



FIRST



BENETEAU First SE Challenge 2026

Jezerca, Murter, Croatia

11 – 19 April 2026

Notice of Race

BENETEAU First SE Challenge 2026 is organised by Seascope d.o.o. in cooperation with FreeSpirit Sailing Center, JK Val and with the approval of the Croatian Sailing Federation. The following text addresses all parties mentioned above as the Organising Authority.

1. RULES

- 1.1 The event will be governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing*.
- 1.2 The navigation rules of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (IRPCAS) replace RRS Part 2 from sunset until sunrise.
- 1.3 Class rules, modifications and definitions.

Below are class rules modifications and definitions for the First SE and Seascope sailboats competing in the BENETEAU First SE Challenge 2026 race. Their goal is to give general restrictions to the competitors to allow fair and fun competition. We recognise they are written in a very general form, but the stricter and more detailed ones would not be aligned with the spirit of the race. First 18 SE & Seascope 18 and First 27 SE & Seascope 27 use International Class rules as their base. In the case of conflict, class rules prevail.

Seascope18 and First 18 SE class

The last version of the [International class rules](#) is in effect with the following modifications that alter the International class rules:

- 1) The crew consists of 2 crew members with no crew weight limit.
- 2) Boats must carry all the obligatory safety equipment as per NOR.
- 3) In and out sheeting of all sails is allowed. That includes the mainsail.
- 4) While in-and-out sheeting is allowed, it must be achieved solely by combining ropes, blocks and shackles. No holes shall be drilled or attachments glued to the hull or deck.
- 5) Stacking of all movable equipment is permitted.

REMINDER: Electronic anemometers (wind vanes) are not permitted by the class rules.

Seascope24 & First 24 SE class

- 1) The number of sails the boat can carry onboard is limited to Main, Jib1, Jib2, Fractional Jib 0, Fractional Gennaker, fractional Code5/Code0 + storm jib.
- 2) There is no handicap – the first home is the winner.
- 3) Outside assistance is prohibited as per RRS 41.
- 4) Boats shall carry safety equipment as defined by NOR.
- 5) The crew consists of 2 crew members with no crew weight limit.
- 6) Stacking of all movable equipment is permitted.

Seascope27 and First 27 SE class

- 1) Hull, deck, rudders, keel, mast, boom, bowsprit and structure must be as originally supplied by Seascope
- 2) The number of sails that the boat can carry onboard is limited to 7
- 3) One of the sails must be a storm jib, as defined by OSR.
- 4) Masthead code 0 (as per definition: flying masthead sail is a Code 0 in case the mid girth of the sail is less than 75 % of the foot length) is forbidden.
- 5) Sail material and size is not limited.
- 6) There is no handicap – the first home is the winner.
- 7) Outside assistance is prohibited as per RRS 41.
- 8) Boats shall carry safety equipment as defined by NOR.
- 9) The crew consists of 2 crew members with no crew weight limit.
- 10) Stacking of all movable equipment is permitted

2. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Sailing Instructions will be available at registration.

3. COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

- 3.1. Notices to competitors will be posted on the official online notice board, which will be on WhatsApp.
- 3.2. All boats shall carry a VHF radio capable of communication on International channels.
- 3.3. On the water, the Race Committee will make, in addition to sound and flag signals, a courtesy broadcast to competitors on VHF radio. The channel will be stated in the Sailing Instructions.

4. ELIGIBILITY

4.1. BENETEAU First SE Challenge 2026 is open for all BENETEAU First SE - Seascope Edition and Seascope models 18, 24 and 27, equipped with mandatory safety equipment and compliant with relevant class rules.

1.1. Boats will be divided into classes:

- BENETEAU First 18 SE & Seascope18
- BENETEAU First 24 SE & Seascope24
- BENETEAU First 27 SE & Seascope27

4.2. If fewer than 3 boats are registered in a class, they may compete as wild cards and on their own terms.

4.3. Each registered boat shall have valid third-party liability insurance for the owner and anyone controlling the vessel.

5. ENTRIES AND ENTRY FEE

1.2. Registration form should be submitted to the Organizing Authority only by an online entry form:

[BENETEAU First SE Challenge 2026 entry form](#)

Registration will open on January 16th, 2026, at 18:00 CET and will remain open until April 10th, 2026, or until all 70 race slots are taken, whichever comes first. Late entries can be accepted at the discretion of the Organizing Authority with a double entry fee.

5.1. The entry fee can only be paid via bank transfer. Cash payment is not possible! Your registration is complete only after you have received a copy of the completed form via email and the entry fee has been deposited into the Organising Authority's bank account.

To complete your registration, please transfer the entry fee within seven days of registration. If the fee is not received in time, we will give your slot to the next team on the waiting list.

5.2. The entry fee is **585 €** and applies to all classes.

5.3. The additional cruising program, "Avant Challenge Cruise," from Saturday, April 11th, to Monday, April 13th, costs an extra **290 €**. The event will be organised only if at least 5 boats are registered.

An additional "Training program" on Tuesday, 14th, and Wednesday, 15th of April costs an extra **275 €**. The event will be organised only if at least 5 boats are registered.

5.4. Payment details:

Account holder: SEASCAPE D.O.O., PODPEČ 53, 1352 PRESERJE, SLOVENIA

Account number (IBAN): SI56 0400 0027 9014 039

SWIFT / BIC code: KBMASI2X

BANK NAME: OTP banka d.d.

STREET: Slovenska cesta 58

CITY: SI-1000 Ljubljana

COUNTRY: Slovenia

If you want the invoice to include company data, please email us via email to vid@thinkseascape.com and invoices@thinkseascape.com in the carbon copy.

- 5.5. The entry fee is non-refundable and must be transferred within seven days of registration, as we try to get everyone who wishes to participate in our event to do so.

Entry fee includes:

- berth
- slip
- trailer and car parking
- welcome drinks and snacks
- cheap SE beer
- two dinners
- onshore briefs and lectures
- finishers' beer and goulash
- prize giving
- the organisation of the event

- 5.6. The Organising authority shall not be liable for any costs due to the boat's failure to register or participate.

6. ADVERTISING

- 6.1. Boats shall display advertising chosen and supplied by the Organizing Authority according to the World Sailing Advertising Code as follows:

- advertising with or without bow numbers as forward as possible on both sides of the hull.
- advertising on the boom and mast.
- a class flag shall be flown on the shrouds throughout the entire event.
- main sail sticker may also be obligatory

- 6.2. The Organizing Authority may also require the installation of additional equipment, such as video cameras or tracking devices (GPS).

7. ROUTES

- 7.1. The routes will be defined for each class. Decision points are possible, and all the boats within the class will compete on the same route from start to finish.
- 7.2. In case of huge time differences, boats at the back of the fleet can sail a shorter route, but will be ranked after boats which will sail the full route.
- 7.3. Weather permitting, the exact route will be defined on Thursday morning skippers' briefing. We will provide [all possible waypoints](#) in advance and confirm which ones will be used in the final skippers' briefing.
- 7.4. Routes are determined by predicted sailing time based on weather prognosis, not fixed distance.
The 18 route 24 h sailing time – approximately 90 NM
The 24 & 27 route 30 h sailing time – approximately 150 NM
- 7.5. The Organising Authority reserves the right to change the routes to ensure the safety of the crews.

8. FINAL REGISTRATION

- 8.1. Each owner or skipper of the boat must personally register at the Race Office upon arrival in Jezera. The Race Office and inspection of the boats will be open between 10 am and 6 pm on Wednesday, 15th and Thursday, 16th April.
- 8.2. The following documents must be available upon registration:
 - Valid Third-Party Liability insurance
 - Filled and signed registration form, complete with an emergency contact (phone number ashore with the name of a contact person) – form available at the Regatta Office
 - Signed safety equipment checklist
 - Signed responsibility statement from the owner or skipper, including the co-skipper
 - Number of CSF Vignette for 2026 or filled form: Notification of appearance on one calendar regatta of the CSF without vignette – form available at the Regatta Office

9. PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

9.1. PORTA & FREE SPIRIT RACE SAILING ACADEMY

Pre-Challenge Training Course is a specialized program designed to prepare you for the unique demands of long-distance regattas. This course serves as the perfect "speed-up" session to sharpen your skills before the official Pre-Challenge Training Camp begins.

- Dates: 10th – 13th April
- Target Audience: Exclusively for BENETEAU First 18 SE participants. Whether you are new to racing or looking to refine your competitive edge, this program is tailored for you.
- Expert Instruction: Led by Marjan Gorec, a 5-time BENETEAU First SE Challenge winner.

What to Expect:

- Personalized Coaching: Limited to a maximum of 5 boats to ensure a hands-on approach. We focus on identifying and improving your crew's specific weak points.
- Comprehensive Curriculum: Covers everything from fundamental manoeuvres to advanced racing tactics.
- Blended Learning: A mix of theoretical classroom sessions and intensive on-water sail training.
- Details & Registration can be found at this [LINK](#).

9.2. Pre-event Program – Avant Challenge Cruise:

Saturday 11. 04. - Monday 13. 04.

The idea of this pre-event is to get the boats ready to sail and explore the islands and bays around Murter at a leisurely pace.

Saturday is reserved for arrivals, boat assembly and launching with an optional meet&eat dinner in one of the local restaurants. On Sunday and Monday (weather permitting), we will sail over to turquoise Kunjka Bay on Kaprije Island or one of the other beautiful locations. We will have a stopover with coffee and snacks before setting sail to the next destination. We will return to Jezera at the end of the day. On one of the evenings, we will provide everything needed for a grill hangout and, with your help, have a super nice picnic.

The fee of 290 € includes mooring for your boat, fuel and organisational costs, and food and drink for the grill hangout.

9.3. Pre-event Program – Training Camp:

The training camp allows the less experienced crews to work on their shorthanded boat handling, tactics and safety manoeuvres. Your coach will be Marjan Gorec (the undisputed king of the Challenge and a professional coach), and Uroš Kraševac (the best Slovenian Ocean racer, fresh from his 2nd Mini Transat).

Tuesday 14. 04.

Arrivals

12:00 General brief, boat assembly and trim, pain point identification

18:00 Lecture and optional group dinner

Wednesday 15. 04.

08:00 Short brief and training on water

12:00 Break for lunch

13:00 Afternoon session

16:00 Debrief after sailing with video analysis,

End before the start of the official program.

9.4. Main Event Program:

Wednesday 15. 04.

- 09:00 – 17:00 Arrivals and Registrations – meeting point @First SE tent
Launching/Craning the boats
- 18:00 Welcome drinks on the main square
- 19:00 Meet the locals and the official Opening ceremony
- 19:30 Grill Street Food

Thursday 16. 04.

- 09:00 Main Skippers meeting & Meteo brief for 18
- 10:00 Main Skippers meeting & Meteo brief for 24 & 27
Security checks throughout the day
- Midday On the water warm-up / in case of bad weather, a guest lecture
- 19:00 Dinner social event

Friday 17. 04.

- TBD Start 24 & 27
- TBD Start 18

Saturday 18. 04.

- Expanding your comfort zone
- Finishers' beer and goulash
- First SE Challenge Local fest on the main square
- TBD Prizegiving

Sunday 19. 04.

- 10:00 – 16:00 Craning and slipping the boats
Farewell

10. INSPECTION

10.1. All boats shall be inspected before the start of the race to determine whether they meet all safety requirements.

10.2. An additional inspection may be carried out after the race, and there is a possibility that the RO (Race Organisation) will disqualify the team if it does not have all the equipment it had at the first inspection before the race.

10.3. List of equipment that **must** be on the boat before official registration:

- **Personal strobe**
High-performance lifejacket light with water contact sensor for automatic firing. Essential for safety during night sailing. It shall be fitted directly onto the lifejacket and turn on if it is immersed in water.
- **Navigation lights**
24s and 27s have no problems. 18s should install a battery-powered LED light on the top of the mast and switch it on before the start. The optional idea is emergency lights that you tape on shrouds and the back of the boat. Tricolour ones are preferred, but for the 18s, technically, a white 360 is enough.
- **Emergency navigation lights**
Battery-operated in case your primary ones go dark.
- **Life vest worn at all times**
Especially on the 18s, we recommend dinghy vests (like this), not a self-inflatable one, since they are more comfortable and help you get back on board if you fall overboard. Put the safety harness with attachment over it (don't forget the crotch straps that go around your legs). On 24s and 27s, the use of the inflatable ones is recommended.
- **Safety deck line to hook in a lifeline**
On the same topic, make sure you put additional rope slings around the boat that help you climb back on board from the front or side if necessary. Try the man-over-board by yourself fully clothed before the race.
27s are straightforward on this, but make sure you have a way to climb on board if you fall over.
- **VHF radio**
Double-check the batteries on handhelds.
- **Mobile phone**
Mobile phone able to receive WhatsApp messages. WhatsApp will be the official Notice Board and Official Notices and changes to the route can be published during the race.
- **Life Buoy with self-igniting light and floating rope**
Make sure it is well attached and available for immediate use. Also, ensure you know how to use it, and that battery and bulb in the light are working.
- **Knife**
You should have one on yourself, one somewhere in the cockpit and one on the mast.
- **Strong Flashlight and two headlights**
Check batteries; spare ones don't hurt.
- **2 hand flares and 2 distress rockets**
Very important. Keep them nearby. You can add white anti-collision ones as well.

- **Paper charts of the area**
They should be obtained locally if you don't have them. If you need assistance with this, please get in touch with marina@freespirit.center
Last-minute orders on the spot will not be accepted as charts are hard to obtain on short notice.
- **Anchor**
Make sure you have one that works. Seascope 18 and First 18 SE use the class rules for minimum requirements, but it is worth having a better/heavier one.
- **2 fenders**
Bring 4 since it will be crowded.
- **2 mooring lines**
Bring enough.
- **1 bucket (min 5l)**
Bring a comfortable one since you will also need it as a toilette.
- **First aid kit**
Make sure it is practical for the cuts, immobilisation and so on. There are only two of you on the boat so think practical.
- **Basic tools**
The tool kit must consist of basic equipment to fix basic damages (sail cut, broken tiller on the 18, electric problems on the 24 and 27, some tape and dyneema rope...).

10.4. Recommendations (not mandatory)

- The fire extinguisher is not obligatory, but if you use the engine (electric or petrol), carry petrol, diesel, ethanol or cooking stoves, you should strongly consider having it.
- AIS PLB is cheap and very efficient.
- Power bank for your electronic devices. Ensure it's safely packed in a water-tight bag.
- GPS plotting device (make sure you have enough energy for 30-35 hours). If you use only a mobile phone, think about a good way of attaching it - your hands will be mostly full.
- On the 18s & 24s, rope bags are on the side of the cockpit to store food and other stuff. On the 27, maybe additional rope bags for stuff.
- Dry suits for those who have them, especially for the 18s.
- For 18s, consider smaller sails: small jib (7m²) to use in 15+ kt of wind, and smaller gennakers (about 24-26m²) are recommendable in case of stronger winds.

11. NAUTICAL CHARTS

The Nautical charts of the Croatian Hydrographic Institute, which can be found at www.hhi.hr, will be used. You can contact marina@freespirit.center and get the charts delivered to Free Spirit before the race. Last-minute orders on the spot will not be accepted, as charts are hard to obtain on short notice.

12. RISK STATEMENT

RRS 3 states: 'The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue to race is hers alone.' By participating in this event, each competitor agrees and acknowledges that sailing is a potentially dangerous activity with inherent risks. These risks include strong winds and rough seas, sudden changes in weather, failure of equipment, boat handling errors, poor seamanship by other boats, loss of balance on an unstable platform and fatigue resulting in increased risk of injury. Inherent in the sport of sailing is the risk of permanent, catastrophic injury or death by drowning, trauma, hypothermia or other causes.

13. MEDIA RIGHTS

Competitors, owners, and their guests give the Organizing Authority the absolute right and permission to use their names, voice, image, biographical material, and photographs of sailing boats in any medium (television, press and Internet media), including video footage, without any compensation. These materials may be used exclusively for advertising, promoting, reporting, and disseminating Signature events and Seascope/Beneteau products.

14. PRIZES

BENETEAU First SE Challenge 2026 Hall of Fame may consist of:

- first three 18 teams – First & Seascope Challenge Trophy for the winners
- first three 24 teams – First & Seascope Challenge Trophy for the winners
- first three 27 teams – First & Seascope Challenge Trophy for the winners
- first Family team
- first women's team
- the organising authority can also give additional prizes at their own discretion

15. FURTHER INFORMATION

Join the WhatsApp groups and share these links with your crew:

- [Official Notice Board Group](#) (no chit-chat, just official updates)
- [Community Chat group](#) (for everything else)

For more information, please contact:

Tel: +386 31 554 282 (WhatsApp)

E-mail: vid@thinkseascope.com

For accommodation reservations, please get in touch with Marina Raste:

Tel: +385 98 955 5237 (WhatsApp)

E-mail: marina@freespirit.center