



2026 Races and Racing Rules

Des Plaines Park District Yacht Club

2026 Races

Spring Series

Sundays, 4 races each. Series scoring will be based on each boat's best 2/3 of races of all races held by the fleet.

Memorial Day Regatta

3 races, no throw outs.

Sunday Summer Series

Sundays, 4 races each. Series scoring will be based on each boat's best 2/3 of all races held by the fleet.

Individual fleets may choose to schedule only three races per day.

Wednesday Evening Series

Wednesdays, 2–3 races each. All boats race as a single miscellaneous fleet with results determined by the Portsmouth Beaufort Scale Handicap System. Series scoring will be based on each boat's best 2/3 of all races held by the fleet.

Brown-Hannon Memorial July 4th Regatta

The annual Independence Day regatta open to all boats registered at Lake Opeka. 3 races, no throw outs.

Commodore's Cup Regatta

A one-day regatta that includes the Commodore's Party on Saturday evening. 3 races, no throw outs.

Labor Day Regatta

Annual regatta sponsored by the Des Plaines Park District, open to all boats registered at Lake Opeka. 3 races, no throw outs.

Lake Championship Regatta

The following skippers qualify:

- Winners of the previous year's Fall series, as well as current year winners of the Spring, Summer, and Wednesday Evening series
- Second place finishers from the previous year's Fall series and the current year's Spring, Summer, and Wednesday Evening series if qualified for a trophy in this series.
- Third place finishers from the previous year's Fall series and the current year's Spring, Summer, and Wednesday Evening series if qualified for a trophy in this series
- The skippers of each fleet with the best 3 of 4 combined scores from the Memorial Day, Brown-Hannon, Commodore's Cup, and Labor Day regattas, scored by regatta.
- The top youth skipper as determined by the youth program.

If a skipper qualifies by his performance in a series and also does so by his performance in a subsequent series, the next ranked skipper in the subsequent series will then qualify.

Fall Series

Sundays, 4 races each. Series scoring will be based on each boat's best 2/3 of all races held by the fleet.



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1. Race Rules

Except as modified by these instructions, all races will be sailed under the current rules of World Sailing(WS), the prescriptions of the United States Sailing Association, the rules adopted by each class' national association, and the rules established by the individual fleets which are not in conflict with the class rules.

2. Number and Schedule of Races

Race dates are scheduled per the 2026 Racing Schedule. (Calendar of Events)The number of races and warning signal for the start of the first race are as follows:

Race Series	Races per Date	Warning Signal
Spring, Sunday, Fall	4	1:30 PM
Wednesday	2 or 3*	6:30 PM
Special Regattas	3	1:30 PM

* Time permitting

If Race Committee choses to take a break between races, It is the skipper's responsibility to watch when the Race Committee returns to the racecourse and to be on time for the start.

3. Class Flags

Class flags are as follows:

Class	Flag
470	White with Medium Blue class insignia
Miscellaneous	White with a Blue "M"
Laser	White with class insignia

4. Course

4.1. The course will be chosen at the discretion of the race committee and posted on the starboard side of the committee boat before the warning signal of the first fleet.

If sailing without a Race committee the course will be announced verbally.

4.2. The course key will be as follows:

- A Mark at southeast (SE) comer of lake
- B Mark at southwest (SW) comer of lake
- C Mark at northwest (NW) corner of lake
- D Mark at northeast (NE) corner of lake
- 1 or 2 or 3 Number of laps
- P or S Marks taken to port or starboard
- O Olympic
- OM Olympic Modified

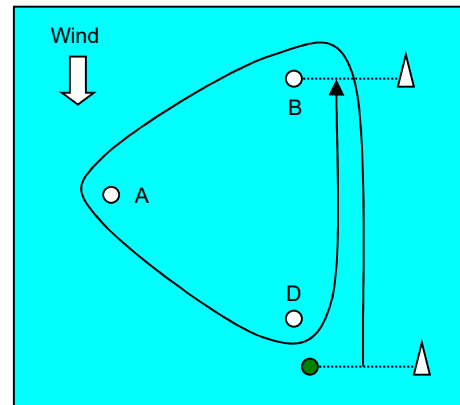


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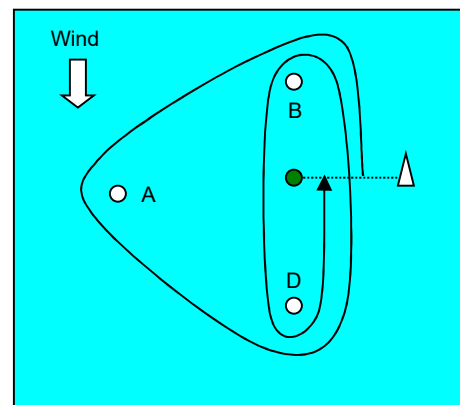
Example #1 (Triangle): **BAD1P**

The boat would cross the starting line, sail once around the windward mark (B), the jibe mark (A), and the leeward mark (D) in that order. All marks are taken to port. The course would end by crossing the finish line on the upwind leg.



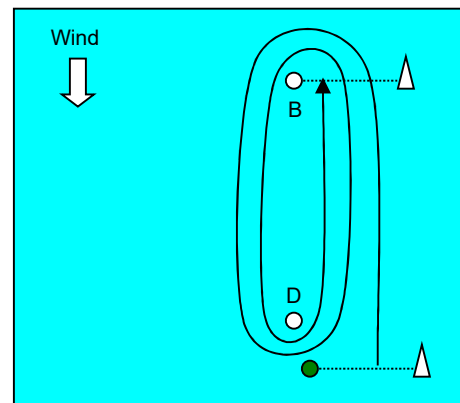
Example #2 (Olympic Modified): **BAD1POM**

The boat would cross the starting line, sail toward the windward mark (B), jibe mark (A), leeward mark (D), windward mark, leeward mark, and finish by crossing the finish line on the upwind leg. All marks are taken to port. The committee boat may move to the windward mark to create a longer finish leg.



Example #3 (Windward-Leeward): **BD2P**

The boat would cross the starting line, sail toward the windward mark (B), leeward mark (D), windward mark, leeward mark, and finish by crossing the finish line on the upwind leg. All marks are taken to port.



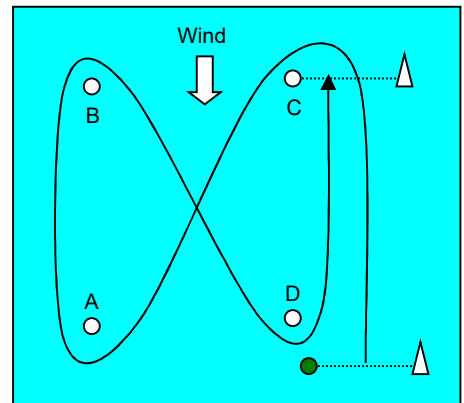


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Example #4 (Figure Eight): CPABSD1

The boat would cross the starting line, sail toward the right windward mark (C), left leeward mark (A), left windward mark (B), right leeward mark (D), and finish by crossing the finish line upwind at (C). Marks (C) and (D) are taken to port, while marks (A) and (B) are taken to starboard.



5. Marks

Marks A, B, C, and D will be orange inflatable spheres. The starting mark will be a pink cylinder.

6. The Start

For a start, a fleet must have at least 3 boats present, except the Miscellaneous fleet which may start with 2 boats. A fleet with fewer than 3 boats present will start with the Miscellaneous fleet..

- 6.1. If more than 4 fleets are present, 2 or more fleets will be started together, grouped at the discretion of the race committee.
- 6.2. The starting sequence will be designated by the class flags flown below the race committee flag.
- 6.3. The starting sequence will commence as follows: This modifies Rule 26.

Time to Start (Minutes)	Audible Signal (Bell or Horn)	Flag
Approx. 5:00 or more	Come within hail	Black & Yellow up
Approx. 4:00		Black & Yellow down
3:00	Warning	White up
1:30		White down
1:00	Preparatory	Blue up
0:30		Blue down
0:00	Start	Red up

- Visual signals shall govern over audible signals.
 - The Start signal of one fleet is the Warning signal for the next fleet. The Red and White flags will be raised together.
 - The Red flag will remain up until all boats of the fleet have properly started or approximately one minute has passed, whichever occurs first.
- 6.4. The starting line will be between the pink cylindrical start mark and the mast of the committee boat.
 - 6.5. Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall keep clear of the starting area and of all boats whose warning signal has been made.
 - 6.6. Alternate starting procedure
Whistle starts may be used when no Race Committee is present.
When no Race Committee is present only misc fleet start will be run.



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The starting sequence will commence as follows: This modifies Appendix U.

A boat designated by the Vice Commodore or senior officer present will blow the whistle.

Time to Start (Minutes)	Audible Signal (Whistle)
Approx. 4:00	Multiple short
3:00	3 long
2:00:	2 long
1:00	1 long
0:30	3 short
0:20	2 short
0:10	1 short
0:00 (Start)	1 Long

Each boat shall carry a timing device to record their elapsed time.

7. To be scored, skippers racing a boat that is not their primary boat must inform the race committee before the start of the affected race. This rule accommodates skippers sailing borrowed or second boats in place of their usual boat.

8. Recalls

- 8.1. Individual recalls will be made by the race committee by raising the individual recall flag (White with a Blue Cross) and making one sound signal hailing the sail number of the infringing boats. Failure of the flag to be raised or to be hailed, or to hear the hail is not grounds to protest. You will be scored OCS.
- 8.2. General recalls will be made by the race committee by raising the first repeater (Yellow and Blue) pennant and making two sound signals. The starting sequence shall continue with the next fleet starting in its normal position. The recalled fleet will start after the last scheduled fleet. If a second fleet is recalled, it will start after the first recalled fleet, etcetera.

9. Change of Course After the Start

The Race Committee shall not change the course after the start except to shorten it.

10. The Finish

The finish line will be between the mast of the committee boat and the windward mark, unless the committee boats has not moved and the start is located on the windward leg; then the finish line will be between the mast of the committee boat and the Pink cylindrical starting mark (see example #2).

The committee boat shall fly the Blue flag to indicate that it is on station at the finish line before the first boat has rounded the final mark before the finish.

If sailing without a Race Committee the finish will be when a boat crosses a line at right angle to the last mark within three boat lengths of the finish mark. Each boat shall record her elapsed finish time and report it to the score keeper. They will also record and report the boat that finished immediately before and after them. (Not the time, just who)

10.1. Time Limits

Boats failing to finish within 10 minutes of the 'middle boat' to finish within their fleet shall be scored as Did Not Finish (DNF). 'Middle boat' is based on number of boats starting the race divided by 2 rounded up.



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11. Protests and Penalties

- 11.1.** Any written protest shall be completed on the proper form provided by the DPPDYC (available from the Race Committee or a DPPDYC officer on shore) and submitted to the Race Committee within 30 minutes of its docking after the last race of the day.
- 11.2.** If parties to the protest agree the protest will be submitted to arbitration per appendix T before holding a protest hearing.
- 11.3.** The Race Committee shall assemble a proper Protest Committee per the WS Rule 91. The Protest committee will hear the protest as soon as possible after the time limit expires. The Protest Committee shall make a reasonable effort to notify the members of each party in the complaint and identified witnesses of the time and place of the hearing.
- 11.4.** Failure of the protestor or protestee to appear at the hearing without providing proper notice to the Protest Committee will result in the protest being disallowed or allowed, respectively.
- 11.5.** The 720 turns rule (Rule 44.1) shall be in effect, allowing the alleged offender to perform a 720 degree turn to avoid a protest hearing.



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12. Scoring

Only paid members and competitors who, along with their crews, have signed DPPDYC waivers will be scored. No retroactive scoring will be allowed after late payment is made or signed waivers are submitted.

- 12.1. During the Spring, Summer, and Fall series and for special regattas, fleet scoring requires that 3 boats start each race (2 boats for the Miscellaneous fleet). Fleet awards will only be given if the fleet was scored for at least ½ of all races sailed for the series (rounded down). If a fleet fails to obtain 3 boats for at least ½ the races sailed in a series they will be scored in the misc fleet. If they obtain three boats in 1/2 the races their scores will be removed from the misc scores.
- 12.2. Unless a fleet has designated a scoring system and has informed the Vice Commodore prior to each series or regatta, each series and regatta shall be scored according to the Low-Point Scoring System of World Sailing(WS) Rules, Appendix A4.
- 12.3 Ties shall be broken per WS Appendix A8.
- 12.4 WS Appendix A5.3 will apply to score DNF, NSC, OCS, DNS, RET or DSQ.
Boats not coming to the starting area will be scored DNC. 10 points will be assessed for DNC based on anticipated fleet size; this may be modified at the Vice Commodore’s discretion as a series progresses.

12.5 The Wednesday Evening series and Miscellaneous Fleet races shall be scored the same as above *except* as follows:

A two-person or three-person boat sailed single-handed will have its Portsmouth Handicap number reduced by 2.

13 Awards

The number of awards for each DPPDYC sponsored series and regatta will be based on average fleet participation per race in the event. Calculate the value of N for each fleet and use the table below.

$N = \text{Number of starters for each race in the event} \div \text{Number of races started by the fleet in the event}$

One-Design Fleet	Miscellaneous Fleet	Awards
3.00 – 3.74	2.00 – 2.99	1 st place
3.75 – 4.99	3.00 – 4.59	2 nd place
5.00 – 6.99	4.60 – 6.99	3 rd place
7.00 – 9.99	7.00 – 9.99	4 th place
10.00 and above	10 and above	5 th place

14 Safety

- 14.1 In compliance with Des Plaines Park District rules, all competitors and crew shall wear USCG approved life jackets (PFD's) when sailing.
- 14.2 When sailing conditions are questionable, the Vice Commodore, acting as chairman, shall call a meeting of the fleet captains or their representatives to determine whether races will be sailed, postponed, or abandoned.
- 14.3 In an emergency, the Vice Commodore or Race Committee is authorized to postpone or abandon racing at any time.
- 14.4 Further, a member of the Des Plaines Park District/Lake Park staff may close Lake Opeka at his/her discretion at which time all sailors are required to leave the water immediately.
- 14.5 **However, regardless of any of the aforementioned decisions, “The responsibility for a boat’s decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone”, per World Sailing Part I - Fundamental Rule 3.**
- 14.6 **SAILING WITHOUT a Race committee**



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- 14.6.1 **AS the Committee boat is also the primary safety boat we will not race without a Race Committee when at the discretion of the Vice Commadore or senior officer present when:**
- 14.6.2 **The water is cold and /or the wind is up.**
- 14.6.3 **When we have inexperienced sailors competing.**

15. Definitions

- 15.1 A **Fleet** shall consist of at least 5 boats of the same class (except for the miscellaneous fleet) registered with the DPPDYC and the Des Plaines Park District Lake Park office by July 4th.
- 15.2 The **Race Committee** shall consist of at least 1 racing skipper. Responsibilities include but are not limited to, preparing the committee boat, setting the marks ½ hour before the start of the first race, pulling marks after the final race, putting away the committee boat and equipment after racing, and providing 1 copy of the race results to the Vice Commodore on Wednesdays and 1 copy to each fleet captain on Sundays. Race committee assignments are the responsibility of each DPPDYC member and are arranged with the Vice Commodore. Detailed instructions for the Race Committee and of the proper management of races are on the committee boat.
- 15.3 The **Protest Committee** shall consist of the Race Committee plus an additional person designated to serve as chairman as assigned by the Vice Commodore. The Protest Committee shall consist of at least 3 persons. The Vice Commodore is authorized to appoint persons (or to serve himself, if appropriate) as needed to meet these requirements. If the Vice Commodore is unavailable, the highest ranking officer, that being the Commodore, is authorized to act as described above.