



SSL GOLD CUP AFRICA & OCEANIA QUALIFYING SERIES 2026



# NOTICE OF RACE

The Sailing Athletes Foundation ("SAF"), in conjunction with the Cercle de la Voile de Grandson, together the Organising Authority ("OA"), is pleased to invite the Africa & Oceania Region SSL National Teams to take part in the events scheduled for

**SSL Gold Cup Africa & Oceania Qualifying Series 2026**

**June 1 – 4, 2026**

**Grandson, Switzerland**

**SSL GOLD CUP AFRICA & OCEANIA QUALIFYING SERIES 2026**  
**(the "Qualifying Series" or the "Event")**

**ENTRY LIST**  
**and**  
**COMPOSITION OF GROUPS**

<b>Group A</b>
Morocco
Mozambique
Seychelles
Tahiti

## 1 RULES

- 1.1 The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in the 2025-2028 Racing Rules of Sailing ("RRS"). Other documents under RRS Definition Rule (g) include:
  - 1.1.1 **[NP] [DP]** The SSL Gold Cup Team Selection Regulations ("TSR").
  - 1.1.2 The SSL Ranking Rules.
  - 1.1.3 **[NP] [DP]** The SSL Gold Cup Charter.
  - 1.1.4 The SSL Gold Cup Boat Handling Regulations.
  - 1.1.5 World Sailing RRS Appendix UF, Umpired Fleet Racing Rules, SSL Gold Cup 2026 Edition.
  - 1.1.6 The SSL Gold Cup Support Team Regulations.
- 1.2 Documents referenced in NOR 1.1.4, 1.1.5 and 1.1.6 will be available at the same time as the Sailing Instructions on the Official Notice Board ("ONB") at [onb.sslgoldcup.com](http://onb.sslgoldcup.com).
- 1.3 Additional Rules referenced in the Notice of Race ("NOR") or Sailing Instructions ("SI") may apply and, if applicable, will be published on the [ONB](#).
- 1.4 No National prescriptions will apply.
- 1.5 In all rules governing this event:
  - 1.5.1 **[SP]** denotes a rule for which a standard penalty may be applied by the race committee or technical committee without a hearing or a discretionary penalty by the international jury with a hearing. This changes RRS A5.
  - 1.5.2 **[NP]** denotes that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1 and 63.2(a).

## 2 [DP] ADVERTISING AND EQUIPMENT

- 2.1 Boats shall carry and display the advertising and equipment provided by the OA.
- 2.2 Competitors shall wear the official team uniforms provided by the OA during dock out and dock in, whilst racing and for interviews.
- 2.3 Teams may promote their sponsors by wearing hats with sponsor branding. All team members shall wear the same hats. Promotion of sponsors must not be in conflict with local laws and must comply with sponsorship guidelines and rules communicated by the OA.
- 2.4 A Team may promote up to five (5) sponsors by placing branding marks on a boom cover designed and supplied by the OA, in accordance with NOR Addendum A.

## 3 SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 3.1 The Sailing Instructions will be available on the [ONB](#) by no later than May 14, 2026.

## 4 COMMUNICATIONS

- 4.1 The [Official Notice Board](#) is online, as defined in paragraph 1.2.
- 4.2 **[NP]** Each Captain, or their representative, shall have access to WhatsApp and Telegram, subscribe to the groups required by the OA, and ensure data capabilities to monitor them 24/7 during the event.

## 5 ELIGIBILITY, ENTRY AND ENTRY FEES

- 5.1 The Entry List and the grouping of teams into Groups for the Event is determined by the OA on the basis of the SSL Nations' Ranking as published on February 10, 2026.
- 5.2 [DP] A Captain shall confirm their intended Team of ten (10) Athletes to the OA by email to [TeamSelection@starsailors.com](mailto:TeamSelection@starsailors.com) by no later than April 6, 2026.
- 5.3 Should a nation be unable to participate in the Qualifying Series, the OA reserves the right, at any time, to invite a replacement.
- 5.4 The Entry List and Matchboard for each Round of the Event, including the composition of Groups, will be published on the [ONB](#).
- 5.5 There is no entry fee.

## 6 FORMAT

- 6.1 The SSL Gold Cup 2026 is a World Sailing Special Event which includes two events: the SSL Gold Cup Qualifiers 2026 and the SSL Gold Cup Finals 2026 (the "Finals").
- 6.2 The SSL Gold Cup Qualifiers 2026 consists of four separate regional series: Europe, Africa & Oceania, Asia and PanAmerica that will be held prior to the Finals throughout 2025 and 2026.
- 6.3 A 'Round' is one of a number of knock out competitions in the Event.
- 6.4 A 'Group' is a group of up to four teams in the Event that are scheduled to race together in a Round.
- 6.5 The Round of the Event will consist of up to six (6) scheduled races for each Group over a maximum of three (3) racing days.
- 6.6 The team ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in a Group for the Round will qualify to compete in the SSL Gold Cup Finals 2026. In the Africa & Oceania Qualifiers, the team ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in Group A will also qualify to compete in the SSL Gold Cup Finals 2026.
- 6.7 Nations competing in the Finals will consist of ten (10) teams advancing from the Qualifiers and thirty (30) teams granted a bye by the OA, either based upon their position in the SSL Nations' Ranking as at the date specified in NOR 5.1 or their status as the host nation for the Finals.

## 7 SCHEDULE

- 7.1 Registration and weighing of Team members shall be carried out the day before the first scheduled day of racing in the Round.
- 7.2 In accordance with NOR 7.1, the Race Office shall be open between the hours of 0900 and 1700. The OA will advise Teams at which time they should present themselves for registration and weighing.
- 7.3 Exceptionally, to accommodate unavoidable late arrival at the venue, the OA may specify a time prior to 0830 at which participants may weigh and register on the first scheduled day of racing.

7.4 [NP] [DP] A Podium Ceremony will be held as soon as practicable after the last race of the Round. Athletes are expected to attend. Team uniforms shall be worn.

7.5 The schedule for the Round is as follows:

June 1	0900 – 1700	Registration & Weighing
June 2 – 4	0930 see 7.6, below As soon as practicable after the last race	Skippers' meeting First warning signal Podium Ceremony

7.6 The scheduled time for the warning signal for the first race each day is 1100.

7.7 On the last scheduled day of racing, no warning signal will be made after 1600.

## 8 VENUE, CONTACT INFORMATION AND RACING AREA

8.1 The regatta venue is:

Cercle de la Voile de Grandson, Chemin du Pecos 3, 1422 Grandson, Switzerland

8.2 For further information:

Sailing Athletes Foundation

Contact: [info@starsailors.com](mailto:info@starsailors.com)

Event website: <https://goldcup.starsailors.com>

8.3 The racing area will be located on Lake Neuchâtel.

## 9 COURSES, TARGET TIMES AND DECISION TO RACE

9.1 The course to be sailed will be Windward-Leeward with options for an offset mark and gate and reach finish.

9.2 Race target time will be forty (40) minutes for all races. Failure to meet the target time will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 61.1(a).

9.3 Races will not be started in less than an average of four (4) knots of wind and more than twenty-five (25) knots of wind determined over a five (5) minute period over the entire course area, and is at the discretion of the race committee. This shall not be grounds for redress by a boat. This changes RRS 61.1(a).

## 10 PENALTY SYSTEM

10.1 RRS 44.1 is changed so that the Two-Turns Penalty is replaced by the One-Turn Penalty.

10.2 An international jury will be appointed in accordance with RRS 91(b). Its decisions will be final as provided in RRS 70.3(a).

## 11 SCORING

- 11.1 In accordance with RRS 90.3(a) combined with A4, each boat *starting* and *finishing* and not thereafter retiring, being penalised or given redress shall be scored points as follows:

FINISHING PLACE	POINTS
First	Equal to the number of teams registered in a particular Group in the applicable Round
Each place thereafter	Deduct one point

For all races on the last day of racing by a particular Group in a Round, points scored shall be doubled. Points will not be doubled retroactively in the event that a future scheduled race could not be completed

- 11.2 A boat that did not start, did not sail the course, did not finish, retired or was disqualified shall be scored zero points.
- 11.3 No race score will be excluded.
- 11.4 A minimum of one (1) race is required to be completed in a Group to constitute a valid Round for the Group.
- 11.5 **[NP] [DP]** On the last day of racing in a Round teams shall make a genuine effort to start, sail the course and finish the races. The penalty for breach of this instruction will be ranking the boat last in the Round. If there is more than one such team, they will be ranked the last ones in the Round. This changes A5.1 and A5.2.

## 12 SUPPORT PERSONS AND SUPPORT VESSELS

- 12.1 The support persons of a team, if any, shall register at the Race Office before the first day of racing in a Round.
- 12.2 **[NP] [DP]** No personal support vessel will be permitted on the water.

## 13 **[NP]** BOATS

- 13.1 The SSL Gold Cup 2026 will be sailed on SSL47 boats provided by the SAF.
- 13.2 Boats will be allocated to teams at the discretion of the OA.
- 13.3 The SAF may require for the duration of any race or races that a safety official ("SO") assigned by them be onboard a boat that is allocated to a Team. An SO so assigned shall take no verbal or physical part in the tactical or practical sailing of the boat at any time. However, if, during a race, the SO considers, in their sole and unfettered judgement, that the safety of the boat or crew is compromised then they may take charge of the boat, following which action the boat shall immediately retire from the race. Actions of the SO will not be grounds for requesting redress by a boat. This changes RRS 61.1 (a).

## 14 RISK STATEMENT

- 14.1 Rule 3 states: "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone". Sailing is by its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in the Event, each competitor agrees and acknowledges that:
- 14.1.1 they are aware of the inherent element of risk involved in the sport and accept responsibility for the exposure of themselves, their crew and their boat to such inherent risk whilst taking part in the Event;
  - 14.1.2 they are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore;
  - 14.1.3 they accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions;
  - 14.1.4 by participating in any race they are satisfied that the boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the Event and that they are fit to participate;
  - 14.1.5 they do not have any medical conditions or impairments that would affect their ability to safely take part in the Event;
  - 14.1.6 they will not participate in the Event if under the undue influence of alcohol, drugs or otherwise unfit to participate;
  - 14.1.7 the provision of a race management team, patrol boats and other officials and volunteers by the race organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities;
  - 14.1.8 the provision of patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances;
  - 14.1.9 it is their responsibility to familiarise themselves with any risk specific to the venue or the Event drawn to their attention in any rules and information produced for the venue or the Event and to attend any safety briefing held for the Event.

## 15 DRUG TESTING

- 15.1 Competitors are reminded of the World Sailing Anti Doping Code. Drug testing may take place during the Event.

## 16 TELEVISION AND MEDIA

- 16.1 Competitors grant to the Star Sailors League S.A. ("SSL"), the Sailing Athletes Foundation, other sub-licensee(s), the Organising Authority and clubs and the event sponsors the right, in perpetuity, to utilise their names, to make, use and show, at their discretion, any photography, audio and video recording and other reproductions of them made during training sessions and the Event, at the venue or on the water, from the time of their arrival until the time of their departure, without compensation, and waive all moral and legal rights in and to any use of their names, recordings or video or sound made or images taken.
- 16.1.1 **[NP]** Competitors shall be at the disposal of the OA for interviews, media conferences, press releases and promotional initiatives.

- 16.1.2 **[DP]** Boats, athletes and team officials may be required to carry cameras, sound equipment or positioning equipment as specified by the OA. Information from any such equipment shall not be used by a boat in a hearing. This changes RRS 63.5(a).

## 17 [NP] [DP] ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

- 17.1 Competitors are reminded of the importance of maintaining clean and healthy waterways.
- 17.2 Disposal of waste or trash into the water is strictly prohibited. Any breach of this rule may result in penalties up to disqualification.
- 17.3 Competitors shall use reusable bottles and fill at designated hydration stations. Single-use plastics (PET bottles, plastic cutlery, foam boxes) are not permitted.