

2026 Fall MDSA Keelboat Qualifier Championship

**Hosted by
Annapolis Yacht Club
Sailing Center
510 Severn Avenue
Annapolis, Maryland 21403
October 13th – 14th, 2026**

NOTICE OF RACE

1. RULES:

- 1.1 The Organizing Authority (OA) is the Mid-Atlantic Interscholastic Sailing Association (MASSA) in conjunction with the Maryland Interscholastic Sailing Association (MDISA) and Annapolis Yacht Club.
- 1.2 The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), the prescriptions of US SAILING, the ISSA Procedural Rules, the MASSA District Supplemental Rules (including SI's) and Code of Conduct, this Notice of Race, and Addendum to the Sailing Instructions. In the event of a conflict, the Sailing Instructions Addendum will take precedence.
- 1.3 RRS Appendix P is in effect modified per ISSA Procedural Rule 14(c).
- 1.4 In accordance with rule 70.5(a), decisions of the protest committee are final. US Sailing's permission has been granted.

2. ELIGIBILITY:

- 2.1 Competing schools that are not an all-boys or all-girls school, must have at least one of each gender on board at all times.
- 2.2 Competing schools must be members of ISSA and MASSA and meet ISSA and MASSA eligibility rules as prescribed in the Procedural Rules, and the District Rules.
- 2.3 In accordance with ISSA PR 1.3, teams must be accompanied by a designated adult team leader, who may be an advisor, coach or parent recognized by the school.
- 2.4 Selection of competing schools will be by individual league qualifying rules. The regatta has 12 berths. Allocations will be determined by the MDSA Board. Schools should contact their league directors to find out details regarding League qualifiers.

3. ENTRY AND COMMUNICATIONS:

- 3.1 Eligible schools must contact the MDSA Director by email and confirm registration with the regatta chairperson by 5pm on the Friday before the regatta.
- 3.2 Teams unable to compete must notify the regatta chairperson and the MDSA Director as soon as possible.

- 3.3 Any berth not filled by eligible schools by the deadline in 3.1, or thereafter vacated, will be reallocated by the MDSA Director. The first open allocation will go to the host league.
- 3.4 The AYC Waiver of Liability will be sent to registered teams separately. One signed waiver per sailor must be emailed to 420coach@annapolisyc.org to complete the registration process.
- 3.5 Teams shall be comprised of a crew of four (4). The total combined crew weight shall not exceed 650 pounds. Sailors will be weighed in at regatta check-in wearing a minimum of a t-shirt and shorts, without gear. Crew substitutions will not be allowed except in the case of an emergency and with the written permission of the OA.

4. ENTRY FEE & DAMAGE DEPOSIT:

- 4.1 There will be a \$100 entry fee for the regatta. Please make checks payable to Annapolis Yacht Club, Inc.
- 4.2 Prior to helming a boat, each Team/School shall provide a damage deposit of \$2,000. The deposit can be made either by providing credit card information or an AYC member number, if applicable.
- 4.3 The deposit is a per-incident maximum. If a helmsman has more than one incident, he or she is then liable for up to \$2,000 for each individual incident.
- 4.4 While the OA will attempt to identify all damage at the post-regatta inspection, sometimes this is not possible due to the nature of the damage. The helmsmen are responsible for all damage, even if it is discovered only after the post-regatta inspection.
- 4.5 If there is material damage to a boat that is not covered by insurance and no one acknowledges responsibility (e.g., crews are rotated among the boats and no one reports the damage), the cost of repairs will be charged to all helmsmen prorated by the number of races each helmsman sailed the boat.

5. BOATS:

- 5.1 Sonars will be provided by Annapolis Yacht Club. Boats will be sailed as provided.
- 5.2 AYC boats are equalized, and no equipment, settings, or sails should be adjusted by sailors at any time before, during, or after the regatta.
- 5.3 Collisions causing damage will be dealt with by jury in accordance with RRS rules 14, 67, & 69.

6. SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

Tuesday (10/13/26):

3:30 PM - Report time/Rigging of Boats/Weigh-In

4:00 PM - Competitors Meeting

First Warning - as soon as reasonably possible after launching

6:30 PM - No warning signal after
After Racing – Trophies/Awards for Competitors (Top 3 Finishers only)

Wednesday (10/14/26): (Back-up date if no wind)

3:30 PM - Report time/Rigging of Boats/Weigh-In
4:00 PM - Competitors Meeting
First Warning - as soon as reasonably possible after launching
6:30 PM - No warning signal after
After Racing – Trophies/Awards for Competitors (Top 3 Finishers only)

- 6.1 Changes to the official schedule will be posted on the official notice board & on TechScore.
7. **RACING AREA:** All races will be sailed on the Severn River or the Chesapeake Bay.
8. **COURSES:** Based on conditions, the Race Committee will determine the courses as prescribed in ISSA PR 7.7. W-4 will be preferred.
9. **FORMAT:** Format will be detailed in the Competitors meeting.
10. **SCORING:** The regatta will be scored in accordance with ISSA Procedural Rules.
11. **RECORD OF PARTICIPATION:** Teams must complete the online RP forms in Tech Score before noon on the Monday, after the regatta. Failure to comply will result in penalties as outlined in ISSA Procedural Rule 4.3 (20 pts/division in fleet racing or + 2 losses and -2 wins in team racing). This modifies the deadline time in ISSA PR 4.3(b).
12. **SAFETY/EQUIPMENT:**
 - 12.1 Competitors shall wear inherently buoyant personal flotation devices designated as USCG “wearable” in accordance with ISSA PR 2.2. Inflatable type PFDs are not permitted.
 - 12.2 The race committee may require the use of drysuits or full-length wetsuits if the combined air and water temperature is below 120 degrees. This may be announced at the daily competitors’ meeting and need not be signaled.
 - 12.3 Failure to comply with 12.1 or 12.2 above will be grounds for disqualification from all races sailed in contravention of those instructions.
 - 12.4 Team pinnies must be worn per ISSA PR 2.4. A 20-point penalty will be applied to the division in which the sailors did not comply. No hearing is required.
 - 12.5 Competitors shall supply the equipment to meet the requirements of 12.1, 12.2, and 12.4 above.
 - 12.6 At its discretion, the Race Committee or Organizing Authority may require a competitor to retire from racing if the competitor is determined to be a risk to their own or others’ safety.
13. **COACHING:**

- 13.1 Will be in accordance with ISSA PR 8.
- 13.2 Coaches will be provided with AYC RIBs to watch racing.
- 13.3 Competitors may receive coaching, including instruction, assistance, equipment, or sustenance, only between races.
- 13.4 Except in an emergency, coaches cannot communicate with their teams by VHF.
- 14. **HAUL-OUT RESTRICTIONS:** Boats shall not be hauled out during the regatta except with and according to the terms of prior written permission of the race committee.
- 15. **RADIO COMMUNICATION:** The race committee intends to make courtesy broadcasts to competitors on VHF radio. The specific channel will be stated in the sailing instructions. VHF Communications will not be grounds for redress. Each boat will be responsible for bringing their own VHF Radio.
- 16. **AWARDS:** An Annapolis Keelboat perpetual award will be awarded to the school placing 1st Place Overall. Additional 1st, 2nd, 3rd place trophies will be given to all 4 sailors on board.
- 17. **RIGHTS TO USE NAME AND LIKENESS:** By participating in this event, competitors automatically grant to the Organizing Authority and the event sponsors the right, in perpetuity, to make, use and show, at their discretion, any photography, audio and video recordings, and other reproductions of them made at the venue or on the water from the time of their arrival at the venue, until their final departure, without compensation.
- 18. **WAIVER OF LIABILITY:** Sailing is an activity that has an inherent risk of damage and injury. Competitors in this event are participating entirely at their own risk. See RRS 3, Decision to Race.

The race organizers (organizing authority, race committee, protest committee, host club, sponsors, or any other organization or official) will not be responsible for damage to any boat or other property or the injury to any competitor, including death, sustained as a result of participation in this event. By participating in this event, each competitor agrees to release the race organizers from any and all liability associated with such competitor's participation in this event to the fullest extent permitted by law.

19. **REGATTA CONTACTS:**

Robert Lippincott
AYC Director of Junior Sailing/**Regatta Chair/PRO**
420coach@annapolisyc.org
(410)-263-9267 ext. 109