



## **2026 Otter Cup**

April 25, 2026

Elkhorn Yacht Club, Moss Landing, CA

in association with

Monterey Peninsula Yacht Club, Monterey, CA

### **NOTICE OF RACE (NOR)**

#### **1. BACKGROUND**

1.1 The 2026 Otter Cup will be an approximately 15.60 nautical mile (NM) race starting in Monterey, CA and ending in Moss Landing, CA.

1.2 This race is one of five races in the Monterey Bay Yacht Racing Association (MBYRA) series.

NOTE: This event will NOT use the MBYRA Safety Equipment Requirements (SER).

#### **2. RULES**

2.1 The race will be governed by rules defined in US Sailing's 2025-2028 "The Racing Rules of Sailing," with the exception of any special instructions stated herein or as stated at the Skipper's meeting.

2.2 Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) 40 is changed. All competitors are required to wear a life jacket or other adequate personal flotation device during the race.

2.3 See Safety section of this document.

#### **3. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY**

3.1 Registration for the race shall be made online using Regatta Network by noon Thursday, April 23, 2026.

3.2 Deadline for submitting waivers, crew lists, etc. is at the 10 AM Skippers/Crew meeting on Saturday, April 25. If you are not able to register through Regatta Network please contact the EYC Office Manager 831-724-3875 or [racedirector@elkhornyachtclub.org](mailto:racedirector@elkhornyachtclub.org).

3.3 This event is open to all mono-hull and multi-hull sailing vessels with a valid Performance Handicap Racing Fleet (PHRF) or Bay Area Multihull Association (BAMA) certificate.

3.4 Yacht owners/skippers shall be a member of a recognized yacht club.

3.5 Yachts must be properly equipped for coastal sailing. The Organizing Authority (OA) reserves the right to reject an entry based on its sole opinion of the seaworthiness of the boat for competition where rescue may be delayed.

3.6 A PHRF or BAMA certificate is required as well as signed liability waivers and float plans. PHRF ratings are obtained from PHRF Monterey Bay Committee. Applications are available on EYC, SCYC, and MPYC websites. If a boat does not hold a current PHRF or BAMA certificate they may request prior to April 8, 2026 that the Race Committee assign a rating.

3.7 There will be the following divisions:

A - PHRF of 119 or less

B - PHRF 120 or greater

C - Jib & Main

D - Multi-hulls

3.8 Final division assignments may be adjusted prior to the start of the race at the discretion of the OA. If there are insufficient (less than 4) Jib & Main entries to warrant a separate division they will be incorporated into the appropriate PHRF division with a handicap adjustment determined by the RC.

3.9 One-design divisions will be allowed for fleets with at least five (5) boats.

3.10 A combined single / double hand subclass will be established if three (3) or more boats participate with two or fewer sailors on board.

#### **4. FEES**

4.1 Regular entry until April 16 is \$50. Late entry from April 17 to April 25 is \$60.

#### **5. BOATS**

5.1 The race will be sailed in mono-hull or multi-hull boats with valid PHRF or BAMA ratings issued by the Monterey Bay PHRF Committee or BAMA.

5.2 Boats without a PHRF or BAMA rating may sail the course, but will not be scored. (also see 3.6)

#### **6. SCHEDULE**

6.1 The race will start at 1230 on Saturday, April 25, 2026.

6.2 A mandatory Skippers and Crew meeting shall be held in the Monterey Peninsula Yacht Club on April 25, 2026 at 10 AM.

6.3 Participants and their guests are invited to enjoy the hospitality of Elkhorn Yacht Club at the end of the race and following morning.

#### **7. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

7.1 The sailing instructions will be available online at Regatta Network.

#### **8. SAFETY REQUIREMENTS**

8.1 Boats shall be equipped in accordance with Federal Equipment Requirements for Recreational Vessels.

8.2 A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee as soon as reasonably possible.

8.3 Boats shall carry a VHF marine radio capable of dual band monitoring, or two radios, monitoring Channels 16 and 68.

- 8.4 Boats shall have ground tackle sufficient for anchoring offshore of hazards in the racing area, a bucket, a compass, working flashlight, and a first aid kit. It is recommended that boats carry additional batteries.
- 8.5 All participants shall wear a PFD while racing.
- 8.6 California State law and boating regulations apply - boats shall stay at least 200 feet clear from a dive boat displaying the Divers and/or Alpha flags and shall not approach within 100 yards of any US Naval vessel or cruise ship. Boats should also exercise precaution in proximity of bathers, kayakers, and protected marine life.
- 8.7 Boats shall be equipped with lifelines appropriate for the particular boat design and type.
- 8.8 Boats shall be equipped with a Life Sling or a horseshoe/donut-type buoy, USGC approved, with 100 feet of floating line attached to both the buoy and the boat. It is recommended that boats be equipped with at least one halyard long enough to be used for hoisting a person from the water back onboard, and/or an appropriate halyard extension .
- 8.9 It is highly recommended that all boats carry two (2) cellular phones with batteries fully charged.
- 8.10 It is highly recommended that all boats also be equipped with two handheld VHF marine transceivers.

## **9. VENUE**

- 9.1 Racing will occur in the Monterey Bay between Monterey and Moss Landing.

## **10. COURSE**

- 10.1 The approximately 15.60 nautical mile course will start in Monterey between MY1 and a staff displaying an orange flag on the MPYC RC boat anchored in an approximately 500 foot radius. Racers will proceed to Point Pinos Lighted Bell Buoy 2 ("P") buoy and leave it to starboard. Proceed to ML2 leaving it to port then to the finish line (an imaginary line between MLA and the Green Can (Moss Landing Channel Buoy 1)) leaving MLA to port.

## **11. SCORING**

- 11.1 The finish orders shall be posted on Regatta Network.
- 11.2 Terms and their respective scores (RRS A5.3 will apply):
- (DNF) Did Not Finish - boats that started, but did not finish, shall receive a score equivalent to the total number of boats that properly "Finished" +1"
- (DNS) Did Not Start - boats that have checked in, but did not start, shall receive a score equivalent to the total number of boats that properly "Checked in +1"
- (RET) Retire - A boat which voluntarily retires from a race after properly checking in, and/or starting shall receive a score equivalent to the total number of boats that properly "Checked in +1". A boat which voluntarily takes the RET scoring after properly checked in must request such action on the water and/or by other means thus properly notifying the Race Committee prior to leaving the race area and/or by notification of race committee in shortest time practicable.
- (DNC) Did Not Compete or Did Not Come - shall receive a score equivalent to the total number of boats that "Registered +1"

## **12. PRIZES**

12.1 Prizes shall be awarded to the top three (3) finishing (corrected) positions from each division with at least five (5) entrants.

12.2 Prizes for divisions of less than five (5) entrants are at the discretion of the OA.

### **13. DISCLAIMER AND LIABILITY**

13.1 Competitors participate in the race entirely at their own risk. 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 race.

13.2 Skippers and crew shall submit to the Organizing Authority the EYC liability waiver form. The signed form shall be submitted through Regatta Network, emailed to [racedirector@elkhornyachtclub.org](mailto:racedirector@elkhornyachtclub.org) or personally handed in at the Skippers meeting.

13.3 **RISK STATEMENT** - RRS3 states: 'The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or continue racing 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. Inherent in the sport of sailing is the risk of permanent, catastrophic injury or death by drowning, trauma, hypothermia or other causes.