Lake Pend Oreille Yacht Club

Sailing Instructions

Commodore's Cup 2026

Version September 30, 2026

1. RULES

1.1. This regatta is governed by the rules as defined in the current version of the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) for 2025-2028.

1.2. Amendments to these SIs will be posted on the Race Documents page on LPOYC's website(https://www.lakependoreilleyachtclub.org/race-docs) and on LPOYC's Google Groups page (https://groups.google.com/g/LpoycRC).

2. ELIGIBILITY

2.1. All boats that raced at least three races during the year (excluding Wednesday Evening Races) are qualified to compete in the Commodore's Cup if they are ranked in the top twelve of their Fleet, based on Challenge Cup standings upon completion of the Spring, Summer and Fall Series.

2.2. Boat owners and skippers must be members in good standing of Lake Pend Oreille Yacht Club.

2.3. Non-qualified and unrated boats may participate in individual races but their scores will be excluded from Commodore's Cup scoring.

2.4. Crew members must be members in good standing of Lake Pend Oreille Yacht Club.

2.5. Membership applications and fees may be submitted at https://www.lakependoreilleyachtclub.org/membership.

3. CLASSES

3.1. There are two classes: Red Fleet and White Fleet.

3.2. The Red Fleet class flag will be a red rectangular flag.

3.3. The White Fleet class flag will be a white rectangular flag.

3.4. Red Fleet boats will be handicapped using a spinnaker whether or not they choose to fly one.

3.5. White Fleet boats will be handicapped without a spinnaker unless they choose to declare a spinnaker per Rule 3.6 below.

3.6. White Fleet boats may declare and use a defined spinnaker before the Regatta's first race, raising their handicap over their non-spinnaker handicap. Once declared, their raised spinnaker rating will be in effect for the Regatta's duration.

4. SKIPPERS' MEETING

4.1. A Skippers' Meeting will be held at 9:00 AM on Saturday, October 3, 2026. The location of the Skippers' Meeting is Bitter End Marina.

4.2. Verbal instructions, restrictions and information pertaining to both race days will be announced at the Skippers' Meeting on Saturday.

1.1. There will be no Skippers' Meeting on Sunday, October 4, 2026.

5. FEES

5.1. There is no entry fee for qualified entries.

5.2. The entry fee for non-qualified entries is $50.

5.3. Entry fees are nonrefundable.

6. VENUE

6.1. Racing will take place in the open waters of Lake Pend Oreille.

7. SCHEDULE OF RACES

7.1. At least six (6) races will be attempted.

7.2. On Saturday, October 3, 2026, the first race will start at approximately 10:00 AM. At least four (4) races will be attempted. No races will be started after 3:00 PM.

7.3. On Sunday, October 4, 2026, the first race will start at approximately 9:30 AM. At least two (2) races will be attempted. No races will be started after 1:00 PM.

8. COURSES

8.1. Course charts are available for printing at https://www.lakependoreilleyachtclub.org/race-docs.

8.2. Courses will be displayed by the Race Committee using an electronic placard on the RC boat.

8.3. No later than the Warning signal, the Race Committee boat will display the course letter to be sailed.

8.4. Prior to a class's Warning signal, any change to the course letter will be broadcast by the Race Committee on VHF channel 72 and the new course letter will be displayed on the RC boat.

9. AREA OBSTRUCTIONS

9.1. The Navy barge (Mark N) is designated as a continuing obstruction.

9.2. The Start line will be a continuing obstruction while it is restricted as defined in Paragraph 11.5 below.

10. MARKS

10.1. Marks are designated on the course chart available for printing at https://www.lakependoreilleyachtclub.org/race-docs.

11. START

11.1. Races will be started using RRS 26 except as follows for the first class to start on a Race Day:

11.1.1. At approximately 4 minutes before the Warning signal for the first start, the Race Committee will announce it is “on station” by hoisting the AP flag and sounding multiple horns.

11.1.2. At 1 minute before the Warning signal for the first start, the Race Committee will drop the AP flag and sound multiple horns.

11.2. If more than one class is scheduled to start consecutively, the Start signal for a class shall serve as the Warning signal for the next class (aka “rolling” 5-minute start).

11.3. The start line will be between a staff on the Race Committee boat and a GPS buoy.

11.4. The starting order of classes for the first race will be announced at the Skippers’ Meeting. The starting order of classes for subsequent races will be announced by the Race Committee using VHF channel 72.

11.5. After a yacht starts, it may not sail through the Start/Finish line except to finish or when a course specifically uses a start mark as part of the course. The Race Committee shall disqualify any boat that violates this instruction.

11.6. Boats whose Warning signal has not sounded shall stay clear of the starting area.

11.7. A boat starting more than 15 minutes after her starting signal will be scored a Did Not Start (DNS) and receive points according to RRS A4 and A5.

12. RECALLS

12.1. Individual and General Recalls will be signaled in accordance with RRS 29.

12.2. As a courtesy, the Race Committee will make every effort to broadcast OCS notices to yachts using VHF channel 72. Failure of radio equipment or failure to hear a hail shall not be grounds for redress under RRS 62.1. It shall be each yacht’s responsibility to ascertain if they are OCS at a start.

13. FINISH

13.1. The finish line will be between a staff on the Race Committee boat and a GPS buoy.

13.2. A boat shall cross the finish line in a direction coming from the last mark of the course.

13.3. A boat that chooses to not finish a race shall notify the Race Committee immediately.

14. SHORTENING OR ABANDONING A RACE

14.1. After the starting signal the Race Committee may shorten or abandon a race by signaling prescribed sounds and displaying code flags in accordance with RRS 32.

14.2. A course may be shortened by eliminating marks to be rounded. This modifies RRS 32.2.

14.3. The Race Committee will use VHS channel 72 to announce which mark(s) of the course to eliminate. Eliminated marks will be subsequent to the next mark to be rounded by the lead boat of a class or may be at the discretion of the Race Committee. This modifies RRS 32.2.

14.4. Boats shall sail through the finish line in a direction coming from the last mark of the shortened course.

14.5. The shortened course shall apply to the class(es) whose flag(s) are displayed on the Race Committee boat. If no class flags are displayed, the shortened course applies to all classes.

15. TIME LIMITS

15.1. The finishing time limit for all yachts, if any, will be announced at the Skipper's Meeting. Any boat still racing after the expired time limit will be scored DNF. Four blasts by the Race Committee horn will indicate the time limit has expired. This changes RRS 35.

16. COMMUNICATIONS

16.1. The Race Committee will monitor VHS channel 72.

16.2. The Race Committee will attempt to notify competitors via VHS channel 72 of changes to the course, the Sailing Instructions or the verbal instructions announced at the Skippers' Meeting. It shall be the competitors' responsibility to monitor the Race Committee's radio transmissions.

16.3. If the Race Committee is unable to deliver radio transmissions or if a competitor is unable to receive radio transmissions, visual signals displayed on the Race Committee boat shall take precedence.

16.4. Without limiting the application of RRS 41, the transmission or receipt while racing of any communication for an individual boat's direct or indirect benefit is prohibited. This includes fee-for-service weather information and all routing information or advice. This does not include communication, including electronic communications, required to comply with the notice of race and sailing instructions or for personal messages not related to a boat's performance in the race.

17. SCORING

17.1. Races will be scored as provided in Rule 90.3 and Appendix A2 of the current version of the RRS.

17.2. The Red Fleet shall be scored using a TCF handicapping system. A Red Fleet boat's TCF rating will be adjusted at the end of each season.

17.3. The White Fleet shall be scored using the NHC (National Handicap for Cruisers), expressed as TCF. A White Fleet boat's TCF rating will be adjusted at the end of each season based on a formula created by the Royal Yachting Association.

17.4. White Fleet boats may declare and use a spinnaker before the Regatta's' first race, increasing their handicap as determined by the Race Handicapper. Once declared, this spinnaker ruling will be in effect for the duration of the regatta.

17.5. If 6 or more races are completed, each boat's regatta score shall be the total of her race scores excluding her worst race. If 5 or fewer races are completed, no scores shall be excluded.

18. TIES AND OTHER RULES

18.1. Series ties shall be resolved as provided in RRS A8.1 and A8.2.

19. PENALTY SYSTEM

19.1. A boat may take a One Turn Penalty when she may have broken one or more rules of Part 2 "When Boats Meet' in an incident while racing. This changes RRS 44.1.

19.2. A boat may take a One Turn Penalty when she may have broken rule 31 "Touching a Mark."

19.3. As provided in RRS 67, the Protest Committee may, without a hearing, penalize a boat that has broken RRS 42.

20. PROTESTS

20.1. Protest Forms are available at the Bitter End Marina clubhouse and the Skippers' Meeting preceding the race.

20.2. Protest forms are available for printing from the Race Docs page of the club's website (https://www.lakependoreilleyachtclub.org/race-docs).

20.3. The protest time limit for each class is 90 minutes after the last boat has finished the day's final race.

20.4. Written protests must be submitted to the Race Committee Commodore or their designee.

21. SERIOUS COLLISIONS

21.1. A collision causing damage requiring more than routine maintenance is considered a serious incident. When such damage occurs, the Protest Committee shall hold a hearing under RRS 60.2, 60.3 & 63 to determine the facts and consider whether those involved exercised reasonable care in handling their boats. When the Protest Committee finds that either or both boat(s) did not, one or both shall be disqualified, regardless of any alternative penalties accepted under RRS 44.1. In extreme cases, either boat(s) may be excluded from the rest of the Regatta or Series (this enhances RRS 64.2).

22. SAFETY REGULATIONS

22.1. A boat that retires from a race shall notify the Race Committee immediately. In addition, boats shall carry all legally required safety equipment. Consult The Handbook of Idaho Boating Laws and Responsibilities.

23. PRIZES

23.1. Results will be announced on Sunday, October 4, 2026, at around 3 PM upstairs at MacDonald's.

23.2. Trophies for the Commodore's Cup will be awarded at the club's year-end banquet. Skippers of the winning boats in each fleet will have their names engraved on the Commodore's Cup Trophy.

24. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

24.1. Competitors participate in racing entirely at their own risk. See RRS Rule 3, Decision to Race. The organizing authority will not accept any liability for material damage, personal injury, or death sustained in conjunction with, before, during, or after racing.

25. VIDEO AND PHOTOGRAPHY RIGHTS

25.1. All marks, pictures, audio, video recordings, graphic logos and service names contained herein or produced during the season by or on behalf of the LPOYC are the properties of the LPOYC. No rights are granted to use pictures, graphics, logos and service names without permission. Competitors give absolute rights and licenses for video footage or photographs of themselves or their boats to be published in any media for press, editorial, or advertising purposes.

26. INSURANCE

26.1. Each participating boat shall maintain valid third-party liability insurance.

27. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

27.1. For additional information, email the LPOYC Race Administrator at lpoycrc@gmail.com