



COLUMBIA SAILING SCHOOL

MISSA Shepherd Championship

Columbia Yacht Club
Columbia Sailing School
31 October – 1 November 2026
Monroe Harbor, Chicago, IL

Sailing Instructions (SIs)

1 RULES

- 1.1 The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in:
 1. The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS).
 2. This Notice of Race (NOR).
 3. The Sailing Instructions (SI).
 4. The ISSA Procedural rules located at <https://hssailing.org/resources/rules/>
 5. The MISSA Supplemental rules located at <https://missa.hssailing.org/about/missa-district-rules>
- 1.2 In the event of a conflict between the governing documents and the Sailing Instructions, the SIs shall take precedence.
- 1.3 The Organizing Authority (OA) is the Midwest Interscholastic Sailing Association (MISSA). The Host Organization is Columbia Sailing School in conjunction with host schools: Jones College Prep, Lane Tech, Lincoln Park, OPRF, U of C-Lab, and Whitney Young.
- 1.4 **[DP]** Drones usage will only be allowed subject to ISSA PR 5.2.
- 1.5 The US Sailing Prescriptions to Rule 63.1(b) and Preamble to Part 5, Section B shall not apply.
- 1.6 In addition to other rules changed in this document, the following rules are changed:
 1. RRS 60.4(a) adds, "(4) if the protest is by a boat and is based on a rule with the notation [NP]."
 2. RRS 60.5(c) adds, "(5) the protest is based on a rule with the notation [DP] and the protest committee decides the penalty shall be more or less than a single Disqualification."
 3. RRS 61.3 adds, "or is a request by a boat and is based on a rule with the notation [NP]."
 4. Rule 60.4(a)(2) is changed as follows: "(2) if it alleges a breach of a rule of Part 2 or rule 31 and is from a boat that was not involved in, and did not see, the incident, or..."
- 1.7 In accordance with Rule 70.5(a) and ISSA PR 18, the decisions of the protest committee are final. US Sailing permission has been granted.

2 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1 Official notices including changes to sailing instructions will be posted on the official notice board located at <https://scores.hssailing.org/f26/2026-missa-shepherd/>



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- 2.2 Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted:
1. By 1800 on the day before a schedule change will take effect,
 2. Before 0900 on the day it will take effect or,
 3. In the event of AP posted ashore, no later than 15 minutes before AP is lowered ashore.
- 2.3 Changes to sailing instructions may be made on the water. Oral changes may be given on the water per RRS 90.2(c) using the following procedure:
1. The signal boat will hoist Code Flag Lima (L) with one sound.
 2. Boats shall come within hailing distance of the signal boat.
 3. Oral changes will be made via VHF on channel 78 as a courtesy to coaches.
 4. Any changes that will affect future races in the series will be posted once ashore.

3 COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

- 3.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board online at <https://scores.hssailing.org/f26/2026-missa-shepherd/>
- 3.2 On the water, the Race Committee intends to monitor and communicate with coaches via VHF radio on channel 78.
- 3.3 **[DP]** While racing, except in an emergency, a boat shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats.
- 3.4 **[NP]** Errors and omissions in courtesy broadcasts are not grounds for a request for redress. ***This changes RRS 61.1(a) and 61.4(b)(1).***

4 CODE OF CONDUCT

- 4.1 **[DP]** Competitors, coaches, and support persons shall comply with reasonable requests from race officials.
- 4.2 The Columbia dock falls within a Zone of Play – only coaches, athletes, and race personnel are permitted in this area from the beginning of the Competitors Meeting on Saturday until the end of the Protest Filing Period on Sunday.
- 4.3 There will be a spectator exclusion zone of 100 yards around the racecourse. Spectators shall receive 1 warning upon entering this zone unless directed by a race official. A second entrance shall be cause for a protest by the OA against the individual/any affiliated team(s) under RRS 41 and RRS 60.
- 4.4 Spectator boats not belonging to Columbia Yacht Club members shall not dock on the Columbia Yacht Club dock. This is considered a Zone of Play under SI 4.2.

5 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 5.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed on a staff at the entrance to the club ship near the dock.
- 5.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 30 minutes' in Race Signals AP.
- 5.3 **[DP]** Competitors in boats shall not leave the docks before a Race Committee vessel or CYC safety vessel.

6 SCHEDULE OF RACES

Saturday 31 October	
1000	Registration, Rigging of Boats
1030	Mandatory Competitor's Meeting



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1100	First Warning, Racing to continue throughout the day
Sunday 1 November	
0900	Rigging of Boats
0915	Coaches Meeting
1000	First Warning, Racing to Continue throughout the day
1500	No Initial Warning After This Time

7 VENUE

- 7.1 The racing area will be either inside Monroe Harbor, or the open waters of Lake Michigan, east of the Monroe Harbor entrance as announced by the RC at the day's competitors meeting.
- 7.2 Please see Appendix B of the NOR for details on access to Columbia Yacht Club.

8 COURSES AND MARKS

- 8.1 Courses will be in accordance with ISSA PR 7.8.
- 8.2 The Race Committee may designate course selection orally.
- 8.3 Marks will be drop marks.
- 8.4 In accordance with ISSA PR 7.8(c) after the starting signal, the Race Committee may change the position of any mark to maintain course configuration, provided that no boat is on that leg of the course. No signals are required. ***This changes RRS 33.***
- 8.5 The diagram in SI Addendum A shows the 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.
- 8.6 For courses W3, W4 and W5, Mark 1 may have an offset (1a). If the offset is not in place, the single windward mark shall be left to port. Mark 2 will be a gate. If the gate is not in place, the single leeward Mark 2 shall be left to port.

9 THE START, FINISH AND RECALLS:

- 9.1 Races will start in accordance with ISSA PR 7.9(a).
- 9.2 **[DP]** Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area during the starting sequence for other races.
- 9.3 RRS US Sailing Prescription Appendix U - Sound-Signal Starting System shall be used.
- 9.4 The starting line is between a staff displaying an orange flag on the signal vessel at the starboard end and the course side of the port-end starting mark.
- 9.5 Individual recalls will be made in accordance with ISSA PR 7.9(b).
- 9.6 General recalls will be signaled by a series of short sounds. After a general recall, RRS 30.1 shall apply except Flag I (India) need not be displayed in accordance with ISSA PR 7.9(c). ***This changes RRS 30.1.***
- 9.7 The finishing line is between a staff displaying a Blue flag on the finish vessel and the course side of the nearby finishing mark.



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10 BREAKDOWNS

- 10.1 Breakdown requests shall be filed in the same manner as protests.
- 10.2 Breakdowns shall be scored in accordance with ISSA PR 9(e).
- 10.3 Compensation shall be consistent with ISSA PR Appendix 5.

11 PROTESTS & HEARING REQUESTS

- 11.1 Protest procedure will be in accordance ISSA PR Part VI - 15.
- 11.2 Per ISSA PR 8(b), competitors shall not communicate with a coach before reporting to the Race Committee their intent to protest.
- 11.3 Protests and requests for redress shall be filed in person at on the rail deck with the Jury Secretary within the appropriate time limit.
- 11.4 A boat's protest time limit is 30 minutes after the Signal Vessel returns to the dock.

12 SCORING

- 12.1 The scoring system is as follows: Scoring will be in accordance with ISSA PR 9.
- 12.2 Three (3) races in each division are required to be completed to constitute a regatta.

13 SAFETY

- 13.1 All coaches and support staff are required to wear a personal flotation device (PFD) as required by ISSA PR 2.2 and an ECOS (Engine Cut Off System) device and) at all times while operating a powerboat.
- 13.2 **[DP]** A boat that retires from a race shall notify the Race Committee either before leaving the course, or if that is impossible, immediately after arriving ashore.

14 FORMAT

- 14.1 The Race Committee will attempt to complete a full rotation.
- 14.2 Rotation schedules and boat assignments will be posted on Tech Score.

15 [DP] SUPPORT TEAMS AND COACHING

- 15.1 Each team must provide a coach boat that will serve as each coach's respective designated on-the-water coaching platform for the event.
- 15.2 All coaches and support staff are required to wear a personal flotation device (PFD) as required by ISSA PR 2.2 and an ECOS (Engine Cut Off System) device and) at all times while operating a powerboat.
- 15.3 Coaches and support staff are required to follow Coast Guard legal capacity while operating their coach boats or support boats. Vessels not operating within legal capacity will be required to leave the race area.
- 15.4 No coaches or support staff are to operate above an idle speed within 100 feet of competitors in sailboats, or in the surrounding course area, unless responding to an emergency situation. The start, finish, and rotation areas all are no-wake zones. Coaches not adhering to this will be required to anchor for the remainder of the regatta, or leave the racing area.
- 15.5 Team leaders, coaches, and other support personnel shall stay outside areas where boats are racing from the time of the preparatory signal to the start until all boats have finished or retired or the Race Committee signals a postponement, general recall, or abandonment.



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- 15.6 Coaching may take place below the finish line. All coaches shall assist when and where necessary for safety or at the request of the Race Committee. Failure to do so may result in exclusion from the racecourse.

16 SPECIAL CLOTHING

16.1 Special clothing requirements:

1. All competitors shall provide their own dry suit and have it on hand at the venue on each day of racing as per ISSA PR 2.3.
2. **[NP]** On each day of racing, the OA will announce whether dry suits will be required to be worn by competitors racing on that day.
3. If the air temperature plus the water temperature equals or exceeds 100 degrees Fahrenheit, dry suits will only be required to be worn by the OA on that day in exceptional circumstances.
4. Competitor's failure to wear a dry suit while racing on a day where dry suits are required by the OA will be scored DSQ by the RC without a hearing. ***This changes RRS 63.1.***

17 RISK STATEMENT

Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. See RRS 3, Decision to Race, which states "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue to race is hers alone." By participating in this event each competitor and their parents and guardians agrees and acknowledges that sailing is a potentially dangerous activity with inherent risks. These risks include strong winds and rough seas, sudden changes in weather, failure of equipment, boat handling errors, poor seamanship by other boats, loss of balance on an unstable platform and fatigue resulting in increased risk of injury. Inherent in the sport of sailing is the risk of permanent, catastrophic injury or death by drowning, trauma, hypothermia or other causes. The Organizing Authority will not accept any liability for material damage, personal injury, or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the regatta.

17 PRIZES

Prizes will be awarded to schools placing 1st, 2nd, and 3rd overall.

18 REGATTA CONTACTS

Mike McBrien, Assistant On the Water Director mike@columbiasailingschool.org

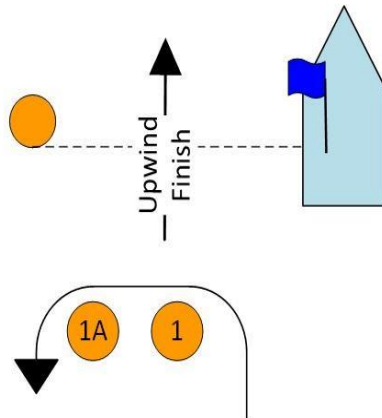
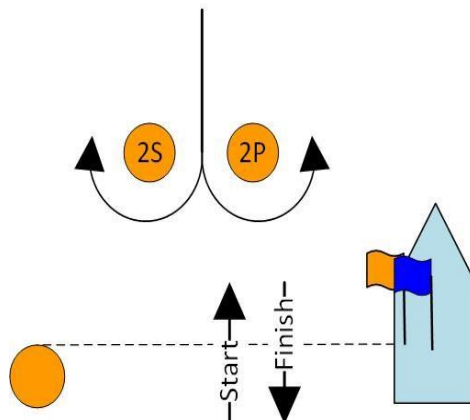


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Addendum A Courses

Mark colors and shapes may differ from the diagram and are described in the SIs.

Course	Mark Rounding Order
W3	Start-1-1a-2s/2p-Upwind Finish
W4	Start-1-1a-2s/2p-1-1a-Downwind Finish
W5	Start-1-1a-2s/2p-1-1a-2s/2p-Upwind Finish





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APPENDIX B

A few important reminders about our venue:

- There is **NO PARKING** for competitors or guests permitted in the Columbia Yacht Club lot. The DuSable Harbor Parking Lot is the closest option, and is located across the street from the YC. Other options include the Field Harbor Parking Garage and the Millenium Park Parking Garage.
- The Yacht Club asks that parents, spectators, and visitors **NOT** to take seats on the second-floor restaurant deck unless they are dining for a meal.
- Sailors may bring outside food for lunch/snacks to eat in the classroom or on-the-water. However, any parents, spectators, or visitors should NOT bring outside food. Families can dine in the bar or dining room, and purchase food with a credit card.
- All sailors can keep their gear NEATLY along the perimeter of the classroom. Sailors should not go upstairs into the lounge, bar, or restaurant area in wet gear.
- There will be no lunch break, so sailors should prepare to bring lunch to eat during their off sets. A sailor's off set might be on the water.

If you are bringing a powerboat to launch, please remember there are no facilities to launch from at Columbia YC or Monroe Harbor. The closest ramp is Burnham Harbor, immediately south of Monroe Harbor.