

**2026 West Michigan Youth Sailing Association (WMYSA) Championship Series Regatta #4**  
**July 31, 2026**

**The Organizing Authority for this Regatta is**

The Spring Lake Junior Sailing Association  
17500 West Spring Lake Road  
Spring Lake, MI 49456  
616-847-8322

**NOTICE OF RACE**

**PREAMBLE**

- The notation [NP] in a rule means that a boat may not protest or request redress under this rule. This changes Rule 60.4(a) and 61.3.
- The notation [DP] in a rule means the penalty for breaking this rule may, at the discretion of the jury, be more or less than a single disqualification. This changes Rule 60.5(c).

**1 RULES**

- 1.1 The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS)* except as modified by the WMYSA 2026 Championship Regatta Series Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions. Please note that, unless changed here, all Class Rules are now invoked in the *RRS* and will apply.
- 1.1.a All sailors are required to wear a personal flotation device at all times while on the water except briefly while changing or adjusting clothing or personal equipment. See RRS 40.1 and 40.2.
- 1.1.b The Butterfly Class will be scored as an Open Event. A boat may be sailed either single-handed or with crew, without weight limitations, in any race of the regatta, but the skipper must be the same person for all races at each venue.
- 1.1.c Boats in the 420 Class shall be limited to 2 sailors.
- 1.1.d *RRS Rule 33* is changed to allow the Race Committee to make course changes of less than 5 degrees without issuing a signal.
- 1.1.e *RRS Rule 44.1* is changed so that the words “Two-Turns Penalty” are replaced by “One-Turn Penalty”.
- 1.1.f *RRS Rule 61* is changed to require a competitor to inform the race committee finish boat of its intention to protest, including the sail number of the protested boat, immediately after finishing.
- 1.1.g The low-point scoring system of *RRS Appendix A* will apply. *RRS A2* is amended so that each boat’s score at each regatta will be the sum of all her races. See NOR 9.1
- 1.1.h RRS 60.4(a)(2) is changed as follows: “(2) if it alleges a breach of a rule of Part 2 or rule 31 and is from a boat that was not involved in, and did not see, the incident, or”
- 1.1.i [DP] All support vessels should be equipped with a functioning engine safety cut-off device (Kill Switch) which should remain attached to the support person at the helm at all times when the engine is running. Failure to comply may be misconduct and/or result in expulsion from the event.
- 1.1.j [NP] If robotic marks are used, routine movement of these marks will not be grounds for redress. This includes routine movements while keeping location, marks returning to station after having been pushed away by a competitor, and collisions with marks. This changes RRS 60.1(a), 61.4(a). RRS 31 still applies.
- 1.2 In accordance with Michigan State Law, the WMYSA requires that any competitor who experiences a potential concussion injury be immediately removed from competition – and will not be allowed to return to competition without a written clearance from a health professional.
- 1.3 Substitutions of crew, boats and/or sails will not be allowed once racing has started unless permission has been granted by the WMYSA Race Committee and Race Chairman.

## 2 ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

- 2.1 The regatta is open to boats in the following classes:
- Optimist Green
  - Optimist Red/White/Blue
  - Laser 4.7 (ILCA 4)
  - Laser Radial (ILCA 6)
  - Laser Full (ILCA 7)
  - Butterfly
  - 420 Jib & Main
  - 420 with Spinnaker and (optional) trapeze (see RRS 50)
- 2.2 To be eligible, competitors must represent one of the following sailing organizations:
- Diamond Lake Yacht Club
  - Eagle Lake Yacht Club
  - Grand Rapids Junior Sailing Association
  - Gull Lake Junior Yacht Club
  - Macatawa Bay Junior Association
  - Muskegon Yacht Club
  - Paw Paw Lake Yacht Club
  - Saugatuck Yacht Club Sailing Program
  - South Haven Yacht Club Sailing Program
  - Spring Lake Junior Sailing Association
  - St Joseph Junior Foundation
  - White Lake Sailing School
- 2.3 **To compete in the Optimist Green Fleet, sailors must be able to navigate the racecourse with very minimal assistance from coaches. Extremely inexperienced sailors are strongly encouraged to attend the WMYSA “No Tears” event prior to competing at a Friday regatta.**
- 2.4 Eligible boats may enter by completing the race registration form and sign-in prior to 9:45am on the day of the event. The same deadline applies to any participating yacht club that may establish or collect its own entries prior to the event.
- 2.5 **All parent and guardians must sign the “Disclaimer of Liability” and this form must be submitted at registration at each event.** The Disclaimer of Liability is part of the Entry Form. This document is available from your coach, on the WMYSA web site [www.westmichiganyouthsailing.org](http://www.westmichiganyouthsailing.org) and at the registration table at each event. Coaches are strongly encouraged to have parents sign this form prior to competitors traveling to each regatta.
- 2.6 **All parents and guardians of competitors must read and sign the “Parent and Athlete Concussion Information Sheet” required under Michigan State Law.** Each WMYSA member program is responsible for collecting these forms and keeping them on file. Concussion forms do not need to be submitted to the WMYSA unless requested by the WMYSA.
- 2.7 If fewer than 5 boats are entered in a Class, boats may still race and be scored in that Class and be eligible for daily ribbons in that Class, but their contribution to the Cumulative Club Series Championship total scores shall be 1 point per entered boat that completed a race at that event.
- 2.8 Because Radial (ILCA 6) sails are the preferred Laser configuration for the Midwest Interscholastic Sailing Association (MISSA) and high school sailing in Michigan, the WMYSA encourages Laser sailors to compete using Radial (ILCA 6) mast sections and sails. Laser 4.7 (ILCA 4) and Laser Full (ILCA 7) Classes may be possible at each WMYSA event, but Laser sailors need to be mindful of NOR 2.7 above. In light of this scoring provision, Laser sailors are strongly encouraged to bring alternate sails and mast sections so they have the option to choose which Class they will compete in.
- 2.9 Club 420 sailors need to be mindful of NOR 2.7 and be prepared to choose Jib & Main or Spinnaker Class based upon the scoring provision in NOR 2.7. Clubs possessing spinnaker gear are strongly encouraged to bring and share extra spinnaker equipment with other clubs to encourage participation in the spinnaker fleet.
- 2.10 Club 420 sailors competing in the spinnaker class may use trapeze harnesses as permitted in the C420 Class. Instructors and coaches are strongly encouraged to teach proper harness usage and safety. See also RRS 50.
- 2.11 Youth sailors are eligible to compete until the end of the summer season immediately following their graduation from high school.

- 2.12 All participating clubs and programs must pay their annual WMYSA fee prior to the first 2026 WMYSA Championship Series regatta event.

### **3 SCHEDULE**

- 3.1 Registration and sign in will take place from 9:00am-10:00am  
3.2 Safety, Coach and Race Committee meeting will take place at 10:00am  
3.3 The Competitors Meeting will take place at 10:15am  
3.4 The scheduled harbor start (launching of boats) will be 10:30am. Additional races will follow as time and weather permit. There will be no warning signals after 3:00pm.

### **4 MEASUREMENTS**

The West Michigan Youth Sailing Association reserves the right to request a valid measurement or rating certificate for any boat entered in any class at any event.

### **5 SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

The sailing instructions will be posted at [www.westmichiganyouthsailing.org](http://www.westmichiganyouthsailing.org) and will be available at the registration table at each event in the series.

### **6 VENUES**

- 6.1 This regatta is part of a Series. The races for this Series will take place in waters adjacent to each of the following locations on the following dates:

- **June 19, 2026 at Macatawa Bay Yacht Club, Holland Michigan**
- **July 10, 2026 at White Lake Yacht Club, Whitehall Michigan**
- **July 24, 2026 at Muskegon Yacht Club, Muskegon Michigan**
- **July 31, 2026 at Spring Lake Yacht Club, Spring Lake Michigan**

### **7 COURSES**

A complete description of sailing courses to be sailed by each class will be provided at the Competitors Meeting at each venue in the series.

### **8 PENALTY SYSTEM**

- 8.1 *Rule 44.1* is changed so that the Two-Turns Penalty is replaced by the One-Turn Penalty.

### **9 SCORING**

- 9.1 The low-point scoring system of *RRS Appendix A* will apply. *RRS A2* is amended so that each boat's score at each regatta will be the sum of all her races. There shall be no throw outs.

- 9.2 The cumulative Club Series Championship will utilize a high-point scoring system wherein points contributing to each Club's score will be awarded as follows:

Optimist Green Fleet:

- 1 point for each entrant who completes at least one race at a venue

Optimist Red/White/Blue, ILCA 4, ILCA 6, ILCA 7, Butterfly, 420 Jib & Main, 420 Spinnaker:

- 11 points for the 1<sup>st</sup> place finisher after all completed races at each venue
- 10 points for the 2<sup>nd</sup> place finisher after all completed races at each venue
- 9 points for the 3<sup>rd</sup> place finisher after all completed races at each venue
- 8 points for the 4<sup>th</sup> place finisher after all completed races at each venue
- 7 points for the 5<sup>th</sup> place finisher after all completed races at each venue
- 6 points for the 6<sup>th</sup> place finisher after all completed races at each venue
- 5 points for the 7<sup>th</sup> place finisher after all completed races at each venue
- 4 points for the 8<sup>th</sup> place finisher after all completed races at each venue
- 3 points for the 9<sup>th</sup> place finisher after all completed races at each venue
- 2 points for the 10<sup>th</sup> place finisher after all completed races at each venue
- 1 point each for 11<sup>th</sup> place and above after all completed races at each venue

- 9.3 One race is required to be completed to constitute an event and a series.

- 9.4 If fewer than 5 boats are entered in a Class, boats may still race and be scored in that Class and be eligible for daily ribbons in that Class, but their contribution to the Cumulative Club Series Championship total scores shall be 1 point per entered boat that completed a race at that event.

## **10 SUPPORT BOATS**

- 10.1 Unless specifically instructed otherwise by the race committee; all coaches and spectators shall stay outside areas where boats are racing until all boats are finished for the day or the race committee signals abandonment.
- 10.2 All boats should stand by to assist all competitors if necessary.
- 10.3 Coach boats and designated safety boats are to carry only officially designated coaches and safety personnel. Other spectators shall not ride on coach or safety boats.
- 10.4 All coaches and safety personnel must register with the WMYSA staff at the beginning of each event and must display coach and safety flags on the water.
- 10.5 (NP) The consumption of alcoholic beverages is strictly prohibited on all coach, safety, support and spectator boats.
- 10.6 (DP) All designated coach and safety boat passengers are required to wear a personal flotation device (PFD) at all times while on the water. This is in keeping with many other youth sailing organizations and sets a good example for the competitors.
- 10.7 [DP] All support vessels should be equipped with a functioning engine safety cut-off device (Kill Switch) which should remain attached to the support person at the helm at all times when the engine is running. Failure to comply may be misconduct and/or result in expulsion from the event.

## **11 PARKING, LAUNCHING AND DOCKING**

- 11.1 Parking and launching facilities will be provided at each venue. Competitors and support boats shall comply with any and all parking and launch rules and instructions at each venue.
- 11.2 If specified by the host venue, boats shall be kept in their assigned areas.

## **12 FOOD AND BEVERAGES**

- 12.1 Each host venue may offer the competitors a meal after the completion of races. There may be a reasonable price charged for these meals.
- 12.2 **There will be no break for lunch once racing has commenced.** Competitors are strongly encouraged to bring their own pre-race meals and on-the-water snacks. Host venues may offer pre-race food, but this should not be expected.
- 12.3 Competitors are expected to carry drinking water on their boats. Competitors are encouraged to use environmentally friendly bottles or containers. Littering is strongly discouraged and will be prohibited in the Sailing Instructions.

## **13 PRIZES**

- 13.1 Individual prizes will be awarded at each event for fleets that meet the minimum number of entries required at each event.
- 13.2 Overall series team (Club) trophies and other prizes may be awarded at the end of the Series.

## **14 DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY**

Competitors participate in these regattas entirely at their own risk. See *RRS Rule 3 Decision to Race*.

The organizing authority will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury, or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the regatta.

Parents/guardians are responsible for the safety of the sailor(s) whom are less than 18 years of age. It is the responsibility solely of the parent of the sailor to decide if the sailor should sail in the weather and conditions that might arise during any of the events in the series. Parents not personally attending any part of the event must ensure that another adult is authorized and designated to make these decisions for the sailor.

**The WMYSA Waiver on the ENTRY FORM for each regatta in the Series must be signed by a legal guardian unless the sailor has reached the age of 18 years old.**

**15 FURTHER INFORMATION**

For further information please contact your local Club's Race Coach or:

Marie Mell Colville  
WMYSA Treasurer  
616-403-6313 cell  
[mariemellcolville@yahoo.com](mailto:mariemellcolville@yahoo.com)

Scott Corder  
WMYSA Race Chairman  
616-485-3400 cell  
[scorder@pathwaynet.com](mailto:scorder@pathwaynet.com)