



The Sint Maarten Canoe Federation and FIKA are pleased to welcome you to the 2026 Sint Maarten Ocean Racing Championships

DATE AND VENUE

The 2026 Sint Maarten Ocean Racing Championships will be held from **Thursday 21 May** until **Sunday 24 May 2026** in Sint Maarten.

CONTACT

The organising club (FIKA) can be contacted:

By WhatsApp +1 721 553 1763

By email fika.sxm@gmail.com

RULES

The current ICF rules for Canoe Ocean Racing and SUP Canoe Racing will apply. Additional safety rules contained in Attachment B will apply.

COURSE

The race will be conducted in the Atlantic Ocean in the channel between Saint-Barthélemy, French West Indies and Sint Maarten. The area normally has winds of 15 kn and swells of 1.5m from the east or southeast at this time of the year. The race will consist of a single 23km down-wind run starting in Île Fourchue, Saint-Barthélemy and finishing in Simpson Bay, Sint Maarten. Additional course details are described in Attachment A. In case of adverse conditions on the day, an alternate course will be selected to provide optimal downwind racing.

CLASSES

The event will be open to the following classes:

Surfski Single (S1)

Surfski Double (S2)

Outrigger Canoe Single (OC1)

Stand-Up Paddleboard (SUP)

Prone Paddleboard as Exhibition Class

Foiling Stand-Up Paddleboard (SUP Foil) as Exhibition Class

Classes will be split into age groups as follows:

Junior Male and Female

Under 23 Male and Female

Open Male and Female

PRIZES

Prizes will be awarded as follows:

Floating trophy for overall winner.

Presentations for first, second and third in each age group.

Only paddlers registered with Sint Maarten Canoe Federation will be eligible for the Sint Maarten Ocean Racing Championship awards.

ENTRIES

Entry fee for all competitors is USD 50.00 per person, payable at registration.

Entries must be made via email to fika.sxm@gmail.com not later than Sunday 17 May 2026.

CRAFT

There are a limited number of craft available for visiting paddlers. Please contact the organisers if you need to borrow or rent a craft locally.

EVENT SCHEDULE

Thursday 21 May, Friday 22 May 2026

Welcoming visiting paddlers and orientation

Saturday 23 May 2026

08:30 Registration at FIKA Club House, Kim Sha Beach

09:00 Load craft onto catamaran in Simpson Bay

10:30 Depart Simpson Bay for Île Fourchue

13:00 Arrive Île Fourchue

13:45 Start SUP race

14:00 Start Surfski and OC race

15:30 First finishers expected at Simpson Bay

16:30 Cut-off at Point Blanche

17:30 Award Ceremony, FIKA Clubhouse

Sunday 24 May 2026

Alternate day for racing if conditions are unsuitable on 23 May 2026

Other paddling activities as may be arranged

IDENTIFICATION OF BOATS AND SPONSORS' MARKS

All competitors must identify themselves by name on request by any official.

All advertising material supplied by the organisers will be displayed on the craft as instructed.

Failure to comply can result in disqualification.

AWARDS AND CEREMONIES

The first three places of each age group in each class will receive awards. To maintain the dignity of the presentation ceremony the competitor receiving awards must be neatly attired.

SECURITY MEASURES

Security will be provided by a fleet of motor boats accompanying the race.

The safety regulations as described in Attachment B must be observed.

TRANSPORT

The organisers will assist with airport transfers and transport to and from the race venue.

Please contact the organisers with your requirements.

ATTACHMENT A – COURSE

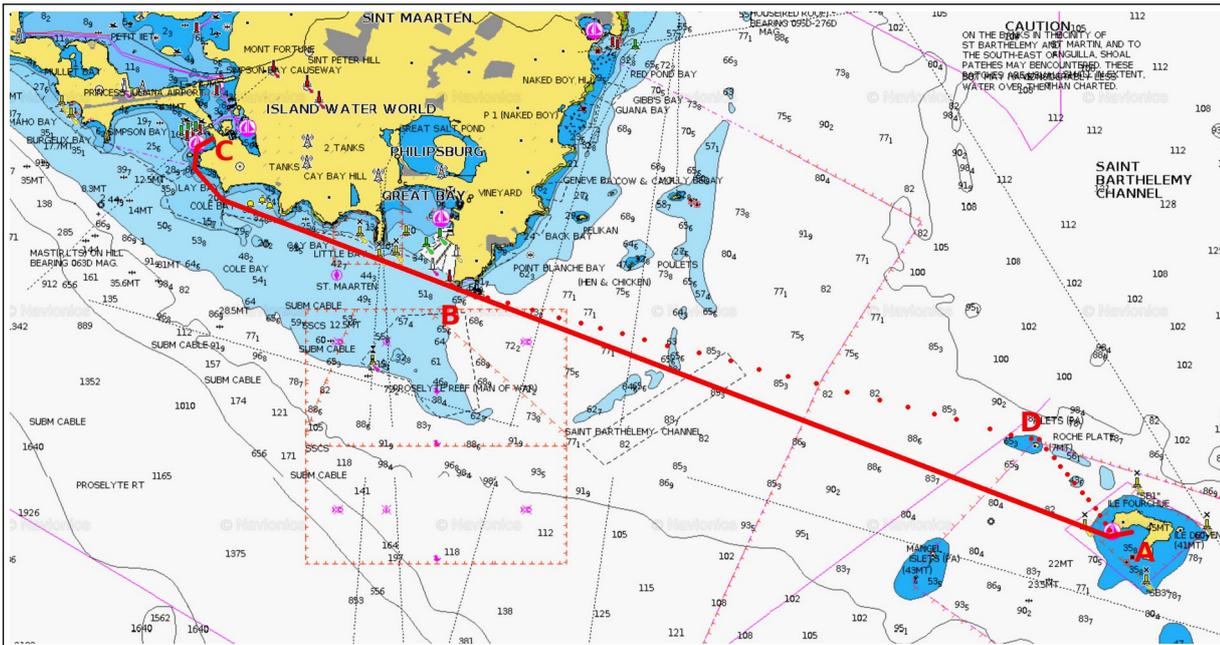
DESCRIPTION

The course will be as follows:

- 1) The race will be started using a **stationary water start**. The start-line will be between a stationary mark and an anchored boat in the southern bay of Île Fourchue.
- 2) Competitors proceed westwards around the south-west point of Île Fourchue. It is not permitted to pass through the narrow gap between Île Fourchue and the small island to the south.
- 3) Depending on the wind direction on race day, Surfski and OC classes may be directed to proceed north-west around the north of Roche Plate. SUP classes do not pass around Roche Plate.
- 4) Proceed towards Simpson Bay, passing Point Blanche.
- 5) Enter Simpson Bay. Competitors may pass over the small reef at the entrance to Simpson Bay at their own risk.
- 6) Finish on the beach at the centre of Kim Sha beach, opposite the FIKA hut.
- 7) The finish line will be on the beach, approximately 2m from the water's edge and will be conspicuously marked. You finish by exiting your craft and running with your craft up the beach, finishing when the nose of your craft crosses the line.

NOTE

- 1) Sea conditions for the course will vary. The first 500m is usually calm. Thereafter one can expect a quartering swell of 0.5m to 1.6m for 2.5km if passing Roche Plate. From Roche Plate, or from outside the bay of Île Fourchue to Point Blanche, a large following swell can be expected. This swell will diminish from Point Blanche to Simpson Bay. There can be flat calm conditions on rare occasions and on other occasions, there can be a following to cross swell of up to 2.5m. A current of varying strength usually flows from north to south.
- 2) The wind is usually following to quartering, 10 to 25 knots, with 12 to 16 knots being the most common condition with a swell of 0.5 to 2m.
- 3) There will be a strict cut-off enforced at Point Blanche at 16:30. All competitors not reaching Point Blanche by 16:30 will be scored a DNF and will be instructed to board a safety boat.
- 4) Note that there has recently been a lot of sargassum weed in the area. Clumps of this weed can catch on your rudder slowing you down significantly. It is best to avoid large clumps and to clear your rudder promptly when you do pick up weed.
- 5) The race course will take you past the busy cruise and cargo terminal at Philipsburg and also the fuel bunkering berth at Kool Baai. You must obey the maritime rule of the road at all times and avoid interaction with commercial traffic.



Course from Île Fourchue to Simpson Bay. Start at (A), pass by Point Blanche (B) (16.30 cut-off) and finish on the beach at Kim Sha beach. Alternate course north of Roche Plate (D) is shown with a dotted line.



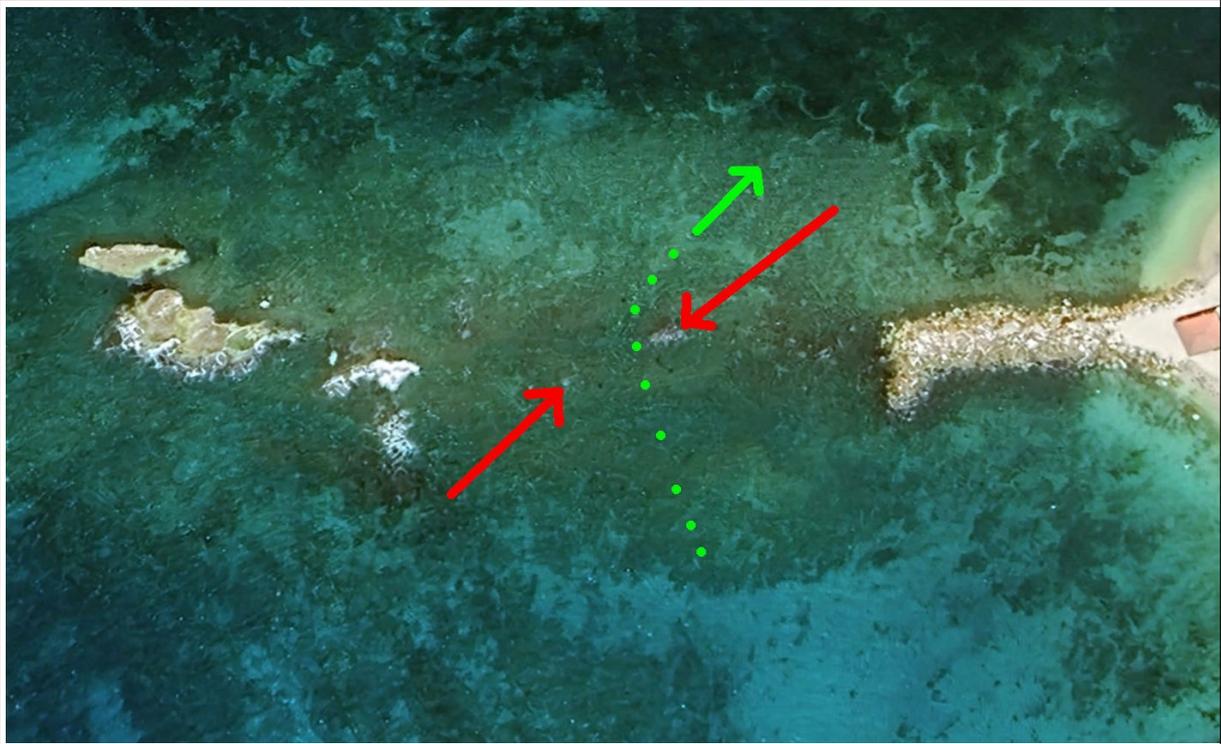
The start at Île Fourchue.



The arrow shows the position of Point Blanche



The finish at Kim Sha beach.



Detail of the reef at the south-eastern side of Simpson Bay. The red arrows indicate prominent rocks and the green dotted line shows the safe path through the reef.

ATTACHMENT B – SAFETY REGULATIONS

The following safety regulations must be observed:

- 1) Each competitor shall wear a suitable PFD with a whistle attached.
- 2) Each competitor will carry at least 1 litre of drinks attached to their person or craft at the start of the race.
- 3) Each competitor must wear a brightly coloured PFD or over-vest. Safety orange is recommended.
- 4) Each competitor (only one in the case of a double) will be attached to their craft with a sturdy leash from before the start until the finish.
- 5) Each competitor will carry on their person, either:
 - a) One hand held signal flare with burn time at least 1 minute.
 - b) Three mini aerial flares with launcher.
(Some flares will be available for loan but it is the competitor's responsibility to ensure that they have one).
- 6) Each competitor must carry a waterproof VHF radio or cell phone on their person.
- 7) A cut-off time of 16:30 at Point Blanche will be strictly enforced. Any competitor not reaching Point Blanche by 16:30 must abandon the race and board the nearest safety boat. There will be no exceptions.
- 8) If conditions dictate, the race committee will change the course to an alternate course, no later than 07:00 on 23 May 2026.

Further, it is recommended that:

- 1) Each craft be equipped with a compass or GPS to assist with navigation.
- 2) At least one paddle blade should be marked with a conspicuous colour to assist in attracting a safety boat's attention when in distress.
- 3) Each competitor should ensure that they are appropriately protected from the sun.

NOTE

- 1) It is the responsibility of each competitor to determine for themselves if they have the skills and conditioning required to compete in this event. **This responsibility should be taken seriously.** A competitor should not place themselves and others at risk by entering this race if it is beyond their level of skill or conditioning. There will be safety boats on the water during the races. If a safety boat is required to rescue an individual or feels the need to closely monitor them, then that safety boat is being taken away from the rest of the race course and the other competitors, putting everyone at additional risk.
- 2) It should be kept in mind that weather and water conditions can change rapidly. If a competitor determines during the race that they are at risk, they should abandon the race and head toward a rescue boat. In this case, the competitor should ensure that the race officials at the finish are informed of their withdrawal as soon as possible.
- 3) It is a requirement that all competitors assist fellow competitors in need. Failure to lend assistance can lead to disqualification. A competitor lending assistance during the event will be awarded a time bonus to compensate them for their delay.
- 4) Any competitor can be instructed to abandon the race by the chief safety judge, should the judge be of the opinion that the competitor would be putting themselves or others at undue risk by continuing with the race.