

2025 BOAT OF THE YEAR RULES

Following are the *Cruising World* and *Sailing World* Rules for Boat of the Year 2025. Please read carefully and contact us if you have any questions.

1. Entry Deadline

Materials for your entry must be received by **Thursday, August 1, 2024**.

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.

2. New Production Models

The Boat of the Year competition is open by invitation of *Cruising World* and *Sailing World* magazines to new cruising sailboats and performance sailboats introduced between October 2023 and October 2024.

A new model refers to any boat that represents a new design that requires new molds and tooling. To qualify, an entry must have been introduced between the end of the U.S. Sailboat Show, in Annapolis, Maryland, in October 2023, and the beginning of that show in 2024. If the boat has been introduced as a prototype within that period but has, in your opinion, not been sufficiently 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.

3. Entry Material

Included with this mailing are BOTY entry forms and liability forms for both magazines from which we’ll also draw for our featured roundup of new models that will appear in the October issue of *Cruising World*. Even if this model will not participate in BOTY, **please complete the entry form and email it along with other supporting material** (design and construction details, sales brochures, line art, photos, etc.) to:

BOTY@firecrown.com

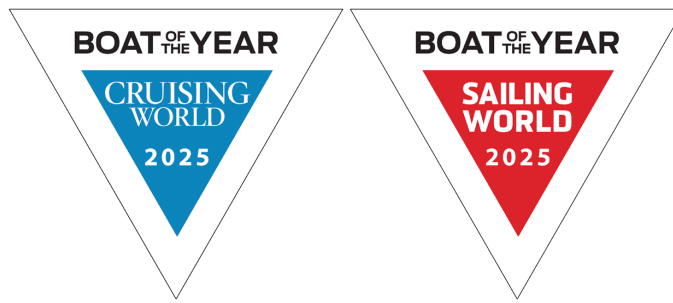
Entry materials are also available at:

cruisingworld.com/boty2025

sailingworld.com/boty2025

4. Awards

- **4a. Cruising World Awards:** All *Cruising World* entries must be cruising sailboats. They will be judged according to levels of seaworthiness, comfort, safety, ease of maintenance,



sailing performance, design and construction, suitability for purposes intended, and other factors. **Please choose the general category in which you'd like your boat to be judged;** the category sheet is included in the Boat of the Year entry form. These are general categories that may be refined by *Cruising World* once a final list of nominees has been selected. We also ask you to provide a design statement, elaborating on the boat's design purpose; your statement will be an important factor that's considered when assigning awards. *Cruising World* winners will be selected from categories based either on size and price or on type, such as multihull. Special awards, taken from the entire fleet, may also be given to recognize achievements such as innovation or special purpose. *Cruising World* may also name both an overall Domestic and an overall Import Boat of the Year.

- **4b. Sailing World Awards:** The *Sailing World* event 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, Daysailer, and Custom. *Sailing World* will also award an overall Boat of the Year.

5. Nominating Round: Special nominating panels, consisting of each magazine's editors and select members of the judging panels, will scrutinize the boats in the days before the opening of the U.S. Sailboat Show (in Annapolis, Maryland; October 10-13, 2024). Nominees will be announced prior to the opening of the Annapolis show; only these nominees will move to the judging round. At this time, nominated builders will receive nominee banners and appointments for onboard judging; the dockside judging will occur during the show, and sail tests will occur the following week.

6. Availability for Judging and Test Sailing: Participating boats must be available for test sailing by the judges on one or more of the four, or possibly five, days immediately following the U.S. Sailboat Show in Annapolis. This year's show in Annapolis runs Oct. 10–13; on-water testing will take place Oct. 14–18. Boats must also be available for dockside inspection before and during the show. 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. We will reserve time on Saturday, October 19, to retest boats selected by the judging team if, in the judges' opinion, these boats did not receive a fair sailing opportunity because of weather and if, in the judges' opinion, such retesting could prove relevant to the outcome of judging decisions.

7. 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.

If you have any questions please contact our respective Boat of the Year Directors:

Cruising World, Andrew Parkinson, andrew.parkinson@firecrown.com, 954-536-7443

Sailing World, Dave Reed, dave.reed@sailingworld.com, 401-835-4435