



TROPHEE LIONELL VAN DER HOUWEN 2026
Association Match Racing Antibes (AMRA) - Organizing Authority
13 - 15 February 2026, Antibes, France

NOTICE OF RACE

Version: 14 December 2025

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

PC: Protest Committee or International Jury	SI: Sailing Instruction
NoR: Notice of Race	RC: Race Committee
OA: Organising Authority	TD: Technical Delegate
RRS: Racing Rules of Sailing	[NP]: A boat may not protest as per NoR 1.3

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 the handling of boats and the equipment list, detailed as part of the Sailing Instructions, will apply, and will also apply to any 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.
- 1.4 RRS 40.2 is changed as follows: 'Rule 40.1 applies to all boats when afloat. Inflatable personal flotation devices are not permitted.'
- 1.5 If there is a conflict between languages the English text takes precedence.
- 1.6 The event has applied for World Sailing Grade 2. This grading is subject to review by World Sailing. The event may be re-graded when there is clear reason to do so.

2 SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

The SI's will be available after 12:00 on 12 February on the online official notice board.

3 COMMUNICATION

- 3.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the online official notice board which is located at <https://www.matchraceantibes.fr/trophee-lvdh-2026/>
- 3.2 Signals made ashore will be displayed from the docked RC vessel.



4 ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

- 4.1 A maximum of 12 skippers will be invited. Skippers wishing to receive an invite may register their request with the OA by using the 'Online invitation request' form, available on the online official notice board.
- 4.2 Only skippers invited by the OA, and who confirm acceptance of the invitation, as detailed in the letter of invitation, will be eligible to enter this event.
- 4.3 All competitors shall meet the eligibility requirements of World Sailing regulation 19.4.
- 4.4 All competitors shall obtain a World Sailing Sailor ID by registering online at <https://www.sailing.org/sailors/> Skippers shall inform the OA of their World Sailing Sailor ID at registration.
- 4.5 The skipper shall complete registration, pay any entry fee, arrange the damage deposit of 1,000 EURO (including 100 EURO in cash and in local currency) and shall ensure that all crew complete crew weighing, all between 12:00 and 18:00 on 12 February unless extended by the OA.
To be considered an entry in the event, a boat shall complete all registration requirements and pay all fees.
- 4.6 When 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, a zero score may be applied to their Ranking points for that event by World Sailing. (World Sailing Regulation 27.2.2(d)).

5 DAMAGE / DAMAGE DEPOSIT

- 5.1 All competitors are required to have adequate third-party insurance, minimum coverage: 1,500,000 EURO.
- 5.2 Each skipper is responsible for the damage or loss to their boat unless responsibility is otherwise assigned by the umpires or PC. The damage deposit is the limit of liability of each skipper for each incident. In the event that a deduction is made from the deposit, the skipper will be required to restore the deposit to the original value to continue in the event.
- 5.3 The OA will refund any remaining damage deposit within 10 days after the event.

6 CREW (INCLUDING SKIPPER)

- 6.1 The number of crew (including the skipper but excluding persons placed on board by the OA) shall be four (4) or five (5). 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 is unable to continue in the event, the PC may authorise an original crew member to substitute.
- 6.4 When a registered crew member is unable to continue in the event, the PC 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 regatta. When crew weight was checked prior to racing, at any re-weighing the total weight limit is increased by 10 kg. Any crew weighing in excess of 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 either a guest, cameraman, or umpire observer.

7 EVENT FORMAT

- 7.1 The OA intends to provide 6 Beneteau First Class 7.5 type boats for racing in the event. Each boat will have the following sails: Mainsail, Genoa, Jib, and asymmetric Spinnaker.
- 7.2 Boats will be allocated as decided by the race committee. The intention of the RC will be 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 61.4(b).
- 7.5 The number of matches to be sailed each day will be determined by the RC with the intention of the RC to start 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 in Antibes' bay.
- 7.8 (a) Skippers will be seeded into a round robin and divided into 2 groups based on World Sailing ranking list 30 days prior to the event.
- (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 highest scoring skipper shall qualify for the semi-finals.
 - (3) The following six highest scoring skippers shall qualify for the next stage.
- (b) Second Stage - Shorter Quarterfinals
- (1) The skipper finishing second in Stage One, then the skipper finishing third, shall select their opponents when requested by the RC to do so. The remaining two skippers shall race each other.
 - (2) The first skipper of each series to score at least 3 points shall proceed to the semi-finals.
- (c) Third Stage - Knock-Out Semi-Finals
- (1) The skipper finishing first in Stage One shall select his opponent when requested by the RC to do so. The remaining two skippers shall race each other.
 - (2) The first skipper of each series to score at least 3 points shall proceed to the Final Stage, the losing skippers shall proceed to the Third and Fourth Place Stage.
- (d) 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, the losing skipper awarded fourth place.
- (e) Fifth Stage - Knock-Out Final
- (1) The first skipper to score at least 3 points shall be awarded first place, the losing skipper awarded second place.
- (f) Sixth Stage - King of castle for Fifth to Last 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 PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

8.1 Schedule

- (a) Race office open from 12:00 to 18:00 on 12 February.
- (b) Registration and crew weighing from 12:00 to 18:00 on 12 February.
- (c) Practice on 12 February from 12:45 to 14:45 and from 15:00 to 17:00.
- (d) First briefing on 13 February at 09.00.
- (e) First meeting with umpires following the first briefing.
- (f) Opening Ceremony on 13 February at 19:00.
- (g) Racing days from 13 to 15 February.
- (h) Time of the first race each day will be 10:00.
- (i) The latest time for an attention signal on the last day of racing will be approximately 16:00.
- (j) Prize giving on 15 February after racing.

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

- (a) Initial briefing for skippers.
- (b) Daily briefing, for skippers.
- (c) Opening Ceremony for skippers and crews.
- (d) Prize giving for the final skippers and crews.

9 [NP] ADVERTISING

Boats shall display advertising chosen and supplied by the organizing authority.

10 [NP] CODE OF CONDUCT

- 10.1 Competitors and Support Persons shall comply with any reasonable request from any official, including attendance at official functions, co-operation with event sponsors and shall behave so to not bring the event into disrepute.
- 10.2 Competitors and support persons shall handle any equipment provided by the organizing authority with care, seamanship, in accordance with any instructions for its use and without interfering with its functionality.

11 [NP] SUPPORT PERSON

- 11.1 Support person vessels shall conspicuously display identification of the team being coached.
- 11.2 Support persons shall stay approximately 100m from the racing area while boats are racing or comply with reasonable requests from the officials.
- 11.3 The OA will not provide berths for support person vessels.

12 [NP] MEDIA, IMAGES, and SOUND

The OA shall have the right to use any images and sound recorded during the event free of any charge.

13 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.

14 PRIZES

There will be no prize money.

15 FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information please contact contact@matchraceantibes.fr