

NESSA National Keelboat Invitational Qualifier

October 18, 2026

Hosted By: Eastern Yacht Club
Location: 47 Foster Street Marblehead, MA 01945

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

1. RULES

1.1. The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing, the ISSA Procedural Rules, the ISSA National Championship General Conditions and the Sonar Class Rules, and the NESSA District Rules.

1.2. 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.

1.3. In accordance with RRS 70.3, decisions of the protest committee are final. US SAILING's permission has been granted.

1.4. The Organizing Authority (OA) is NESSA in conjunction with the host

1.5. Rule 60.2 is amended as follows: 60.2(a)(1) If protestor is a boat she shall hail "protest" The remainder of 60.2(a)(1) is deleted

2. NOTICE TO COMPETITORS

2.1. Official notices will be posted on the official notice board located on Tech Score. In addition, as a curiosity, notices may also be posted on the glass wall of the Sailing office located in the Sailing Center on the ground floor of the Eastern YC.

2.2. Notices regarding protests will be posted on the glass wall of the Sailing office located in the Sailing Center on the ground floor of the Eastern YC.

2.3. Changes to the sailing instructions shall be approved by the PRO and the Chief Judge and the NESSA Representative and posted no later than one half hour prior to the first warning signal on the day it will take effect.

3. CODE OF CONDUCT

[DP] Competitors and support persons shall comply with reasonable requests from race officials.

4. SCHEDULE

Sunday

0900 - Competitor's meeting

1600 - No first warning for any race may start after this time, except if the regatta is not "official" yet, in accordance with the ISSA PR in which case, racing can continue until the regatta is official or in the case of a General Recall or Abandonment in said race.

Changes to the schedule will be posted on the official notice board

5. COURSES AND MARKS

5.1. Courses will follow ISSA PR 7.8(a) and are attached as Appendix A.

5.2. The race committee may designate course selection orally.

5.3. Marks 1, 1A (offset), 2S/2P (gate), will be orange robotic marks. This changes mark description in 7.8(a) Appendix 9.

5.5 Standard Operations - RaceSense Active:

5.6 The course uses four orange robotic marks:

- a. Two Leeward Marks shall display orange flags. In Course W2 (W/L) and W4, the leeward marks are used as the starting marks, leeward gate, and finishing marks. In Courses W3 and W5, the leeward marks serve as the starting marks and leeward gate marks only.
- b. Two Windward Marks shall display orange flags. For all Courses except W3 and W5, these marks are Mark 1 and offset Mark 1a. In Courses W3 and W5, these marks serve as windward Mark 1, offset Mark 1a, and the finishing marks.
- c. The RC Signal Boat and RC Finish Vessel are not marks of the course and are not part of the starting or the finishing lines.

5.7 Flag Oscar Operations - RaceSense Suspended: When Flag Oscar is displayed, the RC Signal Boat or RC Finish Vessel becomes a mark of the course and forms the starboard end of the starting or finishing line.

5.8 To change the next leg of the course, the RC will lay a new mark (or move the finishing line) and remove the original mark as soon as practicable.

5.9. The RC may adjust the course during a race, by no more than 10 degrees or 0.1 nm, to maintain course alignment, without signaling a change. These changes [RRS 33](#).

6.0. When autonomous marks are used, routine movement of marks will not be ground for redress. This includes marks returning to station after having been pushed away by a boat and collisions with the marks that did not cause damage. This changes RRS 61.1 (a) and RRS 31 still applies.

6. START/FINISH AND SIGNALS

6.1. Prior to the first warning signal of the first race of the day, boats shall sail on starboard tack, passing the stern of the RC Signal vessel displaying Flag L, to be recorded.

6.2. To alert boats that a race or sequence of races will begin soon, one (1) long sound signal will be made at least five (5) minutes before a warning signal is made.

6.3. Races will be started in accordance with **Addendum RS** which is attached. These changes [RRS 26](#).

6.4. The starting line is between two Vakaros units attached to staffs displaying orange flags on the two leeward robotic marks.

6.5 The finishing line is between two Vakaros units attached to staffs displaying orange flags on the applicable robotic marks as defined in 5.6 above.

6.5. Flag Oscar – RaceSense Suspended: When Flag Oscar is displayed, RRS 26 applies. The RC may attempt to hail boats subject to individual recall on VHF 69 using sail numbers. The failure to hail, the order in which boats are hailed, or the untimely hail of a boat or boats shall not be grounds for redress. This modifies [RRS 29.1](#) and changes [RRS 62.1\(a\)](#).

6.6. A boat that does not start within five (5) minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. These changes [RRS A5.1 and A5.2](#).

6.7 When Code Flag Delta (D) is displayed before or at the Warning Signal, spinnakers shall not be flown during the race.

7. BREAKDOWNS

7.1. Breakdown requests shall be filed in the same manner as protests.

7.2. Breakdowns shall be scored in accordance with ISSA PR 9(e). Compensation shall be consistent with ISSA PR Appendix 5.

8. PROTESTS

Protest procedure will be in accordance with ISSA PR Part VI.

9. SCORING

Scoring will be in accordance with ISSA PR 9.

10. SAFETY

10.1 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.

11. COACHING

Accommodation has been made for coaches to be on the water, weather permitting.

12. CREW, SUBSTITUTIONS AND ROTATIONS

12.1 Crew of 4 (including skipper) is required to sail for this event. At least one team member must identify as female unless the school is all male.

12.2 No Substitutes

12.3 Per section 16.0 there will be no rotations.

13. BOATS, EQUIPMENT AND DAMAGE DEPOSIT

13.1 Each team shall inspect all equipment prior to racing and report any damage to the Race Committee.

13.2 Deposits will be returned once the host is able to inspect equipment post regatta.

13.3 Boats shall be sailed as provided.

14. COMMUNICATION

14.1 Race committee shall be on VHF 69.

14.2 In accordance with RRS 90.2 oral changes to the SIs may be made on the water. A change is in effect when the RC signal boat displays Flag L over A with one sound signal. This means competitors should monitor VHF radio channel 69 and come within hail of the RC signal boat to receive the oral changes to the SIs

15. Boat Assignments

15.1 At 0930 on Sunday October 18th teams shall draw for their boats that they will sail for the regatta.

15.2 As the boats are under a year old there will be no rotations.

ADDENDUM RS

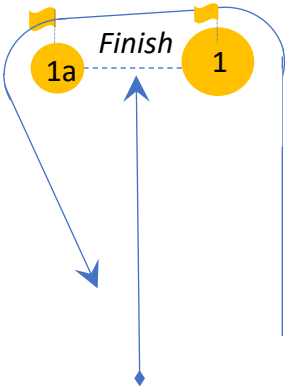
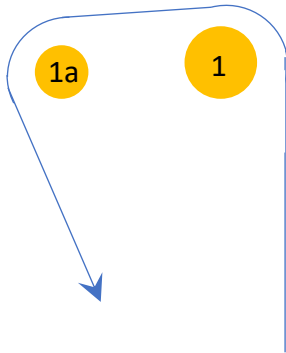
VAKAROS RACESENSE

RaceSense RRS changes

[NP]Rules and Instructions for Using the Vakaros and RaceSense System

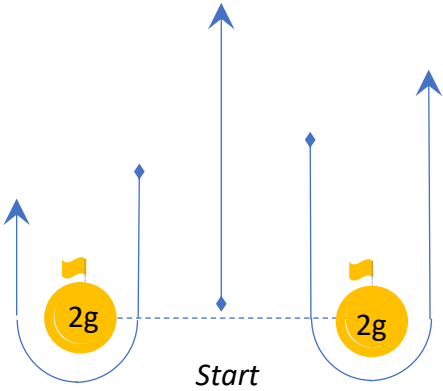
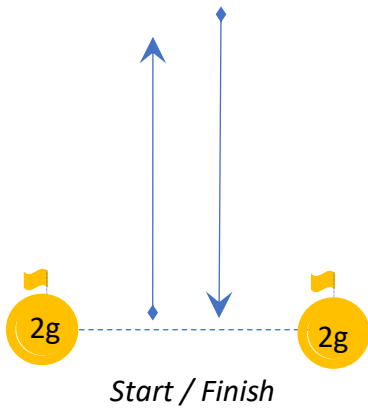
- RS.1. Each boat shall have a working Vakaros Atlas 2 or Atlas Edge configured for RaceSense, including a valid and current subscription to RaceSense Pass, and enabled with only the functionality listed here at check-in. This shall be mounted above any other device, on the aft side of the mast, at all times while racing.
- RS.2. Competitors shall a) calibrate their Atlas 2 or Atlas Edge before registration/check-in. It is the responsibility of the competitor to ensure their device remains in proper calibration throughout the event. b) Turn the Atlas 2 or Atlas Edge off after sailing each day. Battery life is approx. 100 hours.
- RS.3. The Vakaros RaceSense system will be used by the Race Committee (RC) and the relevant information will be available to all boats.
- RS.4. Instructions for using the electronic Atlas 2 can be found here [Atlas 2 User Guide](#) or Atlas Edge can be found here [Atlas Edge User Guide](#).
- RS.5. Competitors shall take all reasonable measures to keep the Atlas 2 or Atlas Edge safe and operational and promptly notify Vakaros staff on the water or ashore of any device issues.
- RS.6. The countdown to the start on the Atlas 2 or Atlas Edge from RaceSense will be the official time. Signal flags will only be used for information purposes. This changes RRS 26.
- RS.7. The visual identification of boats infringing RRS 29 and 30 by the RC is replaced with electronic identification through the Vakaros RaceSense system, modifying RRS 29.1, 30.1, 30.2, 30.3, and 30.4.
- RS.8. Any alleged failure of the Atlas 2 or Atlas Edge, RaceSense system, or communication systems will not constitute grounds to request redress by a boat or the Protest Committee. This changes RRS 61.1(a), 61.1(c).
- RS.9. If the RC vessel displays flag Oscar (Old School) with a long sound signal before the warning signal of a race, RS.6 and RS.7 inclusive will not apply to that race.
- RS.10. If the RC vessel displays flag Romeo (Re-Boot) with a long sound signal before the warning signal of a race, Competitors shall restart their Vakaros Atlas or Atlas Edge unit by switching it off, waiting 10 seconds and then switching it back on to reconnect to the RaceSense network. Flag R will remain displayed for a minimum of 2 minutes and will be removed with the next warning signal.

APPENDIX A



W2

W3

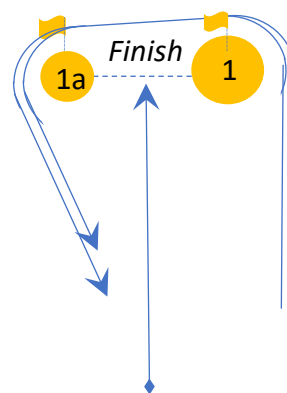
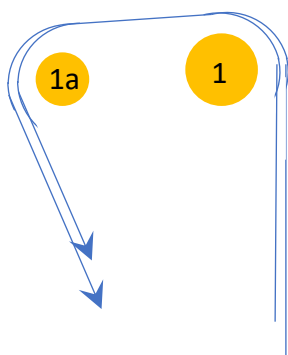


Course:

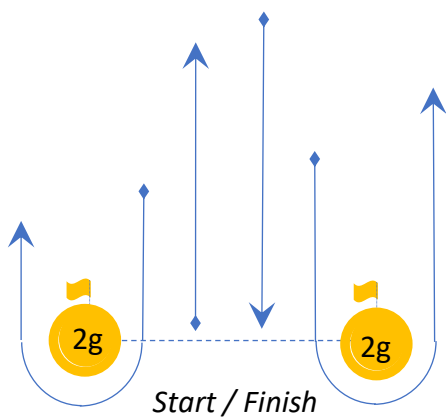
Signal	Mark Rounding Order
W2	Start - 1 - 1a - Downwind Finish

Course:

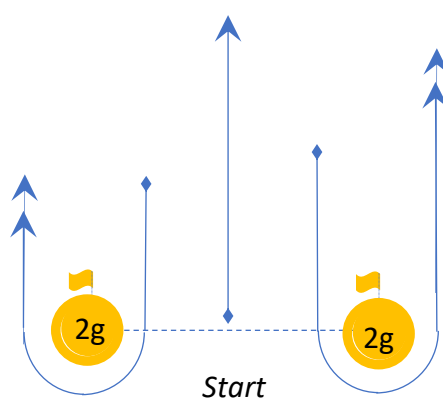
Signal	Mark Rounding Order
W3	Start - 1 - 1a - 2g - Upwind Finish



W4



W5



Course:

Signal	Mark Rounding Order
W4	Start - 1 - 1a - 2g - 1 - 1a - Downwind Finish

Course:

Signal	Mark Rounding Order
W5	Start - 1 - 1a - 2g - 1 - 1a - 2g - Upwind Finish