

# 2026 National 18 Irish National Championships

6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> June 2026

Baltimore Sailing Club

## Sailing Instructions

### 1 RULES

- 1.1 The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing 2025 – 2028*.
- 1.2 The regatta will also be governed by the National 18 Class Rules. Competitors should note rule C.2.1(a) “The crew shall consist of 3 persons”. The Byelaws and Rules of Baltimore Sailing Club and these Sailing Instructions:
- 1.3 For this event, a one-turn penalty (360°) including one tack and one gybe shall replace the two-turn penalty (720°) required by RRS 44.1.
- 1.4 The notation [DP] in a rule of the NoR or SI means that the penalty for breaching the rule is at the discretion of the protest committee.
- 1.5 Entrants in the Ultra fleet (Morrison designed hull) are required to hold a valid RYA National 18 Class Measurement Certificate.

### 2 COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

- 2.1 There will be a briefing for competitors on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June at 1130 at the clubhouse
- 2.2 Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board, located in the clubhouse and the National 18 class owners WhatsApp group.
- 2.3 Signals made ashore will be displayed from the main mast BSC. Where an AP is flown ashore racing will start not less than 30 mins from lowering of the AP. This amends RRS Signals.
- 2.4 Any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 20:00 on the day before it takes effect and any change to the sailing instructions will be posted at least 60 minutes before the first warning on the day it will take effect.
- 2.5 The class flag will be code flag R.

### 3 SCHEDULE OF RACES

- 3.1 The race schedule is as follows:

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Time of 1<sup>st</sup> warning signal &amp; scheduled races per day:</b>	
	<b>Time:</b>	<b># Races:</b>
Sat 6 <sup>th</sup> June	12:25	3 races
Sun 7 <sup>th</sup> June	11:25	3 races

- 3.2 The warning signal for subsequent races will be made as soon as practicable.
- 3.3 The race schedule may be modified by the RO in the interest of completing as many of the planned races as possible.
- 3.4 No warning signal shall sound later than 15:30 on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June.

## 4 RACING AREAS

- 4.1 Two race areas may be utilized. Inside Baltimore Harbour or in Roaringwater Bay between Sherkin, Heir and the Calves. The proposed starting race area for the day will be published on the official notice board and N18 Owners WhatsApp group but may change when afloat if deemed necessary due to weather conditions.

## 5 COURSE

- 5.1 The diagram in A shows the course, the course designations, the order in which marks are to be passed, and the side on which each mark is to be left.
- 5.2 No later than the warning signal, the race committee signal boat will display the course designation and the approximate compass bearing of the first leg.
- 5.3 To change the next leg of the course, the race committee will move the original mark (or the finishing line) to a new position or lay a new mark and remove the original mark as soon as practicable.

## 6 MARKS

- 6.1 Marks will be very large inflated cylindrical buoys, colour will be advised in the briefing.
- 6.2 New marks, as provided in SI 5.3, will be of the same shape and colour as the original marks.

## 7 THE START

- 7.1 The starting line will be between a red and white pole on the Committee Boat and a mark on the port side of the boat. See Appendix B.
- 7.2 A minimum 5 knot wind limit for a race start will be in place unless agreed in advance between the organizing authority, the race committee and the N18 event organisers. This decision may occur on the water.

## 8 THE FINISH

- 8.1 The finish line will be between the red and white pole on the Committee Boat and a mark on the starboard side of the boat. See Appendix B.

## 9 TIME LIMITS & TARGET TIMES

- 9.1 The time limit and target time in minutes are as follows:

<i>Time limit</i>	<i>Finish window</i>	<i>Target time</i>
90	15	40

Failure to meet the target time will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 62.1(a).

- 9.2 Boats failing to finish within the finish window time after the first boat sails the course and finishes will be scored Did Not Finish. This changes RRS 35, a4 and a5.

## 10 PROTESTS, PENALTIES & REQUESTS FOR REDRESS & ARBITRATION

- 10.1 Protest forms are available at the race office. Protests and requests for redress or reopening shall be delivered there within the appropriate time limit.
- 10.2 For each class, the protest time limit is 90 minutes after the last boat has finished the last race of the day or the race committee signals no more racing today, whichever is later.
- 10.3 Notices will be posted no later than 30 minutes after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses.
- 10.4 Notices of protests by the race committee, technical committee or protest committee will be posted to inform boats under RRS 61.1(b).
- 10.5 Penalties for breaches of class rules, RRS 55 or rules in the NoR and SIs marked [DP], are at the discretion of the protest committee.
- 10.6 Breaches of SI 12, Safety Regulations, will not be grounds for protest by a boat. This changes RRS 60.1(a).
- 10.7 On the last scheduled day of racing, a request for redress based on a protest committee decision shall be delivered no later than 30 minutes after the decision was posted. This changes RRS 62.2.
- 10.8 RRS Appendix T, Arbitration will apply. If a party, having been informed that an Arbitration meeting will be held, does not attend, other parties may take a post-race penalty at any time until the protest committee has completed taking evidence. This changes RRS Appendix T1(a).
- 10.9 Boats intending to protest shall notify the committee vessel as soon as practicable after finishing the race in which the incident occurred.

## 11 SCORING

- 11.1 Three races are required to be completed to constitute a regatta.
- 11.2 When four races are completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.
- 11.3 A boat starting later than 4 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start. This changes RRS A4 and A5.
- 11.4 To request correction of an alleged error in posted race or series results, a boat may complete a scoring enquiry form available at the race office.

## 12 SAFETY REGULATIONS

- 12.1 [DP] Competitors shall wear personal flotation devices at all times while afloat, except briefly while adjusting clothing or personal equipment.
- 12.2 [DP] Boats shall be equipped with a towing rope of minimum length 6 meters.
- 12.3 [DP] A boat that retires from a race, or does not intend to start a race, shall notify the race committee as soon as possible.

## 13 REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT

- 13.1 [DP] Substitution of competitors will not be allowed without prior written approval of the race committee.
- 13.2 [DP] Substitution of damaged or lost equipment will not be allowed unless authorized by the race committee. Requests for substitution shall be made to the committee at the first reasonable opportunity.

## 14 EQUIPMENT & MEASUREMENT CHECKS

- 14.1 On the water, a boat can be instructed by a member of the race committee or technical committee to proceed immediately to a designated area for inspection. Equipment may be inspected at any time, however, we will endeavor to inspect all boats prior to Race One of the championships.

## 15 SUPPORT BOATS

- 15.1 [DP] Support persons shall stay outside areas where boats are racing from the time of the preparatory signal until all boats have finished or retired or the race committee signals a postponement, general recall or abandonment.

## 16 RADIO COMMUNICATION

- 16.1 [DP] 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.

## 17 RISK STATEMENT

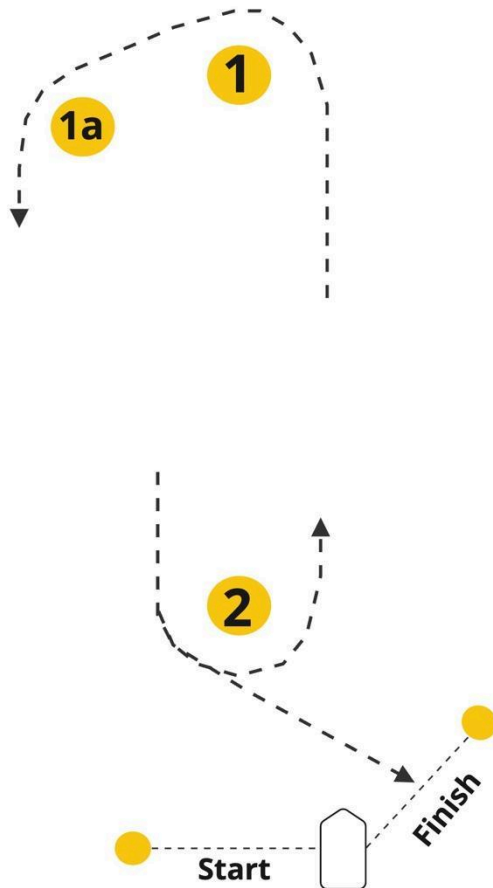
- 17.1 Rule 4 of the Racing Rules of Sailing states: "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone."
- 17.2 Sailing is by its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event, each competitor agrees and acknowledges that:
- (a) They are aware of the inherent element of risk involved in the sport and accept responsibility for the exposure of themselves, their crew and their boat to such inherent risk whilst taking part in the event.
  - (b) They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore.
  - (c) They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omission.
  - (d) Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate.
  - (e) The provision of a race management team, patrol boats and other officials and volunteers by the event organizer does not relieve them of their own responsibilities.
  - (f) The provision of patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances.
  - (g) It is their responsibility to familiarize themselves with any risks specific to this venue or this event drawn to their attention in any rules and information produced for the venue or event and to attend any safety briefing held for the event.

## 18 INSURANCE

- 18.1 Each participating boat shall be adequately insured, with adequate cover against third-party claims.

## Appendix A

### COURSE DIAGRAM: Windward/Leeward



### Course Designations

R2 = Start, 1, 1a, 2, 1, 1a, 2, finish.

R3 = Start, 1, 1a, 2, 1, 1a, 2, 1, 1a, 2, finish.