

Sailing Instructions (SI) – SLSC TWCF – 2026

Participation

A competitor shall participate in the spirit of fun, sportsmanship, fair play and safety. A competitor shall give all possible assistance to any person or vessel in danger. A boat may be penalized or disqualified if this spirit of participation is disregarded.

A participant, by virtue of participation, agrees to be bound by any and all rules, waivers, judgments and/or appeals resulting from the participation in 2026 SLSC TWCF. When a competitor breaks a rule, they will promptly take a penalty or retire.

Participants, or by proxy their guardian, are alone responsible for wearing personal buoyancy adequate for any and all race conditions. Participants, or by proxy their guardian, own the responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in this race or to continue racing as theirs and theirs alone.

Notices to Competitors

All fees must be paid and signed waiver forms submitted before a boat can start the race. Any boat not doing so, will be noted as did not come to the start line and any entry fee will be forfeit.

All boats must possess safety equipment required by law, their boat's class and/or equipment that a prudent sailor would consider necessary for a race the duration and scope of the 2026 SLSC TWCF.

No boat shall intentionally sail into any area identified as a 'Hazard'; a boat doing so will be disqualified. Unintentional entry must be remedied by reversing along identical inbound course until clear of hazard.

All boats are required to check-in with the Primary Race Officer (PRO) at the start line, prior to the race.

All boats shall report any withdrawal to the PRO by hail, if possible. Should conditions make such reporting impractical, a boat must inform the PRO of its withdrawal at the first reasonable opportunity after reaching the shore by email and/or text.

Rules

This race will be governed by the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) 2025-2028 Part 2, the 2026 SLSC TWCF NOR and these 2026 SLSC TWCF Sailing Instructions (SI).

To Keep It Fair

A boat shall not receive help from any outside source, except in cases of emergency. PRO instruction and information conveyed via VHF will **NOT** be considered outside help.

A boat shall compete by using only the wind and water to increase, decrease or maintain her speed and direction. Her crew may adjust the trim of sails and perform other acts of seamanship, but shall not otherwise move their bodies or parts of the boat to propel or direct the boat.

When headsails or spinnakers are being changed, a replacing sail may be fully set and trimmed before the replaced sail is lowered. However, only one mainsail and only one spinnaker shall be set at a time.

Only one spinnaker pole or whisker pole shall be used at a time. When in use, it shall be attached to the foremost mast.

The Course

Course selection will be wind dependent. Course selection will be communicated prior to the start. All boats will sail the same course regardless of course selection and/or shortened course.

A boat shall start, leave each mark on the required side in the correct order, and finish, so that a string representing her wake after starting and until finishing would when drawn taut pass each mark on the required side and touch each rounding mark. She may correct any errors to comply with this rule.

Marks will be either 'aid to navigation' or orange inflatable buoys as prescribe on the course map. After the starting signal, the PRO may shorten the course or abandon the race.

Communication

Race Committee will broadcast "In-Race" instructions on VHF Channel '71'. A working VHF Radio is highly recommended.

Starts

Race start time, re-starts and postponements will be in (5) minute increments. Each fleet start will be a (5) minute sequence. Fleet starts will be separated by no less than (5) minutes.

Fleet identification for a particular start will be conveyed via Class Flag defined prior to race. For each fleet start, the Class Flag will go up at (5) minutes prior to the start, the Preparatory Flag will go up at (4) minutes prior to the start, the Preparatory Flag will come down (1) minute prior to the start and last the Class Flag will come down to signal the start of that particular fleet. The absence of sounds will be disregarded.

Finishing

The corrected finish time of a boat in a particular fleet shall determine that boat's finishing place in that fleet. If boats are tied, they will share the finishing place and the next appropriate finishing place will be vacated. Portsmouth Yardstick (PYS) will be used to calculate corrected finish times. Wind conditions will be identified using the online weather resources or other available sources.

Scoring

The low point scoring system, rule A4, will apply. If five or more races are sailed, one race will be thrown out. Ties will be broken according to RRS A8.1 and 8.2.

Penalties

Penalties will be taken, on the course side of the finish line, as soon as possible after the incident well clear of other boats.

Rule 44.1 is changed so that the Two-Turns Penalty is replaced by the One-Turn Penalty.

A boat shall retire if causing injury or damage or, after a penalty is taken, retains a significant advantage in the race.

All other rules - at the discretion of the Protest Committee up to and including disqualification.

Restricted Area At Start Line

The starting area is defined as an area extending 50 yards forward and aft of the starting line and 50 yards on the outboard side of each of the committee boat and start line buoy. This area is restricted until all fleets have started. Any boat whose start signal has not been made may be disqualified for entering the restricted area. There is no appeal for this disqualification.

The Start Line

The start line is between the committee boat mast and the start line buoy. Boats that are on the course side of the line after the 5 minute signal and before their start, must return completely to the start side of the line to start / re-start. Boats on the course side of the line before the start must keep clear of other race boats when starting / re-starting. Although the PRO will work to signal boats via VHF that are on the course side of the line before the start, it is the responsibility of each boat racing to determine if they have started properly. Those boats not starting properly will be scored as "DSQ".

Protests / Appeals

The protest committee will comprise the event chairperson and two other participants not involved in an active protest. The Protest Committee will decide proper redress for both protested and protesting boat.

A boat intending to protest due to a perceived infraction of RRS Part 2 rules shall inform the other boat of their intent to protest at the time of the incident, or as soon as possible thereafter. The protesting boat must conspicuously display a red flag until they are no longer racing or the protested boat performs the proper penalty. The protested boat can extricate themselves by performing the proper penalty or have a determination made at a protest hearing and face disqualification.

A boat intending to protest due to a perceived infraction of any rule other than RRS Part 2, shall inform the other boat of their intent to protest at the time of the incident, or as soon as possible thereafter. The protesting boat must conspicuously display a red flag until they are no longer racing. The Protest Committee determines the outcome of all protests of this nature. There will be no appeals other than to the Protest Committee.

All Other Matters

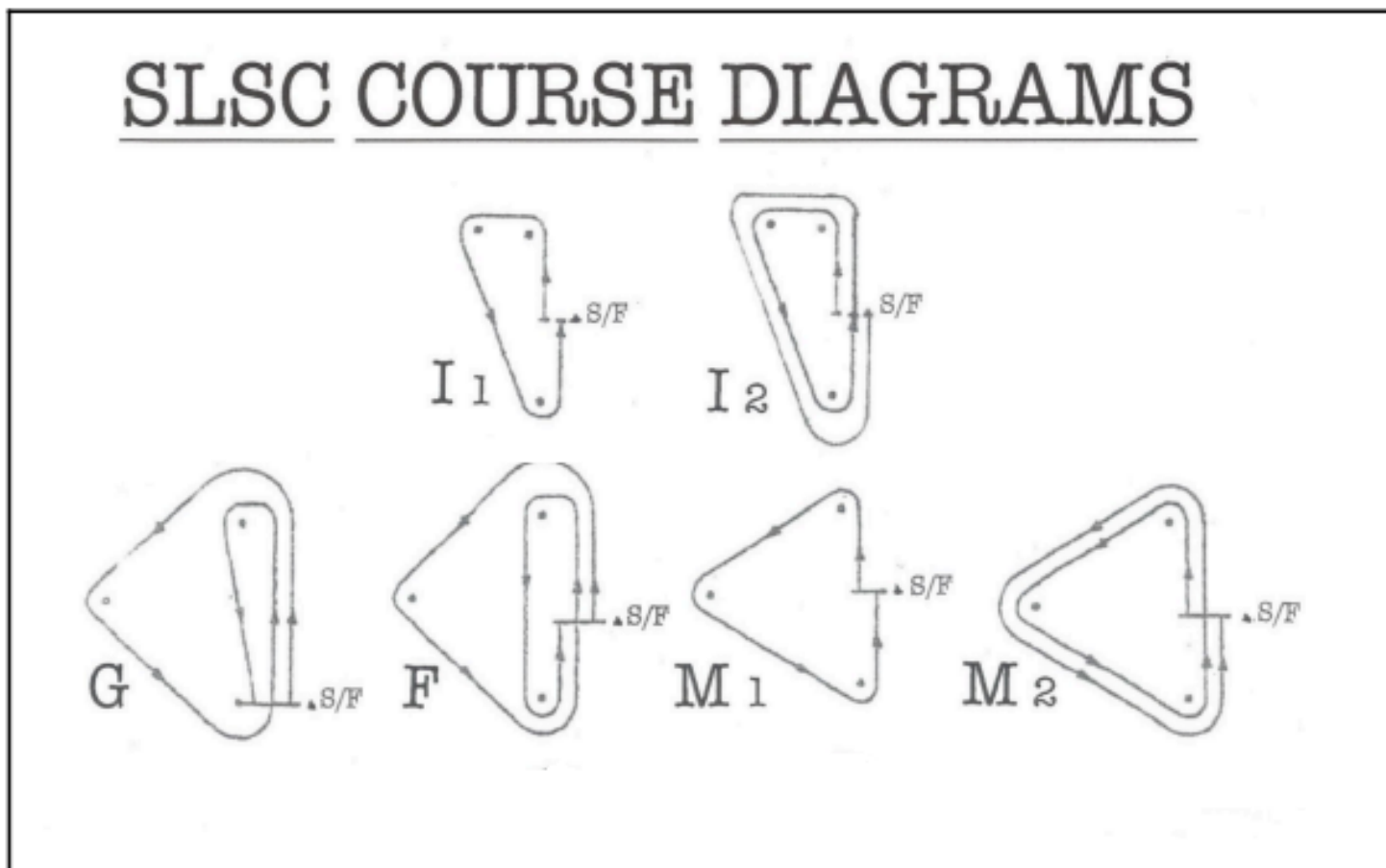
All other determinations, not reflected in 2026 SLSC TWCF documents, will be made by the Boating Committee.

Start Procedure & Recalls

Races will be started using Rule 26 of the RRS. Class starts are spaced by a 5-minute interval. Classes may be combined. Code flag X will be displayed until all OCS boats have started properly or 4 minutes have passed. Failure to hear or see a recall signal is not grounds for redress.

Course Descriptions:

The following courses may be used. The course selected for a given race is posted on the race committee boat prior to a race start. The Friday informal distance will be decided prior to the race and shared with participants.



1/4/2023 - Rev. 0