

SURF CITY YACHT CLUB
78th Annual Regatta
&
Lightning Manahawkin Bay Cup

September 19 & 20, 2026

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

1.0 RULES

- 1.1 The races shall be governed by *The Racing Rules of Sailing* (RRS), the prescriptions of the United States Sailing Association, and by applicable Class Rules except as any of these are modified by these Sailing Instructions per RRS 86.1. The regatta is designated Category A. In case of a conflict between the Notice of Race and the Sailing Instructions, the Sailing Instructions shall prevail.
- 1.2 For Lightnings, Rule 42.3c shall be altered to allow certain types of pumping in accordance with ILCA Rule VIII 12.
- 1.3 RRS 44.1 is changed so that the Two-Turns Penalty is replaced by the One-Turn Penalty.
- 1.4 RRS Appendix V2 shall be in effect allowing a boat to take a postrace penalty (30%) prior to the start of the protest hearing.
- 1.5 Use of handheld VHF radios will be permitted for communication from the Race Committee to competitors on a channel to be identified at the Skippers' Meeting. The Race Committee intends to use VHF radio to identify OCS (On Course Side of the line) boats after starts and otherwise communicate with the fleet on the water. Failure to receive a hail, for a hail to be made, the order of hails made, or receive other communications to the fleet shall not be cause for redress. Other use of any communication device is prohibited, and such use shall require withdrawal from the race unless determined by the Race Committee to have been for emergency purposes.

2.0 CHANGES IN SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1 Any changes to the Sailing Instructions will be posted immediately following the Skipper's Meeting.
- 2.2 The Regatta Notice Board shall be in the first floor of the Club Room.

3.0 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 3.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed from the flagpole in front of the Surf City Y.C.
- 3.2 Code Flag "AP", Answering Pennant, with two horns means "THE RACE IS POSTPONED - DO NOT LEAVE THE HARBOR AREA". The time of the next Warning Signal will be posted before the lowering of "AP" with one (1) horn.
- 3.5 Code Flag "B", with one (1) horn, means the time for filing protests has begun. It will be lowered, with one (1) horn, one hour later indicating the time for filing protests has expired.

4.0 SCHEDULE OF RACES

Saturday, September 19, 2026 (Lightnings & Mariners)

8:00 – 9:30 AM	Check-in & Continental Breakfast
9:30 AM	Competitors' Meeting
10:30 AM	Warning Signal, first race of the day No Warning Signal after 3:30 PM Lunches will be not provided
TBD	Refreshments & snacks at haul-out
TBD	Awards

Sunday, September 20, 2026 (Catboats)

9:30 – 10:30 AM	Check-in & Continental Breakfast
10:30 AM	Competitors' Meeting
11:30 AM	Warning Signal, first race of the day No Warning Signal after 3:00 PM Lunches will be not provided
TBD	Refreshments & snacks at haul-out
TBD	Awards

5.0 COURSES

- 5.1 Courses for the Lightnings and Mariners will be Windward/Leeward. The total number of legs will be four (4), unless otherwise indicated. Further details at Competitors' Meeting.
- 5.2 Courses for Catboats may be Olympic, Windward/Leeward or Triangle. Details will be provided at Competitors' Meeting

6.0 MARKS

- 6.1 For Lightnings and Mariners, the marks will be as follows:
- The Windward Mark will be an orange "Bema" ball. The Offset Mark will be a small orange APS ball.
 - The Leeward Mark will be an orange "Bema" ball.
 - New Marks used in accordance with Change of Course after the Start will be red balls.
 - The Starting Mark will be a small orange "APS" ball.
 - The Finish Mark will be a small yellow ball.
- 6.2 For Catboats, the Marks will be as described at the Competitors Meeting.

7.0 REPORTING AT STARTS

- 7.1 Before starting the first race, each boat is required to sail past the stern of the Race Committee boat on starboard tack and verbally check-in. Any boat failing to do so shall receive a scoring penalty equal to 20% of the number of starters in that race.
- 7.2 When the Race Committee verbally acknowledges a boat's sail number, the entry has been officially noted.

8.0 STARTING RACES

- 8.1 Starting Signals shall be made in accordance with RRS 26, There will then be five short horns approximately fifteen (15) seconds prior to the Warning Signal. The order of starts on Saturday shall be Lightnings, followed by Mariners.
- 8.2 The Starting Line shall be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the port side of the Race Committee Boat and a small "APS" orange mark located downwind of the Leeward Mark of the course.

9.0 RECALLS

- 9.1 A boat's recall number for Lightnings shall be the last three (3) digits of its sail number, and for Mariners the entire sail number.
- 9.2 Individual Recalls will be signaled by displaying Code Flag "X" with one (1) horn. The RC may hail OCS Boats but failure to make the hail, the order of the hail, or failure to hear the hail shall not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 41 and 62.1
- 9.3 A General Recall will be signaled by displaying "First Substitute" with two (2) horns. A new Warning Signal will be made approximately one (1) minute after the lowering of "First Substitute" (with one horn).

10.0 CHANGE OF COURSE AFTER THE START

- 10.1 The Race Committee may shorten or abandon a race in accordance with RRS Rule 32. If an abandoned race is to be restarted, a new Warning Signal will be made approximately one (1) minute after the lowering of Code Flag "N" with one (1) horn. Failure to abandon a race shall not constitute grounds for a Protest or Redress.
- 10.2 The Race Committee may change the direction or length of any leg of the course in accordance with RRS Rule 33. For Lightnings and Mariners, if the Windward Mark is relocated there will be no Offset Mark. If the Leeward Mark is relocated it will be a single mark, not a gate. If there is a Change of Course for the final leg of a race, there will be no New Mark – boats will sail to the repositioned Finish Line.

11.0 FINISHING

- 11.1 For Lightnings and Mariners, the Finish Line will be between a staff displaying a blue flag on the STARBOARD side of the Race Committee boat and a yellow ball. If the finish is to "windward", the Finish Line may be located a short distance upwind of the Windward Mark of the course but could be adjusted to compensate for a wind shift; a finish to windward would be between a staff displaying a blue flag on the PORT side of the RC boat and a yellow ball. If the finish is "downwind", the start & finish lines will be located downwind of the Leeward Mark of the course.
- 11.2 The Finish Line for Catboats will be as described at the Competitors' Meeting.

12.0 TIME LIMITS

- 12.1 If no boat reaches the Windward Mark in 30 minutes, the race shall be abandoned and, if possible, resailed. The time limit for the first boat to sail the course is one and a half (1.5) hours. Boats failing to finish within twenty (20) minutes after the leader will be scored TLE without a hearing. This changes RRS Rule 35 and A 5.1.

Any boat that is scored TLE shall be awarded points equal to the number of finishers plus one (1). This changes RRS A5.1 and A5.2.

13.0 SCORING

- 13.1 For the Lightning and Mariner classes the series will be scored in accordance with RRS 90.3 and the Low Point System of RRS Appendix A. Four (4) races are scheduled, of which one (1) must be completed to constitute a series. If four (4) races have been completed, there will be one (1) "throw-out".
- 13.2 A total of three (3) races are planned for the Catboats. One (1) race is required to constitute a series. A boat's series score will be the total her individual race scores. Scoring will be in accordance with the Portsmouth Handicap system as discussed at the Competitor's Meeting.

14.0 PROTESTS

- 14.1 A competitor having reason to protest must do so in strict compliance with the requirements of RRS Rule 60. **Competitors must notify the Race Committee at the Finish Line of their intent to protest.**
- 14.2 The Race Committee, after docking, will post on the Notice Board the numbers of all boats protesting and being protested.
- 14.3 Written protests must be filed on an official Protest Form with a Race Committee representative at the Radio Station within one (1) hour of the Race Committee boat docking at the conclusion of the days racing. Protest Forms are available at the Radio Station.
- 14.4 It is the responsibility of each competitor to check the Regatta Notice Board at the conclusion of the days racing. All boats listed as protesting or being protested shall report to the Judges at the Radio Station no later than fifteen (15) minutes from the end of the protest period to determine where and when protests will be heard. Failure to report shall permit the Judges to hear and decide the protest without the testimony or presence of those competitors.

15.0 SAFETY

- 15.1 All boats shall carry all Safety Gear as required by their respective Class Rules. The PFD's must be USCG approved.
- 15.2 It is the intent of the Race Committee not to start or continue any race in what it deems as unsafe conditions. The decision, however, whether or not to sail in any race is the responsibility of each individual skipper (Fundamental Rule 4).
- 15.3 If, in the judgment of the Race Committee, severe weather conditions make it advisable to discontinue a race in progress, the Committee may abandon such race. The Race Committee Boat and/or Patrol Boats will display Code Flag "N" accompanied by three (3) horns. All boats should then head for the SCYC or nearest haven. Further signals, if needed, will be made ashore.
- 15.4 A boat that withdraws from a race or does not intend to start a scheduled race shall inform the Race Committee as soon as possible.

16.0 RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

- 16.1 Race Committee broadcasts are a courtesy only. Failure of the Race Committee to make a broadcast or the failure of a boat to hear a broadcast shall not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 62.1(a). The Race Committee will be broadcasting on **VHF 78**. All competitors are encouraged to have a VHF radio on board