



**NWISA Keelboat Championship
2026 Qualifier for ISSA Keelboat Invitational
October 3-4, 2026
Port Madison Yacht Club & Bainbridge High School Sailing**

NOTICE OF RACE

1. RULES:

- 1.1 The regatta will be governed by the 2025-2028 Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), the prescriptions of US SAILING, the ISSA Procedural Rules, the NWISA District Rules, this Notice of Race, and the Sailing Instructions.
- 1.2 The US Sailing prescription to Rule 63.1 is deleted and will not apply.
- 1.3 The J/70 Class Rules will not apply except that Class Rule C.9.4(b) concerning bowsprits shall apply as follows:
 - 1.3.1 The bowsprit shall be fully retracted at all times except when the gennaker (asymmetrical spinnaker) is being set, is set, or is being retrieved, and shall be retracted at the first reasonable opportunity after the retrieval.
 - 1.3.2 An extended bowsprit shall not be considered part of the boat for the purposes of (1) establishing an overlap or (2) establishing right of way, unless the gennaker is set.
- 1.4 Under ISSA Procedural Rule 18(a), the right of appeal is denied.

2. ELIGIBILITY:

- 2.1 Competing schools shall be members of NWISA and shall meet ISSA eligibility rules as prescribed in the Procedural Rules. This is a district championship; all competitors shall be eligible high-school sailors in grades 9-12.
 - 2.1.1 Sailors must be registered and approved by NWISA prior to competing. The Fall priority deadline for NWISA Sailor Registration is 11:59pm on 9/11/2026. Any sailor registering after this date must alert the NWISA board (mail to: nwisaboard@nwis.com) of their registration. The NWISA Board makes no guarantee of the timeliness of the approval of sailors registering after 9/11/2026, and no sailor registering after 11:59pm the Tuesday before an event will be approved.
 - 2.1.2 The penalty for sailing an unregistered sailor will be a GDQ penalty for all divisions with an unregistered sailor competing, and loss of all qualification/ranking points earned at the event.

- 2.2 Teams shall consist of four eligible sailors who attend the same active school registered with ISSA. Consistent with the 2025 ISSA Keelboat National Championship NOR, each four-person team shall include at least one member of the opposite gender and shall have a maximum combined weight of 650 pounds. Teams shall weigh in at regatta check-in.
- 2.3 Teams shall be limited to one berth per school for the qualifier.
- 2.4 Teams shall be accompanied by a designated adult team leader, who may be an advisor, coach, or parent recognized by the school.
- 2.5 **Teams shall submit the required resume form found [here](#).** Team resumes will be used to select teams if the event is oversubscribed. All team resumes will additionally be screened to ensure that teams have the necessary skills and experience to participate safely.

3. REGISTRATION, WAIVER, AND ENTRY FEE:

- 3.1 Eligible schools shall register through the NWISA event registration process.
- 3.2 Registration will open Friday, September 18, and close Monday, September 28.
- 3.3 Teams shall submit a completed resume by Tuesday, September 22, and will be notified of eligibility/selection for the qualifier by Tuesday, September 29.
- 3.4 Eligible teams must submit necessary waivers and fees.
 - 3.4.1 **Each competitor must have a signed event [waiver](#)** on file by check-in on Saturday 0930.
 - 3.4.2 An entry fee of \$25.00 per sailor payable to Port Madison Yacht Club will be collected at check in.
- 3.5 Teams unable to compete once registration closes shall notify the Regatta Chair as soon as possible.

4. QUALIFICATION:

- 4.1 The winner of this regatta shall earn NWISA's district berth to the 2026 ISSA Keelboat Invitational. Teams not intending to compete at the national event should not compete in this qualifier.
- 4.2 The 2026 ISSA Keelboat Invitational shall take place on December 12-13 in J/70s provided by St Petersburg Yacht Club.
- 4.3 There is no backup qualifier for this event. If this qualifier fails to complete the minimum number of races (3), the team with the best resume submitted will be selected to represent NWISA based on rankings created by the resume review committee.

5. SCHEDULE:

- 5.1 Saturday, October 3, 2026
 - 0930 Report Time / Check-in
 - 1000 Competitors' Meeting
 - 1100 First warning; racing will continue throughout the day
- 5.2 Sunday, October 4, 2026

0930 Report time
1030 First warning; racing will continue throughout the day
1530 No race will start after this time
1630 Results and awards

6. BOATS AND FORMAT:

- 6.1 J70s will be provided by PMYC.
- 6.2 Boats shall be sailed as provided. Teams shall not make alterations to the standing rigging unless explicit consent is obtained from the race officials. The "base" leg of the backstage bridle is included in standing rigging and must not be adjusted. RACE COMMITTEE MAY CHANGE SHROUD SETTINGS ON ALL BOATS IF WIND STRENGTH CHANGES SIGNIFICANTLY.

7. RACING AREA, COURSES AND SCORING:

- 7.1 All races will be sailed in greater Port Madison Bay.

8. DAMAGE DEPOSIT:

- 8.1 A \$1,000 damage deposit check, made out to Port Madison Yacht Club, will be collected at registration. The deposit will be returned or destroyed if the boat and gear are returned undamaged. Boats may be inspected for damage before and after racing each day.
- 8.2 Teams are responsible for damage attributed to their actions. If an incident involving two or more boats results in serious damage, there shall be a mandatory protest hearing, even if a boat takes a penalty at the time of the incident. The boat(s) found to be at fault shall be responsible for resulting damages. When more than one boat is at fault, the protest committee may apportion liability between multiple boats as it sees fit.
- 8.3 In the event damage cannot be attributed to a particular team, the repair costs will be divided evenly among all competing teams.
- 8.4 District damage deposit rules will not apply to this event.

9. HOUSING AND TRAVEL:

- 9.1 Housing may be available for this regatta. Send inquiries to the Regatta Chair.
- 9.2 Teams are responsible for their own transportation.
- 9.3 The address of the regatta is: Port Madison Yacht Club, 8478 NE Hidden Cove Rd, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110.

10.COACHING:

- 10.1 Team leaders, chaperones, coaches, parents, advisors, and other support personnel may go afloat in the designated portion of the sailing area from Saturday morning to the end of racing on Sunday.
- 10.2 Competitors may receive coaching, including instructions, assistance, equipment, or sustenance, only before, after, or between races, except when safety assistance is required, in which case assistance may be provided.
- 10.3 Coaches must provide their own coach boats.

11. DRONES:

- 11.1 The use of drones is prohibited as provided in the ISSA Procedural Rules.

12. CONDUCT:

- 12.1 No contestant shall use, either on or off the water, marijuana or any other controlled substance, as defined in 21 U.S. Code 802, the possession of which is unlawful under 21 U.S. Code 841, or alcoholic beverages (distilled spirits, wine, and beer, each as defined in Chapter 51 of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code and intended for beverage use).
- 12.2 Alleged breaches and other inappropriate conduct occurring during the regatta may be addressed under RRS 69 and the applicable ISSA Procedural Rules.

13. RIGHTS TO USE NAME AND LIKENESS:

- 13.1 By participating in this event, competitors grant the Organizing Authority and event sponsors the right to make, use, and show photographs, audio and video recordings, and other reproductions made at the venue or on the water during the event, without compensation.

14. WAIVER OF LIABILITY:

- 14.1 Sailing is an activity that has an inherent risk of damage and injury. Competitors in this event are participating entirely at their own risk. See RRS 3, Decision to Race.
- 14.2 The race organizers (organizing authority, race committee, protest committee, host club, sponsors, or any other organization or official) will not be responsible for damage to any boat or other property or injury to any competitor, including death, sustained as a result of participation in this event. By participating in this event, each competitor agrees to release the race organizers from any and all liability associated with such competitor's participation in this event to the fullest extent permitted by law.

15. REGATTA CONTACTS:

- 15.1 Regatta Co-Chair: Paul Erb, 281-685-9769, paul_erb@ymail.com
- 15.2 Regatta Co-Chair: Justin Nodolf, 360-286-0710, justin.nodolf@gmail.com
- 15.3 Regatta PRO: John Dewey, 808-975-6060, johntdewey@gmail.com
- 15.4 NWISA Representative: Eric Lesch, (847) 915-9839, ealesch@gmail.com