Coconut Grove Sailing Club – Miami, Florida

HOWLER REGATTA, XVI

October 24-25, 2026

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Published: October 18 2026, **amended October 22 2026, October 23 2026**

1. RULES

1.1 The event will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS).

1.2 US Sailing Prescriptions will apply except the prescription to the preamble to Part 5, Section B and the prescription to Rule 63.1(b).

1.3 RRS Appendix V, Alternative Penalties, shall apply.

1.4 The notation [NP] in a rule means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. The notation [SP] in a rule means that the penalty for breach of the rule shall be a penalty published by the organizing authority or race committee and may be applied by the race committee without a hearing.

1.5 The Vakaros RaceSense system will be utilized by the Race Committee (RC) for the Opti RWB, ILCA and C420 fleets. See SI Addendum B.

1.6 [DP][NP] Personal Flotation Devices: RRS 40.1 applies and is modified hereafter. PFDs shall be US Coast Guard approved, except competitors traveling from another country may wear an appropriately sized PFD approved by a regulatory body for use in the competitor's country of origin. The preamble to Part 4 will not apply.

2. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS and COMMUNICATION

2.1 The Official Notice Board is electronic, and can be accessed directly at https://theclubspot.com/regatta/BiPbrVI6Wh/#notice-board

2.2 No competitors shall carry electronic communications devices, including VHF radio or cell phones or cellular smartwatches while on the water.

2.3 Coaches and Support vessels shall carry VHF radios and shall monitor the channels assigned to their fleet at all times while on the water.

2.4 Communication to coaches and support persons will be made via these VHF Channels:

2.4.1	Optimist RWB	:	69
2.4.2	Optimist Green fleet:		**72**
2.4.3	ILCA 4 and ILCA 6 and C420 fleets:		73

3. FORMAT

3.1 Optimist RWB Boats will start as a single fleet. There may be 2 or 3 practice starts on the first day, before actual races.

3.2 **[NP] Optimist Green Boats will be divided into two divisions, and each division will have its own start. Division assignments of Yellow and Blue will be determined based on random assignment. Boats will stay in their respective fleets for the entire regatta. The organizing authority will provide each boat with a colored streamer**

corresponding to the color of the division to which she is assigned. While on the water each boat shall at all times display the colored streamer. The streamer shall be attached securely to the sprit loop at the top of the sail, and its size shall not be changed.

3.3 The ILCA 4 and ILCA 6 and C420 Fleets will sail with separate starts. **It is the intention of the signal boat to start in the following order: C420 then ILCA 6 then ILCA 4. The warning signal for each subsequent fleet will be made after the starting signal of the preceding fleet.**

3.4 Six (6) Races are scheduled for all fleets.

3.5 Sailors will sail no more than three races per day.

3.6 One completed race shall constitute the regatta.

4. CHANGES TO THE SAILING INSTRUCTIONS (SI)

4.1 Any change to the SI will be posted on the official notice board by 0800 on the day that 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.

5. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE AND LAUNCHING

5.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed from the flagpole located on the lawn of the Coconut Grove Sailing Club, and posted to the Official Notice Board.

5.2 When flag "AP" is displayed as**hore,** "1 minute" is replaced with "not less than 45 minutes" in Race Signal "AP". This changes Race Signal "AP."

5.3 **[NP].** All boats shall be kept at Myers Park or CGSC in the assigned area until the harbor launch times (see NOR 7.8 Full Schedule).

6. RACING AREA: See chart in SI addendum 4

6.1 **Optimist RWB Fleet**: **0.75 mile ENE of the Dinner Key Channel entrance.**

6.2 **Green Fleet: Between Brennan and Four-way channels, near Ransom Everglades**

6.3 **ILCA and C420 Fleets: 1.5 miles ESE of the Brennan Channel entrance.**

7. THE COURSE AND CHANGES TO COURSE LEG(S)

7.1. SI Addenda 1, 2 and 3 illustrate the courses for each fleet, including the general configuration of the marks, the order in which marks are to be passed, and the side on which each mark is to be left.

7.2. If gate mark 3S or 4S is missing, boats shall round the remaining gate mark to port.

7.3. For a change of the next leg of the course, the race committee will lay a new mark (or move the finishing line) and remove the original mark as soon as practicable.

7.3.1. For Optimist courses, the new mark will be the same color

7.3.2. For ILCA and C420 courses, the new mark will be a different color

7.4. The race committee may make minor changes to the course without signaling a change of course per RRS 33. This modifies RRS 33.

7.5. For all courses, the angle from Mark 2 to Mark 3P/3S may be changed up to 15 degrees in either direction to compensate for wind / current differences on that side of the course, without signals or change marks, provided the change is made before any boats begin that leg. This is added to RRS 33.

8. MARKS

8.1. **Start Mark:** ILCA/C420: **Yellow** Inflatable Cylinder

8.2. **Rounding marks:** Optimist RWB Fleet: Orange inflatable tetrahedrons.

8.3. **Rounding marks:** Optimist Green Fleet**: Yellow inflatable tetrahedrons.**

8.4. **Rounding marks**: ILCA /C420 Fleets: **Orange i**nflatable tetrahedrons. Change marks will be **yellow** inflatable tetrahedrons.

8.5. **Finish marks: Red inflatable cylinder for Opti Green fleet.**
Green inflatable tetrahedrons for other fleets.

9. RESTRICTED AREAS

9.1 The **racing area** is the space encompassing the course, the starting area, and the finishing area. It extends 100 yards beyond any racing boat and all marks. Except as permitted by SI 18.5, only competing boats and official vessels (designated as such by the race committee) may enter the racing area while boats are racing.

9.2 The **waiting area** is the area to leeward of the racing area below the starting line, marked by a series of small balls or marks. Support Vessels are to anchor with their anchors at or behind the line formed by the row of small balls or marks, or, in the absence of small buoys, at a distance specified by the Principal Race Officer.

9.3 The **corridor** is the lane to starboard of the race committee finish vessel between the finish line and the waiting area, inside the race course. Boats are reminded when returning to the waiting area to not sail upwind of the starting line or across the starting line.

10. THE START

10.1 **Class Flags**

10.1.1	**Optimist RWB** fleet:	White flag with an Optimist class emblem
10.1.2	**Optimist Green** fleet:	Green flag with an Optimist class emblem
10.1.3	**ILCA** Fleets:	Class Flags for ILCA 4 and ILCA 6 fleets
10.1.4	**C420** Fleet:	White flag with C420 class emblem

10.2 **Starting Line**

10.2.1 **Optimist Green starting line** will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on a race committee signal vessel at the starboard and an orange flag staff on a race committee vessel at the port end. ~~A midline buoy may be used as a reference mark only. The midline buoy, if used, shall not be considered a mark of the course and Rules 18 and 31 shall not apply to it. Competitors are warned that the midline buoy may be on the course side of the starting line and is not a grounds for redress.~~

10.2.2 Optimist RWB starting line will be between an Atlas 2 mounted on the orange flag staff on a race committee signal vessel at the starboard end and an Atlas 2 mounted on the orange flag staff on a race committee vessel at the port end.

10.2.3 ILCA and C420 starting line will be between an Atlas 2 mounted on the orange flag staff on a race committee signal vessel at the starboard end and an Atlas 2 mounted on an inflatable **yellow cylinder** at the port end.

10.3 **The Orange line flag** will be raised with a sound no more than **5 minutes** prior to the warning of a race. Multiple sounds may be made to call attention to an imminent warning signal.

10.4 **For the Opti Green Fleet, prior to warnings, the Race Committee will display 1 flag whose color indicates which Division will start the next race.**

10.5 The Race Committee will not use Individual recall or general recall flags for Vakaros starts. This changes RRS 29.1 and 29.2. **Individual recall and general recall flags will be used for non-Vakaros starts, including when Flag O has been displayed per SI B.9.**

10.6 **Warning Signal Flags (Class Flags) and Preparatory Signal Flags (P/I/Z/U/Black) will be used for all starts.**

10.7 **[NP] A boat starting later than four (4) minutes after her starting signal** will be scored Did Not Start (DNS), without a hearing. This change is added to RRS A5.

10.8 The race committee will not hail the sail numbers of boats that are OCS or subject to starting penalties under RRS 30. Unofficial 'race committee actions' may be broadcast on the fleets' respective VHF channel as a courtesy to coaches and spectators after all boats have started and/or may be displayed on a notice board on the signal boat. The official list of race committee actions will be posted on the official notice board.

10.9 Prior to the warning for a subsequent race (except for the last race of the day), the sail numbers of boats subject to scoring penalties may be posted on a board near the stern of the RC Signal Boat. The Race Committee may make courtesy announcements with this information via VHF radio.

11. THE FINISH AND RETURN TO THE STARTING AREA

11.1 The **finish line** for the Opti Green fleet will be between a staff displaying a blue flag on a race committee finish vessel at the starboard end and the course side of a mark on the starboard end.

11.2 The finish line for other fleets will be between an Atlas 2 mounted on the blue flag staff on an RC Vessel, and an Atlas 2 mounted on an inflatable tetrahedron at the other end of the finish line.

11.3 **[NP] Immediately after finishing,** all boats shall sail clear of the finishing area and promptly return to the waiting area as shown in SI Addendum 1.

11.4 **Flag "A" displayed** (with no sound) while boats are finishing means "no more racing today." **Flag "H" displayed** while boats are finishing means "await further instructions ashore".

12. TIME LIMITS

12.1 **Mark One Time Limit:** The time limit for the first boat to round Mark 1 is thirty (30) Minutes. If no boat has passed Mark 1 within the Mark 1 Time Limit, the race shall be abandoned.

12.2 **Race Time Limit**: The time limit for the first boat in a race to sail the course and finish is ninety (90) minutes.

12.3 **Finishing Window:** Boats failing to finish within fifteen (15) minutes after the first boat in a race sails the course and finishes will be scored TLE (Time Limit Expired) without a hearing with a score of the number of finishers in that race plus the half the number of boats that are subject to TLE plus 0.5. This changes A5.2 and adds TLE as a scoring abbreviation to A10.

13. ALTERNATIVE PENALTIES

Appendix V shall apply. A boat takes an alternative scoring penalty by completing the online Penalty Acknowledgement form at the link https://forms.gle/kNqrqj6qpU2VTJvi6

14. PROTESTS

14.1 A boat intending to protest another boat concerning an incident in the racing area that she is involved in or sees shall, at the first reasonable opportunity after she finishes and before contacting any support persons, inform the race committee at the finishing line of her intent to protest and, when applicable, the identity of the protestee.

14.2 **Protest Time Limit --** The protest time limit is 60 minutes after the race committee finishing vessel **of the boat's racing area** docks **after the last race of the day**. The protest time limit (filing deadline) will be posted on the official notice board as soon as practical.

14.3 The protest notices required by RRS 63.1, and the notification of protests by the race committee or protest committee required by RRS 60.2(d), will be posted on the official notice board as soon as possible after a protest has been delivered, but not later than 15 minutes after the protest time limit. It is a boat's sole responsibility to check the Hearing Schedule at Clubspot https://theclubspot.com/regatta/BiPbrVI6Wh/#notice-board or to check its email promptly after the end of the protest filing time to see if she is cited in a protest.

15. REDRESS REQUESTS AND SCORING INQUIRIES

15.1 **Scoring Inquiries** are considered Requests for Redress per RRS 61.4(b).
They should be initiated by filling out the online form at https://theclubspot.com/regatta/BiPbrVI6Wh/file-protest. Select "Scoring Inquiry" as the Hearing Type. The RC will investigate, get back to you, and attempt to resolve the issue. If the scoring inquiry turns into a redress request, then the redress time limit will have been satisfied if the Scoring Inquiry form was submitted before the redress time limit expired.

15.2 **Protests should be initiated by** filling out the online Hearing form at https://theclubspot.com/regatta/BiPbrVI6Wh/file-protest. Select "Protest" or "Request for Redress" as the Hearing Type. Questions about the status of protests and redress requests can be emailed to Protest@cgsc.org.

15.3 If the race committee posts a list of boats scored OCS, UFD or BFD on the official notice board before the time limit cited in SI 14.2, a request for redress based on such a posted score shall be made no later than 30 minutes after the posting or the protest time limit, whichever is later. This change is added to RRS 61.2a.

15.4 Requests for redress relating to an OCS or starting penalty are not allowed for Vakaros starts. This changes RRS 61.1a. Requests for redress relating to an OCS or starting penalty on a non-Vakaros start shall state the procedural error the competitor believes the race committee may have made. Further, the competitor will be expected to establish that he or she started properly. This change is added to RRS 61.2a. See World Sailing Case 136 for guidance.

15.5 **On the last scheduled day of racing** a request for redress based on a protest committee decision shall be delivered no later than 30 minutes after the decision was posted. This change is added as the last sentence to RRS 61.2a.

16. SCORING

16.1 Green Fleet will not be scored.

16.2 Scoring based on number of races completed: This changes RRS A2.1.

16.2.1 When fewer than six (6) races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of all of her race scores.

16.2.2 When six (6) races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.

17. SAFETY AND CHECK-OUT/CHECK-IN PROCEDURES [SP][NP]

17.1 **Race-Course Check-in** - All boats must check in with the Race Committee prior to the Warning Signal of the first race each day by sailing past the stern of the Signal Boat on starboard tack and hailing her sail number until acknowledged by the Race Committee. Failure to comply with SI 17.1 will result in a three-place penalty in the first race that day without a hearing. This changes RRS 60.5(b).

17.2 A boat with a Vakaros problem must come to the signal boat immediately.

17.3 A boat that retires from a race or does not intend to start a scheduled race shall promptly report this to the Race Committee via hailing and receive acknowledgement, or have the coach report this by VHF radio. If neither is possible, once back on shore, the skipper shall email director@cgscic.org.

17.4 Competitors shall wear their PFD at all times on the water, except for brief periods while adding or removing clothing. Competitors shall have a whistle attached to their PFD at all times while on the water. Rule 40 shall apply.

18. SUPPORT PERSON REGULATIONS [NP]

18.1 Coaches are expected to be good role models for young sailors and conduct themselves accordingly ashore and on the water.

18.2 Parents (spectators) who are on the water either in support or coach vessels are considered coaches for the purpose of SI 18.

18.3 Those parents who serve on race committee vessels (including patrol and safety vessels) may not communicate in any way with their sailors or their coaches from the time the orange starting line flags are displayed until all sailors have finished that race (the "No Communication Period"). The only exception to this rule is when directed by the Principal Race Officer or they are involved with safety and rescue. During periods of time when communication with coaches and/or sailors is permissible, these parents shall not transfer any strategic or tactical information (including audio or video recordings) gained due to their advantageous location on the race course or their access to race committee communications, unless such information is made available to all sailors, coaches and other parents/supporters. Communications of a personal nature (e.g., 'great race', 'get something to drink', 'go see your coach', etc.) are always permissible outside the "No Communication Period".

18.4 General support (coach and spectator) vessel requirements:

18.4.1 Support vessels shall display a numbered flag provided by the organizing authority at all times while on the water. No 'team' flags, private signal flags, or any object that might be construed as a signal shall be flown from coach or support vessels while racing is underway.

18.4.2 Support vessels shall follow the instructions of the race committee, patrol, safety, protest committee, and other race management vessels at all times.

18.4.3 No support vessels shall tie up to or congregate around any aid to navigation, such as buoys or channel markers, or tie up to any fixed fishing gear or fishing floats.

18.5 Restrictions - support boats:

18.5.1 All support vessels shall stay out at least 100 yards outside the racing area while boats are racing, and move slowly with minimal wake, except where permitted in this instruction. Certain support vessels may be designated as rescue craft by the Principal Race Officer or Safety Officer and given permission to enter the racing area for the purposes of rescue operations only. Also, on the Optimist Green fleet, registered coaches may enter the field of play to coach skippers in the bottom half of the fleet in any given race.

18.5.2 When the race committee hoists (or is displaying) its orange starting line flags, all support vessels in the starting area shall proceed immediately to the waiting area and shall remain there until the race committee lowers the orange starting line flags, except that, after first and subsequent start(s) of a race, coach and support vessels may exit the waiting area and proceed slowly with minimal wake to the weather mark, only on the starboard side of the course. The race committee may close the starboard side of the course to

support vessels. RRS 41 and the Preamble to Part 4 is modified as stated above.

18.5.3 There shall be no anchoring inside the course or in the vicinity of the finish line.

18.5.4 There shall be no unapproved unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) drone flight permitted above the racing area, waiting area, coach/spectator boat zones, start line or finish line.

18.6 Competitors affiliated with any coach, parent, or spectator vessel that breaks SI 18 may be protested and penalized under RRS 41, Outside Help, in which case the Preamble to Part 4 will not apply. This change is added to RRS 41.

18.7 Coaches, parents, or spectators that repeatedly and/or intentionally break SI 18 may be subject to disciplinary actions up to and including exclusion from the venue.

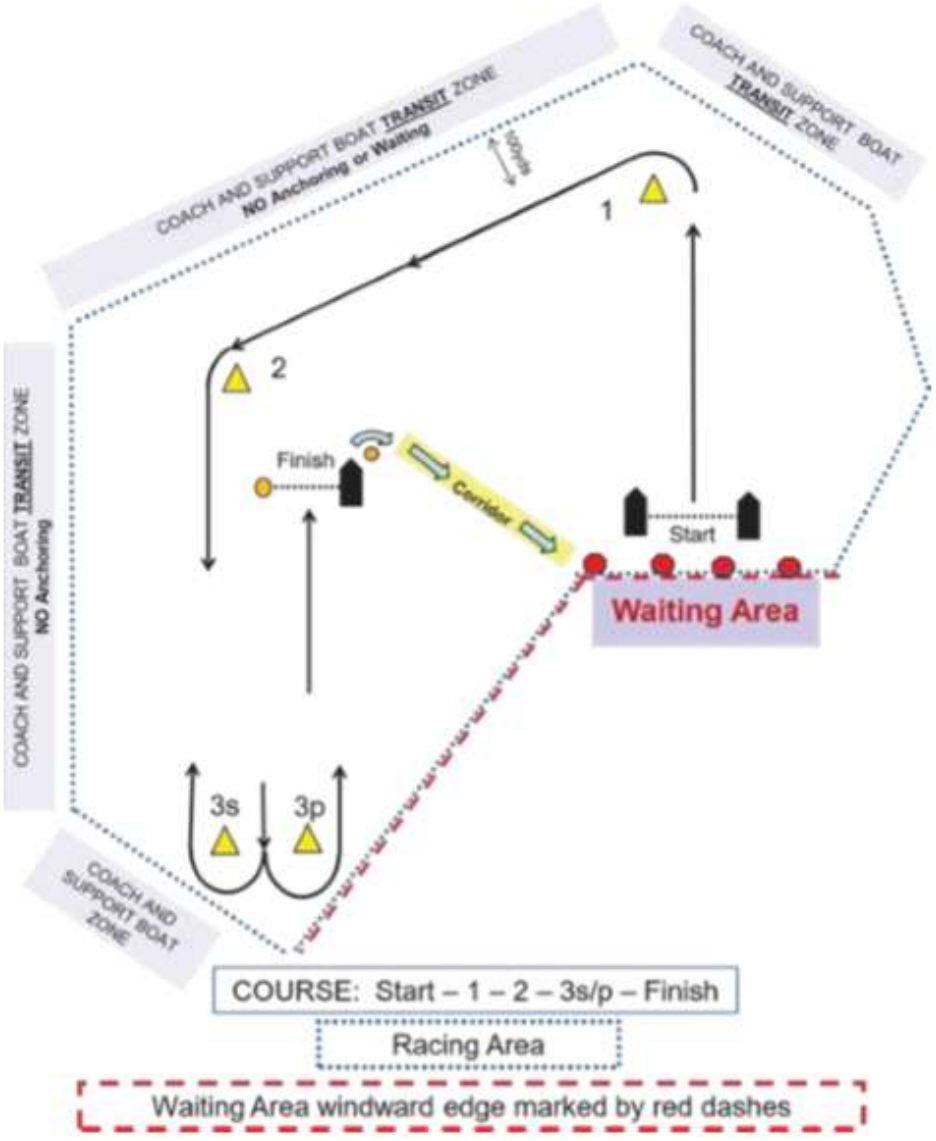
19 ENVIRONMENT [NP]

Competitors are expected to respect Basic Principle: Environmental Responsibility. Trash may be placed aboard race committees and support vessels. See rule 47

Event Chair	Priska Urban	priskaurbancgsc@outlook.com
CGSC Regatta Chair	Steve Herman	CGSCrace@gmail.com
PRO and CRO - Opti RWB	Maru Urban	director@CGSCIC.org
CRO - Opti Green Fleet	Stacy Morris	
CRO - ILCAs/C420	Enrique Dillon	
Chief Judge	Richard Etkin	

SI ADDENDUM 1 - RACE COURSE & RESTRICTIONS

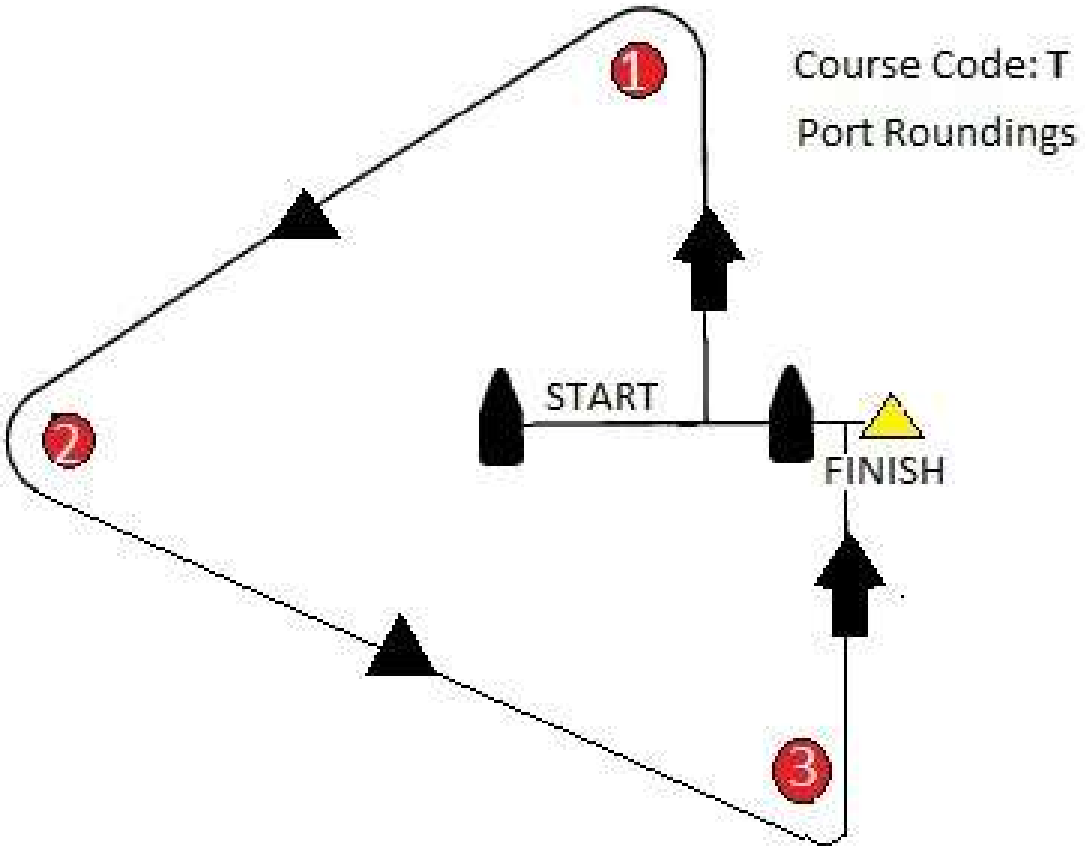
Optimist Championship (RWB) Trapezoid – Course 1



Note: Diagram not to scale. Mark colors and shapes are illustrative on

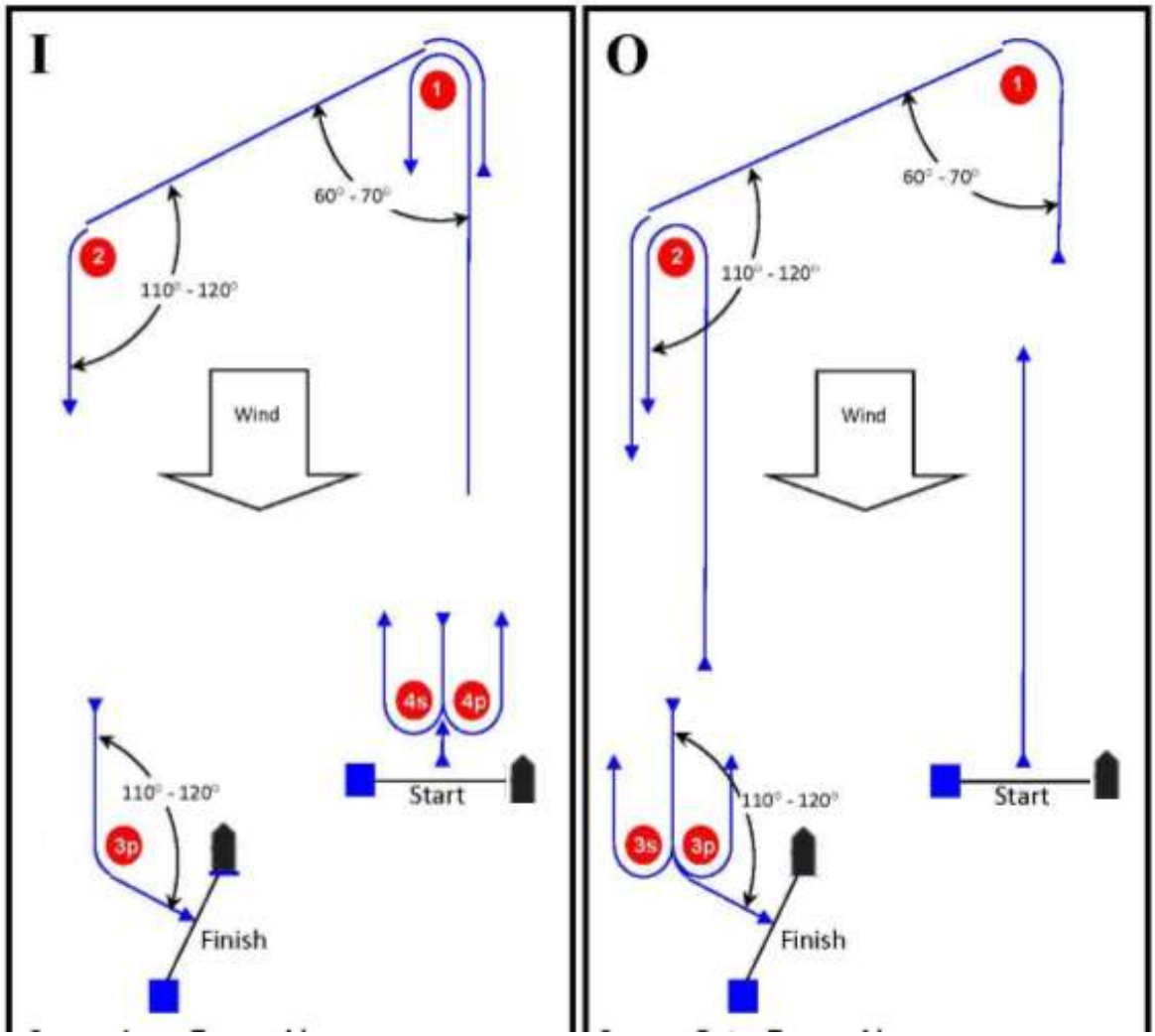
SI ADDENDUM 2 - RACE COURSE AND RESTRICTIONS

Optimist Green – Modified Triangle



SI ADDENDUM 3 - RACE COURSE AND RESTRICTIONS

ILCA and C420 Fleets – Inner and Outer trapezoid



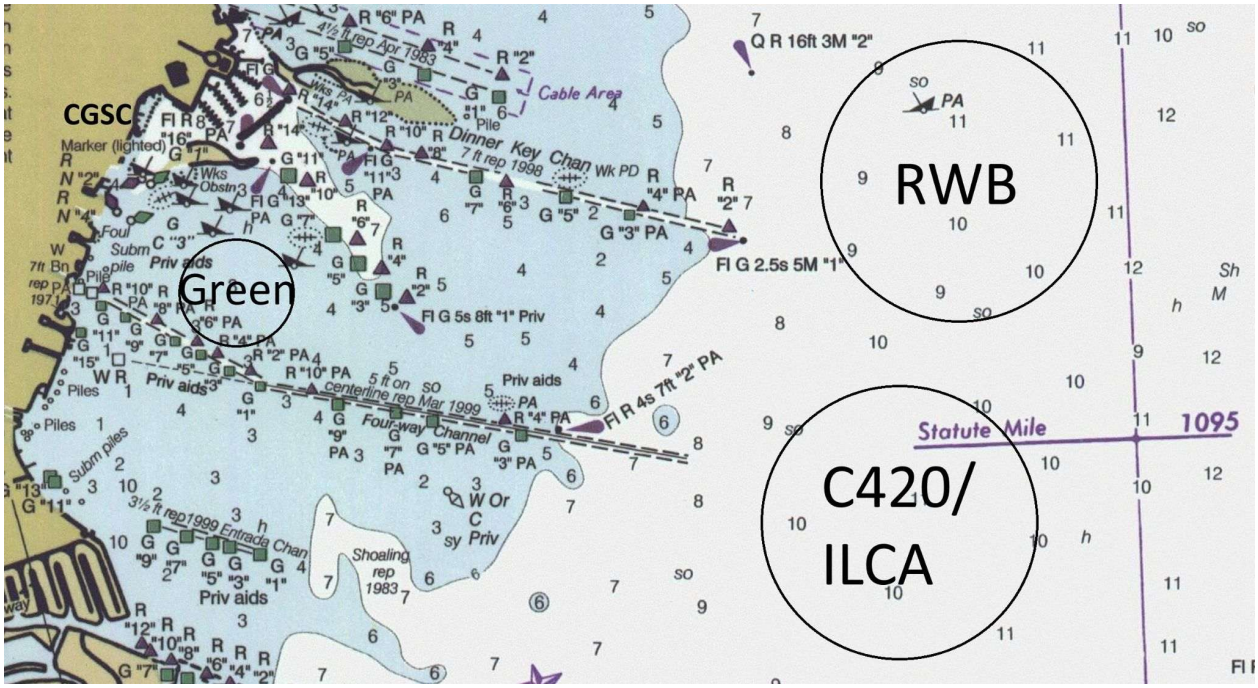
Course: Inner Trapezoid	
Signal	Mark Rounding Order
I	Start - 1 - 4s/4p - 1 - 2 - 3p - Finish

Course: Outer Trapezoid	
Signal	Mark Rounding Order
O	Start - 1 - 2 - 3s/3p - 2 - 3p - Finish

The course will be designated by a board marked "INNER" or "OUTER", displayed from the RC Signal vessel no later than the warning signal.

Note: Diagrams not to scale. Mark Colors and shapes are illustrative only

SI ADDENDUM 4 - RACE COURSE LOCATION



Addendum B

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

B.1 Each boat shall have a working Vakaros Atlas 2 or Atlas Edge configured for RaceSense at check-in. Boats without a configured Atlas 2 or Atlas Edge may have one provided by the OA, for applicable fees. The unit shall be mounted as required by the OA or class at all times while racing.

B.2 Competitors shall 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.3 The Vakaros RaceSense system will be used by the Race Committee (RC) and the relevant information will be available to all boats.

B.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

B.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.

B.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.

B.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.

B.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), and 63.2(a).

B.9 If the RC vessel displays flag Oscar (Old School) with a long sound signal before the warning signal of a race, B.6 and B.7 inclusive will not apply to that race.

B.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.

B.11 If firmware updates to Atlas 2 or Atlas Edge devices are required between scheduled race days, notice will be sent to all boats via email and/or the Regatta Whatsapp Group.