

**BALKAN**  
MATCH RACE  
CUP



**NOTICE of RACE**  
**2026**

***BALKAN MATCH RACE CUP 2026***

**NOTICE of RACE**

*Bulgaria 15/5 - 17/5/2026*

*Romania 19/11/2026 - 22/11/2026*

*Greece - 11/12 - 13/12/2026*

The following abbreviations apply to this Notice of Race and the Sailing Instructions:

PC: Protest Committee or International Jury

NoR: Notice of Race

OA: Organising Authority

RRS: *Racing Rules of Sailing*

SI: Sailing Instructions

RC: Race Committee

## **1 RULES**

- 1.1 The event is governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing*, including RRS Appendix C
- 1.2 The rules for handling boats and the equipment list, detailed in the Sailing Instructions, will apply to all practice sailing and sponsor races. Class rules will not apply.
- 1.3 The notation '[NP]' in a rule of the Notice of Race or Sailing Instructions means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1(a).
- 1.4 (a) Delete RRS 40.2 and replace it with: "Rule 40.1 applies to all boats when afloat."  
(b) RRS C8.7 may be changed in the Sailing Instructions.
- 1.5 Any national authority prescriptions that apply shall be posted on the official notice board.
- 1.6 If there is a conflict between languages, the English text takes precedence.
- 1.7 All events have applied for World Sailing Grade **4**. This grading is subject to review by World Sailing. The event may be regraded when there is a clear reason.
- 1.8 The Organising Authority reserves the right to select invited skippers in order to ensure a competitive and balanced event.

## **2 SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

The SI's will be available one (1) week before the scheduled dates for each event and will be posted on the official notice board.

## **3 COMMUNICATION**

- 3.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the online official notice board, located at:

<i>VENUE</i>	<i>ONB</i>
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<i>Iskar Dam, Bulgaria</i>	<a href="https://t.me/+xmGt_nYtPhxkNTlk">https://t.me/+xmGt_nYtPhxkNTlk</a>
<i>LifeHarbour Limanu Marina, Romania</i>	<a href="https://t.me/+xmGt_nYtPhxkNTlk">https://t.me/+xmGt_nYtPhxkNTlk</a>
<i>Kavala, Greece</i>	<a href="https://t.me/+xmGt_nYtPhxkNTlk">https://t.me/+xmGt_nYtPhxkNTlk</a>

## 4 ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

4.1 8 skippers will be invited for each event.

4.2 Skippers who participated in the Match Race Championship 2025 season may be invited first, at the discretion of the Organising Authority (OA).

4.3 Skippers who did not participate in the 2025 season and wish to be considered for an invitation may submit a Request for Invitation by completing the form on the event website here: <https://www.balkanmatchrace.org/>  
**Submission of a Request for Invitation does NOT constitute an entry to the event.**

4.4 Only skippers who receive an official invitation from the OA and who confirm acceptance of that invitation shall be eligible to enter the event.

4.5 An entry in the event is only valid once:

- (a) An official invitation has been issued by the OA,
- (b) The skipper has confirmed acceptance of the invitation,
- (c) all registration requirements have been completed, and
- (d) All entry fees have been paid.

4.6 All competitors shall obtain a World Sailing Sailor ID by registering online at [www.sailing.org/sailor\\_id\\_request.php](http://www.sailing.org/sailor_id_request.php). Skippers shall inform the OA of their World Sailing Sailor ID at registration.

4.7 The skipper shall complete all registration requirements and pay the entry fee no later than:

<i>VENUE</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Fee</i>
<i>Bulgaria</i>	<i>01/05/2025</i>	<i>350 Euro</i>
<i>Romania</i>	<i>01/11/2025</i>	<i>350 Euro</i>
<i>Greece</i>	<i>01/12/2025</i>	<i>350 Euro</i>

unless extended by the OA.

To be considered for entry into the event, a team must complete all registration requirements and pay all fees.

4.8 If a skipper accepts an invitation and later withdraws within two months of the event, or leaves the event before the end without written approval from the OA, World Sailing may apply a zero score to their Ranking points for that event. (World Sailing Regulation - WS Match Race Rankings 27.2.2(d))

## 5 DAMAGE / DAMAGE DEPOSIT

- 5.1 There will be no damage deposit for any event. Each team is responsible for the damage or loss to their boat unless the umpires or PC are otherwise assigned responsibility. The teams shall be responsible for restoring the boats to their initial conditions by paying any damages that occurred to the boats. An indicator of the damage list cost will be delivered to the teams upon registration.

## 6 CREW (INCLUDING SKIPPER)

- 6.1 The number of crew (including the skipper but excluding persons placed on board by the OA) **shall be as follows:**

<i>VENUE</i>	<i>No. of crew</i>
<i>Bulgaria</i>	<i>3 or 4</i>
<i>Romania</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Greece</i>	<i>4</i>

All registered crew shall sail all races

- 6.2 After the warning signal for a match, the registered skipper shall not leave the helm except in an emergency.
- 6.3 When a registered skipper cannot continue in the event, the OA may authorise an original crew member to substitute.
- 6.4 When a registered crew member cannot continue in the event, the OA may authorise a substitute, a temporary substitute or other adjustment.
- 6.5 The total weight of the crew, including the skipper, dressed in at least shorts and shirts, shall not exceed 350 kg, determined at the time of registration or such time as required by the RC.
- 6.6 Crew weight may be checked during the event. When crew weight is checked before racing, the total weight limit will be increased by 10 kg at any re-weighing. Any crew weighing over this increased limit shall not be penalised, but they shall reduce their weight to the increased weight limit before racing again.
- 6.7 The OA may place a person on each boat as a guest, cameraman, or umpire observer.

## 7 EVENT FORMAT

- 7.1 The OA intends to provide the following types of boats for racing in each event. Each boat will have the following sails: *Mainsail, Jib, Spinnaker or Gennaker*.

<i>VENUE</i>	<i>Boats</i>
<i>Bulgaria</i>	<i>SB 20</i>
<i>Romania</i>	<i>First 21.7</i>
<i>Greece</i>	<i>Platu 25</i>

- 7.2 Boats will be allocated as decided by the RC. The RC's intention is to allocate boats by draw, either daily or for each round. The RC may also require boats to be exchanged in a knock-out stage.
- 7.3 The sails to be used will be allocated by the RC. Competitors may be requested to exchange sails during a series to satisfy sponsorship commitments.
- 7.4 While all reasonable steps are taken to equalise the boats, variations will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 61.1(a).
- 7.5 The RC will determine the number of matches to be sailed each day, with the intention of starting each subsequent flight as soon as practicable after the previous flight.
- 7.6 The course will be windward/leeward with starboard rounding, finishing downwind.
- 7.7 The intended racing area will be:

<i>VENUE</i>	<i>Racing Area</i>
<i>Bulgaria</i>	<i>Iskar Dam</i>
<i>Romania</i>	<i>LifeHarbour Limanu Marina</i>
<i>Greece</i>	<i>Kavala or Peramos</i>

The racing areas will be described in more detail in the SIs.

- 7.8 (a) Skippers will be seeded into a round-robin based on a draw.
- (b) After the First Stage, the following will apply:
- (1) Skippers will be paired based on ranking in the First Stage, with the highest-ranked skipper paired with the lowest and the other skippers paired accordingly unless the stage specifies a different arrangement.
  - (2) In reference to RRS C4.1, the highest-ranked skipper from the first stage shall choose their end for the first match, and boats shall alternate every odd match.
  - (3) Crews will exchange boats after odd matches of the series unless otherwise agreed by both skippers.
  - (4) Further matches in the series will not be sailed once the first skipper scores the points required for that stage.
- 7.9 The event will consist of the following stages:
- (a) First Stage - Round Robin(s)
- (1) Each group /All skippers will sail a round robin.
  - (2) The four highest-scoring skippers shall qualify for the next stage.
- (c) Second Stage – Fifth to Eighth Place
- (1) King of the Castle.
- (d) Third Stage - Knock-Out Semi-Finals
- (1) The skipper finishing first in Stage One shall select his opponent when the RC requests. The remaining two skippers shall race each other.

- (2) The first skipper of each series to score at least **2** points shall proceed to the Final Stage, and the losing skippers shall proceed to the Third and Fourth Place Stage.

**(e) Fourth Stage – Knock-Out Third and Fourth Place**

- (1) The losing semi-finalists shall race to determine third and fourth place.
- (2) The first skipper to score at least **2** points shall be awarded third place, and the losing skipper awarded fourth place.

**(f) Fifth Stage – Knock-Out Final**

- (1) The first skipper to score at least **3** points shall be awarded first place, and the losing skipper awarded second place.

7.10 The RC may change the format, terminate any stage or the event when, in its opinion, it is impractical to attempt to hold the remainder of matches under the existing conditions or in the remaining time scheduled. Early stages may be terminated in favour of later stages.

## **8 TOUR SCORING**

- 8.1 a) A team's Tour points total will be the sum of their scores in each stop.  
b) The team with the lowest score at the end of the season will be the 2024 Balkan Match Race Champion.

8.2 Series Points Table (awarded per event):

<b>PLACE</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>8</b>

A team that did not participate in a stop of the Balkan Match Race Cup, shall be scored nine (9) points.

8.3 In the event of a tie at the end of the Balkan Match Race Championship, the tie shall be broken by the following methods, in order until all ties are broken. Ties shall be decided in favour of the team(s) which:

- 1) Has the greater number of first-place scores. If the tie remains, then the number of second-place scores, and so on, until the tie is broken.
- 2) Has the highest place in the last event. If the tie remains, it will be broken by using the places in the next-to-last event and so on until the tie is broken.

## 9 PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

9.1

Schedule	<i>Bulgaria</i>	<i>Romania</i>	<i>Greece</i>
Race office open	<i>15 May</i>	<i>19 November</i>	<i>11 December</i>
Registration & Crew weighing	<i>15 May</i>	<i>19 November</i>	<i>11 December</i>
First briefing	<i>16 May 09:30</i>	<i>20 November 09:30</i>	<i>12 December 09:30</i>
Racing days	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>2</i>
Time of the first race on 1 <sup>st</sup> day	<i>11:30</i>	<i>11:30</i>	<i>11:30</i>
The latest time for an attention signal on the last day of racing	<i>16:00</i>	<i>16:00</i>	<i>16:00</i>
Prize giving	<i>ASAP after racing</i>	<i>ASAP after racing</i>	<i>ASAP after racing</i>

More details will be given for each event separately.

9.2 Unless excused by the OA, attendance at the following is mandatory:

- (a) Initial briefing for skippers.
- (b) Daily briefing for skippers.

## 10 Organising Authority (OA)


The Organising Authority (OA) for the Balkan Match Race Championship 2025 consists of the event organisers from Bulgaria, Romania, and Greece, as well as the local organiser for each event.

Balkan Match Race Championship 2025 - Event Organisers

**BORA Sailing (BUL)**


Yana Veleva


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### **NauticLine (ROU)**

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### **Aegeas Yachting (GRE)**


Dimitris Sofitsis

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### **The Local Organiser for Event in Iskar Dam (Bulgaria)**

Yacht Club Ultramarine

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## **ADVERTISING**

- 11** [NP] Boats may display advertising chosen and supplied by the OA. *See World Sailing Advertising Code.*

## **12 [NP] CODE OF CONDUCT**

- 12.1 Competitors and Support Persons shall comply with any reasonable request from any official, including attendance at official functions, cooperation with event sponsors and shall behave in a manner that might not bring the event into disrepute.
- 12.2 Competitors and Support Persons shall handle any equipment by the OA with care, and good seamanship, following any instructions for its use and without interfering with its functionality.

## **13 [NP] SUPPORT PERSON**

- 13.1 No support person vessels will be permitted.



## **14 [NP] MEDIA, IMAGES, and SOUND**

### **14.1 If required by the OA:**

1. Television personnel and equipment (or dummies) supplied by the OA shall be carried on board while racing.
2. Competitors shall wear microphones supplied by the OA during racing and be available for interviews upon the OA's or RC's request.
3. Registered skippers shall wear communications equipment supplied by the OA that will allow commentators to communicate with them whilst racing.

### **14.2 Competitors shall not interfere with the normal working of the OA-supplied media equipment.**

## **15 RISK STATEMENT**

RRS 3 states: 'The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to 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.**

## **16 PRIZES**

Prizes will be given to the first three (3) winners of each event.

The overall winner of the Balkan Match Race Championship will be awarded.

## **17 FURTHER INFORMATION**

For further information, please contact

[Balkan Match Race Cup](#)

E-mail: [oa@balkanmatchrace.org](mailto:oa@balkanmatchrace.org)

