

2026 Lightning North American Championships

Sail Sheboygan(OA), Sheboygan Yacht Club Sheboygan, WI
International Lightning Class Association (ILCA)
August 10th - 15th, 2026

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

The notation '[NP]' in a rule of the sailing instructions (SIs) means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1.

The notation '[SP]' in a rule of the sailing instructions (SIs) means that the standard penalty for a breach of the rule may be applied by the race committee or technical committee without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.

1. RULES

- 1.1. The regatta will be governed by the rules defined in the 2025-2028 Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS). Appendix V of the RRS and the prescriptions of US Sailing shall apply.
- 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.
<https://www.lightningclass.org/docs.ashx?id=328142>.
- 1.3. Note "Document Governing All Sanctions Lightning Class Championships" has been modified by the Lightning Class Executive Committee. Competitors are advised that no qualification series will be held. All races will be managed using Vakaros Race Sense software as described in addendum RS. This change mandates the use of Vakaros Atlas hardware by all competitors. Atlas 2 rental units have been reserved and can be rented here:
<https://www.vakaros.com/products/racesense-atlas-2-rental?variant=48250684539094>
- 1.4. "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*).
- 1.5. 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." (Reference – *ILCA Documents Governing All Sanctioned Lightning Class Championships ARTICLE VIII – RACING CONDITIONS – #12*).
- 1.6. Per the Lightning Class Executive Committee directive, *ILCA Documents Governing All Sanctioned Lightning Class Championships ARTICLE VIII – RACING CONDITIONS – #9* will not apply. This changes NOR 1.6 and SI 1.2.
- 1.7. RRS Appendix V Alternative Penalties will apply.

- 1.8. 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. CHANGES TO THE SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1. Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted before 0900 on the day 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
- 2.2. Changes to a sailing instruction may be made on the water. The RC shall display code flag L and communicate the change over VHF channel 69. The RC will repeat the information several times.

3. COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

- 3.1. Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located at Yachtscoring. https://www.yachtscoring.com/notice_board_summary/50471
- 3.2. The race office is located at Sheboygan Youth Sailing Center
- 3.3. On the water, the race committee intends to monitor and communicate with competitors on VHF radio channel 69
- 3.4. If the race committee displays flag DELTA, alternate VHF channel 72 will be used.
- 3.5. [DP] From the first warning signal until the end of the last race of the day, except in an emergency, a boat shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats.
- 3.6. Any questions regarding the sailing instructions shall be submitted in writing to the RC. The questions and any answers will be posted on the official noticeboard as soon as possible.

4. CODE OF CONDUCT

- 4.1. [DP] Competitors and support persons shall comply with reasonable requests from race officials.
- 4.2. [DP] Competitors and support persons shall handle any equipment and/or place advertising provided by the organizing authority with care, seamanship, in accordance with any instructions for its use and without interfering with its functionality

5. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 5.1. Signals made ashore will be displayed at the Sail Sheboygan flagpole located near the boat park.
- 5.2. When flag AP is displayed ashore, 1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 45 minutes' in Race Signals AP.

6. SCHEDULE OF RACES

- 6.1. The number of races scheduled shall be ten (10). One (1) race is required to be completed to constitute a series.
- 6.2. The Race Committee intends to hold two (2) or three (3) races each day. The racing schedule may be adjusted at the discretion of the Race Committee to allow for the maximum number of races to be sailed.
- 6.3. No Warning Signal shall be made after 1500 on Saturday August 15, 2026.

- 6.4. Schedule of Events (subject to Change) Daily adjustments may also be made based on weather conditions or other factors and will be communicated on the Official Notice Board. A WhatsApp may be established.

Day	Event	Time
Monday 8/10	Check in/ Registration/Measurement/Overnight Storage at the SEAS Building, 1837 Superior Ave, Sheboygan, WI 53081	From 12:00- 1800
Tuesday 8/11	Check in/ Registration/Measurement-SEAS Building.1837 Superior Ave, Sheboygan, WI 53081 Practice Race Competitors Meeting, Opening Party Sheboygan Yacht Club	0900-1730 1500 1800
Wednesday 8/12	Coffee Competitor Briefing Sheboygan Yacht Club First Warning Post-Race Drinks/Snacks & Daily Awards	0800-0930 0900 1100 Post Racing
Thursday 8/13	Coffee Competitor Briefing Sheboygan Yacht Club First Warning Post-Race Drinks/Snacks & Daily Awards	0800-0930 0900 1100 Post Racing
Friday 8/14 Saturday 8/15	Coffee Competitor Briefing First Warning Post Race Drinks/Snacks & Daily Awards	0800-0930 0900 1100 Post Racing
Saturday 8/15	Coffee Competitor Briefing First Warning No Warning Signal after Awards Ceremony	0800-0930 0900 1100 1500 1800

7. CLASS FLAGS

- 7.1. The class flag is a red lightning bolt on a white background.

8. RACING AREA

- 8.1. The racing area will be southeast of the Sheboygan harbor.

9. COURSES

- 9.1. The diagram in SI Addendum A show(s) the course(s), including the approximate angles between legs, the order in which marks are to be passed, and the side on which each mark is to be left.

10. MARKS

- 10.1. Marks will be orange tetrahedrons.

- 10.2. New marks, as provided in 10.1 will be yellow tetrahedrons except for the gate marks which will remain the same original mark color.
- 10.3. The start mark will be a yellow tetrahedron or a boat with an Orange flag. The finish mark will be either a yellow or orange tetrahedron.

11. THE START

- 11.1. An automated start system will be used which is outlined in Addendum RS. SI 11 is supplemented by Addendum RS.
- 11.2. In the event that the automated start system as described in addendum RS is inoperable, the races will be started using RRS 26 with the warning signal made 5 minutes before the starting signal. The RC will display code flag Oscar with one sound before the warning signal.
- 11.3. If SI 11.2 is in effect, the starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the RC signal boat and the course side of the port end starting mark or the staff displaying a orange flag on a boat at the port end and a staff displaying a orange flag on the RC signal boat at the starboard end.
- 11.4. In the event of a General Recall or Abandonment after the starting signal during a RRS 30.4 start, the RC shall broadcast via VHF and display the bow number of any boats violating RRS 30.4 before the next warning signal. This changes RRS 30.4.
- 11.5. A boat that does not start within four (4) minutes after her starting signal will be scored DNS without a hearing. This changes RRS 35 and A5.1.

12. CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

- 12.1. To change 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. When in a subsequent change a new mark is replaced, it will be replaced by an original mark. In the case of a course change after the start, the windward offset mark will not be replaced and will no longer be a mark of the course.
- 12.2. If a change to the gate marks is made, the gate marks will remain the same color as the original marks.
- 12.3. The RC may make minor adjustments up to 10 degrees to the course without signaling a course change.

13. THE FINISH

- 13.1. The finish line will be between a staff displaying a blue flag on the finishing mark at the starboard end and the course side of the port end finish mark.
- 13.2. Preliminary finish positions will be recorded by the Vakaros race sense system as described in addendum RS 9. Official finish position will be verified by the RC.
- 13.3. If the race committee is absent when a boat finishes, she shall report her finishing time, and her position in relation to nearby boats, to the race committee at the first reasonable opportunity.

14. PENALTY SYSTEM

- 14.1. Appendix V Alternative Penalties of the RRS shall apply.

15. TIME LIMITS AND TARGET TIMES

- 15.1. Target time for first boat to finish the race will be 45-60 minutes. Failure to meet the target time will not be grounds for redress. This changes to rule 61.1(a).

- 15.2. The Mark 1 Time Limit, Race Time Limit and the Finishing Window are shown in the table below

Mark 1 Time Limit	Race Time Limit	Finishing Window
30 Minutes	90 minutes	20 minutes

- 15.3. The Finishing Window is the time for boats to finish after the first boat sails the course. Boats starting but failing to sail the course within the Finishing Window, and not subsequently retiring, penalized or given redress, will be scored Time Limit Expired (TLE).
- 15.4. A boat scored TLE shall be scored points for the finishing place 2 (two) more than the finishing place of the last boat that sailed the course within the Finishing Window and was not penalized under RRS 30.3 or 30.4. This changes RRS 35, A5.1, A5.2 and A10.

16. HEARING REQUEST

- 16.1. The protest time limit is 90 minutes after the last boat finishes the last race of the day or the race committee signals no more racing today, whichever is later. The time will be posted on the official noticeboard.
- 16.2. It is requested that boats intending to request a hearing notify the RC as soon as possible after finishing or retiring from the race.
- 16.3. Hearing request forms are available from the race office.
- 16.4. Notices will 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. Hearings will be held in the protest room located at the Sheboygan Youth Sailing Building beginning at the time posted.

17. SCORING

- 17.1. The low point system of RRS Appendix A will apply in accordance with the Document Governing
- 17.2. 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

18. SAFETY REGULATIONS

- 18.1. Prior to the first warning signal of the first race of each day, each boat is required to check in by passing astern of the RC signal boat and hailing her bow number until acknowledged by the RC. Failure to check in may result in a 20% scoring penalty without a hearing. This changes RRS 63.1 and A5.
- 18.2. Prior to leaving the marina daily, each boat shall turn on their Vakaros Race Sense System and shall keep it turned on until she arrives safely back in the marina.
- 18.3. Boats retiring, leaving the racing area or not intending to sail shall notify the RC as soon as possible.

19. REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT

- 19.1. Substitution of competitors will not be allowed without prior written approval of the Executive Committee or in their absence the RC. In no case may a skipper be substituted.

- 19.2. Substitution of damaged or lost equipment will not be allowed unless authorized by the RC. Requests for substitution shall be made to the RC at the first reasonable opportunity.

20. EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

- 20.1. A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules and sailing instructions. On the water, a boat can be instructed by a RC equipment inspector or measurer to proceed immediately to a designated area for inspection.
- 20.2. In accordance with RRS G3, a boat chartered or loaned for this event may carry national letters or a sail number in contravention of the Class Rules.

21. EVENT IDENTIFICATION STICKERS

- 21.1. Boats shall display event advertising supplied by the organizing authority.
- 21.2. Bow numbers will be distributed at registration, must be appropriately located as directed and be replaced as soon as possible if they are removed.
- 21.3. Boats may only display advertising as per World Sailing Regulation 20 and are restricted to only the hull as per Lightning Class Constitution Article VII 2.

22. SUPPORT BOATS

- 22.1. Support and coach boats must register at the Registration Desk during the posted times.
- 22.2. During racing, support boats shall monitor the RC VHF channel 72 and assist with safety issues when asked by the RC.
- 22.3. Support boats will comply with additional operating instructions provided during registration in accordance with Document Governing.
- 22.4. 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) from the start of the first race to the finish of the last race of the regatta unless otherwise designated in the Sailing Instructions. 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 organizing authority. The penalty for failure to comply with any of these requirements may be disqualification of all yachts associated with the infringing support personnel.

23. TRASH DISPOSAL

- 23.1. Trash shall not be thrown overboard at any time.

24. BERTHING

- 24.1. [DP] Boats shall be kept in their assigned places while in the boat park.

25. PRIZES

- 25.1. Prizes will be awarded based on direction from the lightning class executive committee.

26. RISK STATEMENT/DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

- 26.1. RRS 3 states: 'The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue to race is hers alone.' By participating in this event each competitor agrees and acknowledges that sailing is a potentially dangerous activity with inherent risks. These risks include strong winds and rough seas, sudden changes in weather, failure of equipment, boat handling errors, poor seamanship by other

boats, loss of balance on an unstable platform and fatigue resulting in increased risk of injury. **Inherent in the sport of sailing is the risk of permanent, catastrophic injury or death by drowning, trauma, hypothermia or other causes.**

- 26.2. 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

27. INSURANCE

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

ADDENDUM RS:

RaceSense RRS changes [NP] [DP] Rules and Instructions for Using the Vakaros and RaceSense System

RS.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. This shall be mounted on the aft side of the mast, above any existing instruments and below the boom at all times while racing.

RS.2 Competitors shall:

a) 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.

https://youtu.be/CA68kFUbpGl?si=2wRoIEx_FD7Y0f3

b) turn their Atlas 2 or Atlas Edge on and keep it on until after sailing each day.

c) turn their Atlas 2 or Atlas Edge off after sailing each day. Battery life is approximately 100 hours.

d) ensure their device Firmware and GPS are updated to the most recent versions:

Firmware: <https://youtu.be/qgelN4KS3f0?si=mcZpd5HvVegHH7xO> GPS:

https://youtu.be/b0nkHbL_jDc?si=1qZANR5MdqmhHMAk

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

RS.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](#).

RS.5 Competitors shall take all reasonable measures to keep their Atlas 2 or Atlas Edge safe and operational and promptly notify Vakaros staff or RC on the water or ashore of any device issues.

RS.6 The countdown to the start on the Atlas 2 or Atlas Edge from RaceSense will be the official time. RRS 26 Signal flags will only be used for information purposes. This changes RRS 26.

RS.7 The visual identification of boats infringing RRS 29 and 30 by the RC is replaced with electronic identification through the Vakaros RaceSense system, no VHF hail will be made, flag X will not be displayed, and no sound will be made modifying RRS 29.1, 30.1, 30.2, 30.3, and 30.4.

RS.8 The starting line is between a Vakaros device mounted to the staff displaying an orange flag on the RC signal vessel and a Vakaros device mounted to the start pin.

RS.9 The finish line is between a Vakaros device mounted to the staff displaying a blue flag on the RC signal vessel and a Vakaros device mounted to the finish pin.

RS.10 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. This changes RRS 61.1(a) and RRS 61.1(c).

RS.11 If the RC vessel displays flag Oscar with a long sound signal before the warning signal of a race, RS.6, RS.7, RS.8 and RS.9 inclusive will not apply to that race.



Code flag Oscar looks like this-

RS.12 If the RC vessel displays flag Romeo with a long sound signal before the warning signal of a race, Competitors shall restart their Vakaros Atlas 2 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 two (2) minutes and will be removed with the next warning signal.

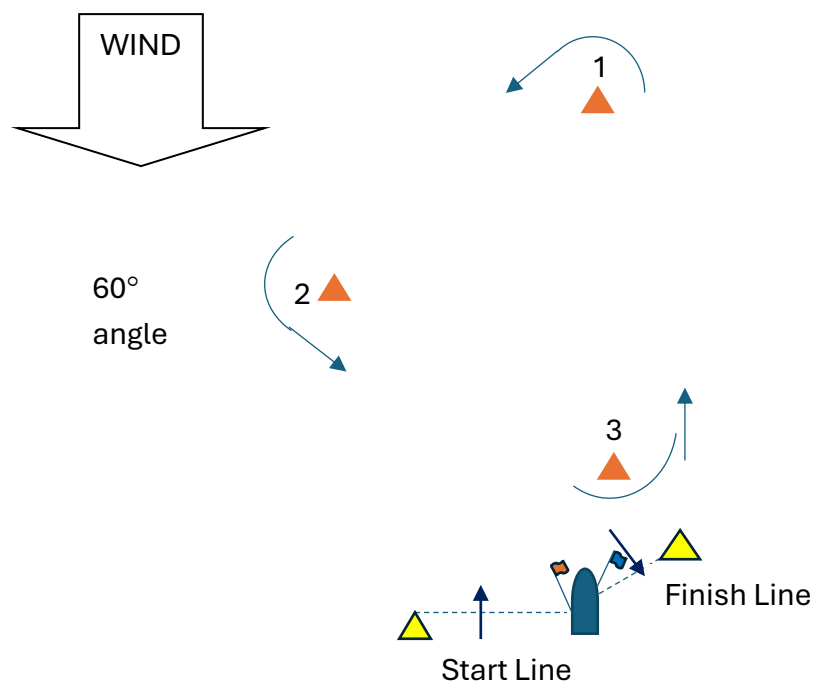


Code flag Romeo looks like this -

RS.13 If firmware updates to Atlas 2 or Atlas Edge devices are required between scheduled race days, a notice will be sent to all boats via email and/or SMS and posted on the Official Notice Board.

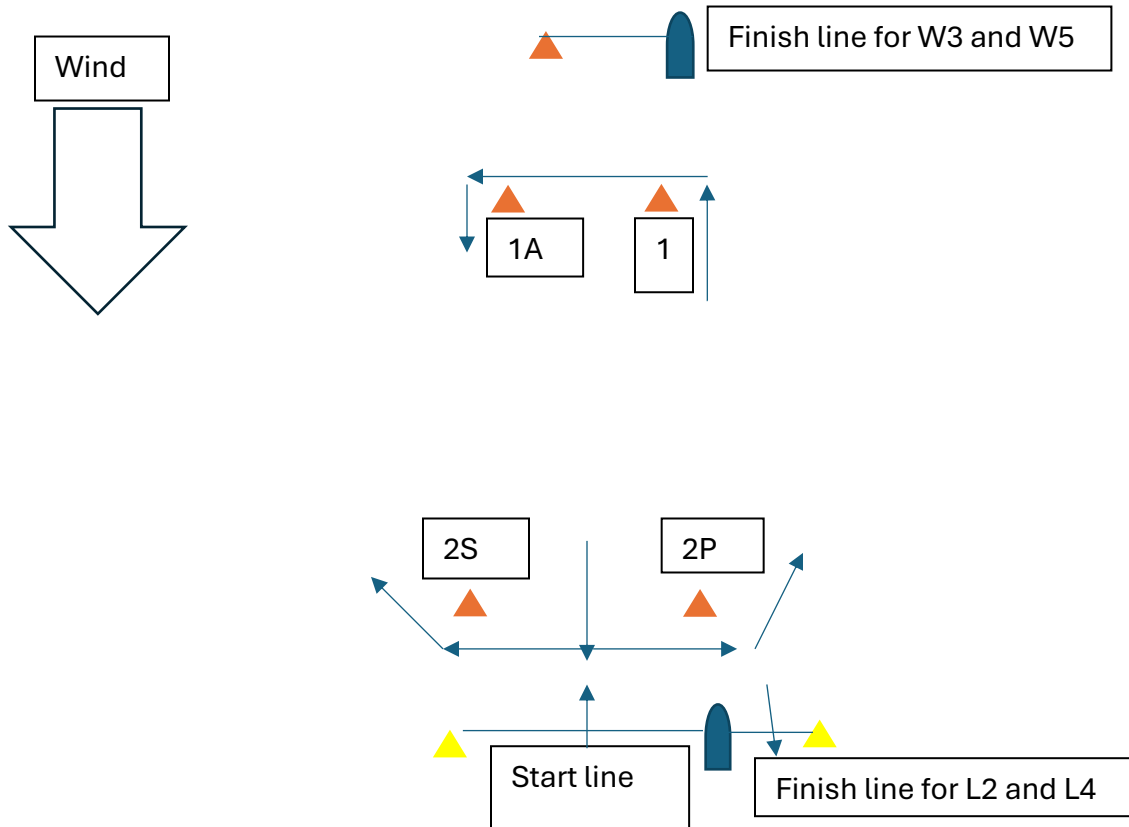
Addendum A – Courses

T Course



Course	Mark rounding order
T	Start – 1 - 2 - 3 – 1 – 2 - finish

L and W Courses



Course	Mark rounding order
L2	Start - 1 - 1a - 2p/2s - 1 - 1a - Finish
L4	Start - 1 - 1a - 2p/2s - 1 - 1a - 2p/2s - 1 - 1a - Finish
W3	Start - 1 - 1a - 2p/2s - Finish
W5	Start - 1 - 1a - 2p/2s - 1 - 1a - 2p/2s - Finish