

LSSC 2026 Sailing Instructions: Wednesday Sunset Series

A. RULES

The current rules of the United States Sailing Association (USSA) shall govern, except as modified by these sailing instructions. Further, the Race Committee may, for good cause, alter these Sailing Instructions.

B. ENTRY

Open to LSSC Registered members and others by application available on the LSSC website. To be eligible to race you must have pre-registered with Lake Shore Sail Club and paid the entry fee. LSSC requests that all monohull applicants obtain a PHRF rating from Midwest Performance Handicap Racing Fleet (MWPHRF). LSSC requests that all multihull applicants obtain a time-on-time (TOT) rating from Great Lakes Multihull Racing Association (GLMRA).

C. RACE DATES






Spring Series – May 20, 27, Jun 3, 10, 17, 24
 Summer Series – Aug 5, 12, 19, 26, Sep 2, 9

D. STARTING SEQUENCE

The Committee boat, flying the LSSC Burgee and RC flag, should be on station thirty (30) minutes before the first start. Scheduled Warning for the first start will be 1855. An attention sound may occur one (1) minute before the first warning signal.

Races will be started using USS RRS 26.

The following is the starting sequence under ideal conditions in which there are no delays or postponements. It should be considered as a guide.


ATTENTION:	Series of SHORT Sound Signals	
Warning Signal:	Sound Signal and 1 st Class Flag Up	
Class Multihull:	Class Flag: Green	
Class A:	Class Flag: Red	
Class B:	Class Flag: Blue	
Class C:	Class Flag: Pink	
Class D:	Class Flag: Yellow	


VISUAL SIGNALS – Visual Signals determine timing of the race. Attention may be drawn to the visual signals by sound signals.


E. SIGNALS


TEMPORARY POSTPONEMENT – New class flag is not raised. Signals resume with next class flag raised and one Sound Signal.


 **POSTPONEMENT** – AP Flag is raised with two Sound Signals. See RESTART to resume.


 **RESTART** – AP Flag lowered with one Sound Signal followed one minute later by another Sound Signal and Class Flag raised.

 **SHORTENED COURSE** – One (1) Flag "S" (a blue square on a white field), shall be displayed at the start, below the flag that designates the course to be sailed, accompanied by two (2) Sound Signals, if displayed after 1st Warning Signal.

 **SUPER SHORT COURSE** – Two (2) Flag "S" (a blue square on a white field), shall be displayed at the start, below the flag that designates the course to be sailed, accompanied by two (2) Sound Signals, if displayed after 1st Warning Signal.

 **AT A MARK** – A Shortened Course flag (Flag "S") flown from a RC boat at a turning mark means to finish between the boat displaying the flag and the nearby mark.

 **ABANDONMENT** – Flag "N" (blue and white checked) - Three (3) Sound Signals - All races are abandoned for the day. Boats shall be notified of any rescheduling by the Race Committee.

 **INDIVIDUAL RECALL** – Flag "X" (blue cross on white field) - Displayed when one or more boats cross the starting line

prior to their starting signal. A sound signal may be given for each boat on the course side. An attempt to hail the sail number(s) may be made by the Committee Boat. It is the responsibility of each boat to make a proper start.



GENERAL RECALL – "First Substitute" - signal (yellow triangle within a blue triangle) - Two (2) Sound Signals - If a large portion of the class crosses the starting line early, or if a significant error is made in the timing of the starting signal, the class may be recalled for a new start.

The First Substitute shall be raised (2 Sound Signals) and the recalled class shall clear the starting area and become the last class to start (five minutes after the last scheduled start in the original order of starting). If the recalled class was the last or only start, it shall be restarted beginning with a new warning Signal. Other classes shall start in scheduled order.

FINISHING – The first boat in each class to finish may be given a salute of one Sound Signal.

RADIO MONITORING – VHF Channel 68 – may be used by the Committee Boat for courtesy announcements before and during each race.

F. HEADSAIL USE, RATINGS & RESTRICTIONS

HEADSAIL USAGE – Any headsail included in a boat's primary rating may be used. Additionally, for all classes, a symmetrical spinnaker and/or an asymmetrical spinnaker may be used.

The choice of sails to use in monohull classes may be made during each race. It is not necessary to declare beforehand which sail combination will be used. The boat's rating will be adjusted after the race has been completed.

The Race Committee must be informed via VHF Channel 68 immediately at the end of each race as to which sails were used. The skipper may also notify the Rear Commodore via text message (Mark Bowery – 248-941-8035) within 1 hour of finishing.

Do not hail the Committee Boat while crossing the finish.

RATING ADJUSTMENT FOR SPINNAKER / HEADSAIL USAGE

S: If a symmetrical spinnaker is flown at any time during the race, the boat's S-rating will be used as its rating for the race.

A: If a symmetrical spinnaker is *not* flown and an asymmetrical spinnaker is flown at any time during a race, the boat's A-rating will be used as its rating for the race.

J: If a boat sails JAM-only for the entire race, the boat's J-rating will be used as its rating for the race.

If a boat has a MWPHRF certificate, the HCP and NSHCP will be used for the S and J ratings. If the boat's MWPHRF HCP rating includes a symmetrical spinnaker, the boat will receive an A-rating credit of +6 seconds/mile. *The LSSC Ratings Committee reserves the right to further adjust the ratings system.*

If a boat does not have a MWPHRF certificate, the LSSC Ratings Committee will assign S, A and J ratings.

To receive the A-rating credit, the asymmetrical spinnaker must be flown without the use of a pole and must be attached to a tack point (or attached to a tack line that is lead to a tack point) that is near the boat's centerline and no more than twelve (12) inches fore or aft of the jib tack point. Neither the tack pennant nor the asymmetrical sail may be attached to the headstay in any manner.

To receive the J-rating credit, staysails may not be flown.

HEADSAIL RESTRICTIONS – Headsails must be flown hanked to the headstay or in the headstay groove. Whisker and spinnaker poles may be used on headsails.

AUTOHELM RESTRICTIONS – Single-handed or Double-handed crews may use self-steering devices.

G. CLASS DESIGNATION and ASSIGNMENT

Classes will be designated for the season. Multihulls will be assigned to one class and must have a GMLRA time-on-time (TOT) rating. Monohulls will be assigned to a class based on their standard PHRF rating. Races run by LSSC will use PHRF ratings as established by Midwest Performance Handicap Racing Fleet (MWPHRF). If a skipper does not have a MWPHRF rating certificate the LSSC Ratings Committee will assign ratings using MWPHRF or other PHRF rules, resources and guidelines. A MWPHRF issued rating will overrule an LSSC assigned rating. Headsail selection will not change the class in which a boat competes.

H. RACING AREA

Races are conducted on the LSSC Course described by the Mark Locations and Course List included in these instructions. Marks are white cylinders labelled with letter designations.

I. COURSE

A course number pennant shall be flown under the RC flag on the RC Boat, which shall indicate the course to be sailed. The Committee Boat may also display a numbered sign near its transom. All marks shall be rounded to the outside of, and in sequence with, the marks of the selected course to the finish line. See Course List for courses, approximate mark location, and mark rounding sequence.

START AND FINISH LINES – The Start and Finish Lines are a line between the start/finish mark and the mast or fixed point near the center of the Committee boat. The Finish Line shall be crossed from the direction of the last turning mark of the course.

NAVIGATIONAL ROUNDING – In the event that a mark is missing, boats shall make a “navigational rounding” using the appropriate GPS coordinates.

RESTRICTED AREAS AT THE START AND FINISH – All boats shall keep clear of a restricted area 200 feet back of the starting line and between two imaginary lines extending outward, both forward and back, from the starting buoy and the stern on the committee boat at 45 degrees until the warning signal (5 minutes to start) for their class. A boat that has finished shall keep clear of the finish line and of all boats still racing. **Violators of this rule are subject to protest.**

The committee boat may place a protective limit mark off its quarter. A boat passing between the committee boat and the protective limit mark or touching the protective limit mark shall be deemed to have hit a mark and must take appropriate action (one turn Penalty) after their start. Any boat that sails the course but does not properly start shall be listed "DNS" or "OCS".

The Race Committee may protest any competitor that, in the Race Committee’s opinion, has endangered or caused another boat to endanger the Committee Boat. The penalty for any boat so protested and found at fault shall be DSQ for the race. Subsequent violations shall result in DSQ from the series and possible elimination from the LSSC Wednesday Sunset Series.

J. TIME LIMIT

The time limit for each race is three (3) hours. ONE boat finishing within the time limit shall qualify the race for that class. ANY boat finishing within its time limit shall qualify ALL classes for OVERALL results, even if their class did not qualify individually for the race. The Committee boat shall stay on station until reasonably certain that all boats have finished or until the time limit for all classes has expired. Boats not across the finish line by that time shall record their own finish time (finish mark abeam and within two boat lengths) and report to the Race Committee at the after-race awards location as soon as possible; or within 24 hours to the Race Chair.

K. PROTESTS

All Protests shall be submitted in writing or electronically on the form available at www.lakeshoresailclub.org/sunset-series, on the US Sailing website or from the LSSC Race Committee. Hearing Requests shall comply with Rule 60 (protests) or Rule 61 (redress) and be sent via email or delivered to a Race Committee member within 2 (two) hours of the requesting boat’s finish time.

The requestor may also email the completed form to rearcommadore.lssc@gmail.com. The Protest Chairman will contact all parties to arrange a time and place for the hearing. It is the responsibility of the parties to attend the hearing and to arrange for the attendance of any witnesses. A decision may be rendered by the Protest Committee in the absence of any parties.

To protest another boat during the race, the protesting boat shall, at the first reasonable opportunity:

- (1) Inform the protestee boat by hailing "Protest".
- (2) Display code flag "B" or a red rectangular flag and keep the flag displayed until acknowledged by the Race Committee.
- (3) Submit a written protest in person or electronically within two (2) hours of finishing the race.



L. PENALTIES FOR RULE INFRINGEMENT

USSA Rule 44 PENALTIES AT THE TIME OF AN INCIDENT is in effect in its entirety (Rule 44.1 Taking a Penalty, Rule 44.2 One-Turn and Two-Turns Penalties, and Rule 44.3 Scoring Penalty).

The number of places to be used to determine a boat’s score per Rule 44.3(c) shall be two (2).

Any score determined as the result of a protest hearing or Rule 44.3 may not be thrown out and shall be used in calculating all results and positions.

The Protest Committee may disqualify a boat for serious infringement of the rules, whether or not serious damage resulted.

M. AWARDS

Spring Series – six races scheduled.

First, second, and third place awarded for each class.

First, second, and third place awarded for overall.

Summer Series – six races scheduled.

First, second, and third place awarded for each class.

First, second, and third place awarded for overall.

Sunset Series Overall – twelve races scheduled.

First, second, and third place awarded for overall.

Note: Multihull boats will not be included in Series Overall results.

The **John McCartney Memorial Trophy** (only LSSC members are eligible) is awarded to the boat with the best overall score for the Spring and Summer Sunset Series combined.

The **Gil LaLonde Memorial Trophy** (only LSSC members are eligible) is awarded to the boat with the best overall score for the Spring and Summer Sunset Series combined where the boat raced JAM.

No awards for individual races will be given.

Awards for both series will be presented one week after the last race, at the **Knights of Columbus Center** located at 25003 Little Mack Ave, St Clair Shores. All participants and crew are invited to attend the awards party. Free beer and pizza will be served.

Due to liquor license restrictions, NO ALCOHOL can be brought into the Knights of Columbus Center by guests.

RACE RESULTS – Results will be announced after each Wednesday race at the **Great Lakes Yacht Club**. The GLYC Galley will be open for food purchases. All LSSC members, registered skippers and crew are welcome and encouraged to attend. Results will also be posted on the Lake Shore Sail Club web site. (www.lakeshoresailclub.org)



N. SCORING

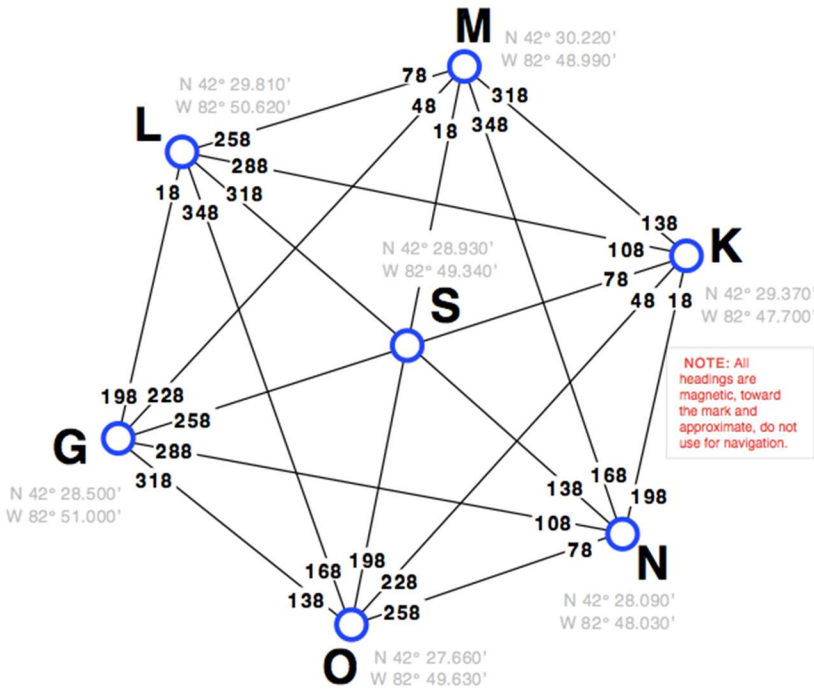
The low point system shall be used for determining both Class and Overall awards (1 point for first, 2 points for second, 3 points for third, etc.). In the event of a tie, the tie breaker will be most 1st, most 2nd, and most 3rd, etc. In the event a tie remains, the tie shall be broken in favor of the boat with the better later race. See US Sailing rules Appendix-A, "A8".

LSSC Member racers serving as the Race Committee Boat will receive a score for that race that is the average of their other races raced in that series. Included in the average are races scored as DNS, DNF, OCS, DSQ, etc. Races where the boat did not come to the starting area will be excluded.

UNIDENTIFIED BOAT AT FINISH – Any boat finishing whose sail number or identity cannot be verified by the Race Committee shall be scored as "DNF" until the Race Committee has verified the boat's finish time. Skippers are advised to record their own finish time and those of boats finishing near them. Reflective sail number displays are highly recommended for nighttime finishes.

The number of races to be counted for each of the series will be per the matrix at the bottom of the page.

Races will use Time-on-Time scoring.



Mark	Latitude	Longitude
G	N 42° 28.500'	W 82° 51.000'
L	N 42° 29.810'	W 82° 50.620'
M	N 42° 30.220'	W 82° 48.990'
K	N 42° 29.370'	W 82° 47.700'
N	N 42° 28.090'	W 82° 48.030'
O	N 42° 27.660'	W 82° 49.630'
S	N 42° 28.930'	W 82° 49.340'

LSSC Wednesday Sunset Series: LONG Courses				
Course # Displayed	Code Flag Displayed	Course	Marks	Race Distance
		to...	to...	
0		G - O - M - L - G	PORT	6.50 nm
1		G - M - K - G	STBD	6.15 nm
2		G - K - N - O - G	STBD	6.50 nm
3		G - N - K - G	PORT	6.15 nm
4		G - L - N - O - G	STBD	6.50 nm
5		G - L - M - O - G	STBD	6.50 nm
6		G - K - M - G	PORT	6.15 nm
7		G - O - N - K - G	PORT	6.50 nm
8		G - K - N - G	STBD	6.15 nm
9		G - O - N - L - G	PORT	6.50 nm

LSSC Wednesday Sunset Series: SHORT Courses				
Course # Displayed	Code Flag Displayed	Course	Marks	Race Distance
		to...	to...	
0		G - O - S - L - G	PORT	5.20 nm
1		G - M - S - G	STBD	4.85 nm
2		G - S - N - O - G	STBD	5.20 nm
3		G - N - S - G	PORT	4.85 nm
4		G - L - S - O - G	STBD	5.20 nm
5		G - L - S - O - G	STBD	5.20 nm
6		G - S - M - G	PORT	4.85 nm
7		G - O - N - S - G	PORT	5.20 nm
8		G - S - N - G	STBD	4.85 nm
9		G - O - S - L - G	PORT	5.20 nm

LSSC Wednesday Sunset Series: SUPER SHORT Courses				
Course # Displayed	Code Flag Displayed	Course	Marks	Race Distance
		to...	to...	
0		G - L - S - G	STBD	3.90 nm
1		G - S - O - G	STBD	3.90 nm
2		G - O - S - G	PORT	3.90 nm
3		G - S - L - G	PORT	3.90 nm
4		G - O - S - G	PORT	3.90 nm
5		G - S - O - G	STBD	3.90 nm

		To Mark						
		S	G	L	M	K	N	O
From Mark	S	-	258	318	18	78	138	198
	G	78	-	18	48	78	108	138
	L	138	198	-	78	108	138	168
	M	198	228	258	-	138	168	198
	K	258	258	288	318	-	198	228
	N	318	288	318	348	18	-	258
	O	18	318	348	18	48	78	-

Races in Series	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Races required to qualify for the Series	1	2	2	3	4	4	5	6	7	8	8	8
Throw outs allowed for the Series	0	0	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	3	4