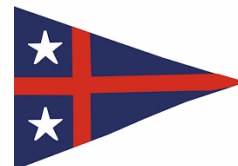




2026 Lightning Women's, Junior, and Masters

North American Championships



South Shore Sailing Foundation(OA), South Shore Yacht Club, Milwaukee, WI

international Lightning Class Association (ILCA)

August 6th - 9th, 2026

NOTICE OF RACE

1. 1.RULES

- 1.1. The regatta will be governed by the rules defined in the 2025-2028 Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS). Appendix T of the RRS and the prescriptions of US Sailing shall apply. The organizing authority (OA) is the South Shore Sailing Foundation and the International Lightning Class.
- 1.2. The International Lightning Class Association (ILCA) By-Laws and "Document Governing All Sanctioned Lightning Class Championships," hereinafter referred to as the "Document Governing," will apply.
- 1.3. "The OA or RC shall not abandon a scheduled race, or races, before the starting signal without the approval of the Class Governing Authority." This changes RRS 27.3. *(Reference – ILCA Documents Governing All Sanctioned Lightning Class Championships ARTICLE VIII – RACING CONDITIONS – #11).*
- 1.4. RRS 42.3(c) is changed to read: "Except on a beat to windward when surfing (rapidly accelerating down the front of a wave) or planing is possible, the boat's crew may pull the sheet only, (not the guy), in order to initiate surfing or planing, but each sail may be pulled only once for each wave or gust of wind. When the mainsail is pumped, only that part of the sheet between the crew member handling the sheet and the first block on the boom shall be used." This Class Rule changes RRS 42 and shall be included in the Notice of Race for informational purposes only. *(Reference – ILCA Documents Governing All Sanctioned Lightning Class Championships ARTICLE VIII – RACING CONDITIONS – #12).*
- 1.5. RRS 44 is changed to add the following: "The two turns penalty as provided in RRS Rule 44 will apply with the additional provision that when an infringing yacht has its spinnaker drawing at the time of the infringement, drops it while taking her penalty, and resets it immediately and has it drawing after the penalty, the penalty is one full turn instead of two." *(Reference – ILCA Documents Governing All Sanctioned Lightning Class Championships ARTICLE VIII – RACING CONDITIONS – #9).*
- 1.6. RRS 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

2. ADVERTISING

- 2.1. Advertising shall be in accordance with the World Sailing Advertising Code except that it shall be restricted to the hull only in accordance with Article VIII (2) of the Document Governing.

3. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

- 3.1. The Women's Championship is open to all female sailors (skipper and crew).
- 3.2. The Junior Championship is open to all eligible skippers and crew who will not reach their twenty-first (21st) birthday on or before 12/31/26. Each Junior entrant must submit a signed Junior Medical Emergency Form and Junior Competitors Agreement.
- 3.3. The Master's Championship is open to all eligible skippers who will reach their fifty-fifth (55th) birthday on or before 12/31/26. The minimum combined age of the skipper and crew, as of 12/31/26, is 130 years. Masters' teams may register with co-skippers within the team of three, so long as each skipper meets the age requirement herein. No substitution of skippers or crew members is permitted within the team of three as proscribed by Document Governing All Sanctioned Lightning Class Championships Article VII. In addition, teams with co-skippers will not be eligible for automatic qualification to the North American Championships or World Championship
- 3.4. All skippers must be Life, Active, or Associate who meet the requirements as defined in the ILCA constitution. All crew must be Active, Life, Crew or Associate Members of the ILCA. Masters' & Juniors' participants must show a photo ID or proof of age at registration.
- 3.5. Eligible boats may enter the Regatta by completing the registration form and paying the registration fee by 1730 on Thursday, August 6th. Registration is online at <https://southshoresailing.org/regatta/JHoqSVoRvj>
- 3.6. Registrations will not be considered complete until each competitor has signed a waiver for loss, damage or injury to persons or property incurred in conjunction with the regatta, on the property of South Shore Yacht Club or on the water, or during participation in any individual race of the regatta, or from the actions of the ILCA, its officers, the protest committee, the race management team and any sponsors of the Regatta and their members, officers, governors and agents, from liability for such damage or injury. Waivers will be available on <https://southshoresailing.org/regatta/JHoqSVoRvj>.

4. FEES

- 4.1. The entry fee is \$325 USD for Women's & Master's NAs and \$200 for Junior NAs. A late fee of \$50 USD will also be charged for payments received after July 20, 2026.

5. SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 5.1. The number of races scheduled shall be nine (9) for the Women and Juniors and six (6) for the Masters. One (1) race is required to be completed to constitute a series.
- 5.2. The Race Committee intends to hold two (2) races each day for the Masters. However, it may sail more as determined by the PRO given weather conditions to achieve a six-race series and in accordance with the guidelines contained in the ILCA Instructions to Race Committees for Lightning Class Regattas. The Race Committee intends to hold three (3) races each day for the Women and Juniors. The racing schedule for the Women and Juniors may be adjusted at the discretion of the Race Committee to allow for the maximum number of races to be sailed.
- 5.3. No Warning Signal shall be made after 1500 on Sunday August 9, 2026.
- 5.4. Schedule of Events (subject to Change) Daily adjustments may also be made based on weather conditions or other factors and will be communicated on WhatsApp , the Official Notice Board.

Day	Event	Time
Wednesday 8/5	WJM Check in/ Registration	1700-1930
Thursday 8/6	WJM Registration, Check-in, Measurement Practice Race WJM Competitors Meeting, Welcome Party under the tent to follow	0830-1730 1400
Friday 8/7	Coffee Competitor Briefing First Warning Post-Races Wall Beer/snacks & Daily Awards – under tent	0800-0930 0900 1100 Post Racing
Saturday 8/8	Coffee Competitor Briefing First Warning Event Dinner	0800-0930 0900 1100 1800
Sunday 8/9	Coffee Competitor Briefing First Warning No Warning Signal after Wall Beer/Snacks & Awards under tent	0800-0930 0900 1100 1500 Post Racing

6. MEASUREMENT

- 6.1. Each boat shall hold and produce a valid Measurement Certificate at measurement and must display a current ILCA membership decal. Boats, sails, and equipment will be measured and inspected in accordance with the Lightning Class By-Laws.
- 6.2. All sails shall have Official ILCA Royalty Labels. Mainsail and spinnaker numbers shall be the same. Spinnaker numbers shall be of a sufficiently contrasted color to make sail number identification possible.
- 6.3. Competitors are advised that the Chief Measurer or a designated representative may make spot measurements and inspection of required equipment on or off the water during the Championship. Boats that pass measurement for the WJM Championship will not have to be re-measured for the 2026 North Americans. However, sails will need to be checked at the 2026 North Americans in order to comply with the 5 sail limit in the Class.

7. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Sailing Instructions will be available no later than August 1, 2026, online at the event website.

8. VENUE & THE COURSES

- 8.1. The racing area will be in the Lake Michigan water of Milwaukee Bay.

- 8.2. Courses will be windward/leeward, triangle or windward/leeward/triangle course that may include offset mark and a gate, as described in the Sailing Instructions.

9. SCORING

- 9.1. The low point system of RRS Appendix A will apply in accordance with the Document Governing, available at: <https://www.lightningclass.org/docs.ashx?id=328142>.
- 9.2. For the Junior and Women's fleet, when fewer than six (6) races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores. When six (6) or more races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score. This changes RRS A2.
- 9.3. For the Masters Fleet - when fewer than four (4) races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores. When four (4) or more races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score. This changes RRS A2 and Doc Governing Article VIII (1).

10. SUPPORT BOATS

- 10.1. Support and coach boats must register with the OA during registration hours and receive a Support Boat Flag that must be displayed at all times while on the water during the regatta.
- 10.2. Team leaders, coaches, and other support personnel shall stay outside the racing area (defined as 100 meters outside the lay lines of the course including the start area) and comply with other requirements as specified in the Sailing Instructions. These requirements begin from the start of the first race of the regatta until the finish of the last race of the regatta. Individual competitors may not use support boats at any time during the regatta unless such support is available to all competitors or is authorized by the Race Committee. The penalty for failure to comply with any of these requirements may result in disqualification of all boats associated with the infringing support personnel (*Reference – ILCA Documents Governing All Sanctioned Lightning Class Championships ARTICLE VIII – RACING CONDITIONS – #15*).
- 10.3. Competitors shall not communicate with spectators or support boats on the water unless requested by the RC to do so for safety reasons.

11. BERTHING

Boats Shall be dry sailed in the South Shore Yacht Club dry sail area.

12. RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

- 12.1. Use of hand-held VHF radios will be permitted for communication between the Race Committee and competitors on a predetermined channel to be identified in the Sailing Instructions. The Race Committee intends to use VHF radio to identify OCS (On Course Side of the line) boats after starting and otherwise communicate with the fleet on the water. Failure to receive a hail, for a hail not to be made, the order of hails made, or receiving other communications to the fleet shall not be cause for redress.
- 12.2. Each boat is required to carry a VHF radio capable of transmitting and receiving.

13. AWARDS

- 13.1. Prizes will be awarded to top placing skippers and crews in each of the fleets.
- 13.2. Perpetual Trophies will be presented to the North American Champion in the Women's, Juniors' and Masters' fleets.
- 13.3. The highest placing skipper who has reached his or her 65th birthday by Dec. 31, 2026, shall win the Grand Master trophy.

- 13.4. The highest placing skipper who has reached his or her 75th birthday by Dec. 31, 2026, shall win the Great Grand Master trophy.
- 13.5. Daily Race Winner Flags will be awarded each day following sailing.

14. DISCLAMINER OF LIABILITY

Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. See RRS 4, Decision to Race. The Organizing Authority will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the regatta.

15. INSURANCE

Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum coverage of US\$300,000 per event or the equivalent. A copy of insurance company documents establishing that such coverage is current shall be produced if requested by the OA.

16. RACE OFFICIALS

Race Committee PRO: Richard Reichelsdorfer

Chief Judge: Fred Horwitz

Event Chair: Amy Simonsen , Thomas Peterson- SSYC Fleet Captain

17. QUALIFICATION FOR OTHER LIGHTNING CHAMPIONSHIPS

- 17.1. One or more skippers from the Women's, Junior's and Master's fleets, not previously qualified through their District, may be entitled to enter the 2026 North American Championship Regatta in accordance with Class Rules.

18. CHARTER BOATS

Charters may be available. Please contact: Tom Peterson,
tpeterson@iagwealthpartners.com

19. HOUSING

- 19.1. Member housing/billeting will be available on a limited basis, with priority given to Junior teams. Additionally, there may be member houses for rent. Please contact: Amy Simonsen, asimonsen15@gmail.com
- 19.2. See Regatta Website for a list of Local Hotels