

SAILING WORLD BOAT OF THE YEAR 2025



2025 BOAT OF THE YEAR RULES

1. Entry

All required materials must be submitted in advance of Boat of the Year activation.

2. Participation Fee

A participation fee, based on the size of each sailboat entered in the 2025 BOTY Contest, must accompany each entry. Details of the fee can be found on the Entry Form included in this package.

3. New Production Models

The Boat of the Year competition is open by invitation of *Sailing World* magazine to new performance sailboats introduced between October 2024 and September 2025. A new model refers to a boat that represents a new design that requires new molds and tooling. To qualify, an entry must have been introduced to the US market between October 2024 and September 2025. If the boat has been introduced as a prototype within that period but has, in your opinion, not been completed to compete in that year, you may enter it the following year. If the boat was introduced abroad in the current year but not in the United States, you may enter it the following year. To be “new,” a boat must be substantially different from any predecessors; such changes should include but are not limited to substantial changes in tooling for the hull and the deck. Moving bulkheads or rearranging cockpits or accommodations will not necessarily qualify the boat as “new.” If you feel that this may be an issue for your boat, you are invited to submit material to demonstrate that your boat is new. The nominating panel will consider and carefully weigh this issue.

4. Entry Material

Included with this mailing are BOTY entry and liability forms from which we’ll also draw for our promotion and editorial coverage across *Sailing World*’s content platforms.

4. Awards

The *Sailing World* Boat of the Year program emphasizes consideration of racing and performance boats. *Sailing World* will select the best boats from its field regardless of category. The following categories are expected to be included, but judging won’t be limited to them: Crossover, Sportboat, One-Design, Performance Dinghy, Multihull, Recreational Racer and Custom. *Sailing World* will also award one overall Boat of the Year.

5. Availability

Participating boats must be available for dockside inspection and test sailing by the judges. This is necessary for the judges to have adequate time aboard, both at the dock and in sea trials, to give your boat the attention and thoroughness of consideration it deserves. Entrants will be notified of their dockside-inspection and test-sail schedules, as established by the magazines in collaboration with the boat’s agent or representative.

6. Equipment: On all sea trials and during any other times that the participating boat is involved in this event, it must be both fully equipped with all safety equipment as required by law and prudent seamanship as well as fully insured, covering, but not limited to, personal injury and property damage. At any time the vessel is under way and/or involved in any manner in this event, said vessel shall have aboard a designated representative and agent of the owner or builder who shall have ultimate authority and responsibility for the vessel. Entrants shall include the enclosed Release of Liability and Indemnity Agreement with the entry form, signed by an authorized representative of the boat owner and any other persons or entities entering the boat in the contest. Entry and participation in this event certifies acceptance of all of these terms and conditions.

For information or queries, contact *Sailing World* Boat of the Year Director, Dave Reed, at dave.reed@sailingworld.com or 401-835-4435