



Sailing Instructions
2026 HIYC Keelboat Series
Updated 8/30/2026

1. RULES: This document extends the Notice of Race document. Changes to the Racing Rules of Sailing are indicated in **bold**.
2. CHANGES TO THE SAILING INSTRUCTIONS: Any change to these Sailing Instructions will be posted on the official notice board, which is the pin board inside the HIYC clubhouse. Changes will be posted at least 30 minutes before the race committee leaves the dock for the day the change will take effect.
3. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE: Signals made ashore will be displayed from the Race Committee boat at the dock.
 - a. When flag "AP" (Postpone) is displayed ashore, the subsequent warning signal will not be sooner than 30 minutes after lowering the "AP". This changes the meaning of **Race Signal "AP"** in this circumstance.
4. SCHEDULE OF RACES is as described in the Notice of Race.
5. ORDER OF STARTS: The order of starts, and whether there will be a delay between each class's starting sequence, will be announced at the skippers meeting.
6. CLASS FLAGS: The class flags for each start will be announced at the skippers meeting.
7. CHECK IN: Boats shall sail past the stern of the committee boat on starboard tack and hail the Race Committee to check in before the first race of the day, unless specified otherwise at the skippers meeting.
8. STARTING LINE: The starting line will be between the staff of an orange flag on the Race Committee boat, and an orange/yellow/red buoy to port of the committee boat.
 - a. The Race Committee may, no later than the warning signal, trail a mark from the stern of the Race Committee boat. The trailing mark will be considered to be an extension of the committee boat. A boat may not pass between the trailing mark and the committee boat.
9. FINISHING LINE: The finishing line will be between the staff of a blue flag on a Race Committee boat and the course side of an orange/yellow/red buoy. If the Race Committee intends for the finishing line to be different than the starting line, it will be announced at the skippers meeting.
10. RECALLS: When individual recalls are signaled, the Race Committee may (at its discretion) attempt to hail the sail numbers of the recalled boats by VHF radio on channel 68. This adds onto **RRS 29.1**. Failure of the Race Committee to hail or failure of a boat to hear the hail of its sail number shall not relieve the boat of its obligation to start correctly.
11. COURSE:
 - a. BUOY COURSES: The following classes will sail buoy courses for most regattas: Light, S2 7.9, Melges 24. (For the Cully Cobb 50k and Beesley 50k regattas, all classes will sail a distance course).

- i. The marks of the course will be inflatable orange/yellow/red buoys placed by the Race Committee.
 - ii. The course will be in a windward/leeward configuration.
 - iii. The windward mark includes an offset buoy, it will be announced at the skippers meeting.
 - iv. The leeward mark is a gate, it will be announced at the skippers meeting.
 - v. The starting area may be in the middle of the course or it may be downwind of the course, to be announced at the skippers meeting.
 - vi. The Race Committee will announce the number of legs of the race over VHF 68 prior to the starting sequence for each race.
 - b. DISTANCE COURSES: The Heavy class will sail a distance course. The turning marks of the course will be selected from the navigational channel buoys listed in the attached diagram. Boats should round the buoy of the specified color that is closest to the listed GPS coordinates. If a buoy is clearly missing or unsafe to round due to a nearby barge or other hazard, boats should sail approximately the distance they would have sailed had the buoy been safe to round. Boats shall not gain an advantage in the race by approximating the location of a buoy.
 - i. In the case of particularly light air in a distance race, in addition to the provisions in **RRS 32.2**, the Race Committee may also shorten the race on the same leg that competitors are currently sailing by announcing the new location of the finish line over VHF channel 68 and flying the S flag from the finish boat.
 - c. Marks are to be rounded to port, unless otherwise specified.
12. TIME LIMIT: Boats that do not finish within the following specified time of the first boat to finish in their class will be scored DNF.
- a. Buoy courses: 20 minutes
 - b. Distance courses: 1 hour
 - c. Cully Cobb and Beesley 50k: 2 hours
13. PROTESTS:
- a. A boat intending to protest shall attempt to notify the Race Committee boat at the finish line of its intent to protest and identify the protested boat at the first reasonable opportunity. This adds onto **RRS 60.3**.
 - b. Protests will be written and delivered to the Race Committee PRO within 45 minutes of the committee boat docking. This time limit will be displayed on the notice board if the Race Committee has been informed of an intention to protest. This modifies **RRS 60.3 (b)**.
 - c. Protest notices will be posted within 75 minutes of the committee boat docking to inform competitors of the place and time of hearings, in which they are parties or named as witnesses.

- d. Arbitration meetings will take place prior to formal protest hearings, as defined by **RRS Appendix T**.

14. SAFETY:

- a. A boat that retires from a race shall notify the Race Committee as soon as possible, if it is safe to do so.
- b. VHF radios are required. Channel 68 is the channel for HIYC communications. It is appropriate for communicating between competitors and with the Race Committee. The Intership Navigation Safety Channel 13, and International Distress, Safety & Calling Channel 16 are the best channels to communicate with barge traffic.
- c. When a boat is becalmed or otherwise unable to sail out of the channel before an approaching barge is half a mile distant, she may use her engine or any other method to clear the channel provided she does not thereby gain a significant advantage in the race. This adds an exception to **RRS 42.3**, as permitted by **RRS 42.3 (i)**.