2026 Racing Instructions

Sheridan Shore Yacht Club

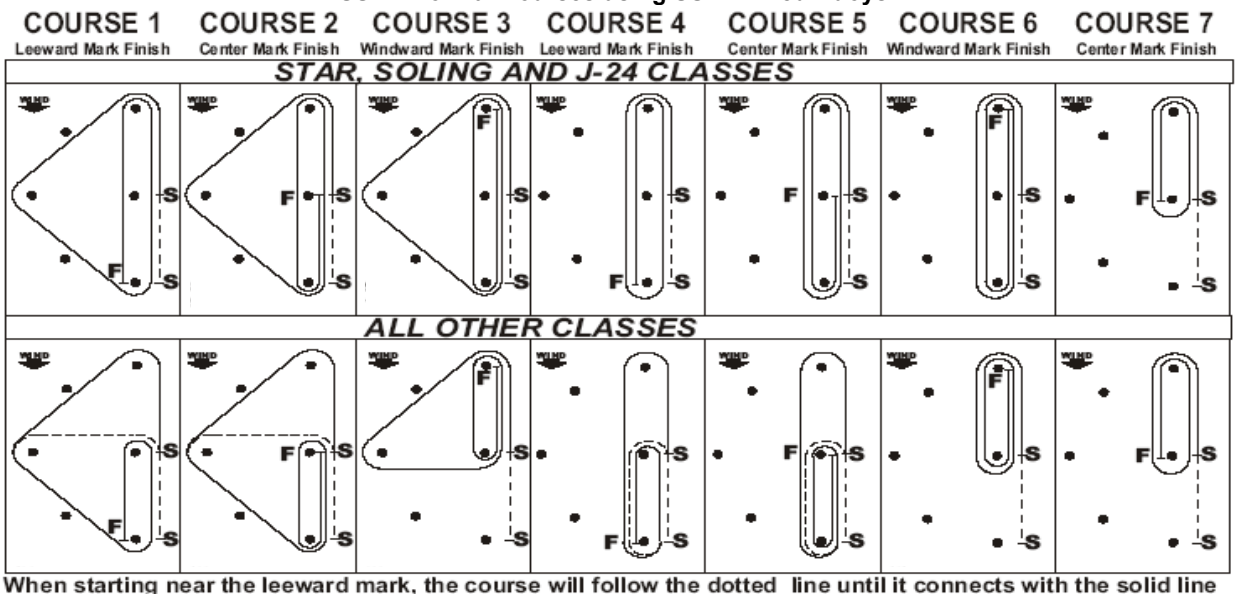
20 Harbor Drive, Wilmette, IL 60091

1. **RULES**. The races will be governed by the rules as defined in the International Sailing Federation Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS).
2. **NOTICES**. Official notices, including changes to these sailing instructions, will be posted on the bulletin board on the north side of the yacht club patio. The Race Committee may give additional instructions and or changes verbally or in writing to each skipper prior to the warning signal (RRS Rule 88.2). Note that verbal communications by the Race Committee (whether by VHF radio, the loud hailer, or otherwise) do not constitute official race instructions to the sailors and are only informal and advisory in nature and shall not be the subject of a protest or a request for redress.
3. **STARTING SEQUENCE**.
Unless otherwise shown in a regatta instruction, starting times and sequence of classes will be as shown in this instruction. Races will be started by using rule 26 with the following addition: Code Flag “F”, “Attention”, will be displayed with one sound signal, 5 minutes before the first warning signal of the first starting sequence. Subsequent warning signals will be made with the preceding class's start (thus classes start at 5 minute intervals.) See diagram on reverse side. Any yacht starting later than four (4) minutes after her starting signal may be scored DNS (Did Not Start). (Modification to RRS A4.1)
4. **STARTING AND FINISHING LINES**.
The Starting and Finishing lines will be from the mast on the Committee Boat to the nearby mark. The nearby mark may be the closest fixed course mark, a temporary mark, or another race management boat displaying an orange flag. An orange flag displayed on the Committee Boat(s) indicates that it is on station at a starting or finishing line.
Different race committee boats may be used for starting and finishing races. If the Race Committee has set a finish line, yachts will finish by crossing the line in the direction of the course from the last mark without regard to which side the buoy is on.
5. **COURSE**. The Committee Boat will indicate the course by displaying the number (1 to 7) and a letter ("A" to "H") designating the first (or windward) mark. (See diagrams on other side.) Marks will be left to port. The course and windward mark signal for a class will be displayed before or with the preparatory signal for that class. If temporary (inflatable) marks are being used, the Race Committee will so indicate at the start by displaying the compass bearing to the windward mark. Center Mark "J" is a mark of the course only when it is being used as a turning mark or as part of the starting or finishing line. (Modification to RRS 27.1)
6. **POSTPONE**. If Code Flag “AP” is displayed, the starting sequence will stop at that point. The warning signal for the next fleet to start will be displayed one minute after removal of “AP”. If Code Flag "AP" is displayed ashore, Code Flag "F", "Attention", will be displayed not less than 30 minutes after removal, followed in five minutes by the warning signal, unless the race is postponed again or abandoned.
(Modification to RRS Race Signal “AP”)
7. **STARTING AREA RESTRICTIONS**.
After the warning signal for the first starting class, all yachts must keep clear of the starting area (as defined on the reverse side) and of all yachts whose warning signal has been made until the warning signal for their class is given. Yachts failing to keep clear of the starting area risk disqualification by the Race Committee. Unless a yacht is starting, finishing, or rounding a mark used as part of the start or finish line, she shall stay clear of and not cross any starting or finishing line when the Race Committee is ‘on station’.
8. **INDIVIDUAL RECALL**. Code Flag “X” will be displayed with one sound. The Race Committee may attempt, as a courtesy, to hail individual yachts. Failure of the Race Committee to hail an individual yacht or failure of the yacht to see or hear signals shall not relieve the offending yacht of her obligation to start correctly.
9. **GENERAL RECALL**. Code Flag "First Substitute" will be displayed with two sounds. The warning signal for a new start for the recalled class shall be made one minute after “First Substitute” is removed, and the starts for any succeeding classes shall follow the new start.
10. **TIME LIMIT**. A race shall be abandoned if no yacht has finished within three (3) hours of the start. The Race Committee has the authority not to finish any yacht that does not finish within 30 minutes of the finish of the first yacht in that class. If a Race Committee Boat is not on the finish line, yachts will finish by rounding the finishing mark, taking their own time and reporting it to the Race Committee. Modification to RRS Rule 35 and Rule A4.1)
11. **SHORTEN COURSE**. Before the start, the Committee may shorten a course by displaying Code Flag "S" before or with the preparatory signal for the class. The last two legs of the course will be dropped except that classes normally sailing the extended course (Solings and J/24’s) will sail the course shown under “All Other Classes.”. (Modification to RRS 27.1 and Race Signal “S)
12. **COURSE CHANGE**. The Race Committee may change course by displaying Code Flag "C," a letter designating the new windward mark (or compass direction to the new windward mark). Any change signaled does not take effect until after rounding the buoy where the change is occurring. (Individual yachts will be notified as practicable.) Whenever the windward mark is changed, the leeward mark is changed to the appropriate mark. (Example: If the new windward mark is "C," then the appropriate leeward mark is "G.")
If a change is made at:
A. Leeward mark. Yachts will sail to the newly designated windward mark (or to buoy "J" center mark for a class with "J" as the next windward mark) and then return to the appropriate new leeward mark.
B. Windward mark. Yachts will sail to the new leeward mark and then continue on the new course.
C. Reaching mark. Yacht will sail to the appropriate leeward mark for the newly designated course. For example: If the newly designated windward mark is "E," the new leeward mark is "A." (Modification to RRS Rule 33 and RRS Race Signal “C”)
13. **RETIRING**. All starting yachts who leave the course before finishing, shall notify the Race Committee that they are withdrawing by sending word or coming by the Race Committee on their way off the course if practicable, or by notifying the Harbormaster upon return to the harbor.
14. **CANCEL OR ABANDON.** The Race Committee may postpone, cancel or abandon any race for any class when they deem it necessary or advisable. Prior to the preparatory signal for a class, the Fleet Captain or his designated representative may cancel any race for that class by notifying the Race Committee.
15. **SCORING**. The individual classes will do the scoring and posting of race results.
16. **PROTESTS**. All protests shall conform to provisions of RRS, Part 5. Protests shall be written on forms available at the office of the Executive Director of the Wilmette Harbor Association (SE corner of the YC, Lower level) and delivered there within the Protest Time, which will begin when the Committee Boat docks and ends 30 minutes later. Protest notices will be posted on the official notice board within 30 minutes after the end of Protest Time to inform competitors when and where there is a hearing in which they are parties or named as witnesses.
17. **SAFETY**. It is the responsibility of the participants and crew to know their capabilities, and when conditions warrant, abandon the race and return to the harbor. If Code Flag “Y” is displayed before or with the warning signal competitors shall wear life jackets. See RRS Rule 40. All yachts must carry an adequate towline of at least 35 feet when racing. Yachts racing after dusk must have proper running lights and a flashlight, and must have on board all equipment required by U. S. Coast guard and other applicable regulations or they will be disqualified. Yachts and crews must stay alert to changing weather conditions and must not depend upon the race committee to warn them of impending dangerous conditions. A VHF radio must be aboard each racing boat for use in an emergency. The committee boat monitors CH 69.
18. **RESPONSIBILITY**.
See RRS Rule 4 “Decision to Race.” Sheridan Shore Yacht Club, Wilmette Harbor Association, or their agents or employees are only responsible to provide the race management and the facilities to permit the conduct of the race and in no way are responsible or liable for the well-being or safety of any participant or boats in any race. No person shall participate in a race unless they understand and completely agree to this.

Commonly Used Signals

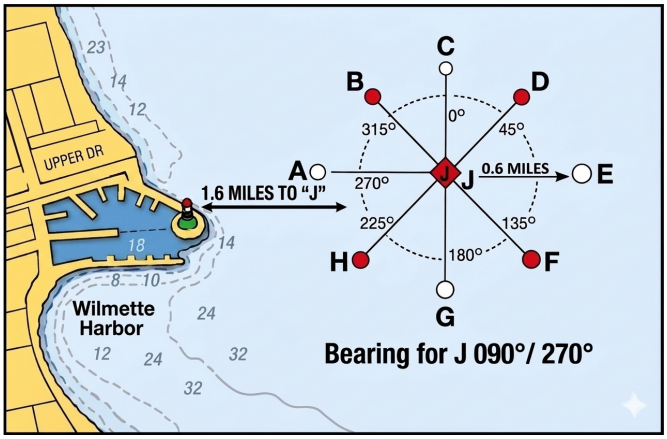
Postpone Red and White "AP" + 2 guns	Individual Recall White w/ Blue Cross "X" + 1 gun	General Recall Blue and Yellow "1st sub" + 2 guns	Shorten Course White with Blue Square "S" + 2 guns	Abandon Races Return to Starting Area White & Blue Checkerboard "N" + 3 guns	Offset Buoy Red and Yellow "O" Visual Signal Only	Attention Red diamond on white "F"-5 Min. To next signal See Instr. 3 & 6
Temporary Buoy Blue w/White Cross "M" Visual Signal Only	Change Course Blue, White and Red "C" + repetitive sounds	One Minute Rule Yellow w/Black Dot "I" + Sound Signal	Follow Me Yellow & Black Squares "L" + Sound Signal	Abandon Races Further signals ashore "N" over "H" + 3 guns	Wear Life Jacket Red and Yellow strips "Y" Visual signal only	

SSYC Normal Courses using SSYC Fixed Buoys



When starting near the leeward mark, the course will follow the dotted line until it connects with the solid line

Title	Visual Signal	Sound Signal	Time to Start
Warning	Class Flag(s) Displayed	1	5* minutes
Preparatory	"P" Flag or "I" Flag or "Z" Flag or "Z" Flag / "I" Flag or Black Flag	1	4 minutes
	Preparatory Flag(s) Removed	1	1 minute
Start	Class Flag(s) Removed	1	0



Starting Sequence

The "F" (Attention) flag will be displayed with one signal five minutes before the first fleet's Warning gun. See instruction 3 & 6.

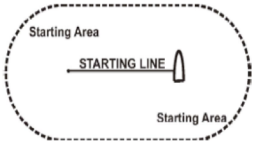
Normal Class Starting Order:

1. J-70
2. Soling
3. J-24
4. Arrow
5. Dolphin
6. Cruising

Changes to Normal Starting Order

At the discretion of the Race Committee, the normal starting order may be modified to accommodate fleets present in the vicinity of the Starting Area. The Race Committee will attempt to notify participants of such changes by loud hailer and VHF channel 69, but skippers should take note of the Class Flag displayed at the Warning signal.

Starting Area



See instruction 7 on the reverse side. A yacht is in the "Starting Area" whenever it is closer to any part of the Starting Line than one-half the length of the Starting Line.

Starting Time

Unless modified by other instructions, the beginning of the first race's starting sequence or Code Flag "F" (Attention) will be as follows:

Morning	10:50 a.m.
Afternoon	1:30 p.m.
Evening	6:00 p.m.

If more than one race is to be sailed, the race committee may start a fleet even if other fleets are still racing. Instead of Code Flag 'F' (Attention), a series of short horns will be sounded 1 minute prior to the sequence start.