.

Information is also available online at www.smsa.com.

Organizing Authority: Southern Maryland Sailing Association (SMSA)

