



53rd Governor's Cup Yacht Race

Presented by PNC Bank

Friday, July 31 - August 1, 2026

CBYRA Sanction #25-207

Organizing Authority: St. Mary's College of MD Sailing Association

<https://www.smcm.edu/signature-events/governors-cup-yacht-race/>

Phone: 240-895-4291, FAX: 240-895-4455 email: govcup@smcm.edu

Special Sailing Instructions, All Courses

Entries:

- Entry fee \$120.00. Registration is not complete until payment is received. Online entry is via [NextSailor.com](https://www.nextsailor.com), the link will also be provided on <https://www.smcm.edu/annual-events/govcup/>. Entries will be sent an automated official confirmation by email. Competitors shall verify entry via the Governor's Cup page on NextSailor.com. It is the responsibility of each competitor to notify the Governor's Cup Office by 7/26/26 if verification of entry has not been accomplished.

1. Rules: The regatta will be governed by:

- 1.1 The 2025-2028 Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS)
- 1.2 The 2026 Chesapeake Bay Yacht Racing Association (C.B.Y.R.A.) General Sailing Instructions
- 1.3 The 2026 C.B.Y.R.A. Handicap and Cruising One Design Rules
- 1.4 These Special Sailing Instructions.

2. Notices to Competitors: Notices will be posted on the electronic "Official Notice Board";

<https://nextsailor.com/app/page/regatta/1245/notices>

3. Changes: Changes to the Sailing Instructions will be posted before 0900 on Jul 31st on the electronic "Official Notice Board";

<https://nextsailor.com/app/page/regatta/1245/notices>

4. Ratings: All PHRF entries must have a valid 2026 PHRF Chesapeake Bay rating certificate.

<http://www.phrfchesbay.org/>. All Multihull entries must have a valid 2026 Chesapeake Multihull Association (CMA) certificate. <https://chesapeakemultihulls.org/>. ORC entries must have a currently valid ORC certificate. <https://orcches.org/>. CRCA entrants must have a current EZ certificate. <https://sailcrca.org/>

5. Flags: All competing yachts must display their proper class flag from the bow pulpit and at least six feet above the deck on the backstay. The 2026 PHRF Class Splits will be as per Region 2 PHRF for 2026.

6. Classes: If 3 or more boats desire a separate class start a start will be given, to request a start, Email govcup@smcm.edu

7. Cruising Classes: For 2026 we will include all Cruising Classes for which 3 boats are entered. PHRF Cruising classes must have a current PHRF Cruising certificate, ORC Cruising classes an ORC Cruising certificate, Chesapeake Racer Cruiser Association an EZ certificate. Refer to the appropriate organization for details.

8. GPS Tracking: GPS tracking will utilize the KWINDOW app. See <https://kwindoo.com/> for details. Click on 'Track your sailing', follow the 'For Racer's instructions', download the Kwindoo tracker app. As per RRS 41 c) and for safety, use and monitoring of GPS and/or AIS by competitors while racing any leg of the 2026 Governor's Cup is approved.

9. Finishing Line: Between the orange flag on the committee boat and the cross on Church Point. Yachts finishing in darkness shall illuminate sail numbers for identification purposes. All yachts shall record the finishers immediately ahead and behind them if possible.

10. Time Limit: Each yacht finishing before 1530 on Saturday 1 Aug 2026 will be recorded by the

finish boat. Boats finishing after 1530 on Saturday 1 Aug 2026 shall self-note the finishing time and record it on the official notice board located at the Sailors information table at the James P. Muldoon River Center. Finishing time shall be taken as the cross on Church Point passes 90 degrees magnetic off the starboard bow.

11. VHF Radio: Race committees will communicate on **VHF channel 68**.

12. Non-Finishers: Yachts withdrawing after the starting signal shall notify the Race Committee by calling 240-895-4291 and leaving a message.

13. Refunds: Requests for refunds of entry fees will be honored for boats withdrawing before the start.

14. Protests: Protests shall be written on standard US Sailing protest forms and lodged at the Sailors Information Table within ninety minutes of the protesting yacht's finish. Protest notices will be posted on the Official Notice Board at the Information Table. Protests will be heard at 1900 on Tuesday, August 4th, 2026 at the James P. Muldoon River Center at St. Mary's College of Maryland. Note: It is every competitor's responsibility to check the [Official Notice Board](#).

15. Awards: Trophies will be presented at the Awards Ceremony for the classes in which pending protests do not influence trophy results. Trophies will be awarded based on the number of registered boats in each class: 1st place (3 boats); 2nd place (5 boats); 3rd place (9 boats); 4th place (15 boats); 5th place (20 or more boats).

Annapolis Course:

16. Classes: All competing yachts must display their proper class flag from the bow pulpit and at least six feet above the deck on the backstay. The 2026 Class Splits will be as per PHRF for 2026, shown here for reference, with additional Cruising and ORC classes and starts. Refer to the [Official Notice Board](#) for final classes and starts.

Class	Rating	Class Flag
Multihull A	>=1.0	W
Multihull B	<1.0	F
ORC Open	ORC	1
ORC Perf. Cruiser	ORC	2
PHRF A	Up to 109	9
PHRF B	110-148	6
PHRF C	149 and up	7
PHRF N	All non-spinnaker	5
PHRF Cruiser CCS	All	2 nd Repeater
PHRF Cruiser CCNS	All	8
CRCA Racer	EZ	Green
CRCA Cruiser	EZ	White
CHESSS	All	3 rd Repeater

17. Intended Start times: RRS 26 ("Starting Races") is modified as shown below:

Early Starts:

Class	Time (July 31, 2026)	Signal
	1555	Warning
Multihull A&B	1600	Start
CRCA Racer	1605	Start
CRCA Cruiser	1610	Start
PHRF Cruiser CCS	1615	Start
PHRF Cruiser CCNS	1620	Start
PHRF B/C	1625	Start
PHRF N	1630	Start
CHESSS	1635	Start

Later Starts:

Class	Time (July 31, 2026)	Signal
	1655	Warning
ORC Open	1700	Start
ORC P. Cruiser	1705	Start
PHRF A	1710	Start

18. Annapolis Course:

Leave to starboard: Thomas Point Light, Point No Point Light, Point Lookout Light, and St. Mary's River Junction Red and Green Buoy (FL (2+1) R6s). In addition, St. Mary's River Lighted Day markers 1, 2, and 3 shall be passed on the channel side. No other marks need to be honored.

19. Distance: 68.6 nautical miles.

20. Check-in: Yachts must check in with the race committee prior to starting. Yachts failing to check in may be scored DNC. Please sail astern of RC signal boat on Starboard tack to hail your intent to race.

21. Starting Line: Between the orange flag on the committee boat and Annapolis Area Mark "X" (R-2). (Note: 'keep away' buoy, if present, is a part of the committee boat)
Special Awards, Annapolis race only

22. "Best in Fleet" Trophy: The Joseph Waldschmitt Memorial "Best in Fleet" trophy (presented by PNC) to the winner of the class (of all classes regardless of rating system) having the smallest corrected time interval between the first and fifth place finishers.

23. Alumni Trophy: Yachts racing in all classes are eligible to compete for the Alumni Trophy if two or more members of the yacht's crew are graduates or current students with 24 credits or more of St. Mary's College of Maryland. The winner will be the eligible yacht that qualifies for the trophy and finishes with the fastest corrected time based on NA PHRF Plus Fleet Overall Scoring. Competitors must indicate intention to compete for the trophy to be eligible with the names of the alumni racing.

24. Steve Bickell Memorial Trophy: The Steve Bickell "Most Improved" Memorial Trophy will be presented to the skipper/boat with the largest numerical increase of finish position based on Fleet Overall Scoring when results of the 2026 race are compared to the 2025 race results. (Skipper/boat must be the same as 2025)

25. North American PHRF Plus Rating System Overall: The NA PHRF Plus Overall trophy will be awarded to the 1st place finisher of the fleet overall scoring.

Potomac Course:

1. Classes:

All competing yachts must display their proper class flag from the bow pulpit and at least six feet above the deck on the backstay.

Class	Rating	Class Flag
PHRF Spinnaker	All	Q
PHRF N	All	Q above "5"

2. The Start: RRS 26 ("Starting Races") is modified as shown below:

Class	Time (July 31, 2026)	Signal
	1755	Warning
PHRF Spinnaker	1800	Start
PHRF N	1805	Start

3. Course: East (down river) keeping Ragged Point to Starboard, rounding Moa "A" to Port then St. Mary's "SM" to Starboard. In addition, St. Mary's River Mark G"1" (FI G2.5s) shall be left to port, R"2" (FL R4s) left to starboard, G"3" (FI G6s) shall be left to port.

4. Distance: 46.7 nautical miles

5. Check-in: Yachts must check in with the race committee prior to starting. Yachts failing to check in may be scored DNC. Please sail astern of RC signal boat on Starboard tack to hail your intent to race.

6. Starting Line: Between the orange flag on the committee boat and Dahlgren line of fire buoy "P". (Note: 'keep away' buoy, if present, is a part of the committee boat)