



Formula 18 Americans Championship 2026
September 19-25, 2026
South Carolina Yacht Club
Hilton Head, SC, USA
NOTICE OF RACE

March 3, 2026

Sponsored by:





Abbreviations			
IF18CA	International Formula 18 Class Association	NoR	Notice of Race
NCA	National Class Association	RRS	Racing Rules of Sailing

[DP] denotes a rule for which the penalty is at the discretion of the International Jury.

[NP] denotes that a breach of this rule will not be grounds for a protest by a boat. This changes RRS 60.1.

[SP] denotes a rule for which a standard penalty may be applied by the race committee without a hearing.

ORGANIZING AUTHORITY: The Organizing Authority is South Carolina Yacht Club on behalf of the US Formula 18 Class Association (USF18).

1 RULES

- 1.1 The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing*.
- 1.2 US Sailing prescriptions, if any, will be posted at the official notice board.
- 1.3 Chartered boats shall carry the national letters of the team.
- 1.4 Decisions of the International Jury will be final as provided in RRS 70.5 (Appeals).
- 1.5 Arbitration as described in RRS appendix T shall apply as modified by the Sailing Instructions.
- 1.6 RRS 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.
- 1.7 Competitors' sail numbers shall comply with RRS G1.2(a)(3) (Contrasting Sail Numbers).

2 SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1 The sailing instructions will be made available on the event website at <http://www.regattanetwork.com> by September 19, 2026.

3 COMMUNICATION

- 3.1 The official notice board is located on the event website at <http://www.regattanetwork.com>. Notices may also be posted in Registration Area (Whiteboard).
- 3.2 All boats are strongly encouraged to have a hand-held VHF radio on board to receive communication from the race committee and to communicate in emergency situations. There will be communications over the VHF radio from the RC to the fleets before and during racing.
- 3.3 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. This restriction also applies to mobile telephones.
- 3.4 A decision whether to use Vakaros Racesense will be made by July 1, 2026 and communicated via an amendment to this NOR. The Vakaros Racesense system would be used to control the starting sequence and notify boats of OCS status immediately after the start signal. If Vakaros Racesense is used, all competitors must have a Vakaros Atlas 2 GPS device mounted on their boat at the designated location. If the competitor does not have an Atlas 2, they must rent, at an additional cost, an Atlas 2 and mounting bracket during registration for the regatta.



4 ENTRY

- 4.1 A boat shall enter the regatta via the entry form on the event website <http://www.regattanetwork.com> and pay the appropriate entry fee. The entry form must be filled in completely. No other forms will be accepted.
- 4.2 Entries will be official only after the Organizing Authority has confirmed that it has received payment of the appropriate entry fee.
- 4.3 The following items shall be provided at the time of boat inspection and registration at the regatta venue:
 - 4.3.1 The boat's World Sailing number to access the International F18 Certificate Database and F18 class certification stickers on the hulls, sails and equipment (mast, daggerboards, rudders).
 - 4.3.2 proof of class membership
 - 4.3.3 proof of age for Junior and Master Competitors as per NoR 15.2.
 - 4.3.4 for competitors under 18 years of age, a completed and signed parent (or guardian) consent and declaration form. The form can be downloaded from the Regatta Network website <http://www.regattanetwork.com>
 - 4.3.5 A copy of valid insurance certificate (see NoR 17).

5 ENTRY FEES

- 5.1 Entries with confirmed payment:

Fee Type	Start Date	End Date	Fee
Early Entry	Mar 1, 2026	Apr 30, 2026	\$ 375
Regular Entry	May 1, 2026	Jul 15, 2026	\$ 425
Late Entry	Jul 16, 2026	Sep 21, 2026	\$ 475
Young Team (1)	Mar 1, 2026	Sep 21, 2026	Deduct \$100

(1) Young Team defined as both helm and crew under 26 years of age (U26) as of Jan 1, 2026 (born after December 31, 2001)

- 5.2 The entry fee must be paid via the online entry form on the event website. The Organizing Authority will be authorized to collect the entry fee electronically.
- 5.3 If an entry is cancelled by the competitor, the entry fee will be refunded as follows:

Cancellation Date	Entry Fee Refund
Through Jul 15, 2026	100% less \$50 Administrative Fee
Jul 16 – Aug 15, 2026	100% less \$100 Administrative Fee
After August 15, 2026	No refund

- 5.4 Two Social Passes will be included with each entry.
- 5.5 Additional Social Passes and event merchandise will be available for purchase on our website: HiltonHeadSailing.com



6 ADVERTISING

6.1 [DP] Competing boats may be required to display advertising of the event sponsor as provided by the Organizing Authority. Boats may also be required to display identification numbers. If this rule is broken, World Sailing Regulation 20.9.2 (Advertising) applies.

7 COMPETITION FORMAT

7.1 With less than 80 entries the competitors will race all together in one fleet and there will be no qualifying series.

8 SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Program
Sat, Sep 19	9:00 am – 5:00 pm	Equipment inspection by appointment
Sun, Sep 20	9:00 am – 5:00 pm 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Equipment inspection by appointment Registration
Mon, Sep 21	9:00 am – noon 9:00 am - noon 11:00 am 1:00 pm 6:00 pm	Registration Equipment inspection by appointment Practice Race Competitor’s Meeting Practice Race Opening Ceremony and Competitor’s Meeting
Tue, Sep 22	11:00 am 6:00 pm	1 st warning signal of the day – 4 races scheduled F18 Class Meeting
Wed, Sep 23	11:00 am	1 st warning signal of the day – 4 races scheduled
Thu, Sep 24	11:00 am 6:00 pm	1 st warning signal of the day – 4 races scheduled Regatta Dinner Party
Fri, Sep 25	11:00 am 3:00 pm 5:00 pm	1 st warning signal of the day – 3 races scheduled No races start after this time Awards Ceremony



- 8.1 Fifteen races are scheduled.
- 8.2 There will be a maximum of four (4) races per day and maximum of three (3) races on the final day.
- 8.3 When more than one race is held on the same day, the warning signal for each succeeding race will be made as soon as practicable, after the finish of the previous race.
- 8.4 On the last scheduled day of racing no warning signal will be made after 3:00 pm except as a consequence of a general recall.

9 MEASUREMENT AND EQUIPMENT INSPECTION

- 9.1 All boats and crews will be weighed as part of the check-in by appointment. Appointments can be made starting on Sep 1st using a process announced on the event website.
- 9.2 Measurement checks may be conducted anytime during the regatta as directed by the Organizing Authority or Chief Measurer.
- 9.3 No primary measurements will be made at the event unless it is agreed between a competitor and an official F18 Class Measurer. If primary measurement assistance is needed contact Trey Sutherland, US Chief Measurer at tsunderland1@gmail.com or 704-402-7180 at least one month before the regatta.
- 9.4 A list of official F18 Class Measurers is available on-line at:
<http://certificate.F18-international.org/measurers>

10 VENUE

- 10.1 The regatta will be held off the beach of Hilton Head Island and the courses will be placed in the Atlantic Ocean or the Port Royal Sound.

11 THE COURSES

- 11.1 The courses will be defined in the sailing instructions. Windward/leeward courses will be used. Windward offset marks and leeward gates may be used.

12 SCORING

- 12.1 Four races are required to be completed to constitute a championship.
- 12.2 When five (5) or fewer races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores.
- 12.3 When six (6) to eleven (11) races have been completed, a boat's score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst excludable score.
- 12.4 When twelve (12) or more races have been completed, a boat's score will be the total of her race scores excluding her two worst excludable scores.

13 SUPPORT BOATS [DP]

- 13.1 All support boats shall be registered with the Organizing Authority and shall be required to comply with local legislation and event support boat regulations. The Organizing Authority may refuse registrations at its sole discretion. (Note – original 13.2 was completely removed)
- 13.2 Support boats shall be required to monitor the safety VHF channel at all times and to undertake safety duties at the direction of the race committee. The safety VHF channel radio frequency will be made available at registration.
- 13.3 Support boats and their crew shall stay at least 150 meters away from all boats racing and must stay outside the lay lines for both upwind and downwind legs



- 13.4** On the water, all support crew shall bring personal flotation devices which are in good condition and are in accordance with the specifications issued or approved by the national authority affiliated to World Sailing, or a standards organization, a certification authority, recognized for the purpose by its respective government. The driver shall always use a kill cord.

14 BERTHING [DP][NP]

- 14.1** Trailers shall be stored only in the parking lot designated for trailers. No trailers are permitted on the beach.
- 14.2** Boats shall be kept in their assigned places while they are parked on the beach.
- 14.3** Boats and trailers are allowed to arrive beginning on September 19, 2026 unless an earlier date is arranged with the OA.

15 AWARDS

- 15.1** The regatta winners will obtain the title “2026 Formula 18 Americas Champions”.
- 15.2** Prizes will be awarded in the following categories, subject to entry numbers:
- ✓ Overall
 - ✓ Mixed Team (Male and Female crew)
 - ✓ Female Helm (Sandra Tartaglino Perpetual Trophy)
 - ✓ Master – both crew shall be over 55 years of age (born before 1st January 1971) or one person (either helm or crew) is 65 years or older (born before 1st January 1961)
 - ✓ Youth – both crew shall be under 26 years of age (born after 31st December 2000)
 - ✓ Family (father/son, mother/daughter, brothers, sisters, excludes mixed teams)
 - ✓ Steve Piche Perseverance Trophy

16 DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

- 16.1** Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. See RRS 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 INSURANCE

- 17.1** Each boat and each support boat shall be insured for third-party liability with a minimum cover of \$300,000 per incident, or the equivalent thereof.

18 MEDIA RIGHTS, CAMERAS AND ELECTRIC EQUIPEMENT

- 18.1** By participating in the event each competitor automatically grants to the Organizing Authority, the IF18CA, and their sponsors the right in perpetuity to make, use and show, from time to time at their discretion, any motion pictures and live, taped or filmed television and other reproductions of the athlete and their equipment during the period of the competition, without compensation.
- 18.2** Boats may be required to carry cameras, sound equipment or positioning equipment as specified and provided by the Organizing Authority.
- 18.3** Cameras, if fitted, must be located underneath the bowsprit and 60 cm back from the bowsprit end cap.
- 18.4** The top three ranked competitors as well as individual race winners may be required to attend



daily media press conferences.

18.5 Competitors may be required to be interviewed during the event.

19 FURTHER INFORMATION

19.1 Please contact:

Regatta Chair:	Joe Tobin	843-816-4990 josephptobin@gmail.com
SCYC Yachting Director:	Mark Newman	607-329-2758 mnewman@scyachtclub.com
PRO:	Chip Till	843-556-6554 chiptill5351@gmail.com
USF18 President:	Steve Stroebel	619-987-4630 steve.stroebel@cox.net

20 EVENT WEBSITE

Please visit (<http://www.HiltonHeadSailing.com>)



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

CHARTER BOATS

The following are points of contact for charter boats:

- Jill Nickerson (Red Gear Racing); funinthesunweb@gmail.com; 727-793-8743
- Hardy Peters (East Coast Sailboats); hardy@eastcoastsailboats.com; 252-489-3491

ARRIVAL

Specific guidance regarding Boat & Trailer arrival arrangements will be provided 1 month prior to event.

NEAREST AIRPORT

Hilton Head Island Airport (HHH) – 12 minutes from SCYC and beach sailing location.

Savannah International Airport (SAV) – 45 Minutes from SCYC and an hour from beach sailing location.

Charleston International Airport (CHS) – 2 Hours from SCYC and 2 hours 15 minutes from beach sailing location.

LODGING

Hotels available on Hilton Head Island and Bluffton area:

The Westin Hilton Head Island Resort & Spa; 2 Grasslawn Ave., Hilton Head Island; 843-681-4000

Hampton Inn Hilton Head; 1 Dillon Road, Hilton Head Island; 843-681-7900

Hilton Head Garden Inn; Hilton Head Island; 843-837-8111

Simple Rewards Garden Inn; Hilton Head Island; 843-533-0072

RV PARKING

There is no RV parking or camping at the regatta beach location. The nearest RV and campgrounds

are: Hilton Head Harbor RV Resort; 43 Jenkins Island Road, Hilton Head Island; 843-681-3256

Hilton Head National RV Resort; 36 Hilton Head National Dr., Bluffton, SC; 843-707-4800

CHANDLERIES

West Marine, HHI [430 William Hilton Pkwy Ste 103, Hilton Head Island · 2.5 mi](#) · (843) 686-5111

Ace Hardware, HHI 3 Northridge Road; Hilton Head Island; (843) 681-5777

East Coast Sailboats, 104 Shores Ave., Point Harbor, NC (252) 489-3491