



Sailing Instructions
Banderas Bay Regatta XXXII
March 17-21, 2026

1. Rules

- 1.1. The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in World Sailing ***Racing Rules of Sailing 2025-2028 (RRS)***, the NOR and these Sailing Instructions. In any conflict between the NOR and these Sailing Instructions, the Sailing Instructions shall prevail. RRS are available on-line. Please be advised this is a FUN RACE. Protests are strongly discouraged. We expect those more experienced in racing rules to be tolerant of those who have less experience racing.
- 1.2. The Prescriptions of the Mexican Sailing Federation will not apply.

2. TIMES

All times posted, and in these instructions will be Jalisco time (central standard time), stated in 24-hour clock time. Coordinate your watch with your GPS. Mexico DOES NOT use DST.

3. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

Notices to competitors will be posted on the **Official Notice Board (ONB)**. The ONB(s) are online: Facebook (should be able to see history) and WhatsApp (only messages after you join)

4. SKIPPERS MEETING

There will be a Skippers Meeting on Tuesday, March 17, 2026, at 1700 at the Vallarta Yacht Club. The Skippers Meeting will start promptly at 1700. Racing Numbers will be assigned before and distributed at the Skippers Meeting. This will be your last chance to pay your registration fee if you did not pay online. If you selected Offline Payment, please arrive early to pay your fees before the meeting.

5. CHANGES IN SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any changes in the Sailing Instructions will be posted on the **ONB**.

Any changes in the schedule of races will be posted on the **ONB** by 2000 on the day before that change will take effect. They may also be announced by radio before the start.

6. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

There will be no signals made ashore. Any notices will be posted in accordance with item 5 above.

7. SCHEDULE OF RACES AND SIGNAL FLAGS

7.1. The schedule for the start of all races is in **Attachment E**

7.2. The class flags are International Number Pennants. Start 1 = Pennant 1 etc.

8. RACING BOAT NUMBERS

All competitors are required to display bow numbers. These numbers must be mounted before the first race per the instruction in **Attachment D**. Numbers will be provided courtesy of our sponsors.

9. RACING AREA AND COURSES

- 9.1. The starting area will be on the Nayarit side of Banderas Bay one to three miles north of the Nuevo Vallarta channel entrance, Illustrated in **Attachment C - 2026 BBR Courses (separate document to reduce wasted paper for printing)**.
 - 9.2. No later than the Preparatory Signal for each start the Course for each Class will be announced on **VHF 72**. The Course Number *may* be displayed on a whiteboard from the RC Signal Boat.
 - 9.3. No later than 10 minutes before the warning signal, the Race Committee will announce on **VHF 72** the bearing and distance of the first leg.
 - 9.4. If a mark has drifted off station or is missing, a mark set boat will display the "M" flag at the mark location. As a courtesy, please inform race committee on **VHF 72** if you believe the mark has drifted off station or is missing.
 - 9.5. In cases where there is a difference between the mark location as given these instructions as latitude and longitude and the actual location of the mark on the water, the location on the water will prevail.
10. Before the Attention Signal each day, each boat *shall* check in by sailing past the stern of the race committee boat on **Starboard Tack** and hail her boat number until acknowledged by the Race Committee repeating the boat's number. **There is no VHF check in**. If a yacht does not check in the Race Committee may add three places to her finishing place. A time check may be announced on **VHF 72** 30 minutes before the start of Class 1. If a pursuit race is run the Race Committee will advise the modified check in time cut off.

11. START

- 11.1. The Race Committee will attempt to make three short sound signals five minutes before the first Warning Signal when they set the Orange Start Line Flag.
- 11.2. The races will be started according to racing Rule 26.
- 11.3. The start line is between the Race Committee **orange flag** on the **port** side of the committee boat and the **red buoy** at the **port** end of the start line. There may be a buoy off the port quarter of the RC signal boat, which should be considered part of the RC signal boat. Items temporarily attached to a Mark are part of the Mark. The Race Committee may announce the names of the boats for each start and may give countdown to signals on **VHF 72**
- 11.4. The Race Committee may elect to use a **Start Window** for one or more of the Cruising Classes. Competitors will be notified on the ONB if a Start Window will be in effect. When a competitor's class flag is raised the competitor will have 5 minutes to cross the start line. Each boat's actual start time will be recorded and used to calculate overall course time. Boats that cross the start line after the 5 minute window will be given a start of the end of the window. The end of the window will be signified by the lowering of the class flag.
- 11.5. **Boats whose Warning Signal has not been made shall keep clear of the Starting Area during the starting sequence for other races. Breach of this SI shall not be grounds for protest by a boat, but the race committee may protest those boats. At the discretion of the protest committee, the penalty for breaches of this SI may be less than disqualification.**

12. TIME LIMIT

- 12.1. The time limit for all classes will be 4 hours after their start each day. If one boat finishes within the time limit all boats that finish in that class shall be scored.

- 12.2. The committee may shorten the course at a rounding mark. If the Race Committee shortens the course, it will display Code Flag 'S' with two sound signals as the first boat approaches. The finishing line will be, between the rounding mark and the nearby Race Committee boat.

13. SAFETY AND VHF CHANNEL

- 13.1. Yachts withdrawing from the race must inform the Race Committee as soon as possible. The Race Committee will monitor **VHF 72** for communication and emergencies. **No questions will be answered after the time check 30 minutes before the first warning flag.**

14. PENALTIES

- 14.1. A boat that may have broken a racing rule of RRS Part 2 may take a penalty at the time of the incident. RRS 44.2 is changed to a One Turn Penalty including one tack and one gibe.
- 14.2. Protest forms are available at the Vallarta Yacht Club. Protests and requests for redress shall be delivered to the Protest Committee representative within the protest filing time limit which is 60 minutes after the last boat has finished. Protest Time Limit will be posted on the ONB. ***This is a FUN Regatta; protests eat into Happy Hour and are discouraged. However, it is much better to protest than to argue on the dock. Our preferred protest meeting is shaking hands and buying a round of beers.***

15. Handicaps

- 15.1. It is the responsibility of the skipper to check his/her own class and rating information and to report any errors to the Race Committee, in writing, prior to 18:00 on March 18, 2026.
- 15.2. The races will be scored using Time-On-Time based on each boat's handicap.
- 15.3. Inspections – All the Cruising Adjustment items requested in the boat's application shall be on board and available for inspection. Spot checks by the Race Committee may be carried out prior to the warning signal and after a boat finishes. Boats finishing 3rd or higher may be required to report to the dock at VYC for inspection directly after they finish. The Race Committee will hail boats that must report for inspection on VHF 72 within 10 minutes of their finish.
- 15.4. **The Race Committee will be the final authority on ratings and reserves the right to inspect and re-rate any vessel at any time prior to the regatta. The VYC Regatta Committee reserves the right to adjust base ratings based on past performance or additional rating sources. *Provisional Ratings may be changed at anytime during the Regatta up to the warning of the last race for the class.***

16. YACHT PREPARATION

- 16.1. *This is a cruisers regatta.* Boats taking cruisers' handicap should be sailed "as is".

16.2. EXCEPTIONS:

- Dinghies, boards, kayaks and similar may be removed.
- Bicycles and carts may be removed.
- ***Anchors should be removed from bows and stowed elsewhere on the vessel. DO NOT SAIL WITHOUT AN ANCHOR. Boats sailing without anchors on board do not meet our safety requirements and may be protested by the Race Committee.***
- On-deck fuel and water containers may be removed.

- Any other equipment stowed on-deck that may hinder the safe operation of the vessel during a race may be removed from deck.

17. SCORING

- 17.1.** At least one race must be completed to constitute the Regatta.
- 17.2.** The Low Point Scoring system in RRS Appendix A4.1 will be used.
- 17.3.** All races will be scored; there will be no throw-outs. This changes RRS Appendix A2.

18. PRIZES

- 18.1.** Prizes will be given for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in each Class of three or more boats. BBR Awards will be presented at the Awards Party Saturday, March 21 starting at 1900.
- 18.2.** Race results will be posted online and on the Official Race Notice Board, approximately one hour after the Race Committee returns to the dock.

19. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

Competitors participate in the Banderas Bay Regatta entirely at their own risk. The Vallarta Yacht Club as well as the Race Committee, sponsors & organizers will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with, prior to, or during this Regatta and races.

Attachment D

Sailing Instructions BBR XXXIII

Assigned Boat Number Instructions

It will be the responsibility of the skipper to place the assigned boat number on the port AND starboard side bow, or on the sail for beach catamarans.

Use the numbers provided by Vallarta Yacht Club if possible. These Hull numbers should stay on for the regatta and be fairly easy to remove (a heat gun will help).

If for some reason the numbers don't work for you:

Black or blue tape or silver duct tape on the Hull(s) is acceptable. Make sure the number sticks (or replace it) for all 3 days of the Regatta.

The numbers must be in Arabic (not Roman) numerals. They may be rounded or square, just so they are readable to the Race Committee.

Numbers must be at least 18" high, 12" wide, and 2" thick. (As a guide, this page is 8 ½ x 11 inches.)



Attachment E

Sailing Instructions BBR XXXIII

Schedule and Signals

On the Water and Racing Schedule

Date	Event	First Warning	Time Limit
Wednesday March 18	Boat Parade (at RC boat)	1400	1430
Wednesday March 18	Start Your Heart Out and Practice Race	1430	1500
Wednesday March 18	VYC Wednesday Beer Ran Race which is not a part of BBR	1500	
Thursday March 19	Race 1 see Note	1300	1700
Friday March 20	Race 2	1300	1700
Saturday March 21	Race 3 see Note	1300	1700

Note: Most classes are scheduled for one race each day, but the RC may choose to run two or more races for a specific class.

Proposed Course and Class Schedule (Subject to change prior to Start)

Date	Course Options & Classes
Thursday March 19	
Friday March 20 Pursuit Race	All Classes Course 8
Saturday March 21	

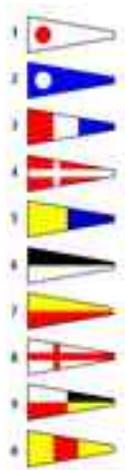
The Starting Times for the Pursuit Race on Friday will be posted as per SI #5

Starting Sequence:

Warning: Class Flag UP – 5 minutes to start - Sound
Preparatory: “P” Flag UP – 4 minutes to start - Sound
Preparatory: “P” Flag DOWN – 1 minute to start – Long Sound
Start: Class Flag DOWN – Start - Sound

See Rule 26 for details ... or come out and watch a start or two on Wednesday to see how it works, then play!

We use a rolling start sequence for BBR. The first class start signal is the warning signal for the next class. We will use Number Pennants for the warning signals.



Class 1 – Pennant 1
Class 2 – Pennant 2
Etc.

Any class that is called for General Recall will restart after the last scheduled class. If more than one class is under General Recall it will follow the previous recalled class.