

## **Friday Night Series**

**MSC, OHCC, SJTSC, TISC, WSC**

**The Friday Night Series is a series of 19 races for Albacores and ILCAs, held on Friday nights from May 1 to September 4, 2026**

### **2026 Sailing Instructions**

#### **1. RULES:**

The Friday Night Series will be governed by the 2025-2028 Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) and the prescriptions of the Canadian Yachting Association. The rules of the Canadian Albacore Association (CAA) and the International Laser Class Association (ILCA) will apply to their respective classes. All rules apply unless amended by these sailing instructions.

#### **2. ENTRIES:**

- a) Only community club members sailing in club owned Albacores, using club owned equipment or club owned ILCAs are eligible for community club awards. Each community club must use a random draw to select skipper and crew combinations.
- b) Privately owned Albacores are eligible for the private boat owner award. Private boat owners must register their boats in order to participate in the series. This may be done by paying on the CAA website ([www.albacore.ca](http://www.albacore.ca)).

#### **3. SAFETY**

- a) Each boat must comply with all Toronto Harbour and Transport Canada regulations
- b) An approved life-jacket or P.F.D. shall be worn if the Race Committee boat displays code flag 'Y'.

#### **4. SCHEDULE OF RACES:**

- a) The warning signal for the Albacore class shall be made at 7:00 p.m. except for the following dates which will be 6:45pm (due to daylight). May 1, May 8, Aug 14, Aug 21, Aug 30, and Sept 4.
- b) The ILCA start will follow the Albacore start (see 'The Start' below).
- c) The racing schedule is published at <http://albacore.ca/events>
- d) Any canceled race will not be re-run. This amends R.R.S.-A1.

## 5. COURSES AND MARKS:

- a) Races are scheduled for the locations as indicated on the schedule. The Race Committee may use the permanent racing marks in the race location as a default, or other marks at its discretion. Substitute marks may be used – the “M” mark or other marks clearly specified by the Race Committee. If races are to be held at a location other than the normal racing area for the host club (for example out on the lake), a Notice of Change must be posted at the CAA web site 48 hours in advance of the start of the race.
- b) The length of the windward leg will be set according to wind strength to meet a target time of 40 minutes from the starting gun to the first finisher. The course and number of legs will be displayed on the RC boat.
- c) The default course is a Triangle course which consists of 10 legs - three triangles and a windward leg (upwind finish) with buoys to port if there is no course indicated on the course board.
- d) An optional 7 leg "Windward-Offset-Leeward" course (three sausages and a windward leg finish), with buoys to port, may be used by displaying Code Flag “W” or "W Course" on a chalkboard. An optional leeward gate may be utilized. If a gate is used there will be two identical leeward marks set comprising the gate approximately 6 to 12 boat lengths apart. Each boat must pass between the two leeward marks (through the gate) from the direction of the previous mark and round either of the marks.
- e) A course may be shortened to meet the target time of 40 minutes.

## 6. THE START:

Races will be started according to rule 26, with classes starting at 5-minute intervals.

### ***6.1 Timing sequence and signals for the start:***

Warning Signal: Class Flag and sound 5 Minutes before starting signal

Preparatory Signal: Black flag; 1 sound 4 Minutes before starting signal

One-minute Preparatory flag removed; 1 long sound

Start: Class flag removed; 1 sound

Continuous timing may be used.

If there is an Albacore general recall and continuous timing is not in use, a new Albacore warning signal will be made (raise class flag with sound signal) 1 minute after

the general recall is lowered and the Albacore starting sequence will continue from that point.

The warning signal for ILCAs will be the start of the Albacore class. If there is an ILCA general recall and continuous timing is not in use, a new ILCA warning signal will be made shortly after the general recall is lowered.

### **6.2 The starting line:**

- a) The starting line shall be between a staff displaying an orange flag or shape on the Race Committee Boat and the leeward mark.
- b) An alternate leeward mark may be used at the discretion of the Race Committee, provided it is clearly indicated by the RC on their course board.

### **6.3 Boats not racing:**

Boats whose preparatory signal has not been given, shall keep clear of the starting area and of all boats whose preparatory signal has been made (rule 22.1).

### **6.4 Late starters:**

A boat shall not start later than 3 minutes after her starting signal.

### **6.5 Black Flag Rule Modification:**

Rule 30.3 is modified as follows: Regardless of whether or not a black flag has been displayed before or with her preparatory signal, and if any part of a boat's hull, crew or equipment is identified within the triangle formed by the ends of the starting line and the first mark during the minute before her starting signal, the boat will be disqualified without a hearing. If the race is restarted or re-sailed the same evening, she is not entitled to compete in it. If a subsequent general recall is signaled, the race committee shall attempt to display her sail number.

At its option, the race committee may employ an official observation boat, considered as part of the race committee, at the opposite end of the starting line, to call premature starters. When the black flag rule is in effect, premature starters must retire from the race. The race committee, or its designated alternate, will attempt to notify premature starters. If a notified boat fails to retire, after a black flag premature start, that skipper will be DND and will be counted towards his/her series score and the club score, if applicable.

## **7. THE FINISH:**

The finishing line shall be between a staff displaying a blue flag or shape on the Race Committee Boat and a nearby mark of the course.

### **8. TIME LIMIT:**

- a) A race shall be abandoned if the leading boat has not cleared the windward mark within 30 minutes of the start of the race.
- b) The time limit for the completion of a race will be 90 minutes established by the first boat to finish. Boats failing to finish within 30 minutes after the first boat's finish time will be scored "DNF".

### **9. PROTESTS:**

Participants shall endeavour, as much as possible, to resolve disputes on the water. In the event that a formal protest is deemed necessary by one of the participating boats, the Host Club's Race Officer will select participants for a protest committee. The protest time limit referred to in rule 61.3 is 45 minutes from Committee arrival at the docks. A time-limited protest hearing will be used.

The 720° turns penalty, R.R.S. 44.1 & 44.2 will be used.

### **10. SCORING:**

The Low Point scoring system, rule A4.1, will apply. 19 races are scheduled, of which 8 races shall be completed to constitute a series. If 14 or fewer races occur as scheduled, 6 races shall be completed to constitute a series.

Points scored in each race will be assigned as follows (this modifies rule A4.1):

Position Points 1st place=1 Point 2nd place=2 points 3rd place=3 points .... 40th place=40 points DNS last + 3 points OCS last + 3 points DNF last + 3 points RET last + 3 points DSQ last + 6 points DND last + 6 points

### **11. WEEKLY PRIZES:**

Prizes for the Albacore class will be awarded to the top 5 community club boats and to the best finishing private boat.

Prizes for the ILCA class will be awarded as follows:

- 1 to 4 boats – 1 mugs will be awarded
- 5 to 9 boats - 2 mugs will be awarded
- A fleet of 10 or more - 3 mugs will be awarded

## **12. END OF SEASON COMMUNITY CLUB PRIZES:**

At the end of the season the perpetual trophies will be awarded to the first place community club Albacore skipper and crew. The awards will be based on the points scored in his/her best 8 (or 6, if 14 or fewer races occur) races of the season. In the event of a tie, the award will go to the skipper or crew with the most first, seconds, thirds, etc. If this still fails to break a tie, then as many extra races as are necessary will be used to break the tie. The highly coveted Spanish Donkey Award will be presented to the winning club that has the lowest total score of its best 8 placings of Albacores entered each week. If a tie exists the award will go to the club with the most first, seconds, thirds etc.

## **13. WAIVER OF LIABILITY:**

- (a) It shall be the responsibility of each boat to decide whether or not to start or to continue to race (RRS Rule 4).
- (b) By his/her participation in this series, each club member or participant shall be deemed to be knowledgeable of, and to have voluntarily assumed all responsibility for, any and all risks including, but not limited to, loss or damage to property whether personal or otherwise, and for personal injury, and agrees to hold harmless and free of any liability the sponsoring clubs, their officers, members, employees or individuals appointed or volunteering for any activity associated with the racing program, including the class associations, for any loss or damages, material or personal, suffered by the participant during racing or otherwise.