SAILING INSTRUCTIONS [Published 5/25/2026]

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS (Sis) Wednesday Night Offshore Series (WNOS):

Organized by The Milwaukee Yacht Club, Milwaukee, WI, USA
Wednesdays, June 3, 2026 through September 9, 2026

The Milwaukee Yacht Club shall act as the Organizing Authority for the MYC Wednesday Night Offshore Series.

1. RULES

1.1 The WNOS will be governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing* (RRS) 2025-2028, except as any of these are changed by the Notice of Race or the Sailing Instructions.

1.2 The racing rules will be changed as follows:

Rule 27.1 No later than the Preparatory Signal, the race committee may signal or designate the course to be sailed.

Rule 29.2 WNOS sections under General Recall will have their second start after all other sections have had one chance to start first.

Rule 40 All personnel, on deck, shall wear personal floatation while starting and finishing without exception, and at all other times, except when the Person-in-charge of the boat directs that it may be set aside.

Rule 61.2 For each section, the protest time limit is 30 minutes after the MYC Signal Boat docks at MYC.

Rule 63 shall be changed to allow the Protest Hearing to be held as an online or phone conference meeting.

Rule 75 To enter the WNOS, a boat shall comply with the requirements of the organizing authority of the race: The boat owner shall be a member of Milwaukee Yacht Club (MYC), South Shore Yacht Club (SSYC), Milwaukee Community Sailing Center (MCSC), or US SAILING.

Appendix A4 shall be changed to read - A boat starting later than 5 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start (DNS) without a hearing.

Appendix G1.2(a) shall be changed to clarify the contrasting color of sail letters and numbers.

2. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

2.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the official noticeboard located at the MYC adjacent to the Main Clubhouse front entrance and on the MYC website under “On the Water/Racing/Registration and Race Documents.”

3. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

3.1 Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted on the official noticeboard before 1200 on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 1900 on the day before it will take effect.

4. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

4.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed from the MYC Flagpole.

4.2 When flag AP, (red and white vertical striped pennant) is displayed ashore, "1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 45 minutes' in the race signal AP.

5. SCHEDULE OF RACES

5.1 One or more races are scheduled each Wednesday night from June 3, 2026, through September 9, 2026, as specified in the 2026 Race Schedule found near the Main Office or the MYC website.

5.2 Races will NOT BE HELD on July 8 and July 15, 2026

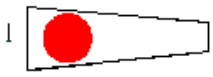
5.3 The scheduled time of the warning signal for the first race each day is 1805 for the Spring and Summer series. No warning signal for the first race will be made after 1930.

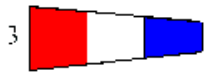
5.4 After a long postponement, to alert boats that a race or sequence of races will begin soon, an orange flag will be displayed with one sound at least four minutes before a warning signal is displayed.

6. SECTION FLAGS

The use of section or fleet flags will be as defined in Rule 26 "Starting Races".

Flags for each Section will include:

PHRF – "1" Flag 

JAM – "3" Flag 

7. VENUE

The racing area will be on Lake Michigan, east of the Milwaukee North Gap. The start will be in the vicinity of the MYC Center Mark. The Center Mark is approximately 1.6 nautical miles at 90 degrees leaving the North Gap. See Appendix "A" for the approximate location of racing areas.

8. COURSES

8.1 Typical courses will be windward-leeward, triangle or triangle followed by windward-leeward. Appendix "A" includes the diagrams of courses and the order in which marks are to be rounded, and the side on which each mark is to be passed. Distances will be determined by the Principal Race Officer.

8.2 For the windward-leeward course, Race Committee will display a "W2 or W4". A "W2" will be one time around the course and a "W4" will be two times around the course.

8.2 The RC Signal Boat will display the course to be sailed, the approximate distance and compass bearing of the first leg.

9. MARKS

Marks will be the MYC RC boats, or throw-in buoys, either orange or yellow, cylinders or round buoys or tetrahedrons, with or without a short strap/band.

9.1 Rounding marks may be, the markset boat flying the "M" flag, orange tetrahedrons, orange cylinders, or orange round buoys.

9.2 New marks, will be yellow tetrahedrons or orange tetrahedrons.

9.3 The starting marks will be the MYC Center Mark or an orange cylinder at the port end and the RC boat at the starboard end.

9.4 A "Rounding Mark" will be used as the turning mark for the downwind leg of W/L courses. The mark will be either an orange barrel or orange tetrahedron.

9.5 The Finish Mark will be GREEN in color.

10. THE START

10.1 Races will be started by using Rule 26 with the warning signal for each succeeding class made with or after the starting signal of the preceding class.

The signal boat will make frequent courtesy announcements for the next class to start, time in sequence, start, etc. Please keep your VHF radio tuned to channel 72.

10.2 The starting line will be between a staff or halyard displaying and orange square flag on the RC Signal Boat at the starboard end and the MYC Center Mark on the port end or a mark dropped by RC at another location, generally in the area east of the North Gap of McKinley Marina.

10.3 No later than the Preparatory Signal, the race committee may signal or designate the course to be sailed. This changes RRS 27.1.

10.4 Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall keep well clear of the starting area and all boats whose warning signal has been made.

10.5 The anticipated starting sequence for the first race (Race One) and the scheduled warning signal time for the spring and summer series shall be:

PHRF	1805
JAM	1810

10.6 Once the first starting sequence has begun it will continue until all sections have had one chance to start a race. Sections under General Recall will be started following the completion of the entire initial starting sequence.

10.7 A boat starting later than 5 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start (DNS) without a hearing. This changes rule A4.

10.8 The RC may skip the starting sequence for any section if there are no boats of that section in the starting area.

10.9 RC may change the location of the start by displaying both flag L and flag AP from the Signal Boat.

11. CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

11.1 To change the next leg of the course, the race committee will lay a new mark (or move the finishing line) and remove the original mark as soon as reasonable. When, due to a subsequent change, if a new mark is replaced, it will be replaced by an original mark. Either the markset or signal boat will display a "C" (Charlie) flag and make multiple sounds.

12. THE FINISH

The finishing marks will be the RC boat at the starboard end of the line and a finish mark at the port end of the line, which will be a green or orange tetrahedron or orange barrel.

13. PENALTY SYSTEM

The Scoring Penalty, rule 44.3, will apply for the PHRF and JAM (PHRF) sections. The penalty shall be the score the boat would have received without the penalty made worse by 1 place. The one-turn and two-turn penalties (rules 44.1(a) and 44.2) are not in effect for the WNOS series.

14. TIME LIMITS

Any race in which no boat rounds the first windward mark within 45 minutes of their start or finishes within 1.5 hours of the start will be abandoned by RC. If any boat is finished within the 1.5 hour limit, the time limit for all other racing boats will be 30 minutes after the finish of the first boat. Boats not finishing within the time limit will be scored "Did Not Finish" (DNF).

15. PROTESTS AND REQUEST FOR REDRESS

15.1 Protest forms are available near the MYC main office/lobby and in the Boathouse/Dockmaster's Office. Completed protest forms should be returned to the Race Committee staff, within the time limit, at the Boathouse/Dockmaster's Office.

15.2 For each section, the protest time limit is 30 minutes after the MYC Signal Boat docks at MYC. This changes Rule 61.2.

15.3 An individual from the Protest Committee or the Race Committee will attempt to verbally notify the parties involved in a protest of the time and place of the protest hearing.

15.4 Rule 63 shall be changed to allow the Protest Hearing to be held as an online or phone conference meeting.

15.5 Video and still images from onboard devices or aerial drones may be considered by the Protest Committee if that committee deems the information relevant to its decision. The existence of such images does not automatically imply that it will be allowed as evidence in a hearing.

16. SCORING

16.1 One race of a series is required to be completed to constitute the series.

The scored **Spring Series** dates include: 6/3, 6/10, 6/17, 6/24, 7/1, 7/22
The scored **Summer Series** dates include: 7/29, 8/5, 8/12, 8/19, 8/26, 9/2, 9/9
NOTE: Races will not be held on 7/15 & 7/22
The scored **Season Overall** will include all "counted" dates listed above.

16.2 The Low Point System found in Appendix A of the Racing Rules of Sailing will apply.

16.3 RC will score each boat's finish place and post the results on the MYC Official Notice Board as well as on the MYC website.

16.4 Only those boats registered for the full spring and summer series will be eligible for season overall awards and prizes. Boats registered for either the Spring or Summer series but not both, will be eligible for prizes for the season in which they participate.

16.5 For the season overall, one throw-out for every 9 races completed will be applied to a boat's series score. The boat's score will be the total of its race scores, excluding its worst score. This score will only apply to the overall season score.

17. SAFETY REGULATIONS

17.1 Before the start of racing, each boat will check in with the RC on the Signal Boat. The boat's skipper, or designated crew, will hail the boat's sail number and/or name to the RC on the Signal Boat.

17.2 **A boat retiring shall notify the RC as soon as possible**, preferably before leaving the racing area by radio or direct communication. Provisionally, racers may notify a MYC employee immediately upon arrival at the dock (Yard and Dock or Office staff). For safety purposes, the boat's designated person should be sure that RC is contacted by radio by a MYC employee as soon as reasonable.

18. RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

18.1 Except in an emergency, a boat shall neither make radio transmissions while racing nor receive radio communications not available to all boats. This restriction also applies to mobile telephones, with an exception for emergencies.

18.2 RC will use VHF radio channel 72 for general announcements and comments. RC will attempt to announce the starting time, starting sequence, course type, and course directions a minimum of two times prior to the first warning signal. Failure to hear the announcements from the RC/Signal boat will not be grounds for redress.

19. PRIZES

Awards shall be presented at the MYC Annual Awards Banquet for the season series.

20. IDENTIFICATION ON SAILS

RRS G1.2 (a) is changed as follows: National letters and sail number are RECOMMENDED to be:

1) In capital letters and Arabic numbers
2) Of the same color
3) Of a contrasting color to the body of the sail, and
4) Of a San- Serf typeface

In addition, letters and numbers identifying the boat shall be clearly legible when the sail is set.

21. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

Competitors participate in the WNOS entirely at their own risk. See RRS 4, Decision to Race. The organizing authority will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury, or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after a race in the series. All boat owners/responsible parties will submit a completed waiver of liability to the MYC main office prior to racing. Waivers are available through the online registration system as well as near the MYC main office.

22. INSURANCE

Each participating boat shall be insured with third-party liability insurance with minimum coverage of $300,000.

23. FURTHER INFORMATION

All race documents will be available near the Main Office as well as on the MYC website, www.milwaukeeyc.com. For further information, contact:

Chris Moll, WNOS Fleet Captain
bluemoont10@aol.com
414.333.3227

Ed Purcell, Race Committee
purcell_e@me.com
414.305.8957