# Formula 18 Americas Championship 2027

# April 2 - 9, 2027

# Houston Yacht Club

# La Porte, Texas, USA

# NOTICE OF RACE

**Issue Date: October 14, 2026**

**Sponsored by:**

| Abbreviations | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *IF18CA* | *International Formula 18 Class Association* | *NoR* | *Notice of Race* |
| *NCA* | *National Class Association* | *RRS* | *Racing Rules of Sailing* |

*[DP] denotes a rule for which the penalty is at the discretion of the International Jury.*
*[NP] denotes that a breach of this rule will not be grounds for a protest by a boat. This changes RRS 60.1.*

**ORGANIZING AUTHORITY:** The Organizing Authority is Houston Yacht Club on behalf of the US Formula 18 Class Association (USF18).

## 1 RULES

**1.1** The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing*.

**1.2** US Sailing prescriptions are applicable for this event and are available at: https://www.ussailing.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/US-Sailing-Prescriptions-for-2025-2028-10.29.2024.pdf

**1.3** RRS 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.

**1.4** [DP] Competitors' sail numbers shall comply with RRS G1.2(a)(3) (Contrasting Sail Numbers).

## 2 SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

**2.1** The sailing instructions will be made available on the event website https://houstonyachtclub.com/regatta/LkVF03HF9p by March 27, 2027.

## 3 COMMUNICATION

**3.1** The official notice board is located on the event website https://houstonyachtclub.com/regatta/LkVF03HF9p. Notices may also be posted on notice board located in the breezeway adjacent to the HYC Office.

**3.2** All boats are strongly encouraged to have a hand-held VHF radio on board to receive communication form the race committee and to communicate in emergency situations. There will be communications over the VHF radio from the RC to the fleets before and during racing.

**3.3** Except in an emergency, a boat that is racing shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats. This restriction also applies to mobile telephones.

**3.4** Prior and during the regatta the organizers will utilize two WhatsApp groups under the USF18 WhatsApp Community as follows:

**3.4.1** 2027 Americas – Official Announcements

Will be used by the race organizers including the Regatta Chair, PRO, Chief Judge and USF18 to make announcements to the competitors. Competitors will not be able to send posts over this group.

**3.4.2** 2027 Americas - Competitors

Will be available for all competitors and race organizers to see postings by anyone In the group. A good forum for general questions or to get word out to other competitors on any subject related to the regatta.

**3.4.3** Sign up for these two groups if you are interested in attending this championship and definitely once you have registered using the following links:

WhatsApp Official Announcements Group

WhatsApp Competitors Group

## 4 ENTRY

**4.1** This is an open regatta, so that any nationality authorized by World Sailing may participate and receive prizes.

**4.2** A boat shall enter the regatta via the entry form on the event website https://houstonyachtclub.com/regatta/LkVF03HF9p and pay the appropriate entry fee. The entry form must be filled in completely. No other forms will be accepted.

**4.3** Entries will be official only after the Organizing Authority has confirmed that it has received payment of the appropriate entry fee.

**4.4** The following items shall be provided at the time of boat inspection and registration at the regatta venue:

**4.4.1** The boat's World Sailing number to access the International F18 Certificate Database and F18 class certification stickers on the hulls, sails and equipment (mast, daggerboards, rudders).

**4.4.2** proof of class membership

**4.4.3** proof of age for Junior and Master Competitors as per NoR 15.2.

**4.4.4** for competitors under 18 years of age, a completed and signed parent (or guardian) consent and declaration form. The form can be downloaded from the event website https://houstonyachtclub.com/regatta/LkVF03HF9p.

**4.3.5** A copy of valid insurance certificate must be shown at registration (see NoR 17).

## 5 ENTRY FEES

**5.1** Entries with confirmed payment: Entry fees include Texas Sales Tax. If payment is made by credit card, a 3% credit card processing fee will be added.

| Fee Type | Start Date | End Date | Fee |
|---|---|---|---|
| Early Entry | Sep 25, 2026 | Nov 30, 2026 | $ 450 |
| Regular Entry | Dec 1, 2026 | Feb 1, 2027 | $ 500 |
| Late Entry | Feb 2, 2027 | Apr 3, 2027 | $ 600 |
| Young Team (1) | Sep 25, 2026 | Apr 3, 2027 | Deduct $100 |

(1) Young Team defined as both helm and crew under 26 years of age (U26) as of Jan 1, 2027 (born after December 31, 2001)

**5.2** The entry fee must be paid via the online entry form on the event website. The Organizing Authority will be authorized to collect the entry fee electronically.

**5.3** If an entry is cancelled by the competitor, the entry fee will be refunded as follows:

| Cancellation Date | Entry Fee Refund |
|---|---|
| Through Feb 1, 2027 | 100% less $50 Administrative Fee |
| Feb 2 - Mar 19, 2027 | 100% less $100 Administrative Fee |
| After Mar 19, 2027 | No refund |

**5.4** Two Social Passes will be included with each entry.

**5.5** Social Passes for competitor guest's dinners will be available for purchase at registration.

## 6 ADVERTISING

**6.1** [DP] Competing boats may be required to display advertising of the event sponsor as provided by the Organizing Authority. Boats may also be required to display identification numbers.

## 7 COMPETITION FORMAT

**7.1** With less than 80 entries the competitors will race all together in one fleet and there will be no qualifying series.

## 8 SCHEDULE

| Date | Time | Programme |
|---|---|---|
| Fri, Apr 2 | 9:00 am - 5:00 pm | Equipment inspection by appointment |
| Sat, Apr 3 | 9:00 am - 5:00 pm | Equipment inspection by appointment |
| Sun, Apr 4 | 9:00 am - 5:00 pm<br>3:00 - 5:00 pm | Equipment inspection by appointment<br>Registration |
| Mon, Apr 5 | 9:00 - 11:00 am<br>9:00 - 11:00 am<br>11:00 am<br>1:00 pm<br>6:00 pm | Equipment inspection by appointment<br>Registration<br>Practice Race Competitor's Meeting<br>Practice Race<br>Opening Ceremony and Competitor's Meeting |
| Tue, Apr 6 | 11:00 am | 1st warning signal of the day – 4 races scheduled |
| Wed, Apr 7 | 11:00 am<br>6:00 pm | 1st warning signal of the day – 4 races scheduled<br>F18 Class Meeting |
| Thu, Apr 8 | 11:00 am<br>6:00 pm | 1st warning signal of the day – 4 races scheduled<br>Regatta Dinner |
| Fri, Apr 9 | 11:00 am<br>3:00 pm<br>5:00 pm | 1st warning signal of the day – 3 races scheduled<br>No races start after this time<br>Awards ceremony |

**8.1** Fifteen races are scheduled.

**8.2** There will be a maximum of four (4) races per day and maximum of three (3) races on the final day.

**8.3** When more than one race is held on the same day, the warning signal for each succeeding race will be made as soon as practicable, after the finish of the previous race.

**8.4** On the last scheduled day of racing no warning signal will be made after 3:00 pm except as a consequence of a general recall.

## 9 MEASUREMENT AND EQUIPMENT INSPECTION

**9.1** All boats and crews will be weighed as part of the check-in by appointment. Appointments can be made starting on Sep 1st using a process announced on the event website.

**9.2** Measurement checks may be conducted anytime during the regatta as directed by the Organizing Authority or Chief Measurer.

**9.3** No primary measurements will be made at the event unless it is agreed between a competitor and an official F18 Class Measurer. If primary measurement assistance is needed contact Alex Hart, US Chief Measurer at williamalexhart@gmail.com, 740-222-5127 at least one month before the regatta

**9.4** A list of official F18 Class Measurers is available on-line at:
http://certificate.f18-international.org/measurers

## 10 VENUE

**10.1** All races will be sailed on Upper Galveston Bay in the areas bound by the Houston Shipping Channel to the East and the Bayport Shipping Channel to the South, in the vicinity of Houston Yacht Club.

**10.2** Houston Yacht Club is located at 29°37'02.9"N 95°00'08.0"W

## 11 THE COURSES

**11.1** The courses will be defined in the sailing instructions. Windward/leeward courses will be used. Windward offset marks and leeward gates may be used.

## 12 SCORING

**12.1** Four races are required to be completed to constitute a championship.

**12.2** When five (5) or fewer races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores.

**12.3** When six (6) to eleven (11) races have been completed, a boat's score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst excludable score.

**12.4** When twelve (12) or more races have been completed, a boat's score will be the total of her race scores excluding her two worst excludable scores.

## 13 SUPPORT BOATS [DP]

**13.1** All support boats shall be registered with the Organizing Authority and shall be required to comply with local legislation and event support boat regulations. The Organizing Authority may refuse registrations at its sole discretion.

**13.2** Support boats shall be required to monitor the safety VHF channel at all times and to undertake safety duties at the direction of the race committee. The safety VHF channel radio frequency will be made available at registration.

**13.3** Support boats and their crew shall stay at least 150 meters away from all boats racing and must stay outside the lay lines for both upwind and downwind legs.

**13.4** On the water, all support crew shall bring personal flotation devices which are in good condition and are in accordance with the specifications issued or approved by the national authority affiliated to World Sailing, or a standards organization, a certification authority, recognized for the purpose by its respective government. The driver shall always use a kill cord.

## 14 BERTHING [DP][NP]

**14.1** Trailers shall be stored only in the parking lot designated for trailers. No trailers are permitted on the beach.

**14.2** Boats shall be kept in their assigned places while they are parked on the beach.

**14.3** Boats and trailers are allowed to arrive beginning on March 26, 2027 unless an earlier date is arranged with the Regatta Chair.

## 15 PRIZES

**15.1** The regatta winners will obtain the title “2027 Formula 18 Americas Champions”.

**15.2** Prizes will be awarded in the following categories, subject to entry numbers:

- ✓ Overall
- ✓ Mixed Team (Male and Female crew)
- ✓ Female Helm (Sandra Tartaglino Perpetual Trophy)
- ✓ Master – both crew shall be over 55 years of age (born before 1st January 1971) or one person (either helm or crew) is 65 years or older (born before 1st January 1961
- ✓ Youth (Young) – both crew shall be under 26 years of age (born after 31st December 2000)
- ✓ Classic F18 – Any F18 built prior to 2020 and sailing without a decksweeper mainsail using a straight boom with the mainsail tack point above the gooseneck. Must have a minimum of 3 entries in the category prior to March 1, 2027 for this prize to be awarded.
- ✓ Family (parent/child, grandparent/grandchild, brothers, sisters, excludes spouses)
- ✓ Steve Piche Perseverance Trophy

## 16 DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

**16.1** Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. See RRS 3, Decision to Race. The Organizing Authority will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the regatta.

## 17 INSURANCE

**17.1** Each boat and each support boat shall be insured for third-party liability with a minimum coverage of $300,000 USD per incident, or the equivalent thereof. A copy must be provided at registration.

## 18 MEDIA RIGHTS, CAMERAS AND ELECTRIC EQUIPEMENT

**18.1** By participating in the event each competitor automatically grants to the Organizing Authority, the IF18CA, and their sponsors the right in perpetuity to make, use and show, from time to time at their discretion, any motion pictures and live, taped or filmed television and other reproductions of the athlete and their equipment during the period of the competition, without compensation.

**18.2** Boats may be required to carry cameras, sound equipment or positioning equipment as specified and provided by the Organizing Authority.

**18.3** Cameras, if fitted, must be located underneath the bowsprit and 60 cm back from the bowsprit end cap.

**18.4** The top three ranked competitors as well as individual race winners may be required to attend daily media press conferences.

**18.5** Competitors may be required to be interviewed during the event.

## 19 FURTHER INFORMATION

**19.1** Please contact:

Regatta Chair: Pat Gibson gibbyptg@gmail.com 713-201-0741
USF18 Class President: Steve Stroebel Steve.Stroebel@cox.net 619—987-4630

Houston Yacht Club
3620 Miramar Dr.
La Porte, TX, USA
1+ (281) 471-1255

## 20 HOST WEBSITE

Please visit www.houstonyachtclub.com

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### CHARTER BOATS

The following are points of contact for charter boats:

- Jill Nickerson (Red Gear Racing) funinthesunweb@gmail.com 727-793-8743
- Hardy Peters (East Coast Sailboats) hardy@eastcoastsailboats.com 252-489-7084

### ARRIVAL

The front desk at HYC is located at the main entrance, inside. Persons on staff will gladly help with locations and common questions.

### NEAREST AIRPORT

| | |
|---|---|
| William P. Hobby Airport: | 35-40 minutes |
| George Bush Intercontinental Airport | 50-65 minutes |

### PROVIDED HOUSING

HYC may be able to refer competitors for limited local housing in private homes and/or boats berthed at HYC. This will be provided first to Young (U26) teams and then on a first-asked-first-served basis. Point of contact to request this housing is the Regatta Chairman, Pat Gibson.

### LODGING

Many hotels and AirBnB are available in the southern portion of La Porte, which are listed at: https://www.visitlaportetx.com/stay.

### RV PARKING

There is no overnight RV parking or camping at Houston Yacht Club nor the regatta beach location. Recommended overnight RV:
Seaside RV Resort & Hotel
4001 Old Hwy 146
Seabrook, TX 77586
+1 (888) 472-4240

### CHANDLERIES

Blackburn Marine
2030 Marina Bay Dr
Kemah, TX 77565
+1 (281) 334-5474