

2026 HOBIE 16 INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Organizing Authority: Ocean Springs Sailing Squadron and Hobie Division 15

hosted by the Ocean Springs Yacht Club, Ocean Springs, MS

September 12 – 25, 2026

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS



The notation [NP] in a rule means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1.

1 RULES

- 1.1 The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS)*.
- 1.2 [DP] Class rules will apply.
- 1.3 US Sailing Prescriptions to RRS Part 5, Section B preamble and 63.1 do not apply.
- 1.4 Rule 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, or...

2 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1 Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted not less than 60 minutes prior to the first scheduled race on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 1800 on the day before it shall take effect or prior to the previous day's protest time limit, whichever is later.

3 COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

- 3.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located on the patio below the yacht club. **NOTE:** White boards may be used for unofficial communications (weather reports, provisional results, etc.).
- 3.2 On the water, the Race Committee (RC) intends to monitor and communicate with competitors via VHF radio channel 68. This information is given as a courtesy and a request for redress may not be based on any aspect of this unofficial communication, including content, timeliness, existence, and/or failure to hear. This changes RRS 61.4(b)(1).
- 3.3 [DP] While racing, except in an emergency, a boat shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats.

4 CODE OF CONDUCT

- 4.1 [DP] Competitors and support persons shall comply with reasonable request from race officials.

5 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 5.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed from the flag pole on the south side of the Yacht Club near the docks.
- 5.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 30 minutes' in Race Signals AP.

6 FORMAT

- 6.1 **Masters Series** - Depending upon the number of entries, competitors may sail as a single start or separate starts for each class. The decision will be made by 2100 on the evening prior to the first race.
- 6.2 **Open Series** – Competitors will sail in a Qualifier Series followed by a Final Series.
 - 6.2.1 Boats will sail in a round robin format.
 - 6.2.2 Boats will be randomly assigned to four groups (Red, White, Blue and Green) of, as near as possible of equal size. Initial assignments will be made by the RC and will be posted by 2100 on the evening of September 19, at the Welcome Party.
 - 6.2.3 After the completion of the Qualifier Series, boats will then be assigned to the Gold and Silver fleets based on their rank in the Qualifier Series. Assignments will be announced on the evening of September 22, the Cut Party and posted by 2100.
 - 6.2.4 Boats will display an event-supplied colored ribbon (Red, White, Blue, Green, Silver (White) and Gold (Yellow)) on the bottom batten during each Series.

7 SCHEDULE OF RACES

7.1 Masters Series:

Date	Time	Event
Monday, September 14	0930	Competitors' Meeting on patio below yacht club
	1130	Warning signal for first race of the day
Tuesday, September 15	1130	Warning signal for first race of the day
Wednesday, September 16	1130	Warning signal for first race of the day
Thursday, September 17	1130	Warning signal for first race of the day
	1500	No warning signal after this time
	After Racing	Awards Dinner at the Gulf Hills Hotel & Resort

7.1.1 The intention is to sail three to five races per day.

7.1.2 There is no maximum number of races that may be conducted.

7.2 Open Series:

Date	Time	Event
Sunday, September 20	0930	Competitors' Meeting on patio below yacht club for Qualifier Series
	1130	Warning signal for first race of the day
Monday, September 21	1130	Warning signal for first race of the day
Tuesday, September 22	1130	Warning signal for first race of the day
	After Racing	Cut Party and MS Gulf Coast Seafood Dinner Sponsored by MS Department of Marine Resources
Wednesday, September 23	0930	Competitors' Meeting on patio below yacht club for Final Series
	1130	Warning signal for first race of the day
Thursday, September 24	1130	Warning signal for first race of the day
Friday, September 25	1130	Warning signal for first race of the day
	1500	No warning signal after this time
	After Racing	Awards Dinner at the Gulf Hills Hotel & Resort

7.2.1 The intention is to sail three to five races per day.

7.2.2 A maximum of 15 races are scheduled for the Qualifier Series. A maximum of 15 races are scheduled for the Final Series.

7.3 To alert boats that a race or sequence of races will begin soon, an orange flag will be displayed with one sound two minutes before a warning signal is made.

8 CLASS FLAGS

8.1 Masters Series:

Class	Flag
All boats	White background with a Black Flying H

8.2 Open Series:

QUALIFIER	Flag
Hobie 16 Red	Red flag
Hobie 16 White	White flag
Hobie 16 Blue	Blue flag
Hobie 16 Green	Green flag
FINALS	
Hobie 16 Final	Gold (Yellow) background with Black Flying H
Hobie 16 Silver	Silver (White) background with Black Flying H

9 RACING AREA

9.1 The racing area shall be on the Mississippi Sound and Biloxi Bay.

10 COURSES

10.1 **Masters Series** - International Hobie Cat Association (IHCA) Standard Courses will be sailed. See Attachment A.

10.1.1 The "G" option will NOT be displayed by the signal vessel. The leeward mark may be a single mark or a gate.

10.1.2 If the leeward mark is a single mark, the mark will be left to port.

- 10.2 **Open Series** - A trapezoid course will be sailed. See Attachment B.
10.2.1 A leeward gate may be replaced by a single mark; in this case, the mark will be left to port.
- 10.3 No later than the warning signal, the signal vessel may display an approximate compass bearing and distance to the first leg

11 MARKS

11.1 Masters Series:

- 11.1.1 Weather Mark: Pink inflatable mark
- 11.1.2 Leeward and Gate Marks: Pink inflatable marks
- 11.1.3 Reach Mark: Orange inflatable mark
- 11.1.4 Offset Mark: White inflatable mark
- 11.1.5 Change mark as provided in Instruction 13: Green inflatable mark
- 11.1.6 Starting mark: Staff displaying the orange flag on the RC vessel
- 11.1.7 Finishing mark: Staff displaying the blue flag on the RC pin vessel

11.2 Open Series:

- 11.2.1 Inside Course of Trapezoid
 - (a) Weather Mark 1: Pink inflatable mark
 - (b) Leeward 4s and Gate Mark 4p: Pink Inflatable marks
 - (c) Offset Mark: White inflatable mark
 - (d) Change mark as provided in Instruction 14: Green inflatable mark
 - (e) Starting mark: Staff displaying the orange flag on the RC vessel
 - (f) Starting mark: Staff displaying the orange flag on the RC pin vessel
- 11.2.1 Outside Course of Trapezoid
 - (a) Weather Mark 2: Yellow inflatable mark
 - (b) Leeward 3s and Gate Mark 3p: Yellow inflatable mark
 - (c) Offset Mark: Orange inflatable mark
 - (d) Change mark as provided in Instruction 14: Orange inflatable mark
 - (e) Finishing mark: Staff displaying the blue flag on the RC vessel
 - (f) Finishing mark: Yellow inflatable mark

12 AREAS THAT ARE OBSTRUCTIONS

- 12.1 The Start/Finish line shall be closed unless Starting or Finishing.

13 THE START

- 13.1 The Start Line shall be between a staff displaying an Orange flag on the RC Signal Vessel and the course side of the starting mark.
- 13.2 For the Qualifier Series, two class flags will be displayed together at the warning signal.
- 13.3 [DP][NP] Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area during start sequences for other races.
- 13.4 A boat starting later than four minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start (DNS) without a hearing. *This changes RRS A5.1 and A5.2.*

14 CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

- 14.1 To change the next leg of the course, the RC will lay a change mark (or move the finishing line) and remove the original mark as soon as practicable. When in a subsequent change a change mark is replaced, it will be replaced by an original mark.

15 THE FINISH

- 15.1 The Finish Line shall be between a staff displaying a Blue flag on the RC vessel and the course side of the finishing mark.
- 15.2 If the RC determines that the finishing order of some boats in a race is unlikely to change, it may use reasonable discretion to score those boats still racing points equal to their position in the race. This changes RRS A3, A4 and A5.2.

16 PENALTY SYSTEM

- 16.1 RRS 44.1 is changed so that the Two-Turns Penalty is replaced by the One-Turn Penalty.
- 16.2 US Sailing Prescription Appendix V2, Post-Race Penalties, applies.

17 TIME LIMITS AND TARGET TIMES

- 17.1 Time limits and target times are as follows:

Class	Race Target Time	Race Time Limit	Initial Weather Mark Time Limit
All	40-45 minutes	90 minutes	30 minutes

- 17.2 If no boat has passed their initial Weather Mark within the **Initial Weather Mark time limit**, the race shall be abandoned.
- 17.3 **Race Time Limit:** Time limit for the first boat in their class or group to sail the course. If no boat finishes within the **Race Time Limit**, the race will be abandoned.
- 17.4 Failure to meet the target times will not be grounds for redress. *This changes rule 61.4(b)(1).*

18 HEARING REQUESTS

- 18.1 Hearing Request forms are available at the official notice board. Protests and requests for redress or reopening shall be delivered there within the appropriate time limit.
- 18.2 For each class, the protest time limit is 60 minutes after the signal vessel has docked. The time will be posted on the official notice board.
- 18.3 Notices will be posted no later than 30 minutes after the protest time limit to inform boats of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Hearings will be held in the protest room, the location of which shall be posted on the official notice board, beginning at the time posted on the official notice board.
- 18.4 Notices of protests by the race committee or protest committee will be posted to inform boats under RRS 60.2(d).

19 SCORING

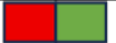
19.1 Masters Series:

- 19.1.1 One race is required to be completed to constitute a series.
- 19.1.2 When three or fewer races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores.
- 19.1.3 When four or more races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.
- 19.1.4 Each division will be scored separately.

19.2 Open Series:

19.2.1 Qualifier Series

- (a) In the round robin, all boats will compete in an equal number of races and, if possible, against every other boat at least once but preferably an equal number of times more than once.
- (b) See table below for schedule of races.

RACE 1	RACE 2	RACE 3	RACE 4	RACE 5
				
				
RACE 6	RACE 7	RACE 8	RACE 9	RACE 10
				
				
RACE 11	RACE 12	RACE 13	RACE 14	RACE 15
				
				

- (c) If at the end of the Qualifier Series, some Qualifier Series fleets have more race scores than others, any extra races will be abandoned & cancelled so that all boats in the Qualifier Series have the same number of race scores.
- (d) If four or more Qualifier Series races have been complete, the worst Qualifier Series race score will be excluded when calculating the division into Final Series fleets.
- (e) For the purposes of RRS A5.2 "Scoring" the number of boats entered in a Qualifier Series race will be the number of boats assigned to the largest qualifier flight.

19.2.2 Final Series:

- (a) The Final Series Gold fleet will be comprised of the top 40 boats from the Qualifier Series with the remaining boats assigned to the Silver fleet.

- (b) Any recalculation of Qualifier Series ranking after boats have been assigned to Final Series fleets will not affect the assignments except that a redress decision may promote a boat to a higher fleet.
- (c) Different Final Series fleets need not complete the same number of Final Series races. Boats assigned to Gold fleet will be ranked higher in the event than boats assigned to Silver fleet, except for a boat disqualified from a Final Series race under RRS 2 or 69.
- (d) The Qualifier Series races and the Final Series races will count for total points in the championship for the Gold fleet. The Silver fleet score for the Final Series will not include the Qualifier Series scores.
- (e) If only one Final Series race is completed, it will not be discarded
- (f) If four or more Final Series races are completed, then a maximum of one Final Series race score may be excluded in addition to any discarded in the Qualifying Series.

20 [DP] [NP] SAFETY REGULATIONS

- 20.1 Boats shall check in by hailing their sail number to the RC signal vessel before the start of the first race each day and the first race following any postponement ashore.
- 20.2 A boat that retires from a race shall notify the RC at the first reasonable opportunity.
- 20.3 The personal flotation device (PFD) must be worn outside of all clothing except that a thin shirt may be worn over the PFD to prevent snagging. The PFD may also be worn in such a way that a full trapeze harness is secured over the PFD. All PFDs shall be dependent on foam for floatation and not inflatable.

21 [DP] REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT

- 21.1 Substitution of competitors will not be allowed without prior written approval of the Race Committee.
- 21.2 Substitution of damaged or lost equipment will not be allowed unless authorized by the Race Committee. Requests for substitution of equipment shall be made to the Race Committee at the first reasonable opportunity.
- 21.3 [DP][NP] Verbal permission may be granted by the Race Committee on the water to allow a competitor to continue racing, however, it must be followed by a request in writing before the end of protest time limit for that day.

22 EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

- 22.1 A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules and sailing instructions.
- 22.2 When instructed by a race official on the water, a boat shall proceed to a designated area for inspection.

23 [DP] [NP] SPONSOR SUPPLIED SAILS FOR THE MASTERS SERIES AND FINAL GOLD SERIES:

- 23.1 All boats in the Masters Series and the Final Gold Series will be provided with Sponsor Supplied Sails to be used for the duration of their series.
- 23.2 Sponsor Supplied Sails for the Masters series will be allocated during initial Check-In on September 12 and 13.
- 23.3 Sponsor Supplied Sails for the Final Gold series will be allocated at the Cut Party on September 22.
- 23.4 Use and care of Sponsored Supplied Sails shall be in accordance with the Sponsored Supplied Sails Policy.

24 PRIZES

- 24.1 The winners of the Master, Grand Master, or Great Grand Master divisions will be declared the 2026 Hobie 16 International Champions of their division.
- 24.2 The winners of the Women's Hobie 16 International division will be declared the 2026 Hobie International Women's Champion.
- 24.3 The winners of the Youth Hobie 16 International division will be declared the 2026 Hobie International Youth Champion.
- 24.4 The highest-ranking North American team from the Final Gold Series will be named the 2026 Hobie 16 North American Champion.
- 24.5 The results of the Final Series will be announced at the Awards Dinner with the winners of the GOLD Fleet being declared the 2026 Hobie 16 International Champions.
- 24.6 Other prizes may be awarded.

25 RISK STATEMENT

- 25.1 RRS 3 states: 'The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue to race is hers alone.' By participating in this event each competitor agrees and acknowledges that sailing is a potentially dangerous activity with inherent risks. These risks include strong winds and rough seas, sudden changes in weather, failure of equipment, boat handling errors, poor seamanship by other boats, loss of balance on an unstable platform and fatigue resulting in increased risk of injury.

26 SPECIAL NOTES

- 26.1 Any boat receiving 'hands on' assistance from rescue/mark boats will be scored Did Not Finish. This changes RRS rule A5. The RC may decide when a boat or crew needs assistance.
- 26.2 The RC may request redress for competitors who exhibit extraordinary sportsmanship.

SAFETY NOTES TO ALL SAILORS

WHILE THE EVENT SITE IS CLEAR OF ELECTRICAL POWER LINES, WHEN OFF-SITE – AVOID!!!

Whenever off-site whether raising or lowering a mast, while sailing, or moving your boat over land ALWAYS check for and avoid low overhead electrical power lines. If you see a power line, AVOID IT! A MAST COMING IN CONTACT OR EVEN NEAR AN ELECTRICAL POWER LINE CAN CAUSE SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH TO PEOPLE ON OR TOUCHING THE BOAT

ATTACHMENT A – Illustrating the Course

NOTE: Color and/or shape of marks used in illustrations may not accurately represent the actual color or shape of marks used on the actual race course.

COURSE 1, 2 AND 4 DIAGRAM and ROUNDING ORDER (Not to Scale) COURSE 3, 5, 6 and 7 DIAGRAM and ROUNDING ORDER (Not to Scale)

COURSE 1: START – A – C (or GATE) – A – FINISH

COURSE 2: START – A – C (or GATE) – A – C (or GATE) – A – FINISH

COURSE 4: START – A – C (or GATE) – A – B – C (or GATE) – A – FINISH

(OFFSET MARKS NOT SHOWN)

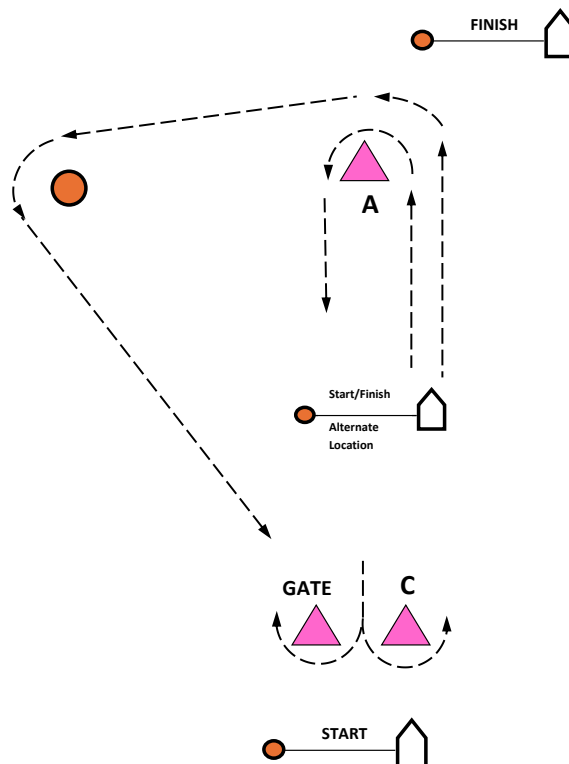
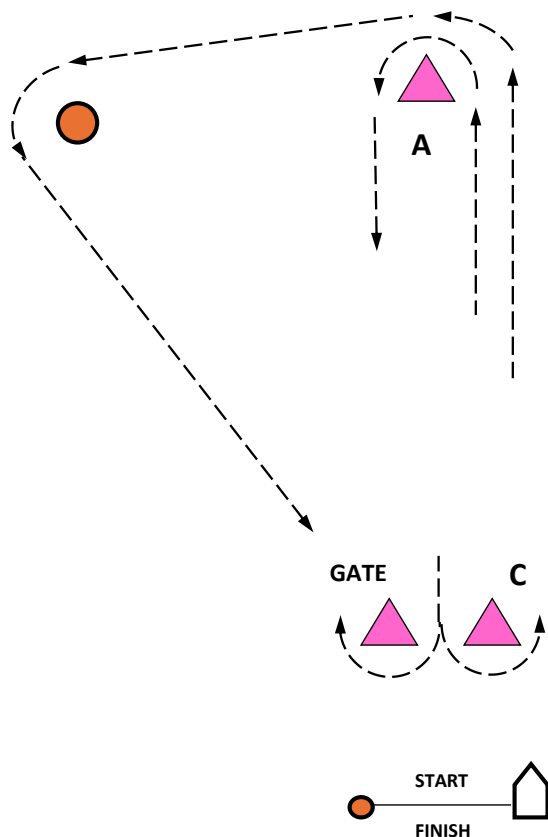
COURSE 3: START – A – C (or GATE) – A – B – C (or GATE) – FINISH

COURSE 5: START – A – C (or GATE) – FINISH

COURSE 6: START – A – C (or GATE) – A – C (or GATE) – FINISH

COURSE 7: START – A – C (or GATE) – A – B – C (or GATE) – A – C (or GATE) – FINISH

(OFFSET MARKS NOT SHOWN)



ATTACHMENT B – Illustrating the Course

Offset marks are NOT shown

Trapezoid Course

NOT TO SCALE – ANGLES BETWEEN MARKS ARE APPROXIMATE

Outside 1 S – 1 – 2 – 3s/3p – W – 3p – F

Outside 2 S – 1 – 2 – 3s/3p – 2 – 3s/3p – 2 – 3p – F

Inside 1 S – 1 – 4s/4p – 1 – 2 – 3p – F

Inside 2 S – 1 – 4s/4p – 1 – 4s/4p – 1 – 2 – 3p – F

