



**25th BOSPHORUS CUP
IRC-ORC REGATTA
SAILING INSTRUCTION
September 17-18-19, 2026**

ORGANIZING AUTHORITY:

The Organising Authority is **VİRA Yachting and Rowing Club** in conjunction with the **Turkish Sailing Federation (TYF)** and **ORG Sports**.

The race is part of the Turkish Sailing Federation (TYF) programme.

1. RULES

1.1 The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in the current Racing Rules of Sailing 2025 – 2028.

1.2 2026 IMS Rules, 2026 ORC Rules, 2026 IRC Rules will apply.

1.3 In the event of conflict between the Notice of Race and the Sailing Instructions, the Sailing Instructions shall prevail (this changes RRS 63.7).

1.4 If there is a conflict between languages the English text will take precedence.

1.5 The notation '[NP]' (No Protest) in a rule means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1(a). The reference to [DP] (Discretionary Penalty) in a rule means that the penalty for a breach of that rule, at the discretion of the International Jury may be less than a disqualification.

1.6 In areas where state right-of-way rules apply, the WS RRS Part 2 Rules are replaced by and applied in accordance with the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREG-72) between sunset and sunrise. During this period, vessels shall keep their required navigation lights lit in such a way that they are not obscured by their sails.

1.7 The Organizing Authority may require Bow Numbers to be used on competing boats. In this case, where the numbers will be obtained and how they will be used will be announced on the official notice board.

1.8 The National Authority's prescriptions will not apply. However, the TYF license and sail number allocation rules will apply to Turkish athletes and boats.

2. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

2.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the official ON-LINE notice board at:
www.bosphoruscup.org

2.2 Checking the official ON-LINE notice board web site at all times is the sole responsibility of the competitors, no requests for redress will be accepted for noncompliance.

3. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any changes to the sailing instructions will be posted before 09:00 hours on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted before 20:00 hours of the day before it will take effect.

4. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

4.1 When flag "AP" is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 60 minutes' in the race signal AP. This changes RRS "Race Signals".

4.2 When Flag "D" is displayed ashore with one sound signal means 'The warning signal will be made not less than 60 minutes after flag "D" is displayed. Boats shall not leave their berth until this signal is made.

4.3 When flag "Y" is displayed ashore, Rule 40 applies at all times while afloat. This changes the Part 4 preamble.

5. OVERALL EVENT SCHEDULE

5.1

Tuesday, September 15	:	17:00 - Closing of entries,
Wednesday, September 16	:	19:00 - Skippers Meeting-Istanbul Sailing Club
Thursday, September 17	:	Warning Signal TBA - Races on Marmara Sea
Friday, September 18	:	Warning Signal TBA - Races on Marmara Sea
Saturday, September 19	:	12:00 , Warning Signal - Race on the Bosphorus
Saturday , September 19	:	20:30, Prize Giving Ceremony - Çırağan Palace Kempinski

5.2 The event shall take place over 3 racing days and comprise 6 races. There should be no more than 3 races per day, but the schedule may be amended during the regatta to hold up to 4 races on any racing day if needed to complete the regatta series.

5.3 On same racing day, the warning signal of the next succeeding race will be made as soon as practicable.

5.4 On Saturday, September 19th, 2026 no warning signal will be made after 15:00 hrs.

6. CLASS FLAGS

IRC 0	PINK colored flag
IRC 1	YELLOW colored flag
IRC 2	GREEN colored flag
IRC 3	DARK BLUE colored flag
IRC 4	ORANGE colored flag
Cruiser	WHITE colored flag

7. RACING AREA

7.1 Marmara Sea Races: Kalamış, Dalyan, Caddebostan, Kınalıada, Heybeliada, Zeytinburnu, Ahırkapı, Ataköy

7.2 Bosphorus Race: Ortaköy, Arnavutköy, Bebek, Aşiyan, Kanlıca, Anadolu Hisarı, Göksu, Küçüksu, Kandilli, Çengelköy, Beylerbeyi.

8. THE COURSE

8.1 Marmara Sea Courses: Windward-Leeward courses and/or Short distance coastal courses.

Bosphorus Race will be a coastal course.

8.2 No later than the warning signal, the Race Committee start vessel will display the approximate compass bearing of the first leg.

8.3 Courses can be shortened or altered in compliance with RRS 32 or RRS 33.

8.4 The windward leeward races cannot be shortened before the end of the leg to Mark 1 for the second time (This changes Rule 32). Coastal Race can be shortened anytime by the decision of the Race Committee.

8.5 At the leeward gate, boats shall sail between the gate marks from the direction of the previous mark and round either gate mark. If one of the two gate marks is missing, then the remaining mark shall be rounded to port.

8.6 The course to be sailed will be announced via **VHF 73** no later than the warning signal and will be displayed on the Race Committee signal boat's board.

Failure to receive the announcement shall not be grounds for a request for redress. (This changes RRS61.1(a)).

8.7 The courses to be sailed will be published on the official website.

9. MARKS

9.1 The rounding marks, the offset mark, the finish mark, and the starting mark will be yellow colored with "Bosphorus Cup" branding.

9.2 Different shapes/colors of the marks shall not be grounds for a request for redress. (This changes RRS 61.1(a)).

10. REPORTING AT COMMITTEE START VESSEL

Before the start procedure of the first race of the day, boats shall pass behind the Race Committee signal boat and ensure they have been seen. Boats failing to do so may be scored 'DNS' in the first race of the day without a hearing.

11. THE START

11.1 Races will be started according to RRS 26 with the warning signal given 5 minutes before the starting signal.

11.2 The starting line is between the staff displaying an orange flag on the signal boat at the starboard end and the staff displaying an orange flag on the line boat or the starting mark at the port end.

In the Bosphorus race, for courses with a general northerly direction, the starting line is between the staff displaying an orange flag on the signal boat at the port end and the staff displaying an orange flag on the line boat or the starting mark at the starboard end.

11.3 To alert the boats that a race will begin soon, the orange flag at the starting line will be displayed with one sound signal, at least 5 minutes before a warning signal is made.

11.4 A boat that does not start within 4 minutes after her starting signal will be scored DNS without a hearing. This changes RRS A4 and RRS A5.

11.5 The Race Committee start vessel, when necessary, may keep her position by using her engine. This will not be ground for redress (This changes rule 61.1(a).)

12. CHANGING THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

12.1 A change of the next leg of the course will be made as in RRS 33.

12.2 If the Race Committee believes it is necessary, a new Orange mark will be placed and replaced by the previous one.

12.3 Any action or no action by the Race Committee under SI 12 will not be grounds for redress. (This changes RRS 61.1(a).)

13. THE FINISH

13.1 The finishing line will be between a staff displaying a blue flag on the Race Committee vessel at the starboard end and a yellow mark with Bosphorus Cup branding on the port end.

13.2 A boat that fails to finish within 30 minutes of the finishing time of the leading boat in its respective group shall be scored Did Not Finish (DNF) (This changes RRS 35, A4 and A5).

14. PENALTY SYSTEM

14.1 As a change to Rule 44.1, the two turns penalty is replaced by one turn penalty.

14.2 [DP] A breach of rules other than RRS 28 and RRS 31 and those in Part2 shall, after a hearing, be given a penalty ranging from 10% of the number of boats registered to disqualification at discretion of the International Jury.

15. TIME LIMITS

15.1 Target times and time limits:

- Windward-leeward races: Target time will be 60 to 70 minutes and the time limit is 120 minutes.
- Coastal races: Target time will be 120 to 140 minutes and the time limit is 180 minutes.
- Bosphorus Race: Target time is 180 minutes and the time limit is the race will be done by 17:00.

15.2. If the sun sets while the race is still in progress after any boat in the overall fleet has finished within the time limit, the rounding and finishing marks will be illuminated.

15.3 If no boat passed Mark 1 for the first time within 60 minutes of the start, the race will be abandoned.

16. PROTESTS

16.1 A boat intending to protest, in addition to complying with RRS 60.2, shall inform the Race Committee immediately after the finishing of the related race. This will be also possible online. If the protestor does not finish the race, she shall inform the Race Committee as soon as possible or the Race Office immediately after arriving ashore(This changes RRS 60).

16.2 Protests, requests for redress or reopening shall be in writing and lodged at the Race Office within 60 minutes after the respective boat finishes the last race of the day. For the Bosphorus Race, protests, requests for redress or reopening shall be lodged within 90 minutes after the respective boat finishes race. The applicable protest time limit will be posted on the official notice board and on the www.bosphoruscup.org website. The same protest time applies to all protests by the Race Committee, Technical Committee, and International Jury, and to requests for redress. Protest time limit can be extended at discretion of the International Jury if deemed necessary. Protest forms are available at the Race Office. The schedule of hearings will be posted on the Official Notice Board (ONB) and on the website within 30 minutes after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses.

16.3 The protest fee is 200 Euros and should be paid during application.

16.4 Hearings may be conducted before the end of Protest Time Limit if all the parties agree. Schedule for Hearings will be organized online, the meetings will be held at the Race Headquarters.

16.5 There will be an International Jury established in accordance with Appendix N, whose decisions will be final as provided by RRS 70.3.

17. SCORING

17.1 The low point scoring system of RRS Appendix A will apply.

17.2 At least 2 races are required to be completed to constitute a regatta.

17.3

- Sea of Marmara Races Day 1 and Day 2: No discard if 3 races are sailed.
There will be one discard if 4 or more races will be sailed.
- Bosphorus Race Day 3 : The Bosphorus race will not be discarded.

17.4 Scoring will be calculated both by divisions and overall in IRC and ORC Class.

18. CLASSES :

18.1 The grouping of participating boats shall be established in accordance with the values stated on their IRC Certificates and the rating bands specified in the Notice of Race. Boats holding a valid ORC Certificate in addition to an IRC Certificate shall also be scored and ranked separately in the ORC classes.

18.2 Starting procedures and the courses to be sailed shall be determined in accordance with the IRC class divisions. Such boats shall be scored and ranked separately under both the IRC and ORC rating systems.

18.3 However, if there is any difference in the boat's configuration, equipment, or crew weight between its IRC Certificate and ORC Certificate, the boat shall be scored only in the class corresponding to the configuration and equipment it declares. In the absence of such a declaration, the Organizing Authority may assign the boat to a single class at its discretion.

18.4 Boats holding an ORC Certificate but no IRC Certificate shall be assigned to the IRC class deemed most appropriate based on the APH value stated on their ORC Certificate. Such boats shall start with the assigned IRC class and sail the course designated for that class.

19. CORRECTED TIME CALCULATION FOR CRUISER CLASS

Corrected Time for Cruiser Classes (CT) = Elapsed Time (ET) x Time Correction Factor (TCF)

For the Cruiser Class, TCF is calculated as follows.

$TCF = (0,2424 \times \sqrt{R}) / (1 + 0,0567 \times \sqrt{R})$ R (Rating) = LOA (m) x 2,65 and is subject to Age Reduction.

For the Cruiser Class, the spinnaker (symmetrical and/or asymmetrical) penalty is %10 higher than the age reduced rating.

The corrected rating of NON-IRC(CRUISER) boats having foldable propeller are applied as +%5

The corrected rating of NON-IRC(CRUISER) boats having daggerboard are applied as +%5

20. CRUISER CLASS AGE DISCOUNT

2026 -- %0,00	2018 -- %3,60	
2025 -- %0,40	2017 -- %4,40	
2024 -- %0,80	2016 -- %5,20	
2023 -- %1,20	2015 -- %6,00	
2022 -- %1,60	2014 -- %6,80	
2021 -- %2,00	2013 -- %7,60	
2020 -- %2,40	2012 -- %8,40	
2019 -- %2,80	2011 -- %9,20	2010 and for older %10

21. HANDICAP SYSTEM

21.1. The IRC and ORC handicap systems will be applied.

21.2. For ORC handicap calculations, a valid 2026 ORC International or ORC Club certificate will be used. In order for the calculation to be valid, the 2026 certificate must be uploaded to the ORC database.

- **Buoy races** will use the **PCS W/L** or **PCS Constructed Course** method.
- **Bosphorus races** will use the **TOT W/L** or **TOT All Purpose** method.
- **Coastal races** will use either **PCS All Purpose** or **TOT All Purpose** for corrected time calculation.

The choice of ORC handicap calculation method, including scoring parameters such as course length, leg angles, wind direction and speed, shall be at the discretion of the Race Committee. These decisions and values shall not be grounds for a Request for Redress. (Amends WS RRS Rule 61.1(a)) The scoring method used for ORC handicap calculations will be specified in the official results.

21.3. Cruiser Class: The Time on Time (TOT) system will be used. Results will be calculated using the formula:

CT (Corrected Time) = EET (Elapsed Elapsed Time) × TCF (rating)

where **R (Rating) = LOA (in meters) × 2.65**, adjusted for **Age Reduction**.

22. RACE OFFICE and SIGNAL MAST

22.1 The Race Office is located at Istanbul Sailing Club

(Address: Alara Sok. No: 8A, Fenerbahçe Burnu, Kadıköy, İstanbul 34726, Türkiye)

22.2. Signals made ashore will be displayed on the Official Signal Mast (OSM) located at the Race Office.

23. REPLACEMENT OF CREW or EQUIPMENT

23.1 The minimum number of crew members on board shall not be less than three (3) persons in all classes.

23.2 With the prior knowledge and approval of the Organizing Authority, Media Representatives shall not be counted towards the crew number and/or weight limits specified in the Notice of Race, and must adhere strictly to all applicable safety regulations.

23.3 If there is any change to the crew list stated on the Entry Form, the changes shall be notified in writing to the Race Office or the Race Committee no later than 120 (one hundred and twenty) minutes before the scheduled Warning Signal. Scanned images of the valid front side of the 2026 crew members' current licences shall also be submitted to the Race Office before the Warning Signal. Changes to crew and/or equipment shall not be made without the prior approval of the Race Committee, Protest Committee, Technical Official or Technical Committee.

23.4 If an equipment is to be changed at sea, the boat shall first obtain the verbal approval of the Race Committee via the designated VHF channel, followed by written notification ashore. The damaged equipment shall be made available for inspection by the Race Committee, Technical Official or Technical Committee.

23.5 If an equipment is to be changed ashore between race days, the boat shall notify the Race Committee in writing no later than 20:00 hrs. on the day before the change is to take effect. The damaged equipment shall be made available for inspection by the Race Committee, Technical Official or Technical Committee.

24. MEASUREMENT CONTROLS and WEIGHT LIMITS

A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the rules and sailing instructions.

25. OFFICIAL VESSELS

25.1 The Race Committee boats will display a blue flag with white "Race Committee" on it. Media boats will display a green flag with white "MEDIA" on it. Hospitality boats will display a violet flag with white "Hospitality" on it.

25.2 [DP] Failure of an official boat to be in position or to display appropriate signal will not be grounds for redress(This changes rule 62.1(a).)

26. SUPPORT BOATS [DP]

26.1 Team leaders, coaches, photographers and other support personnel may use "Support Vessel" to assist their competitors on the water.

They shall register at the regatta office prior to the first scheduled race, providing details of their boats and distinctive identification.

26.2 Coach/Support Vessel shall not tow competitors out to the race course(unless requested to by the Race Committee) and may only tow boats in after the last competitor has finished.

26.3 Boats smaller than 4.2m length, without engine kill cord, anchor and anchor rope and coaches/supporters without life jackets will not be accepted on the water.

26.4 Team leader, coaches, photographer and other support boats shall stay more than 150 meters to leeward of the starting line and from the leeward marks and from any racing boat from the time of the preparatory signal until all boats have finished that race or all races have been abandoned.

26.5 In the event of an emergency the Race Committee may request support boats for their assistance.

27. HAUL-OUT RESTRICTIONS

All boats shall be afloat before 19:00 hours on Wednesday, September 16th and shall not be hauled out during the regatta except with, and according to the terms of prior written permission of the International Jury.

28. PLASTIC POOLS AND DIVING EQUIPMENT

Underwater breathing apparatus, including snorkels, plastic pools or their equivalent shall not be used below the waterline after 19:00 hours on Wednesday, September 16th till end of regatta except prior written permission of the International Jury.

29. RADIO COMMUNICATION

29.1 All boats must carry a functioning VHF radio capable of receiving international marine band frequencies.

29.2 Except in an emergency, a boat shall neither make nor receive radio transmissions whilst racing except those available to all boats. This restriction also applies to mobile telephones and smartphones.

29.3 The Race Committee will use VHF 73, official website and WhatsApp to communicate with the Fleet, including the course selection, starting area, countdown to the start, OCS/UFD sail numbers, general recalls, black flag (BFD) and postponements, information on wind and current at mark one.

29.4 Failure to make these broadcasts or failure to hear them shall not constitute grounds for redress. This changes rule 61.1(a). VHF 73 will be used to communicate with competitors unless stated otherwise.

29.5 In addition, the following GSM number +90 505 794 89 62 (Çiğdem Şakaklı) is only for safety reasons and only to be used in emergencies.

30. BERTHING

All boats shall be parked in their designated places in the marina.

31. LIABILITY and INSURANCE

31.1 Competitors participate in the races under their sole personal responsibility (RRS 4 - Decision to race). Race Committee, officials, volunteers and the Organizers shall not be responsible and will not accept any liability for any loss, damage, death or personal injury however caused prior, during or after racing.

32.2 It is for the boat to decide whether she is fit to sail in the conditions she will find herself. By going to compete in them.

33.3 Competing boats imperatively shall have additional racing clause in their insurance policies.

33.4 All owners/persons in charge who sign the Entry Form are deemed to have made a declaration that they hold third-party liability insurance as required by the Notice of Race. Competitors are also advised to effect their own personal accident insurance.

33.5 All registering to the Bosphorus Cup 2025 fully accept all conditions of the notice of race and these sailing instructions.

34. SAFETY

34.1 Yacht owners and their crew shall insure themselves for all risks. During races with over 20 knots of wind, competitors shall wear lifejackets during all times on the water.

34.2 A boat that retires from a race or intends not to start shall notify the Race Committee as soon as possible.

Bosphorus Cup 2026