



**2026 Early Bird Series**  
June 9, 2026 – June 19, 2026  
North Flathead Yacht Club  
Flathead Lake, Somers, Montana

**Sailing Instructions**

**1 RULES**

- 1.1 The event will be governed by the rules as defined in "The Racing Rules of Sailing 2025-2028."
- 1.2 In all rules governing this event, [DP] denotes a rule that shall not be grounds for protest by a boat. This changes RRS 60.1(a).
- 1.2 [DP] Competitors shall comply with reasonable requests from race officials.

**2 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

- 2.1 Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted no less than 1 hour before the first warning signal on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 2000 on the day before it will take effect.
- 2.2 Changes to a sailing instruction may be made on the water by VHF radio channel 68.

**3 COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS**

- 3.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located on the middle deck of the NFYC Clubhouse
- 3.2 Unofficial race committee actions may be broadcast on VHF channel 68 as a courtesy to competitors.

**4 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE**

- 4.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed on the signal vessel while secured in the NFYC moorage.
- 4.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 40 minutes' in Race Signals AP.

**5 SCHEDULE**

- 5.1 First warning signal at 7:00 pm
- 5.2 No race shall be started after sunset (see Addendum A)
- 5.3 Check-in: Boats shall check-in on the water each race day with the race committee by sailing on starboard tack astern of the Committee Signal Boat and hailing their sail number.

**6 CLASS FLAGS**

- 6.1 A Class Flag – Solid blue flag with letter “A” in the middle.  
B Class Flag & Thistle Class Flag – Solid red flag with letter “B” in the middle.  
C Class & D Class Flag – Solid yellow flag with letter “C” in the middle.

## **7 COURSES**

- 7.1 The RC Signal boat shall display the course to be sailed by listing the number of the mark or the inflatable mark designation in the order which they are to be rounded. All marks shall be rounded to port unless the mark designation is underlined, then the mark shall be rounded to starboard.
- 7.2 SI Addendum B shows the standard courses, including the approximate angles between legs, the order in which marks are to be passed, and the side on which each mark is to be left. The length of each leg and exact configuration of the course will be based on the sailing conditions.

## **8 MARKS**

- 8.1 Fixed race marks are white cylinders approximately 4’ high and numbered. The permanent race marks are located approximately as shown on the reference map (Addendum C – Location of Fixed Marks).
- 8.2 Movable rounding marks are Orange Tetrahedrons.
- 8.3 Rounding mark SB is an Orange Ball
- 8.4 The starting marks will be a race committee vessel displaying an orange flag at one end of the starting line and an Orange Ball (SB) at the opposite end of the starting line.
- 8.5 The finishing marks will be a race committee vessel displaying a blue flag at one end of the finishing line and an Orange Tetrahedron or a fixed race mark at the opposite end of the finishing line.
- 8.6 The following lines are designated as obstructions:
  - A. When used, the line between a “trailing buoy” and the signal vessel.
  - B. After starting, the rounding mark (SB).

## **9 THE START**

- 9.1 The starting line is between a staff displaying an orange flag on the signal vessel and the course side of the starting mark at the opposite end.
- 9.2 A “trailing buoy” may be placed downwind of the signal vessel. Boats shall not pass between the buoy and the signal vessel.
- 9.3 [DP] Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area during the starting sequence for other races.
- 9.4 In the event of a General Recall, the recalled class will be restarted at the end of the current sequence of starts. The First Substitute will be removed with the Preparatory flag one minute before the start of the following class. This changes RRS 29.2.
- 9.5 A boat that does not start within ten (10) minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start (DNS) without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.1 and A5.2.

## **10 CHANGE OF COURSE**

The Race Committee may change the remaining course that begins at a rounding mark by changing the position of the next mark(s) or by changing which mark(s) are to be rounded, by signaling with a "C" flag and posting the order in which the new marks are to be rounded. If the RC chase boat also displays the class flag(s) then the change of course applies only to those fleets. This modifies RRS 33

## **11 THE FINISH**

- 11.1 The finishing line is between a staff displaying a blue flag on the signal vessel and the course side of the finishing mark at the opposite end.
- 11.2 [DP] Immediately after finishing, boats shall sail well clear of the finishing area and other boats still racing.
- 11.3 Flag "A" displayed (with no sound) while boats are finishing means "No more racing today."

## **12 TIME LIMITS**

- 12.1 The Finishing Window will be 30 minutes for all fleets.
- 12.2 The Finishing Window is the time for boats to finish after the first boat sails the course and finishes. Boats failing to finish within the Finishing Window, and not subsequently retiring, penalized or given redress, will be scored Did Not Finish (DNF) without a hearing. This changes RRS 35 and A5.

## **13 HEARING REQUESTS**

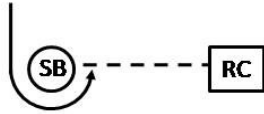
- 13.1 The protest time limit is 45 minutes after the race committee signal vessel docks.
- 13.2 Hearing request forms are available from the top drawer of the filing cabinet located in the race office on the top floor of the NFYC.
- 13.3 Notices will be posted no later than 30 minutes after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses.
- 13.4 Hearings will be held in the assigned protest area, beginning at the time posted. Representatives of boats who are parties to a hearing and their witnesses shall report to the protest committee desk at the scheduled hearing time and remain there until called for their hearing.

Addendum A – Sunset Times 2026

June	Sunset	July	Sunset	Aug	Sunset
1	09:29 pm	1	09:41 pm	1	09:13 pm
2	09:30 pm	2	09:40 pm	2	09:11 pm
3	09:31 pm	3	09:40 pm	3	09:10 pm
4	09:32 pm	4	09:39 pm	4	09:08 pm
5	09:33 pm	5	09:39 pm	5	09:07 pm
6	09:34 pm	6	09:39 pm	6	09:05 pm
7	09:34 pm	7	09:38 pm	7	09:04 pm
8	09:35 pm	8	09:37 pm	8	09:02 pm
9	09:36 pm	9	09:37 pm	9	09:00 pm
10	09:37 pm	10	09:36 pm	10	08:59 pm
11	09:37 pm	11	09:36 pm	11	08:57 pm
12	09:38 pm	12	09:35 pm	12	08:55 pm
13	09:38 pm	13	09:34 pm	13	08:54 pm
14	09:39 pm	14	09:33 pm	14	08:52 pm
15	09:39 pm	15	09:33 pm	15	08:50 pm
16	09:39 pm	16	09:32 pm	16	08:48 pm
17	09:40 pm	17	09:31 pm	17	08:46 pm
18	09:40 pm	18	09:30 pm	18	08:45 pm
19	09:40 pm	19	09:29 pm	19	08:43 pm
20	09:41 pm	20	09:28 pm	20	08:41 pm
21	09:41 pm	21	09:27 pm	21	08:39 pm
22	09:41 pm	22	09:26 pm	22	08:37 pm
23	09:41 pm	23	09:24 pm	23	08:35 pm
24	09:41 pm	24	09:23 pm	24	08:33 pm
25	09:41 pm	25	09:22 pm	25	08:31 pm
26	09:41 pm	26	09:21 pm	26	08:29 pm
27	09:41 pm	27	09:20 pm	27	08:28 pm
28	09:41 pm	28	09:18 pm	28	08:26 pm
29	09:41 pm	29	09:17 pm	29	08:24 pm
30	09:41 pm	30	09:16 pm	30	08:23 pm
		31	09:14 pm	31	08:20 pm

## SI Addendum B – Standard Race Courses

Fleet	Mark Rounding Order
A	Start – W – L – W – L – Finish
B	Start – W – L – W – SB - Finish
C/D	Start – W – SB – W – SB - Finish



SI Addendum C – Location of Fixed Marks

