

GLSS ST. CLAIR SOLO CHALLENGE

October 3, 2026

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

1. **RULES AND MANAGEMENT:** Great Lakes Singlehanded Society (GLSS) is the Organizing Authority (OA) for the St. Clair Solo Challenge. The challenge will be governed by the current Racing Rules of Sailing for (RRS), except changes by these Sailing Instructions.
2. **NOTICES TO COMPETITORS** Notices to competitors will be posted on the official regatta notice board on Yacht Scoring website.
3. **CHANGES IN SAILING INSTRUCTIONS:** Changes in sailing instructions, class splits and starting times will be posted after the skipper's meeting.
4. **ENTRY:** The Challenge is open to all well-founded yachts. Eligible yachts shall be properly registered with the Race Committee by completing the registration form and submitting it with the appropriate race fees in accordance with the registration application instructions, including a properly executed "WAIVER & RELEASE (Rev. 04/05/12). Skippers shall indicate on the registration form either **PHRF (long course) or JAM (short course)**. **Entry fee is \$70, includes Challenge entry fee and a complete steak dinner for each skipper.**
5. **SKIPPER'S MEETING/CLASS ASSIGNMENT:** A skipper's meeting will be held on October 3, 2026 @ 1900 hrs. at GLYC. Final class splits will be posted after the skipper's meeting on the official notice board.
 - 5.1 Late registration and a complimentary bar-b-que will be held at GLYC prior to the skipper's meeting, approx. 1700 hrs.
6. **SCHEDULE OF RACES:** The warning signal for the first class will be at 0849 hours. The Race Committee may make a series of short sound signals approximately one minute before the warning signal of the first class.
7. **STARTING SEQUENCE:** *The number of starts and the class and/or classes assigned to each start will be announced at the skipper's meeting.* The Class Flag for each class will be designated by numbers 1, 2, 3, 4 etc. that correspond to the class splits. Competitors are not required to fly class flag. **Boats shall remain clear of the starting area until the warning signal for their start!**

STARTING SEQUENCE

0849	11 minutes	Repetitive Sound (horn) – Attention Sound first start only
0850	10 minutes	Horn Class 1 Flag is raised (white pennant w/ red circle)
0856	04 minutes	Horn Prep "P" flag is raised (Blue w/ White square)
0859	01 minutes	– Prep "P" flag is lowered
0900		START 1 HORN – Lower Division 1 flag & Raise Division 2 flag (blue pennant w/ white circle)
0906	04 minutes	Horn Prep "P" flag is raised (Blue w/ White square)
0909	01 minutes	– Prep "P" flag is lowered

8. **AGREEMENT TO ASSUME RISK:** In consideration of being permitted to enter this challenge and being fully knowledgeable of the risks of sailing as a competitive sport, all contestants voluntarily assume all risk associated with participating in this event. It shall be the sole and inescapable responsibility of the skipper of the yacht to decide whether or not to start, to continue or finish the race. The skipper must assure that all safety equipment is properly maintained and stowed and know how to use same.
9. **CREW:** The crew will be limited to one experienced, capable sailor. ***USCG approved PFD must be worn at all times equipped as described in section 9.1.***
 - 9.1 Skipper are required to wear a self-inflating life jacket and Safety Harness designed and constructed for offshore sailing and be tethered to the boat at all times, however a skipper need not be tethered to the boat if they are wearing a self-inflating life jacket, with a Personal Location Beacon (PLB) registered with a current SARTSAT registration sticker, and a DSC capable waterproof VHF radio at all times when they are out of the cabin. Otherwise a Skipper shall be tethered to the yacht from the time of casting off the dock to start the Challenge until the yacht crosses the finish line and returns to the proximity of the dock. Such life jacket is to include a personal strobe and whistle
10. **IDENTIFICATION:** Yachts shall carry proper sail numbers on mainsails, spinnakers, and sails attached to the head stay which equal or exceed 130% of the "J" measurement. Any yacht which does not have proper sail numbers on its sails must display her sail number on a white background visible from both sides of the yacht. Yachts without proper display of sail numbers may be subject to protest. Yachts without proper sail numbers, are allowed to participate, noting on their entry registration they have no sail numbers as "NONE".
11. **MEASUREMENT, RATINGS and SCORING:** Participating yachts must submit a **current Midwest PHRF** PHRF or GLMA rating certificate. PHRF Class(long course) boats will be rated using the MWPRHF DHCP rating, JAM Class(short course) boats will use the MWPHRF NSHCP rating. Yachts without a PHRF certificate may receive a rating by contacting Midwest PHRF at <https://mwphrf.org/>. The race will be scored Time-On-Distance using an accepted PHRF Rating. Entries without a Midwest PHRF certificate may be assigned a rating by the Race Committee, a minimum 6 second penalty will be assigned to the rating.
12. **JAM CLASS REQUIREMENTS:** No spinnakers, or oversize whisker poles are allowed.
13. **RADIO MONITORING:** Yachts shall monitor **VHF channel 72** while racing. It is recommended all yachts monitor VHF ch. 16 as well.
14. **STARTING AND FINISH LINES:** ***Sailors should pay close attention to the shoal area South of Navigation Buoy GS! Sailors should sail North of Navigation Buoy GS when entering or leaving the Harbor!***
 - 14.1 The starting line will be between the Race Committee boat (flying a RC flag) and the Navigation Buoy GS marking the shoal in front of GLYC.
 - 14.2 The finishing line will be between the Navigation Buoy GS and a temporary mark approximately 75' North of the GS Buoy. A description of the temporary mark will be

given during the Skippers Meeting. **Mark your finish time!** The race committee may/or may not be on station at the finishing line.

14.3 Skippers are to record their own finish time and report it to the race committee at the first reasonable opportunity. Text your finish time with boat name to Jeff Neuhaufen – 734-855-9447. If possible, each skipper is asked to record the finish time of the yacht finishing ahead and the yacht finishing behind.

15. TIME LIMIT: There is no time limit on the challenge.

16. INDIVIDUAL RECALL: The Race Committee may attempt to hail, or announce on **VHF channel 72**, the sail numbers of yachts subject to individual recall. Failure to transmit or receive such notification and the order in which recalls are announced will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 62.1(a). Yachts identified as being on the course side of the starting at the starting signal and failing to restart will be assessed a 30 minute penalty plus the elapsed time between the time started and the proper starting time.

17. MARKS: MARKS: Marks of the course are **Green Navigation Buoy GS(formerly G3)** (42.28.3'N 082.51.39'W) (Start/Finish Line), **Red Navigational Buoy #18 (R18)** – 42.25.74'N 082.48.16'W, **Thames River Entrance Buoy 'XT2'** - 42.20.410N 082.27.947W, **Red Navigational Buoy #28 (R28)** - 42° 29.67'N 082° 42.91'W, and **Environment Canada Weather Buoy '45147'** – 42.25.80'N 082.40.98'W). Mark locations are approximate.

18. COURSES:

A. PHRF LONG COURSE: Sail from the starting line to Red Navigational Buoy #18 (R18), then to Thames River Entrance Buoy "XT2", then to Red Navigational Buoy #28 (R28), then to finish at Green Navigation Buoy G3. Overall distance approximately 39.3 nautical miles. **ROUND ALL MARKS TO PORT**

B. JAM SHORT COURSE: Sail from the starting line to Red Navigational Buoy #18 (R18), then to the Environment Canada Weather buoy #45147, then to Red Navigational Buoy #28 (R28), then to finish at Green Navigation Buoy G3. Overall distance approximately 19 nautical miles. **ROUND ALL MARKS TO PORT**

C. SHORTEN COURSE: *There is no provision to shorten course.*

19. WITHDRAWALS: Participants withdrawing from the challenge are required to notify the race committee via VHF channel 72, at the earliest opportunity. If an entrant is unable to notify the Race Committee by radio, notify the nearest yacht and ask them to relay your withdrawal. **Failure to notify the Race Committee may preclude entry in subsequent events of the Society.**

20. PROTESTS: Submit a written protest in accordance with RRS to the Race Committee within two hours of finishing. Protests will be heard at the GLYC clubhouse. The Race Committee will inform the parties of the time.

21. RADIO: The GLSS Race Committee will attempt to monitor VHF Channels 16 and 72 throughout the race.

22. AWARDS: All participants and their guests are invited to the Great Lakes Yacht Club clubhouse following the race for **"The Big Al's Steak Roast"** and awards presentations. A complete steak dinner is included with entry for each skipper. **Additional dinners are**

available upon request for \$35. Please reserve the number of extra dinners in your party in advance. BYOB

- 23. MOORINGS:** Limited overnight docking (Friday & Saturday nights) is available at GLYC. Prior to arrival, please contact the race committee via **VHF channel 72** for a well assignment, or call Jeff Neuhalfen @ 734-855-9447 or Jeff Golding @ 248-514-0410. Shower facilities, etc. are available in the club house for your convenience.
- 24. INTERFERENCE WITH SHIPPING:** When crossing the shipping channel, yachts are forbidden to interfere with major ships (Federal Law 89-764). Any yacht violating this injunction shall be subject to protest and disqualification. All participants are hereby notified that no restriction is placed on the use of the water by other parties. Participants shall adhere to U.S.C.G. Rule 18 which reads in part "(b) A sailing vessel underway shall keep out of the way of: (ii) a vessel restricted in her ability to maneuver."
- 25. RRS 52 Exceptions:** The use of autopilots are acceptable, per GLSS rules.

REMEMBER

- **Early registration makes the whole thing run smoother!**
- Friday
 - Late registration and Bar B Que – GLYC @ 1730 hrs.
 - **Mandatory Skippers Meeting** – GLYC @ 1900 hrs.
- Saturday
 - Complimentary continental breakfast in the clubhouse.
 - 0849 hrs Warning Signal for race start
- Big Al's Steak Roast Dinner approximately 1900 hrs.
- BYOB
- HAVE FUN AND SAIL SAFE

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WAIVER and RELEASE

To the fullest extent permitted by law, I hereby **waive** any rights I may have to sue the race organizers (the Great Lakes Singlehanded Society, the officers and directors, race committee, protest committee, host club, sponsors, or any other organization or official or member of such a committee) involved with the event with respect to any and all personal injury or property damage suffered by myself or my yacht, including death, as a result of my participation in this event and hereby **release** to the **fullest extent permitted** by law the race organizers from any and all liability associated with my participation in this event .

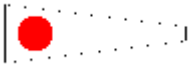
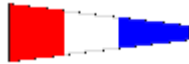
An entrant represents to the Society that his/her vessel is seaworthy, that he/she is 18 years of age or older, competent, and that the Required Equipment is aboard and in operable condition.

Entrant (print)	Signature	Date
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Owner if different (print)	Signature	Date
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If you have submitted your entry for any of the GLSS Solo Challenges via the online entry form, you must signify receipt of this waiver and that you agree with the Waiver and Release contained herein by checking the box on the online entry form. Entrants will be asked to sign this Waiver and Release at the Skippers Meeting for a written record.

Code Flags

	Code Flag Class 1
	Code Flag Class 2
	Code Flag Class 3
	Code Flag Class 4
	Code Flag "AP" Postpone
	Code Flag "P" Prep
	Code Flag "S" Shorten
	Code Flag "X" Over Early