



2026 eSailing Steering the Course Notice of Race



Event websites: <https://www.sailing.org/our-sport/esailing/> and www.virtualregatta.com

Notation	Meaning
[NP]	The notation '[NP]' in a rule means that a player may not protest another player for breaking that rule. The PRO and/or the Jury/PC and/or the OA may refuse to hold a hearing when a player protests, based on these rules. This changes RRS 60.1.
[SP]	The notation '[SP]' in a rule means that a player may be disqualified by the race committee from the event without a hearing according to RRS 60.5(b)(3).
[VRI]	Virtual Regatta Inshore, the eSailing platform licensed to host the eSailing World Championships.
[WS]	World Sailing, International Federation for Sailing and eSailing World Championships rights holder.
[VR]	Virtual Regatta, the organisation that provides the eSailing platform: Virtual Regatta Inshore.
[OA]	The Organising Authorities: World Sailing, KSSS and Svenska Seglarförbundet
[TC]	Technical Committee: World Sailing and Virtual Regatta technical departments.
[MNA]	Member National Authority.
[RC]	The Race Committee. Including the Principal Race Officer [PRO] and Course Race Officers [CRO]
[PC]	The Protest Committee
[PLAYER]	Competitor.

1. Rules

- 1.1. The event is governed by:
 - 1.1.1. The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) 2025 - 2028, with the changes of the Virtual Racing Rules of Sailing (VRRS).
RRS can be found at the following link: <https://www.sailing.org/inside-world-sailing/rules-regulations/racingrules/>
VRRS can be found in the following link: <https://www.sailing.org/our-sport/esailing/>
 - 1.1.2. Virtual Regatta Terms of Use. Available at: <https://www.virtualregatta.com/en/tou/>
 - 1.1.3. VRI Game Engine with a penalty-start counter system.
 - 1.1.4. Discord Platform Terms of Service: <https://discord.com/terms>
- 1.2. Rules of Part 5 are changed in NOR II and in the sailing instructions.

- 1.3. Terminology for **Boat** is changed as follows: “A sailboat controlled remotely and having no crew. However, in the rules of Part 1, Part 5 and the race documents, “boat” includes the competitor controlling her.”
- 1.4. The official language is English.
- 1.5. Right to appeal the decisions of the protest committee is denied under RRS 70.3(b).
- 1.6. [NP] [SP] Players are required to use only one Discord account, cannot change it during the event and may be asked for additional information to confirm they are the expected player.
- 1.7. [NP] [SP] Players are required to use only one VRI account, cannot change it during the event and may be asked for additional information to confirm they are the expected player.
- 1.8. [SP] Players shall not change their VRI in-game name during the event.

2. Venue

- 2.1. The event will be played on the VRI website or mobile/tablet application.
- 2.2. VRI is available at:
<https://www.virtualregatta.com/en/inshore-game/>
App Store:
<https://apps.apple.com/us/developer/virtual-regatta/id387893498>
Google Play Store:
<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.virtualregatta>
- 2.3. The STC Final will be held as a **Hybrid Event**, allowing both:
 - 2.3.1. On-site participants (live finals location), and
 - 2.3.2. Remote participants joining online.

3. Eligibility

- 3.1. The event is open to all **female players** with a VRI account who comply with the requirements of NOR 5.
- 3.2. Unless a MNA has age restrictions, there is no age restriction for registration for the eSailing Steering the Course.
- 3.3. [NP] The OA reserves the right with unquestionable discretion to deny those players who, at the time of registration, present boat names that can unequivocally cause mockery, offense or that convey political, ethnic, religious, gender or other purposes and in

any case are not inline with the IOC, WS and VR, SSF and their respective CODES of ETHICS.

4. Entry and registration

- 4.1. Players must have a VRI account with full personal details including sailorID. Sailor ID can be obtained here:
<https://www.sailing.org/sailors/world-sailing-profile/>
- 4.2. All Players (qualified and invited) shall complete a [form](#) and provide proof of identity. The documents shall be sent via:
 - 4.2.1. email to alberto.carraro@sailing.org.
 - 4.2.2. in the apposite part of the registration form
 - 4.2.3. to a personal shared folder requested via email to alberto.carraro@sailing.org
- 4.3. Players qualified under NOR 5.1 (eSWC Qualifier 7) and waiting-list Players that comply with NOR 3 may register from 7th to 13th March 2026. To register, they shall request the 'STC Qualified' Role by typing their VRI name in the '🚣stc-registration' channel. If qualified Players do not wish to race in eSailing Steering the Course, they shall inform the organizing authority using the same channel.
- 4.4. Players qualified and on the waiting list not attending STC should contact the OA by email to alberto.carraro@sailing.org.
- 4.5. Players registering and not able to attend need to communicate it to the OA, at least by 14/03/2026 12:00 UTC
- 4.6. Players invited under NOR 5.3, 5.4 and 5.5 shall request the 'STC Invited' Role by typing their VRI name in the '🚣stc-invitation' channel.
- 4.7. The OA reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to accept late entries.
- 4.8. [SP] Players are allowed to participate with only one registered account.
- 4.9. [SP] Players are not permitted to share personal devices, and no more than one player may compete using the same device. The OA may consider exceptions in extraordinary circumstances; however, advance disclosure of shared device usage will be required for any exception to be considered.
- 4.10. Once the registration has been confirmed, it is necessary to make sure that you have been enabled on the WS Discord Channel described in [10. Communication].

5. Qualification

- 5.1. [NP] The in-game ranking system will determine the top eight female players from Qualifier 7 of the Esailing World Championship progressing to the eSailing Steering the Course. eSWC Qualifier 7 will take place from 2nd to 5th March 2026. See eSailing World Championship notice of race at:
<https://d7qh6ksdplczd.cloudfront.net/sailing/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/07030227/2026-ESWC-NOR.pdf>
- 5.2. [NP] An absent player may be replaced with another one from a waiting list.
- 5.3. Eight entries reserved for MNAs participating in the eSailing programme. MNA have until the 9th of March at 12:00 UTC to select their players via email to alberto.carraro@sailing.org. They need to register with the following [form](#)
- 5.4. Ten entries are reserved for players attending the live event. They need to register with the following [form](#) and spots will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. Players registered in this way can not play remotely. In case they are not attending the race live, the OA reserve the right to assign the spot at the next in line present at the event
- 5.5. Five entries are reserved for the host MNA. Players participating in this way can not play remotely. They need to register with the following [form](#)

6. Entry Fee

All entries to the Steering The Course 2026 will be free of charge.

7. Communication

- 7.1. The Official Notice Board (ONB) of the event will be the '📄-notice-board-stc' Discord channel within the '🏆eSailing Steering the Course' Discord Server Category.
- 7.2. [NP] Additional channels may be created within the WS Discord Server and used as additional notice boards. This will be communicated through the Official Notice Board in the first instance.
- 7.3. [NP] All information will be posted on the WS discord channel no later than one hour before racing starts, unless there is a change to

schedule, which will be posted 24 hours prior. In case of exceptional circumstances, the OA and the RC may reschedule an event but the starting signal will not be made less than 24 hours after the notice has been posted.

- 7.4. The Discord platform is available at: <https://discord.com/download>
- 7.5. To access the Discord Server and ‘🏆eSailing Steering the Course’ Category:
 - 7.5.1. Join the server: <https://discord.gg/PYNyvprhvQ>
 - 7.5.2. React with to the message by clicking the 🚩 icon in the channel 📖-welcome-rules:
<https://discord.com/channels/759749563316699146/759749563316699150>
 - 7.5.3. Verify the access to the ‘🏆eSailing Steering the Course: <https://discord.com/channels/759749563316699146/1476595997177155624>
 - 7.5.4. In case a player cannot access the ‘🏆eSailing Steering the Course’ Discord category, contact the OA by tagging ‘@Race Officer’ and ‘@Organizer’ in the ‘🗨️-lounge’ channel within the ‘General’ category.

8. Sailing Instructions

The sailing instructions will be available on the Official Notice Board no later than 24 hours before the first racing day for Qualifier 7 and Final.

9. Format and Schedule

- 9.1. eSailing Steering the Course will consist of a qualifying series and a medal series.
- 9.2. The Final will be held on Sunday 15th March 2026.
- 9.3. Time of the event will be 13:00 UTC.
- 9.4. The location for the final will be at the boat show “Allt för sjön” in Älvsjömässan, Stockholm.

10. Scoring and Result

- 10.1. The Final will be scored in accordance with Appendix A of the RRS. No score will be excluded. This changes RRS A2.1.
- 10.2. One race is required to constitute a series.

11. Penalty system

- 11.1. Rules of Part 2, rules 28 and 31 [Modified Rules] cannot be protested by the Players. Penalties for an infringement of these rules will be conducted automatically by the VRI Game Engine.
- 11.2. The decisions made by the VRI Game Engine about an infringement of a Modified Rule shall not be grounds for a request for redress from a Player.
- 11.3. Process for filing a hearing request:
 - 11.3.1. Open the World Sailing Tournaments Discord server <https://discord.gg/FTMCzrxjKE>.
 - 11.3.2. Find the '🚩 Protest' section.
 - 11.3.3. Head over to the '👤-hail' channel.
 - 11.3.4. Click on the '✉️ File a Protest' button.
 - 11.3.5. Enter each section accurately.
 - 11.3.6. A new Discord thread with the number of the request will appear and will be used as the official means of communication for that protest. This channel will be used to present the relevant evidence for the protest.
 - 11.3.7. The protest committee will receive the protest and will provide a reply within five minutes through the protest specific channel to confirm that the protest was received correctly or to ask players to provide additional information.
- 11.4. Protests or requests for redress without recordings or clear visual proof will not be considered valid. Players will have 3 minutes after delivering the protest to provide the evidence. The protest committee shall extend the time if there is a good reason to do so. This changes RRS 60.4.
- 11.5. RRS 60.5(a) is changed to: "The protest committee may decide a protest without a hearing after gathering evidence from parties and witnesses as appropriate. When doing so, the protest committee shall comply with rules 63.5 and 63.6. When the protest committee cannot find facts, it shall conduct a hearing as required by rule 63 to decide the protest."
- 11.6. RRS 61.4(a) is changed to: "The protest committee may decide a request for redress without a hearing after gathering evidence from parties and witnesses as appropriate. When doing so, the protest committee shall comply with rules 63.5 and 63.6. When the protest committee cannot find facts, it shall conduct a hearing as required by rule 63 to decide whether to grant redress."

- 11.7. RRS 61.4(b) is changed to: "A boat is entitled to redress if her score or place in a race or series has been made, or may be made, significantly worse through no fault of her own by
- (1) an improper action or improper omission of a committee, the organisation providing the eSailing platform or the organising authority, but not by a protest committee decision when the boat was a party to the hearing,
 - (2) Deleted.
 - (3) Deleted.
 - (4) giving help (except to herself or her crew) in compliance with rule 1.1, or
 - (5) an action of another boat, or a crew member or support person of that boat, that resulted in a penalty under rule 2 or a penalty or warning under rule 69.
- However, network errors, lag, inability to connect, or any other analogous events on the boat's side are not actions or omissions of the organisation providing the eSailing platform.
- 11.8. All hearings will take place in the 'Protest Room' voice channel. **On-site Players shall have a communication device appropriate for joining hearings in a voice channel.** Upon submitting a protest in accordance with SI 9.3, a 'Waiting Room' voice channel will be made available. Parties will be called into the 'Protest Room' voice channel from the 'Waiting Room':
- <https://discord.com/channels/759749563316699146/1204835416004493392>
- 11.9. A player's failure to join the 'Waiting Room' 3 mins after a member of the protest committee, the organizing authority, Virtual Regatta or the race committee posted a notification to do so in the protest thread or the '👉-stc-hearing-calls' Discord channel will not be ground for being unavoidably absent from the hearing. This changes RRS 63.7(a)(1).
- 11.10. Protest committee decisions may be communicated verbally. This changes RRS 63.6.

12. Identification and Advertising

Players may be required to display advertising chosen and supplied by the Organising Authority.

13. Disclaimer

The Organising Authority and its Committees, the Race Officials, Sponsors and those online streaming, assume no responsibility for lack of internet connection speed, data access or device fault, for game purchases by players and any issues encountered by third-party vendors, Virtual Race Inshore.

14. Prizes

- 14.1. Winner of STC 2026 qualifies directly to the **eSailing World Championship Grand Final**.
- 14.2. Runner-up qualifies to the **eSailing World Championship Semifinal**.
- 14.3. 3rd, 4th and 5th place qualify to the **eSailing World Championship Playoffs**.
- 14.4. The OA reserves the right to include additional prizes for the players

15. Media and Partners

- 15.1. By participating in the event, competitors and support teams automatically grant to the OA and their sponsors, the right in perpetuity to make, use and show, from time to time at their discretion, any motion pictures and live, taped or filmed television and other reproductions of the participating player, without compensation.
- 15.2. Competitors may be required to be available for interviews during the competition.
- 15.3. Competitors may be required to stream their voice and/or video webcam at any time during the competition and during the broadcast for media and/or protest purposes and/or prize giving ceremony.
- 15.4. By participating in the Steering the course, players automatically grant to the OA, Virtual Regatta and their sponsors, the right to use their real name, photographic and video headshot (as provided by the player) for use across communications and media in relation to the eSailing Championships.
- 15.5. Players must adhere to Copyright restrictions and any content distribution guidelines provided by World Sailing and Virtual Regatta at all times, especially in relation to content creation.
- 15.6. Players may stream their own matches, which may be shared on VR and WS socials. For the Final, special conditions may apply and will be described in the Sailing Instructions.

16. Code of Conduct

- 16.1. Players must conduct themselves in a reasonable manner, maintaining a friendly and polite demeanour to spectators, members of the press, other players, race officials, judges, Virtual Regatta employees, World Sailing employees and all members of the OA. All players are expected to adhere to the standards of good sportsmanship.
- 16.2. Players and support persons shall comply with any reasonable request from the OA, Race Officials, Judges and Virtual Regatta.
- 16.3. The OA reserves the right to exclude a player from the event in case of a breach of this rule.
- 16.4. The OA may reduce or remove a prize in the case of misconduct or refusal to comply with any reasonable request.

17. Data Protection

The attention of all competitors and support team personnel is drawn to the privacy notices published on World Sailing's website:

<https://www.sailing.org/privacy-policy/>

18. Further Information

- 18.1. For technical queries about VRI check the Virtual Regatta Inshore Help Center. Available at: <https://vrinshore.zendesk.com/hc/en-us>
- 18.2. For further queries about the event please utilise the information desk on the WS Discord Server. Available at: <https://discord.gg/p9hYZmmcn4>

19. Drug Testing

Competitors are reminded of the World Sailing regulations concerning the use of banned methods and substances, which are contained in the World Sailing Anti-Doping Code. Drug testing may take place during this event.