

Charleston Ocean Racing Association

2026 Offshore Challenge Series

Organizing Authority: Charleston Ocean Racing Association

March 7 - October 10, 2026

Charleston, SC

Notice of Race (NoR) w/Revision 3

Additions are indicated by an underline / deletions are indicated by a ~~strike-through~~
(version 08/15/2026)

Sponsored by Ashley Yachts



The notation '[DP]' in a rule in the sailing instructions means that the penalty for a breach of that rule may, at the discretion of the protest committee, be more or less than a single disqualification. The notation '[NP]' denotes that a breach of this rule will not be grounds for a hearing request by a boat. This change is added to RRS 60.1.

1. Rules

- Charleston Ocean Racing Association (CORA) sailing policies may be found at <https://charlestonoceanracing.com/skipper-info/skipper-documents>
- 1.○.1. [DP] CORA Sailing Policies in effect:
 - 1.○.1.1. Race Committee Participation
 - 1.○.1.2. Check In Policy
 - 1.○.1.3. Finish Line Policy
 - 1.○.1.4. Eligibility and Class Assignment as amended by this NOR
- 1.○.2. The event is governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing.
 - 1.○.2.1. US Sailing Prescriptions to preamble to Part 5, Section B and 63.1(b) will not apply.
 - 1.○.2.2. US Sailing Appendix V shall apply.
 - 1.○.2.3. RRS Appendix V2(b) is changed to state that the scoring penalty is 10% additional time added to a boats elapsed time.
 - 1.○.2.4. Rule 60.4(a)(2) is changed as follows: (2) if it alleges a breach of a rule of Part 2 or rule 31 and is from a boat that was not involved in, and did not see, the incident, or
- 1.○.3. World Sailing Appendix WP shall apply.
- 1.○.4. [NP][DP] All skippers and their crew must adhere to House Rules as stipulated by host yacht clubs for all events.

2. Sailing Instructions

- Sailing Instructions for each race will be posted on the CORA website in the individual calendar event no later than 3 days before the event.
<https://charlestonoceanracing.com/calendar>

3. Communications

- The online official notice board is located on the CORA website in the individual event link for each Offshore event: <https://charlestonoceanracing.com/calendar>
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- 3.o.1.
- The Race Committee may broadcast race information over VHF channel 73. Information so reported is provided as a courtesy to competitors and does not in any way alter the competitor's responsibility to observe the Race Committee's visual signals, which govern the conduct of the racing. Errors or omissions in these courtesy broadcasts will not be ground for redress.
- [DP] While racing, a boat may make voice or data transmissions and may receive voice or data communication provided no tactical, strategic or other technical advice is solicited or received.
- RRS 41 (c) (OUTSIDE HELP) the term 'freely available' as defined by the Royal Yachting Association case 2005/5 will apply. It states "Information available at no cost other than subscribing to and using a generally available and non-specialized service through which it is obtained is 'freely available'."

4. Eligibility and Entry

- Offshore races are open to monohull sailing boats with a minimum length overall of 24 feet, and meet the requirements specified in the relevant US Sailing Monohull SER. Any other boat must request and obtain in writing, and in advance, permission from the CORA Executive Committee to race.
- Multihull sailing boats with a minimum length of 24 feet, and meeting the requirements specified in the relevant US Sailing Multihull SER may race as an exhibition competitor without a score. Exhibition competitors do not require a PHRF rating.
- Eligible boats shall be entered only by members of CORA who are in good standing, have paid all Skipper dues and signed/submitted waivers. Ineligible boats will be scored DNS.
- Non-CORA boat owners can pay a one-time fee of \$50.00 for the event or join CORA and have the fee waived.
- All competing boats ~~other than class 'A' boats~~ must have obtained or requested a PHRF rating from the CORA Measurer before competing. Unrated boats will be scored DNS.
- [NP] All competing boats must have obtained or requested a distinctive sail number and conform to RRS 77. Boats without a one-design or national number may request a sail number assignment from the CORA Measurer. Boats without proper sail numbers may be given a 2% additional time scoring penalty to their

elapsed time as a scoring penalty by the Race Committee. This changes RRS A5.

- Class designations are:
A Fleet (~~ORC~~) (PHRF Spinnaker)
B Fleet (PHRF Spinnaker)
D Fleet (PHRF Non-spinnaker)
- The Summer Sailstice Event may include an evening sprint division for those competitors who do not want to sail an overnight race. The sprint race will not be scored as part of the Ocean Series Challenge.
- ~~For 'A' fleet boats, this series shall use the ORC rule and each boat shall hold a valid 2026 ORC club or international certificate. All other mixed boat fleets shall be scored using PHRF time on time unless noted otherwise in the SIs.~~
- "A" fleet boats will be scored using their 2025 certificate for all races sailed prior to the start of Charleston Race Week (April 16, 2026), after that date from April 16th – August 15th boats without a valid 2026 certificate will not be scored. After August 15th all races will be scored PHRF.
- ~~Each boat must be registered for the series by March 7, 2026. Boats may participate in events prior to this date without advance registration, and their participation in such events shall be considered registration for the series unless the owner requests otherwise.~~

~~Late entries for existing CORA members will not be allowed, except that boats new to CORA may participate, in which case the number of registered boats shall be increased accordingly and the new boat shall be awarded zero points for each race not sailed prior to their registration. No unregistered boat will be started or finished in any race of this series.~~

5. Fees

- Entry in the Offshore series is included in the CORA membership.
- Non-CORA boat owners can pay a one-time fee of \$50.00 for the event or join CORA and have the fee waived.

6. Schedule

- The 2026 Offshore Challenge Series will consist of 7 races scheduled as follows:

6.○.1.	Spring Ocean Race	March 7
6.○.2.	Sheriff's Cup	March 28/29
6.○.3.	Quicksilver Cup Hilton Head/Port Royal	May 15
6.○.4.	Summer Sailstice Ocean Race	June 19
6.○.5.	Full Moon Regatta	August 28
6.○.6.	Alice Cup to Sea Island YC	September 26/27
6.○.7.	Fall Ocean/JIYC Centennial	October 10
- The scheduled time of the warning signal for each class will be listed in the SIs and published on the CORA event page for each race.
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The following races shall be designated as “Nearshore”:

Spring Ocean
Sheriff's Cup
Alice Cup
JIYC Centennial Cup

The following races shall be designated as “Coastal”:

Quicksilver Cup
Summer Sailstice
Full Moon Regatta

Each race of the series may have an individual time limit, which will be noted in the SI for that race.

7. Venue

- The race area will be, but not limited to, Charleston Harbour, the Atlantic Ocean, Port Royal Sound and the North Edisto River.

8. Courses

- Courses will be detailed in the Sailing Instructions and announced by the race committee prior to the warning for each class.

9. Penalty System

- US Sailing Appendix V shall apply.
- RRS Appendix V2 - Post Race Penalties (b) is changed to state that the scoring penalty is 10% additional time added to a boat's elapsed time.

10. Scoring

- Individual Races will be scored PHRF Time on Time (Time on Distance for Day 1 of Sheriff Cup and Alice Cup) for all non-A fleet boats. A fleet boats racing prior to August 15th shall be scored per ORC, except that all pursuit races shall be scored PHRF for all fleets.
- Conversion of ORC ratings to PHRF for the pursuit start schedule will be accomplished using the J 35 as a reference boat using the TOD for the declared windband. The windband will determined prior to posting the pursuit start times. The windband used will be annotated on the pursuit start schedule.
- ~~Except for B and J/24 classes, while the~~ The Sheriff's Cup consists of two individual races, it shall be treated and scored for the series as one race. A boat's score shall be the average of the two races in each event. As such, the Sheriff's Cup score may be discarded once, as any other race.

- ~~Except for B and J/24 classes, while the~~ The Alice Cup consists of two individual races, it shall be treated and scored for the series as one race. A boat's score shall be the average of the two races in each event. As such, the Alice Cup score may be discarded once, as any other race.
- For the series, high point scoring will apply:
- One point is awarded for starting.
- One point is awarded for finishing. Boats that do not finish for any reason will not be awarded this point.
- Zero points are scored for any kind of disqualification.
- One point is scored for each yacht beaten. DSQ, DNF, OCS, NSC boats are included as yachts beaten. This means that if 15 boats have registered for the series, the competitor who wins any single race is awarded 14 points for beating other yachts, regardless of how many boats actually started.
- Ten bonus points per race will be given to every boat that finishes, but is not DSQ, for all races designated as "coastal," provided that no boat shall be awarded more than 30 bonus points for the series.
- The maximum score for any individual race is the number of registered boats + 1 + bonus points.
- The series is scored on a cumulative total of points. That is, whichever boat that (1) qualified as outlined above and (2) scored the most points wins the series. So on for 2nd, 3rd and so on.
- Series tie scores are resolved by allocating the highest position to the competitor with the best individual finish in the first race. If they tie for the best finish then it goes to the next race finish, etc. Unresolved ties are given the same place and the next place assigned will be as though the tied competitors filled the number of places they would if the tie was resolved. Example: If two competitors have an unresolved tie for second the next place assigned is fourth.
- No boat not qualified after the final race of the series shall be scored.
- ~~For the J24 Class, the Offshore Challenge Series will consist of nearshore day races only, to include the Spring and Fall Ocean races, the Sheriffs Cup and the Alice Cup. Each day of the Sheriffs and Alice Cup races will constitute a separate race and be scored as such in the Series. The Series will thus consist of six (6) races for J24 Class.~~
- ~~For the J24 Class, A minimum of four (4) completed races per boat is required for consideration for an Offshore Series award.~~

11. Safety

Races classified as "Nearshore" above shall meet the 2025-2026 US Sailing SER:
<https://www.ussailing.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/US-SER-2025.2-Nearshore-Mono.pdf>

Races classified as "Coastal" above shall meet the 2025-2026 US Sailing SER:
<https://www.ussailing.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/US-SER-2025.2-Coastal-Mono.pdf>

- The following sections of the Coastal SER are waived for 2026:
 - 3.20 paper charts required
 - 3.31 identification marked on certain gear
 - 4.3.2 Safety At Sea for 30% or more of crew members
- Section 2.4.4 of the Coastal SER Is modified such that the lifelines may be dyneema, provided the lifelines are inspected at most 7 days before the race day.
- When racing (starting at prep flag up) no boat shall extend a bowsprit (asym boats) or rig a spinnaker pole (sym boats) before her own start signal.

12. Risk Statement

- 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.**

13. Insurance

- Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of \$300,000 per incident or the equivalent in accordance with the CORA Captains Waiver.
- Upon request a boat owner or his/her designated representative shall provide evidence demonstrating that the boat meets the CORA insurance requirements. Evidence must include at least (1) the name of the insurance company, (2) the policy number, (3) the name of the insured boat and (4) the effective dates of the policy. The coverage limits may be redacted. Said evidence shall be sent to rearcommodore@charlestonoceanracing.com. Should the insurance change, an updated certificate shall be sent within five (5) calendar days.

14. Prizes

- Prizes will be given as follows (CORA Trophy and Award Policy):
 - 14.○.1. 1-2 boats finishing, First Place.
 - 14.○.2. 3-5 boats finishing, First and Second Place
 - 14.○.3. 6 or more boats finishing, First, Second, and Third Place
- The **Sheriffs Cup** shall be awarded to the boat with the highest two-day score in each Class. If there is a tie, the boat with the lowest combined corrected time shall win the tiebreaker.

- The **Indigo Cup** The Indigo Cup is a perpetual trophy for the Georgetown Race that is awarded to the boat with the fastest corrected time. The Indigo Cup shall be awarded to the one boat with the lowest corrected time.
- The **Summer Sailstice Cup** shall be awarded to the one mono-hull boat with the lowest corrected time in the Summer Sailstice Offshore Challenge race.
- The **Quicksilver Cup** is awarded for fastest corrected time for the Hilton Head race. The Quicksilver Cup shall be awarded to the one mono-hull boat with the lowest corrected time.
- The **Alice Cup** shall be awarded to the boat with the highest two-day score in each Class, with ties broken as explained herein.
- **The Centennial Cup** shall be awarded to the one mono-hull boat with the lowest corrected time in the Centennial Cup Race
- **Offshore Challenge Series Overall Series** trophies will be awarded for each Class at a future CORA meeting.
- **Coastal Cup Award** shall be awarded to the single boat in each class that has the best score in the CORA Offshore Challenge Series overnight races; at least three overnight Offshore Challenge Series races must be completed to be eligible. Tie's will be determined by the vessel with the lowest aggregate corrected time. If no boats in a fleet have completed all of the required races it is not awarded to that fleet for that year.
- The Organizing Authority may elect to award additional prizes at its discretion.

15. Further Information

- For further information please contact Rear Commodore Tim Vienneau (rearcommodore@charlestonoceanracing.com).