



2026 US Team Racing Championship for the George R. Hinman Trophy

September 18 - 20, 2026
Norfolk, VA



NOTICE OF RACE (NoR)

Organizing Authority: US Sailing
Host Club: Coastal VA Youth Sailing Foundation
and Norfolk Yacht & Country Club

All times are U.S. Eastern Time

The notation '[DP]' in a rule in the NoR means that the penalty for a breach of that rule may, at the discretion of the protest committee, be less than disqualification. The notation '[NP]' in a rule of the NoR means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule nor request redress based on that rule. This changes RRS 60.1 and 61.1.

1 RULES

- 1.1 The event is governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing* (RRS), including RRS Appendix D.
- 1.2 Other documents that govern the event are:
 - (a) [US Sailing Championship Conditions](#),
 - (b) [Conditions for the US Team Racing Championship \(USTRC Conditions\)](#),
 - (c) [NP] US Sailing Championship Code of Conduct
 - (d) [DP] US Sailing Coaching and Support Boat Policy, available at: <https://www.ussailing.org/competition/resources/coaching-and-support-boat-policy/>. This is a Grade 3 (no private coaching) event.
 - (e) US Sailing Prescriptions and Regulations
- 1.3 The regatta will be umpired in accordance with RRS D2.
- 1.4 The US Sailing prescriptions to the preamble to Part 5, Section B, and to Rule 63.1(b) do not apply.
- 1.5 The Organizing Authority may change the format and/or terminate any stage of the event when, in its opinion, it is impractical to attempt to hold the remainder of races under the existing conditions or in the remaining time scheduled; early stages may be terminated in favor of later stages. Such a decision by the Organizing Authority shall not be subject to a request for redress. This changes RRS D4.2.
- 1.6 RRS D5.3 and RRS D5.4 are changed by replacing "race committee" with "protest committee" in all instances.
- 1.7 Add new RRS D4.6: When a competitor withdraws from part of an event, the scores of all completed races shall stand. When a competitor withdraws from an event pursuant to the US Sailing Code of Conduct [voluntarily or by reason of being excluded by a protest committee], that competitor's team shall be removed from the final event scores and each team with a worse finishing place in the event shall be moved up one place.

2 SAFETY

- 2.1 [DP] Each competitor shall wear a USCG-approved life jacket (PFD), in good condition, that is 100% dependent on foam for flotation and the appropriate size for the sailor, at all times while on the water except briefly while changing or adjusting clothing or personal equipment.
- 2.2 [DP] The PFD must be worn outside of all clothing and under team identification bibs supplied by the OA.

3 COMMUNICATION

- 3.1 The official notice board is online and can be found on the [event website](#).

4 SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 4.1 The sailing instructions will be posted on the notice board no later than September 11.

5 ELIGIBILITY

- 5.1 Up to 24 but no less than 12 teams will be invited. Only teams invited by the OA, and who confirm acceptance of the invitation, as detailed in the letter of invitation, will be eligible to enter this event.
- 5.2 Competitors:
- (a) All competitors shall be members of US Sailing or, a member of their home country's Member National Authority. Non-members can join US Sailing directly online at: <https://www.ussailing.org/membership/member-options/>
 - (b) Shall meet the eligibility requirements of the WS Eligibility Code 2.
 - (c) There is no citizenship requirement to enter this event, but in accordance with USTRC Conditions B2.3, only all-U.S. teams can be declared U.S. National Champion.
- 5.3 Teams:
- (a) Each team will consist of 3 skippers and 3 crew.
 - (b) The combined weight of the entire six-person team shall not be less than 870 pounds. The team shall carry penalty weight if the combined weight fails to meet the minimum. Penalty weight will be one pound of corrector for each pound of weight under the combined minimum weight. Penalty weights shall be distributed amongst the boats of a team to make the combined weight of skipper and crew of each of the three boats as even as practicable. The protest committee, on request, may approve a more equitable distribution.
 - (c) Providing penalty corrector weights shall be the responsibility of the competitors. Only water in sealed jugs shall be acceptable. Competitors will carry the penalty corrector weights in every race, from boat to boat, and shall secure them in the cockpit of each boat.
 - (d) Competitors shall be weighed by a member of the organizing authority on the scale provided to determine combined weight. Competitors will be weighed in swimming attire or light clothing with empty pockets.
 - (e) Competitors shall not wear wet clothing for the purpose of increasing weight. Water bottle or weight jackets are prohibited. Clothes worn on the water must be reasonable in terms of weather conditions, and all clothes worn for additional warmth shall be worn inside foul weather gear.
 - (f) Spot checks of team weights may be made during the regatta for compliance.
 - (g) Penalties for violation of crew weights, clothing rules shall be set forth in the sailing instructions.
- 5.4 Invitations:
- (a) The U.S. Team Racing Championship Committee (Championship Committee) will invite teams based on team resumes and applications. Non-US teams may be invited to compete.
 - (b) Teams can request an invitation by completing an online form on the [event website](#) between June 15, 2026 and July 24, 2026 and paying a \$50 non-refundable application fee in accordance with the USTRC Conditions).
 - (c) The winning team from the following regattas will receive invitations: ICSA Team Racing Nationals, ICSA Women's Team Racing Nationals, Charles River Open Team Race, 2025 Hinman Trophy, and a west coast qualifying event if sailed.
 - (d) The Championship Committee will thereafter review the applications and notify all applicants of their status no later than August 1, 2026.
 - (e) The Championship Committee may give selection preference to one or more all women's teams.

6 ENTRY

- 6.1 Invited teams may enter by registering online at the link provided in their letter of invitation and paying all fees, no later August 8, 2026.
- 6.2 A team is not a valid entry until they have completed all online and onsite registration steps and paid all fees and deposits.

7 FEES

- 7.1 The entry fee for accepted teams is \$1400 per team. The entry fee includes one dinner on Saturday. The host may provide various beverages and light snacks throughout the weekend.
- 7.2 An extension of the entry time limit set forth in NoR 6.1 may be subject to a late fee of \$100 at the discretion of the Organizing Authority.

8 DAMAGE DEPOSIT

(a) Each team is responsible for the damage or loss to their boats unless responsibility is otherwise assigned by the umpires or PC.

(b) A Team Representative will provide a valid credit card number at check-in and may be required to complete a charter form for their team to the regatta organizer prior to sailing. The representative's credit card will be charged up to \$1500 in the event of damage to the boats.

The damage deposit is the limit of liability of each skipper for each incident. If a deduction is made from the deposit, the skipper will be required to restore the deposit to the original value to continue in the event. Damage that cannot be attributed to a particular incident will be split evenly among all the competitors in the regatta.

9 BOATS AND EQUIPMENT

- 9.1 The event will be sailed in collegiate FJ-type boats along with sails provided by the host club.
- 9.2 Standing rigging shall not be adjusted, unless directed by the umpires or boatswain. Running rigging and fittings shall be used for their intended purposes only. All equipment supplied shall be carried aboard while racing. Boats, centerboards, and rudders shall be cleaned only with water. Additional requirements for handling of boats will be detailed in the sailing instructions.
- 9.3 Teams shall provide their own red protest flags (at least 3). Each flag shall measure at least 8 inches by 8 inches. Each team's red flags shall be inspected and approved by an OA appointed representative at check-in.

10 CREW SUBSTITUTIONS

- 10.1 Substitution requires the approval of the Chief Umpire in consultation with the U.S. Team Racing Championship Committee Chairman. Requests for substitutions should be made by email to the Committee Chairman at clintonearlhayes@gmail.com during the event, a written request for substitution may be delivered to the Chief Umpire or Committee Chairman.
- 10.2 The Substitution Deadline for making changes to the team roster is August 28, 2026. After August 28, team member substitutions are prohibited, unless due to illness, injury, or other emergency.
- 10.3 Team member substitutions will be allowed prior to the Substitution Deadline as established by the NoR. No more than 1 skipper and 1 crew may be changed prior to the Substitution Deadline. For all teams selected by resume, only one team member (either skipper or crew) may be changed prior to the Substitution Deadline.

11 ADVERTISING

- 11.1 Boats may be required to display advertising chosen and supplied by the organizing authority.

12 SCHEDULE

- 12.1 The schedule is as follows (all times are US Eastern Time):

Date	Time	Item
Thursday September 17	1200-1900	Check In & Weigh In
	1200-1800	Practice
Friday September 18	0800-0845	Check In & Weigh In
	0845	Mandatory Competitor's Briefing
	0930	First warning
Saturday September 19	0830	Competitor Briefing
	0900	First warning
	1930	Regatta Dinner
Sunday September 20	0830	Competitor Briefing
	0900	First warning
	1700	Tentative Awards Time

NOTE: It is the intention of the OA to start awards no later than 1700 on Sunday, September 20, 2026 although this is not a hard cutoff time. It is strongly suggested that competitors do not plan on leaving the regatta venue until after 1800 on the last day of racing.

13 [DP] REGISTRATION

- 13.1 By the end of onsite registration and equipment inspection (see hours shown in the schedule above):
- (a) All competitors shall agree to abide by the US Sailing Championship Code of Conduct.
 - (b) All competitors shall, in writing, agree to the US Sailing Waiver of Liability.
 - (c) All teams will be weighed in (see NoR 5.3 above).
 - (d) Each team's red flags (see NoR 9.4 above) shall be inspected and approved.

14 VENUE

- 14.1 Racing will be conducted in the Lafayette River in between Norfolk Yacht and Country Club and Norfolk International Terminal.

15 EVENT FORMAT

- 15.1 The racing format at the event will consist of one or more stages. Races will be organized in a Swiss-league rotation with knockout style final series. See the USTRC Conditions for more information.
- 15.2 Courses will be digital-N, to be fully described in the sailing instructions.

16 SCORING

- 16.1 Scoring will be in accordance with RRS Appendix D except as changed by the Notice of Race and the Sailing Instructions.

17 RISK, DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

- 17.1 Competitors participate in the regatta at their own risk. See Racing Rules of Sailing rule 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.
- 17.2 Competitors shall accept full responsibility for their actions during any activity related to the event. This includes activities before, during, and after the regatta from the time they arrive at the venue until they leave the venue at the conclusion of the event.

18 PRIZES

- 18.1 US Sailing medals for permanent possession will be awarded to the top three placing teams.
- 18.2 The winning team will be presented the George R. Hinman Trophy.
- 18.3 The highest place U.S. team (all team members must possess U.S. citizenship) will be named the US Team Racing Champions.
- 18.4 Additional awards may be given at the discretion of the organizing authority and host club.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For further information please contact:

Event Chair	Sam Patterson	samuelzpatterson@gmail.com
Principal Race Officer	Todd Fedyszyn	youthsailingdirector@spyc.org
Chief Umpire	Katie Maxim	katiemaxim@gmail.com
US Sailing Representative	John Pearce	championships@ussailing.org
Championship Chair	Clinton Hayes	clintonearlehayes@gmail.com

US Sailing Regulations at: <https://www.ussailing.org/resource-library/us-sailing-regulations-amended-december-2024/>

<https://www.ussailing.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/US-Champ-Conditions-Team-Race-v2025.01.docx.pdf>

US Sailing Championship Conditions at: <https://www.ussailing.org/competition/resources/championship-conditions/>

A room block has been arranged at the SpringHill Suites by Marriott Norfolk ODU.

- [Book your group rate for 2026 Hinman Regatta](#)
- **Start Date: Thursday, September 17, 2026**
- **End Date: Monday, September 21, 2026**
- **Last Day to Book : Thursday, August 27, 2026**

NoR Addendum A - Venue and Racing Area

