



2026 Fall Series Sailing Instructions Grapevine Sailing Club

1. The organizing authority is the Grapevine Sailing Club (GSC).
2. Rules: For all fleets, this Event shall be governed by:
 - a. The rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), the prescriptions of the United States Sailing Association [THE RACING RULES OF SAILING 2025-2028](#). Applicable class rules except for any of those that are altered by these sailing instructions.
 - b. Each race boat shall have a VHF Radio, monitoring Ch. 68, actively receiving during the entire race.
 - i. Medical exemption is allowed for this rule.
 - c. Appendix T, Arbitration, shall be used if a trained arbitrator is available.
3. Notices to Competitors
 - a. Notices to competitors shall be posted on the official series notice board, located at the GSC office window and online in the series racing documents on the GSC [2026 Fall Series](#) under 'Documents.'
4. Changes to Sailing Instructions
 - a. Any change/addendum to the sailing instructions shall be posted to the same location identified in part 3.a above 2 hours prior to the first warning on the day it shall take effect.
5. Signals Made Ashore
 - a. Signals made ashore shall be displayed at the same location identified in part 3.a above.
 - b. Following a harbor postponement, the first warning signal shall be made no earlier than forty-five (45) minutes after the harbor AP is lowered.
6. Skippers' Meetings
 - a. A skipper's meeting shall be convened 2 hours prior to the scheduled start of the first race of the series. The time for which shall appear in the NOR.
7. Decision to Race by the Principal Race Officer (PRO)
 - a. Both the Chase Boat Operator and the PRO must be GSC Members and have taken a PRO seminar class, unless excused by the Race Captain based on prior PRO Service.
 - b. The DFW Airport Tower shall be used for weather determinations to calculate [go/no-go](#) chart.
 - c. Water temperature shall be the lowest number listed on either [tpwd.texas.gov](https://tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/fish/recreational/fishreport.phtml) for Grapevine Lake Weekly Fishing Report <https://tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/fish/recreational/fishreport.phtml> or <https://www.lakemonster.com/lake/TX/Lake%20Grapevine-water-temperature-212>
 - d. Races shall not be started in less than a sustained 4 knots of wind (not a gust or puff) measured at the Committee Boat as determined by the PRO.
8. Schedule of Races
 - a. The NOR includes a table showing the days, dates and the scheduled times of the first warning signal for each day.
 - b. A Second Race for a fleet may be started when:
 - i. Every boat within that fleet has finished or scored for the first race of the day.
 - ii. The warning signal for the proposed race for any fleet shall not be made later than two and a half (2.5) hours after the first warning signal time.
9. Racing Area
 - a. The series racing area shall be the southeast half of Lake Grapevine.
10. Courses
 - i. No later than the warning signal for the first start for the first fleet, the signal boat (a.k.a. race committee) shall display the course and the approximate compass heading



2026 Fall Series Sailing Instructions Grapevine Sailing Club

to the first mark for each fleet. A mid-leg start and finish line shall be noted by placing an "M" at the end of the course description.

- ii. The course board at minimum shall display "offset" if an offset mark is set.
- b. The course diagrams are found in Attachment A. They show the courses, the order in which marks are to be passed, and the side on which each mark is to be left.
- c. A different course may be selected for each fleet.
- d. A mid-leg start/finish line is an obstruction - except when crossing to finish. Any boat violating this shall be scored DNF. This modifies RRS 63.1 and A5. A boat may absolve itself from the penalty for crossing the restricted line by:
 - i. Passing the string test as described in RRS definitions, *Sailing the Course*; or
 - ii. Taking a Two-Turns Penalty as soon as possible after the infraction.

11. Marks

- a. Windward (W), Leeward (L) and reaching marks shall be red/orange buoys.
- b. The start and finish marks shall be yellow buoys
- c. The L mark may be a gate.
- d. An offset may be added at the W mark, at the PRO's discretion, and shall be a yellow buoy. The distance between the W mark and the offset will be measured and included in the course length.

12. Check-in

- a. Before a boat starts their first race of the day, the skipper shall sail by the race committee boat on starboard, announce his/her sail number and say "Checking-In".
- b. The race committee shall acknowledge each hail and record each check-in. This constitutes being in the *starting area* for purposes of RRS A5.3.

13. The Start

- a. Races shall be started by using RRS 26.
- b. The starting line shall be between the orange flag of the race committee boat and a yellow mark.
- c. Keep clear of the starting line: Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall remain outside of fifty (50) yards from the starting line and its extensions.
- d. The order of fleet starts shall be determined by flags.
- e. The race committee may make several brief sound signals (courtesy warning) approximately one (1) minute before the first warning signal for the first sequence.
- f. Rolling starts: The race committee may use rolling starts where the start signal for a fleet starting is the warning signal for the next fleet. However, the race committee may break the sequence (for any reason deemed necessary) by not hoisting the fleet flag for the next start.

14. Abandonment

- a. A race may be abandoned for an individual fleet and shall be signaled by displaying code flag "N" in conjunction with the fleet flag for which the race is being abandoned and by making three sound signals. This modifies RRS 32.1 and clarifies Race Signals and RRS 27.3.
 - i. "N" flag over fleet flags - Racing abandoned for fleets designated. Return to the starting area. The warning signal will be made 1 minute after removal unless at that time the race is abandoned again or postponed.
 - ii. "N" flag over "A" flag - Racing is abandoned for all fleets. Further signals ashore
 - iii. "N" flag over "H" flag - Racing is abandoned for all fleets. No more racing today.

15. Time Limits

- a. The first warning signal of the day must occur no later than 1.5 hours after the scheduled first warning or all races for that day shall be abandoned (no more racing this day).



2026 Fall Series Sailing Instructions Grapevine Sailing Club

- b. A race (for a fleet) shall be abandoned when no boat in that fleet completes the leg to the first mark within 1 hour. A race (for a fleet) shall be abandoned when the first boat in that fleet fails to finish within 3 hours after the start signal for that fleet.
- c. Any boat in a race, failing to finish within 45 min after the first boat in her fleet has finished, shall be scored DNF without a hearing. This changes RRS 35, A5.1 and A5.2.

16. The Finish

- a. The finish line shall normally be between the orange flag of the race committee boat and the course side of a yellow buoy.
- b. If PRO has shortened the course, the finish will be between the orange flag on the GSC Chase boat and either W or L marks.

17. Protests / Redress

- a. 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, inform the race committee of her intent to protest and, when applicable, the identity of the protestee.
- b. Protests shall be written and submitted to the race committee within 30 min after the committee boat signals they are ashore, using the protest form that is available online in the series racing documents on the GSC [2026 Fall Series](#) under 'Documents'. This modifies RRS 60.3(b)
- c. Notices shall be posted no later than 30 minutes after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses and where the hearings shall be held.
- d. Notices of protests by the race committee, technical committee or protest committee shall be posted to inform boats under RRS 60.2.
- e. Protest Requests and Protest Decisions will be documented using the forms posted to the series race documents.

18. Scoring

- a. The low point scoring system (RRS A4) shall be used.
- b. Ties for a series shall be broken using RRS A8.
- c. Skippers serving on race committee on their assigned race day shall be scored:
 - i. First place (RDG 1) when they have attended one of the PRO race committee seminars during or before the series for which they have served (or have been excused from such training based on prior PRO service) and follow guidelines for use of Club Boats.
 - ii. Their average score (after removing throw out races) for the series when they do not attend a GSC PRO/Race Committee training seminar.
 - iii. A skipper reporting for race committee duty for more than one race day in a series shall be assigned an average score after removing throw out races.
 - iv. A non throw-out score of CMDf shall be assigned to any skipper failing to fulfill her/his assigned Race Committee obligation and shall not be eligible for a trophy in that series.
- d. The following throw-out system shall be used for all classes racing: one throw-out shall be allowed for each 5 races sailed by the fleet/class. Thus:

Races Started	Throw-outs
1-4	0
5-9	1
10	2

- e. RRS A5.3 applies for GSC Series Races.



2026 Fall Series Sailing Instructions Grapevine Sailing Club

- f. Any boat that checks-in with the race committee prior to the first race of the day shall be considered to have come to the *starting area* for the entire day. This clarifies the *starting area* within RRS A5.3.
 - g. DNC - Did not *start*; did not come to the starting area. A boat that did not come to the starting area shall be scored points for the finishing place two (2) more than the number of boats that started. Any boats scored RDG including race committee volunteers scored RDG=1 are included in the number of boats that started. This changes the last sentence of RRS A5.3.
19. Further Information
- a. Race Captain: Tom Parham - (817) 454-6265 - racecaptainsctx@gmail.com
 - b. Asst Race Captain: Mike Hutson - (972) 946-2933 - AssistantRaceCaptainGSCTX@Gmail.com

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