



MISSA SW Baker Pre-Qualifier



**Columbia Yacht Club
Columbia Sailing School
April 11-12, 2026
Monroe Harbor, Chicago, IL**

Sailing Instructions (SIs)

1 RULES

- 1.1** The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in: *The Racing Rules of Sailing* (RRS), the prescriptions of US Sailing, the ISSA Procedural Rules, the MISSA Supplemental Rules, this Notice of Race (NOR), and these Sailing Instructions (SIs). In the event of a conflict between the governing documents and the Sailing Instructions, the SIs shall take precedence.
- 1.2** In accordance with US Sailing prescription to Rule 70.3(b) and ISSA PR 18, decisions of the protest committee are final. US Sailing permission has been granted to deny the right to appeal.
- 1.3** RRS Appendix D applies. Races will be umpired per RRS D2. The umpires will constitute the Protest Committee.
- 1.4** The following rules are changed or removed for this event:
 - 1.4.1** RRS D4.2(b) is changed by SI 8.
 - 1.4.2** ISSA PR 15 through 17 do not apply. See RRS Appendix D for handling protests and hearings.
 - 1.4.3** In rules D1.2(b)(1) and D2.4(c), "black and white" is changed to "black and white OR solid black."
- 1.5** The Organizing Authority (OA) is the Midwest Interscholastic Sailing Association (MISSA). The Host Organization is Columbia Sailing School in conjunction with host schools: Jones College Prep, Lane Tech, Lincoln Park, U of C-Lab, and Whitney Young.
- 1.6** [DP] Drones usage will only be allowed subject to ISSA PR 5.2.

2 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1** Official notices including changes to sailing instructions will be posted on the official notice board located at: <https://scores.hssailing.org/s26/missa-sw-baker-pre-qualifier/>
- 2.2** Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted:
 - 2.2.1** By 1800 on the day before a schedule change will take effect,
 - 2.2.2** Before 0900 on the day it will take effect or,
 - 2.2.3** In the event of AP posted ashore, no later than 15 minutes before AP is lowered ashore.
- 2.3** Changes to sailing instructions may be made on the water. Oral changes may be given on the water per RRS 90.2(c) using the following procedure:
 - 2.3.1** The signal boat will hoist Code Flag Lima (L) with one sound.
 - 2.3.2** Boats shall come within hailing distance of the signal boat.
 - 2.3.3** Oral changes will be made via VHF on channel 78 as a courtesy to coaches.
 - 2.3.4** Any changes that will affect future races in the series will be posted once ashore.

3 NOTICE TO COMPETITORS

- 3.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board online at: <https://scores.hssailing.org/s26/missa-sw-baker-pre-qualifier/>
- 3.2 On the water, the Race Committee intends to monitor and communicate with coaches via VHF radio on channel 78.
- 3.3 **DP]** While racing, except in an emergency, a boat shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats.
- 3.4 **[NP]** Errors and omissions in courtesy broadcasts are not grounds for a request for redress. ***This changes RRS 61.1(a) and 61.4(b)(1).***

4 SAFETY AND CODE OF CONDUCT

- 4.1 **[DP]** Competitors, coaches, and support persons shall comply with reasonable requests from race officials.
- 4.2 Coaches must stay clear of the racing area unless assisting competitors. Coaching should take place to leeward of the start line, or on the dock.
- 4.3 No coaches or support staff are to operate above an idle speed within 100 feet of competitors in sailboats, or in the surrounding course area, unless responding to an emergency situation. The start, finish, and rotation areas all are no-wake zones. Coaches not adhering to this will be required to anchor for the remainder of the regatta, or leave the racing area. The Race Committee will not delay starts for teams unable to rotate in a timely manner due to their coach's breach of safety or conduct.
- 4.4 Coaches and support staff are required to follow Coast Guard legal capacity while operating their coach boats or support boats. Vessels not operating within legal capacity will be required to leave the race area.
- 4.5 All coaches and support staff are required to wear an ECOS (Engine Cut Off System) device and a personal flotation device (PFD) at all times while operating a powerboat.
- 4.6 The Columbia dock falls within a Zone of Play – only coaches, athletes, and race personnel are permitted in this area from the conclusion of the Competitors Meeting on Saturday until the end of racing on Sunday.
- 4.7 There will be a spectator exclusion zone of 100 yards around the racecourse. Spectators shall receive 1 warning upon entering this zone unless directed by a race official. A second entrance shall be cause for a protest by the OA against the individual/any affiliated team(s) under RRS 41 and RRS 60.
- 4.8 Spectator boats not belonging to Columbia Yacht Club members shall not dock on the Columbia Yacht Club dock. This is considered a Zone of Play under SI 4.6.

5 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 5.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed on a staff at the entrance to the club ship near the dock.
- 5.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 30 minutes' in Race Signals AP.
- 5.3 **[DP]** Competitors in boats shall not leave the docks before a Race Committee vessel or ColYC safety vessel.

6 BOATS AND CREW LIMITATIONS

- 6.1 Columbia Sailing School will provide Club 420s and FJs. Boats shall be sailed as provided. No other boats may be used in the regatta.
- 6.2 Any alterations to the boats will be in accordance with ISSA PR. 7.11
- 6.3 Any Substitutions during the regatta will follow ISSA PR 4.2.
- 6.4 Each boat shall have at least one red protest flag (at least 10" x 10") affixed to a crew member by a line or bungee. Protest flags will not be provided.

7 SCHEDULE OF RACES

Saturday April 11	
0900	Registration, Rigging of Boats

0930	Competitor's Meeting
1000	First Warning (or as announced at Competitor's Meeting), Racing to continue throughout the day
Sunday April 12	
0900	Rigging of Boats
0930	Competitors Meeting
1000	First Warning (or as announced at Competitor's Meeting)
1500	No Initial Warning After This Time

8 RACING AREA

- 8.1** The racing area will be either inside Monroe Harbor, or the open waters of Lake Michigan, east of the Monroe Harbor entrance as announced by the RC at the day's competitors meeting.

9 FORMAT

- 9.1** The intended initial format for the event is:
- 9.1.1** One full round-robin amongst all teams.
 - 9.1.2** A gold or "championship" round comprised of a number of teams as determined by the OA, Chief Umpire, and PRO.
 - 9.1.3** A silver round comprised of a number of teams as determined by the OA, Chief Umpire, and PRO.
 - 9.1.4** Scores carry forward from any and all round-robins onwards to any and all subsequent rounds.
 - 9.1.5** Teams will be seeded according to their finish at the 2025 Great Lakes Championship for the creation of the seeding in the full round-robin.
 - 9.1.6** Team will be re-seeded according to their standing following the full round-robin for the creation in the seeding in any subsequent rounds (i.e., "Team 1" in the gold round will be the 1st place team from the full round-robin).
- 9.2** The OA, in consultation with the MISSA Representative, PRO, and Chief Umpire, may at any time terminate or alter the format, change assigned boats, change the order of races, or make such other arrangements as may be necessary to conclude the event. This changes RRS D4.2(b) and ISSA PR 11.3.
- 9.3** Rotation schedules and boat assignments will be posted on Tech Score.

10 COURSES AND MARKS

- 10.1** The course used for the event will be a Digital N as described in ISSA PR Appendix 10.
- 10.2** Description of course marks will be verbally communicated at the Competitor's Meeting. The OA may change the shape and color of any mark of the course. In the event of course mark descriptions changing on the water, the changes will be described orally and/or over VHF 78.
- 10.3** The Race Committee may change the next leg of the course that begins at a rounding mark by changing the position of the next mark or the finishing line, but no mark shall be moved when any boat is on the leg that it terminates.
- 10.4** Subsequent legs may be changed to maintain the course configuration. There will be no visual or audible signals for a course change. No leg of the course will be deleted. This changes RRS 32 and 33.

11 THE START, FINISH AND RECALLS:

- 11.1** Races will start in accordance with ISSA PR 7.9(a).
- 11.2** The starting line is between a staff displaying an orange flag on the signal vessel at the starboard end and the course side of the port-end starting mark.

- 11.3 A boat that does not start within 2 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start (DNS) without a hearing and scored according to RRS Appendix D3.1(a).
- 11.4 The finish line is between a staff displaying a blue flag on the signal vessel at the starboard end and the course side of the port-end finishing mark.

12 HEARING REQUESTS

- 12.1 Hearing requests will comply with RRS Appendix D1.2(c).
- 12.2 Hearings will be held on the ColYC member ship.

13 SPECIAL CLOTHING

- 13.1 All competitors shall provide their own dry suit and have it on hand at the venue on each day of racing as per ISSA PR 2.3.
- 13.2 On each day of racing, the OA will announce whether dry suits will be required to be worn by competitors racing on that day.
- 13.3 If the air temperature plus the water temperature equals or exceeds 100 degrees Fahrenheit, dry suits will only be required to be worn by the OA on that day in exceptional circumstances.
- 13.4 Competitor's failure to wear a dry suit while racing on a day where dry suits are required by the OA will be scored DSQ by the RC without a hearing, for each race where a team member is observed not wearing a dry suit. *This changes RRS 60.5(b) and 63.1.*

14 COACHING & SUPPORT PERSONS

- 14.1 All coaches shall be registered as a coach on their team's ISSA registration page.
- 14.2 All coaches shall assist when and where necessary for safety or at the request of the Race Committee.
- 14.3 Coaching may take place on the water.
- 14.4 Coaches shall bring a coach boat capable of rotating a complete team race team on the open waters of Lake Michigan. Some teams may opt to bring 2 coach boats based on weather forecast.
- 14.5 Rotations will take place on the water (even if the racing area is inside Monroe Harbor) and extra care is asked to be taken while rotating teams.
- 14.6 Coaches are required to:
 - 14.6.1 wear approved flotation devices as required by ISSA PR 2.2
 - 14.6.2 wear kill cords/devices on all vessels while afloat.

15 RISK STATEMENT

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

16 PRIZES AND QUALIFICATION

- 16.1 Prizes will be awarded to schools placing 1st, 2nd, and 3rd overall.
- 16.2 This is a qualifier for the MISSA Baker Qualifier on 25-26 April 2026. MISSA SW expects 4 berths to the MISSA Baker Qualifier. Berths will be allocated in accordance with MISSA Supplemental Rule 5.5 and must be accepted in accordance with MISSA Supplemental Rule 5.9.

17 REGATTA CONTACTS

Kurt Thomsen, On the Water Director kurt@colyc.org
Mike McBrien, Assistant On the Water Director mike@columbiasailingschool.org

Addendum A

Course for Team Racing

Mark/flag colors and shapes may differ from the diagram.

