



2026 SAN FRANCISCO BAY CHALLENGE

August 1, 2026

Organizing Authority (OA): St. Francis Yacht Club
San Francisco, California, USA

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

The notation '[NP]' means that a competitor may not protest another competitor for breaking that rule nor request redress based on that rule. This changes RRS 60.1 and 61.1.

1. NOTICE TO COMPETITORS

- 1.1. Notice to Competitors will be posted on the ONB (Official Notice Board) at [the event website](#).
- 1.2. On the water, the race committee will communicate on VHF channel 69.
- 1.3. [DP] Competitors shall have a VHF handheld radio or cell phone for safety purposes and notifications from the RC on changes to the sailing documents.

2. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1. Changes to the sailing instruction will be posted on the ONB before 1030 on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 2000 the day before it will take effect.
- 2.2. Changes to the sailing instructions may be given orally on the water by displaying code flag L with a sound signal on the race committee signal vessel and announcing the changes via VHF.

3. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 3.1. Signals made ashore will be displayed from the flagpole located on the StFYC Race Deck.
- 3.2. When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 30 minutes'. This changes rule Race Signals AP.

4. SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Event	Location	Number of Races
Saturday, August 1	1100	Mandatory Competitors Briefing	Starting Line Room	
	1430	First warning signal (after course racing is complete)		1 Distance Race
	After Racing	Regatta Social & SF Bay Challenge Awards presented by F4 FOILS	Starting Line Room	

5. CLASS FLAG

The class flag for Wingfoils, Windsurfers, Parawingfoilers and Kites is a neon pink flag.

6. COURSES & DESCRIPTIONS OF MARKS

- 6.1. See ADDENDUM 'LONG DISTANCE COURSE' COURSE.
- 6.2. Routine movement of the autonomous marks (MarkSetBots) will not be considered an improper action of the race committee so shall not be grounds for redress. This includes minor readjustments or marks returning to station after being pushed away by a boat.

7. START AREA AND SEQUENCE

- 7.1. The starting area will be in the vicinity North of StFYC.
- 7.2. Races will be started according to the procedures specified in RRS Appendix WF 3. This changes Windsurfing Fleet Racing Rule Appendix B3:

WF3 CHANGES TO THE RULES OF PART 3

26 STARTING RACES

Rule 26 is changed to:

Races shall be started by using the following signals. Times shall be taken from the visual signals; the absence of a sound signal shall be disregarded.

<i>Minutes before starting signal</i>	<i>Visual signal</i>	<i>Sound signal</i>	<i>Means</i>
3	Class flag	One	Warning signal
2	U or black flag	One	Preparatory signal
1	U or black flag removed	One long	One minute
0	Class flag removed	One	Starting signal

- 7.3. Wings, Windsurfers and Kites will start at the same time.

8. START

- 8.1. The starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the RC signal boat, and an orange MarkSetBot.
- 8.2. Competitors failing to start within four (4) minutes after their starting signal shall be scored DNS, without a hearing. This changes RRS A4 and A5.

9. FINISH

- 9.1. Not applicable.
- 9.2. For the Long Distance Course (SF Bay Challenge), the finish line will be between a yellow placard on the Race Deck and an orange MarkSetBot.

10. CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

Not applicable.

11. TIME LIMITS / FINISHING WINDOW

- 11.1. Not applicable.
- 11.2. Not applicable.
- 11.3. Not applicable.
- 11.4. For the Long Distance Course on Saturday, the time limit for the first wingfoil to finish is 90 minutes.
- 11.5. For the Long Distance Race, the 'Finishing Window' after the first wingfoil finishes, will be 45 minutes.
- 11.6. Wingfoils failing to finish within the time stated under 'Finishing Window' after the first wingfoil sails the course and finishes, and not subsequently retiring, penalized, or given redress, will be scored Time Limit Expired (TLE) without a hearing. A wingfoil scored TLE will receive the points of the last boat that finished within its time limit plus one. This changes RRS 35, A5.1, A5.2, A10, and WF 8.

12. SCORING

- 12.1. For wingfoils competing in the 2026 Summer WingDing - US Wingfoil Championship only: The provisions in that event's sailing instruction entitled 'Scoring' (Section 12) apply.

13. FORMAT

Not applicable.

14. PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

- 14.1. Hearing requests shall be submitted electronically from the link on the official notice board or from this link: https://www.racingrulesofsailing.org/protests/new?event_id=15523.
- 14.2. For wingfoils competing in the 2026 Summer WingDing - US Wingfoil Championship only: Hearings and decisions will be governed by procedures specified in RRS Appendix WF 5.
- 14.3. The protest time limit is 30 minutes after the last boat of the last class has finished within her Finishing Window in the last race of the day or the signal (AP over A) 'No more racing today' is made afloat or ashore. This time will be posted on the ONB.
- 14.4. In the event of a complaint by Vessel Traffic or the USCG, the protest time limit will be extended up to two (2) days after the conclusion of the regatta. This changes RRS 60.3(b) and RRS 61.2(b).
- 14.5. The protest committee will schedule hearings at its discretion and in the order it determines. The hearing schedule will be available electronically at: <https://www.racingrulesofsailing.org/schedules/15523/event>. This constitutes the notification required by RRS 63.1 (a) (1). As a courtesy, competitors may also be notified electronically by text or email.
- 14.6. At the protest committee's discretion, hearings may be conducted in-person, via Zoom video conference, or a combination of the two.
- 14.7. Notices of any other protests by the race committee, technical committee or protest committee will also be posted on the ONB. This constitutes the notification required by RRS 63.1 (a) (1).
- 14.8. It is the sole responsibility of each boat involved to be ready and have witnesses available when the hearing is called.
- 14.9. A request for redress on a protest committee decision, or a request to reopen a hearing, shall be delivered no later than thirty (30) minutes after the decision was announced, either written or orally. This changes RRS 63.7(b).

15. SAFETY REGULATIONS

- 15.1. Check-In/-Out:
- 15.2. RFID wristbands are provided at registration.
- 15.3. Each competitor shall personally check-out each day when leaving the beach for racing by presenting their personal RFID wristband to a terminal / handheld unit operated by the beach marshal. After returning ashore each competitor shall promptly and personally check-in by again presenting their personal RFID wristband to a terminal / handheld unit operated by the beach marshal.
- 15.4. Each competitor is responsible for verifying that the terminal / beach marshal acknowledged their check-out/check-in and require assistance if needed.
- 15.5. In case of loss the competitor is responsible for replacement. If the RFID wristband was lost at sea, the competitor shall, after returning ashore, promptly and personally report their return to the beach marshal and request a new RFID wristband at the race office.
- 15.6. Location of the Check-Out-In is at the beach.
- 15.7. Competitors not leaving the beach for a scheduled race, shall promptly notify the beach marshal.
- 15.8. Competitors that retire from a race shall notify the race committee at the first reasonable opportunity.
- 15.9. Support boats shall monitor VHF channel 69 for all times.

16. COMMERCIAL TRAFFIC

- 16.1. Competitors shall keep clear of all commercial traffic.
- 16.2. Racing occurs near active shipping channels. The race committee would like to call special attention to the preamble to RRS Part 2 which are rules and can be protested and result in DSQ (disqualification).

- 16.3. A race committee boat may signal a competitor that is racing to alter course to avoid impeding the passage of commercial vessels by making a sound signal (horn or whistle) and pointing at the competitor. The signaled competitor shall promptly comply with the signal unless compliance would create an unsafe condition. If a competitor fails to comply with such a signal, the race committee shall protest the competitor. In this case the protest committee shall assume that the course alteration would not have created an unsafe condition, and the protested competitor shall have the burden of proving otherwise.
- 16.4. If a commercial vessel sounds five blasts at a board which is racing, and/or the vessel or the USCG is subsequently able to identify the offending wingfoil, the competitor may be subject to protest. In the event the race committee files the protest, the protest committee shall assume that the identified competitor has impeded passage or violated the U.S. Inland Navigation Rules, and the identified competitor shall have the burden of proving otherwise.
- 16.5. The StFYC shall cooperate with and provide relevant information to the Coast Guard or other governmental authority regarding investigations of competitors impeding ship traffic or violating U.S. Inland Navigation Rules (33 CFR 83).

17. SUPPORT BOATS

Shall keep clear of the race area except for safety reasons and for the long distance race where help monitoring the safety of the competitors is requested.

18. FURTHER INFORMATION

Regatta Chairman	Geoff Headington	geoffheadington@gmail.com	415 608 9543
Race Director	Felix Weidling	racedirector@stfyc.com	415 820 3710
Course Race Officer	Donald Wieneke	dkwieneke@gmail.com	415 332 0186
Chief Judge	Gregory Meagher	gwmeagher@gmail.com	510 541 2543
Race Office	Macy Deam	racing@stfyc.com	415 655 7756

MARK DESCRIPTION

START: Between signal boat and an orange MarkSetBot.
RACE DECK (RD): water side of the St. Francis Yacht Club
ALCATRAZ ISLAND (ALC): is a passing mark (must keep to the north)
BERKELEY PIER "1": is a yellow cone set at the west end of the pier rounded to starboard
FINISH: Between StFYC RACE DECK and an orange MarkSetBot.

COURSE LONG DISTANCE RACE

Rounding order: (S) STARBOARD (P) PORT
Course 3: START, ALC (P), BERKELEY PIER #1 (S), ALC (S), FINISH

