
LAKE MICHIGAN SINGLEHANDED SOCIETY

Notice of Challenge SOLO / 2X2 CHALLENGE 2026

Friday 21, August 2026

SOLO / 2X2 2026—a singlehanded race run since 1981 (now with a double handed section)—will take place Friday, August 21, 2026. This singlehanded challenge is intended to encourage adventure, self reliance, and competition in the tradition of singlehanded sailing. While also a race, the primary focus of this challenge is accomplishing the goal of completing the course – relying on oneself, yet enjoying the camaraderie of like minded sailors. We include a separate division—the doublehanded 2X2—in keeping with the spirit of the singlehanded challenge. The following describes the conditions and qualifications for the challenge. Additional information will be supplied to entrants.

Awards: There will be classes for Monohulls, with awards for first, second, and third place in each class. There will be a class for Multihulls if at least three enter. Class sizes will be at the discretion of the race committee.

Course: From the starting line, Racine, Wisconsin, around Buoy “R 4” seven nautical miles due east of Glencoe, IL, around the NOAA Southern Mid Lake Weather Buoy (Station 45007), around Buoy “G 1” at Milwaukee Harbor, around the Wind Point North Shoals Lighted Buoy #14 near the Wisconsin shore and return to finish line at Racine. A distance of approximately 135 nautical miles. The “R 4”, NOAA Mid Lake Weather Buoy and “G 1” must be left to port. Wind Point North Shoals Lighted Buoy #14 must be left to Starboard.

Personal Qualifications: SOLO entrants must be experienced sailors. Entrants who have completed previous SOLO races are automatically qualified. Other entrants must provide evidence of experience, including a documented singlehanded passage of at least 50 miles and including a statement of other experience sailing or racing offshore. New entrants will have until August 14, 2026 to complete the 50-mile passage.

Eligibility of Yachts: The race is open to offshore yachts 27 to 60 LOA. The condition of the yacht and the equipment she carries should meet the US Sailing updated Coastal recommendations. <https://www.ussailing.org/competition/offshore/safety-information/ser-world-sailing-special-regulations/> as modified and supplemented by the race committee (see "Equipment" section following). Yachts failing to meet the size limitations or failing to meet all US Sailing updated Coastal recommendations may be accepted at the discretion of the race committee.

This singlehanded race is intended to encourage adventure and competition in the tradition of singlehanded sailing. There will be classes for SOLO Monohulls, based on MidWest PHRF ratings—class size will be determined at the discretion of the race committee—and one or more classes for 2X2. Class divisions will be made after entries have been closed. There will be one class of SOLO Multihulls, provided three or more are entered. Spinnakers may be used in all divisions. The safety of each yacht and her skipper/person in charge is the sole responsibility of the owner and skipper, who must ensure that the yacht is fully found, thoroughly seaworthy, and the crew fit for the passage.

Recommended Equipment and Use: For equipping the yacht, skippers should use as a guide the US Sailing updated Coastal recommendations. <https://www.ussailing.org/competition/offshore/safety-information/ser-world-sailing-special-regulations/> The following modification, amendments, and supplements must be observed.

1. Liability insurance must be carried by each yacht.
2. All Coast Guard safety requirements must be met by each yacht.
3. Each yacht must carry a modern VHF marine radio. Channel 69 will be used for required reporting between competitors. All radios must be accessible to racers while at the helm. This can either be an adaptation of the permanent radio or a second radio such as a hand-held.
4. A racing pennant (to be provided) must be flown from the backstay (or similar location) at all times.
5. Correct sail numbers must be displayed on the mainsail.
6. While an auxiliary engine is not required, each yacht must be capable of making her way to the starting line and of returning to port after the finish, without tows or other assistance.
7. Each yacht should carry enough fuel, water, and food to be self-sufficient for the duration of the course, as if cruising.
8. Each yacht must have a system such as jack lines, running from near the cockpit to the foredeck, so that the crew can move from the cockpit to the forestay without disconnecting the safety harness.
9. The required safety harness must be worn and attached to the yacht from the time the yacht leaves the dock until it is secured after finishing, except when the entrant is below decks.
10. A personal strobe light must be worn by each crew member at all times when not below decks.
11. Life jackets are recommended to be worn at all times. It is required that a PFD be worn from sundown to sun-up and at all times during severe weather conditions. It must be marked with reflecting tape.
12. Each yacht must have a system for re-boarding in place at all times. This may include looped lines or a ladder.
13. A radar reflector must be in place above decks at all times.
14. Each yacht must have a system for self-steering.

Exceptions are as follows:

The man overboard pole, water light, horseshoe, and associated equipment are not required for SOLO yachts.

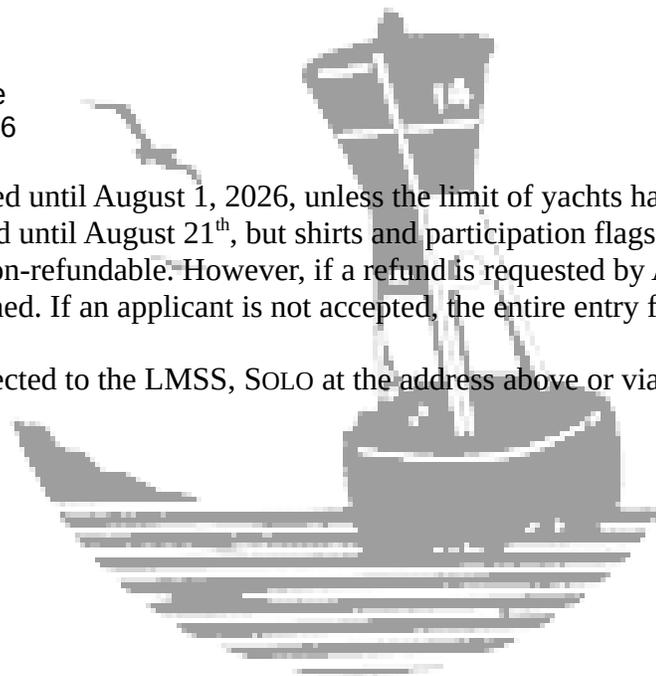
Inspection: All yachts will be subject to inspection, at any time. If any requirement 1 through 14 is not met, the yacht may be disqualified.

Entry Procedure: Send your completed entry form, MW-PHRF certificate (copy), statement of personal qualifications (including documentation of your 50-mile qualifying sail) and a check (SOLO - \$95 or 2X2 - \$120) to:

Mike Kenny LMSS
759 Thorndale Drive
Elgin, IL 60120-8116

Applications will be received until August 1, 2026, unless the limit of yachts has been reached first. Late entries will be accepted until August 21th, but shirts and participation flags may not be available. Once accepted, the fee is non-refundable. However, if a refund is requested by August 3, 2026, one half of the fee will be returned. If an applicant is not accepted, the entire entry fee will be returned.

All questions should be directed to the LMSS, SOLO at the address above or via E-mail to mike@kenny.net



Solo / 2X2 Challenge 2026

21 August 2026

Entry Deadline: August 7, 2026

Online Race application available at https://lmssonline.com/solo2x2_entry/

Division

_____ SOLO
 _____ Doublehanded

SKIPPER

CREW (Doublehanded ONLY)

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____
 STATE _____ ZIP _____
 DAY PHONE _____
 NIGHT PHONE _____
 E-MAIL _____

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____
 STATE _____ ZIP _____
 DAY PHONE _____
 NIGHT PHONE _____
 E-MAIL _____

YACHT NAME _____
 MODEL _____
 L.O.A. _____ DRAFT _____

SAIL # _____
 PHRF RATING _____ (SEND COPY)
 YACHT CLUB _____

Timely race fee includes one (Solo) or two (2X2) Men's X-Large shirts. Please indicate if you want a different size: _____ . Sizes available are Men's S, M, L, XL, and XXL. (You may request a youth size, if unavailable, the closest size will be substituted.) Deadline for shirts is August 1.

NOTE: For this application to be complete, you must include:

- _____ 2026 Lake Michigan PHRF Certificate (copy)
- _____ Current insurance certificate (copy)
- _____ Check to LMSS

2X2 Challenge	\$120.00
Solo Challenge	\$95.00
Total fees, make check out to LMSS	

Late entries may be accepted, but shirts and participation flags may not be available.

I have read the Notice of Challenge and I agree to abide by the conditions set forth therein. By electing to participate, I agree to indemnify and hold harmless THE LAKE MICHIGAN SINGLEHANDED SOCIETY and its associated parties for any loss or damage to my person, crew, or property.

 Signature of Entrant

 Signature of Boat Owner (if different)

MAIL COMPLETED FORM TO: MIKE KENNY, LMSS 759 THORNDALE DRIVE, ELGIN, IL 60120-8116