



Lake Pend Oreille Yacht Club

Sailing Instructions

Wednesday Evening Series 2026

Version May 16, 2026

1. RULES

- 1.1. These Series are governed by the rules as defined in the current version of the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) for 2025-2028.
- 1.2. Spinnakers are defined in the current version of Equipment Rules of Sailing (ERS) for 2025-2028, Section G.1.3(f). A spinnaker is "Where the measurement between the half-luff point and the half-leech point is equal to or greater than 75% of the foot length."
- 1.3. Amendments to this SI shall be posted on the Race Documents page at <https://www.lakependoreilleyachtclub.org/race-docs> and on LPOYC's Google Groups page.

2. ELIGIBILITY

- 2.1. Boat owners and skippers must be members in good standing of Lake Pend Oreille Yacht Club.
- 2.2. Non-members and unrated boats may participate in individual races but their scores will not be counted until Regular membership dues are paid and a rating assigned.
- 2.3. Crew members must be members in good standing of Lake Pend Oreille Yacht Club.
- 2.4. Membership applications and fees may be submitted on the Membership Page at <https://www.lakependoreilleyachtclub.org/all-memberships>.

3. CLASSES

- 3.1. There will be two classes: Red Fleet and White Fleet.
- 3.2. Red Fleet boats will be handicapped using a spinnaker whether or not they choose to fly one.
- 3.3. White Fleet boats will be handicapped without a spinnaker unless they choose to declare a spinnaker per Rule 3.4 below.
- 3.4. White Fleet boats may declare and use a defined spinnaker before a Series' first race, raising their handicap over their non-spinnaker handicap. Once declared, their spinnaker ruling will be in effect for the Series duration. Boats may drop the spinnaker declaration before starting a new Series, reverting the handicap to their non-spinnaker rating.
- 3.5. Appropriate adjustments to handicaps may be made based on available data of the vessel and racing environment determined by the Scorer.

4. SKIPPERS' MEETING

- 4.1. One (1) Skippers' Meeting will be held at 5:30 PM on Wednesday, May 20, 2026, the first Wednesday of the Series. The location of the Skippers' Meeting is Bitter End Marina.
- 4.2. Verbal instructions, start line information, restrictions and information pertaining to all Wednesday Evening Series races will be announced at the Skippers' Meeting.

5. ENTRY AND FEES

- 5.1. The entry fee is \$5 per yacht per race day.
- 5.2. Entries and fees may be submitted to the Race Committee on the evening of the race.
- 5.3. A yacht's time will be official upon receipt of its entry fee.
- 5.4. Entry fees are nonrefundable.

6. VENUE

- 6.1. Racing will take place on the waters of Lake Pend Oreille in an area roughly bounded by Bitter End Marina, MacDonald's Marina and the US Navy research barge.

7. SCHEDULE OF RACES

- 7.1. The dates of the Wednesday Evening Series races can be found on the Race Schedule page at <https://www.lakependoreilleyachtclub.org/calendars>.
- 7.2. Changes to the Race Schedule will be posted on LPOYC's Race Schedule page and Google Groups page.
- 7.3. Races start at 6:00 PM.

8. COURSE

- 8.1. The course for every Wednesday Evening Series race shall be S-1-3-S, twice around.
- 8.2. Marks are left to port.
- 8.3. Boats shall complete their first lap and begin their second lap by leaving Mark S to port, regardless of where the Race Committee boat is stationed.

9. MARKS

Mark	Description	Location
S	GPS buoy	Between Bitter End and MacDonald's
1	No Wake Buoy #1	Approximately .5 mile ESE of Mark S
3	No Wake Buoy #3	Approximately .5 mile East of Mark S

10. START

- 10.1. Races will be started using RRS 26 except as follows:
 - 10.1.1. At approximately 4 minutes before the Warning signal for the start, the Race Committee will announce it is "on station" by hoisting the AP flag and sounding multiple horns.
 - 10.1.2. At 1 minute before the Warning signal for the start, the Race Committee will drop the AP flag and sound multiple horns.

- 10.2. The start line will be between a staff on the Race Committee boat and a GPS buoy designated as Mark S.
- 10.3. Red and White Fleet boats shall start together but be scored separately.
- 10.4. Boats shall cross the start line in the direction heading for Mark 1.
- 10.5. 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.

11. RECALLS

- 11.1. Individual and General Recalls will be signaled in accordance with RRS 29.
- 11.2. 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(a). It shall be each yacht's responsibility to ascertain if they are OCS at a start.

12. FINISH

- 12.1. The finish line will be between a staff on the Race Committee boat and a GPS buoy designated as Mark S.
- 12.2. Boats shall cross the finish line in the direction coming from Mark 3, regardless of where the Race Committee boat is stationed.

13. SHORTENING A RACE

- 13.1. After the starting signal the Race Committee may shorten a race in accordance with RRS 32.1 and 32.2.
- 13.2. No race shall be shortened to finish at Mark 1 or Mark 3. This modifies RRS 32.2.
- 13.3. If the Race Committee decides to shorten the course, it shall do so before any boat completes the first lap. All boats must complete the first lap and finish as described in Section 12.2 above. This modifies RRS 32.2.

14. ABANDONING A RACE

- 14.1. After the starting signal, the Race Committee may abandon a race in accordance with RRS 32.1 and 32.2.
- 14.2. If the Race Committee abandons a race before any boat has completed the first lap, all boats shall be scored as DNF.
- 14.3. If the Race Committee abandons a race after all boats have completed one lap, each boat's finish time shall be their time that was recorded by the Race Committee when they completed their first lap. This modifies RRS 90.3(a).
- 14.4. If the Race Committee abandons a race after some boats have completed one lap before the 90-minute time limit but other boats have not, all boats shall be scored as DNF. This modifies RRS 35 and 90.3(a).

15. TIME LIMITS

- 15.1. The time limit for the first boat to finish will be 90 minutes. If a boat does not finish within 120 minutes, its score will be DNF. Four horns will signal the end of racing for the evening. Any boat still racing after the expired time limit will be scored DNF. This modifies RRS 35.

16. AREA OBSTRUCTIONS

- 16.1. The US Navy barge is designated as a continuing obstruction.

17. COMMUNICATIONS

- 17.1. The Race Committee will monitor VHS channel 72.

- 17.2. 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.
- 17.3. 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.
- 17.4. 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.

18. SCORING

- 18.1. Races will be scored as provided in Rule 90.3 and Appendix A2 of the current version of the RRS.
- 18.2. The Red Fleet shall be scored using a TCF handicapping system. A Red Fleet boat's TCF rating may be adjusted at the end of each season.
- 18.3. The White Fleet shall be scored using the NHC (National Handicap for Cruisers), expressed as TCF. A White Fleet boat's TCF rating may be adjusted at the end of each Wednesday Evening Series based on a formula created by the Royal Yachting Association.
- 18.4. Wednesday evening races will be scored as two separate Series. Each Series will consist of 7 races. If 7 Series races are completed, a boat's Series score shall be the total of her race scores excluding her two (2) worst races. If 6 Series races are completed, a boat's Series score shall be the total of her race scores excluding her worst race. If 5 or fewer Series races are completed, no scores shall be excluded.
- 18.5. If a designated race steward is not available, a volunteer race steward may be required. If this requirement precludes a boat from competing in that race, it will receive an OOD score (Officer of the Day). The OOD score will equal the average of that boat's other scores in a Series. Also, a skipper may choose not to race if they have volunteered to cook that evening. The same OOD scoring will apply if the skipper declares not to race before a race start.

19. TIES AND OTHER RULES

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

20. PENALTY SYSTEM

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

21. PROTESTS

- 21.1. Protest Forms are available at the Bitter End Marina clubhouse and the Skippers' Meeting preceding the race. The protest time limit for each class is 90 minutes after the last boat has finished the day's final race.
- 21.2. Sailing is a self-policing sport, at its best when participants call their fouls and take their penalties on the water immediately after the incident. Boats are encouraged to use appropriate exoneration measures to avoid disqualification. If you think you have committed a foul, you may exonerate yourself by doing a

one-turn penalty. After completing the race, if a boat determines that it committed a foul, it may notify the race committee and accept a 20% penalty as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing Rule 44.3(c).

22. SERIOUS COLLISIONS

22.1. 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).

23. SAFETY REGULATIONS

23.1. 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.

24. PRIZES

24.1. There are no formal trophies or awards for the Wednesday Evening Series. Instead, these races are low-pressure learning opportunities. The goal is to have fun and create a chance to get to know other sailors.

25. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

25.1. 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.

26. VIDEO AND PHOTOGRAPHY RIGHTS

26.1. 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.

27. INSURANCE

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

28. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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