

2026 GRSC / MYC Commodore's Invitational

Sailing Instructions

1 RULES

- 1.1 The Commodore's Invitational race will be governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing*.
- 1.2 The requirements for wearing PFDs at the start and finish are waived. This will be the Captain's choice.

2 ADDITIONAL IDENTIFICATION

- 2.1 While racing, boats shall display appropriate backstay identification. See Item 5, Class Flags, below. The committee will supply identification in the Captain's Packets at registration. This identification must be carried until two hours after the finish.

3 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

- 3.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board(s). This will be the bulletin board located at Muskegon Yacht Club and The GRSC Event Board

4 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 4.1 Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted before 8:00am on Friday, August 15, 2026.

5 CLASS FLAGS

- 5.1 Classes and their flags will be determined by the race committee once most entries have been received.

6 RACING AREAS

- 6.1 The Racing Area shall be defined as Lake Michigan.

7 THE COURSE

- 7.1 The course will be from Grand Haven, MI to Muskegon, MI. The course length will be approximately 11 nautical miles.

8 THE START

- 8.1 Races will be started by using RRS 26 with the warning signal for the first section made at 12:00 PM EDT on Saturday, August 15, 2026. There will be an alert announcement on Channel 69 at 11:55 AM.
- 8.2 The starting line will be located approximately 1/4-mile NW of the GH North pier head.
- 8.3 Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area.

8.4 Starting Sequence

11:55 AM – Starting Sequence Alert on Channel 69

12:00 PM – Warning – JAM Class Flag Up

12:01 – Prep flag Up

12:04 – Prep flag Down

12:05 – Class Flag Down-Start **JAM**

12:05 PM – Warning – Spin 3 Class Flag Up

12:06 – Prep flag Up

12:09 – Prep flag Down

12:10 – Class Flag Down-Start **Spin 3**

12:10 PM – Warning – Spin 2 Class Flag Up

12:11 – Prep flag Up

12:14 – Prep flag Down

12:15 – Class Flag Down-Start **Spin 2**

12:15 PM – Warning – Spin 1 Class Flag Up

12:16 – Prep flag Up

12:19 – Prep flag Down

12:20 – Class Flag Down-Start **Spin 1**

The number of division/starts may change depending on number of entries.

9 THE FINISH

9.1 The finish line shall be located approximately 200 yards south of the South Muskegon Pier head. The finish line shall be established between the Finish Boat & a buoy

9.2 It is the sole responsibility of the finishing yacht to make sure that the Race Committee can identify them. Boats that are finishing must sail between the Finish Boat & Buoy. Additional finish information may be issued by the finish boat if rough conditions are present. Approximately 10 minutes before finishing, the finishing boat shall call the Race Committee on VHF Channel 69 and identify themselves by name and sail number. The Race Committee may not respond due to responsibility of finishing other yachts

9.3 After finishing, the captains shall submit a Finish Report at MYC or email a photo of the report within 2 hours of finishing

10 THE LIMITS

10.1 Time limits are 4 hours after your starting time. Boats not completing the race within this period will be scored DNF.

11 PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

11.1 Any yacht planning to protest should immediately inform the offending yacht of their intent and display a red protest flag. For each Division, the protest time limit is 2 hours after the last boat in the Division has finished.

- 11.2** Notices of protests by the race committee will be posted to inform boats under RRS 61.1(b). Such notices, time, and place of hearing, etc., will be posted at MYC.

12 SCORING

- 12.1** The scoring system is as follows: PHRF, Time on Distance. Corrected time, from low to high, determines place in Division and Fleet (Spinnaker only).

13 SAFETY REGULATIONS

- 13.1** Each boat shall conform to US Coast Guard safety standards and the requirements of a "Category 3 race" as defined in the World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations book (available from US Sailing), formerly known as ISAF.
- 13.2** A boat that retires from the race shall announce their withdrawal over the VHF radio/channel 69. They must also notify the race committee as soon as possible using channel 69.

14 OFFICIAL BOATS

- 14.1** Official boats will be marked as follows: RC flag displayed from the starting line boat.

15 RADIO COMMUNICATION

- 15.1** A boat shall neither make radio transmissions while racing nor receive radio communications not available to all boats. This restriction also applies to mobile telephones. VHF Channel 69 is the official channel for all race related communications.
- 15.2** The Race Committee will communicate with the competitors using VHF channel 69. The information is provided as a courtesy. Any errors or omissions of these broadcasts or failure to hear them shall not constitute grounds for granting redress.

16 PRIZES

- 16.1** Prizes will be given as follows; the overall winner of the Spinnaker Fleet will have a plaque with their boat name applied to the Commodores Trophy. The first-place finisher in the Jib & Main Fleet will have a plaque with their boat name applied to the Vice Commodores Trophy, All sections will be awarded flags and trophies to 3rd in section

17 DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

- 17.1** Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. See RRS 3, Decision to Race. The organizing authority will not accept any liability for material damage, personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with, prior to, during or after the regatta.

18 INSURANCE

- 18.1** Each participating boat shall be insured by a valid third-party liability insurance company with a minimum policy limit of \$300,000.