



MELGES²⁴



Pensacola Yacht Club  November 12-14, 2021

MELGES²⁴

Bushwhacker Cup

For The Melges 24 Atlantic Coast & Gulf Coast Championships

NOTICE OF RACE & SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

The Organizing Authority (OA) is Pensacola Yacht Club in conjunction with The International Melges 24 Class Association (IM24CA)

Changes included in this version (Sept. 29, 2021):

- Added references to Gulf Coast Championship
- Attachment A – Racing Area
- Attachment C – Covid19 Statement

1 RULES

- 1.1. The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing* (RRS)
- 1.2. In any rule governing the Regatta: the notation **[NP]** means that any infraction to the *rule* will not be ground for a protest by a boat (*Changes rule RRS 60.1 (a)*) and the notation **[SP]** Denotes a rule which a penalty may be applied by the RC without a hearing (*Changes rule RRS 63.1, A4 and A5*).

2 NOTICE TO COMPETITORS. CHANGES TO THE NOTICE OF RACE & SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1 Notices to Competitors will be posted on the Official Notice Board Online (ONBO). Competitors will be informed by text or email (indicated in the registration form) when a Notice to competitors is posted on the ONBO.
- 2.2 Changes to the *rules* will be posted on the ONBO before 0830am on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted no later than 1900 on the day before it will take effect.
- 2.3 For an on the water change to the sailing instructions: "L" flag shall be displayed. The change will be announced on the designated VHF channel. (*This changes RRS Race Signals*)

3 GREEN REGATTA

- 3.1 The Bushwhacker Cup and Atlantic and Gulf Coast Championships is a Sailors for the Sea "Clean Regatta" which means that any document used by the Organizing Authority, Race Committee, Protest Committee, Measurement Committee and Competitors as a way of communication between them will be online.
- 3.2 There will be no paper format, except for Protest Committee decisions on a protest or request for redress if a party asks for a writer decision.
- 3.3 All communications will be received by each boat in the way established in the Registration Form (email).
- 3.4 A boat may request a communication in paper format only if she is a party in the Protest or Request for redress.
- 3.5 **[NP] [DP]** Rule RRS 47 applies at all times on the water and ashore. Trash may be placed aboard support and RC Vessels while on the water and trash cans. The penalty for breaching rule RRS 47 will be decided by the Protest Committee and could be different than a disqualification. (*This change Preamble of part 4 RRS and rule RRS 47*)
- 3.6 All competitors are encouraged to use refillable water bottles and recycle all appropriate items.

4 ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

- 4.1 The regatta is open to all boats of the Melges 24 class that meet the obligations of the Class Rules and, when relevant, their Member National Authority.
- 4.2 Eligible boats may enter by completing online registration at https://yachtscoring.com/event_registration_email.cfm?eid=14722 later than November 12, 2021. Entries may be accepted after this date only with approval by the OA on a case by case basis.
- 4.3 Only boats that have completed all registration requirements will be allowed to compete. **Note – completed entry includes payment of entry fee.**
- 4.4 The OA will acknowledge completed entries upon receipt via email and post on the official event web site at <https://yachtscoring.com/emenu.cfm?eid=14722>.
- 4.5 **[DP]** As a condition of entry, boats shall not be hauled out during the regatta between 1000 hours, November 13, 2021 and the end of the regatta except with and according to the terms of prior written permission of the RC.
- 4.6 The World Sailing Sailor Classification Code (Regulation 22) will apply to teams in the Corinthian Trophy.
- 4.7 Classification for each sailor and the unique World Sailing sailor ID shall be indicated on the entry form if entering for the Corinthian Trophy.
- 4.8 Each boat shall produce a valid measurement certificate before the close of registration, November 12, 2021.
- 4.9 Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of \$500,000 (USD) per event or the equivalent.
- 4.10 Liability Waiver Form - As a condition of entry, each owner, skipper and individual participating crewmember shall sign a liability waiver/media release. The fully executed Liability Waiver Form shall be submitted at registration prior to racing. The Liability Waiver Form will be posted on the regatta website and will be available at registration.

5 ADVERTISING

- 5.1 Advertising will conform to World Sailing Regulation 20 and the Class Rules.
- 5.2 Boats may be required to display sponsors' advertising for the duration of the event chosen and supplied by the OA.

6 FEES

- 6.1 The Entry Fee will be:
- 6.1.1 **\$250** up to October, 29th 2021
- 6.1.2 **\$275** from October, 30th to November, 5th 2021.
- 6.1.3 **\$300** from November, 6th 2021 onwards.
- 6.2 Entry Fee includes launching at commencement and recovery at conclusion of the Regatta at designated times, berthing at the regatta harbour for the dates of the event, trailer storage, hospitality to the events for all competing crew.
- 6.3 Payment of entry fees may be made by observing the guidelines for online registration.

7 SCHEDULE

- 7.1 The program is as follows:

DAY	DATE	TIME(s)	EVENT
Friday	Nov. 12 th , 2021	1600-2000	Registration -- Measurement
		1300-1600	Practice Race – Dock Talk
		1800	Competitors Meeting
Saturday	Nov. 13 th , 2021	0800-1000	Registration - Measurement
		1055	First Warning Signal
		1800	Party
Sunday	Nov. 14 th , 2021	0955	First Warning Signal
		1500	No Warning Signal after this time, except as a result of a General Recall
		ASAP after races	Awards

- 7.2 Ten (10) races are scheduled for the regatta.

- 7.3 The RC shall attempt to complete five (5) races per day.
7.4 The OA reserves the right to modify the program due to weather conditions or other causes.

8 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 8.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed from a flagpole in the Pensacola Yacht Club lawn.
8.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 30 minutes' in the race signal AP. *(This changes RRS Race Signals)*
8.3 The RC intends to broadcast its intentions for the day at 0900 each morning on channel 72 VHF.

9 CLASS FLAG

- 9.1 The Class flag used in accordance with RRS 26 will be



10 VENUE – RACING AREA

- 10.1 The venue host address: Pensacola Yacht Club, 1897 Cypress St., Pensacola, FL 32502.
10.2 The location of the racing area is on Pensacola Bay, Southeast of the entrance to Bayou Chico. See Attachment A.

11 THE COURSES

- 11.1 The course to be sailed will be a windward-leeward configuration. Offset and gate marks will be used.
- Course 4: Start – 1 – 1a – 2S/2P – 1 – 1a – Finish (Downwind)
 - Course 5: Start – 1 – 1a – 2S/2P – 1 – 1a – 2S/2P – Finish (Upwind)
- 11.2 The illustrations in Attachment B show example course diagrams.
11.3 No later than the warning signal, the RC signal vessel will display the designated course by flying the corresponding numeral pennant. The approximate compass bearing and distance from the RC signal vessel to Mark 1 may be broadcasted on the designated VHF channel.
11.4 Marks 1 and 1a, shall be rounded to port. Mark 1a is an offset mark and will be positioned to port of the associated windward mark (looking upwind).
11.5 A leeward gate (two marks) will be used. Boats shall sail between the gate marks from the direction of the previous mark and round either gate mark. If only one gate mark is set, boats shall round the single mark to port. Except when there is a change of course, the gate will be positioned approximately 0.1nm to windward of the RC signal boat. The gate may be laid after the starting signal.
11.6 Except when there is a change of course:
(a) the downwind finishing line for course 4 will be to leeward of the gate and adjacent to the RC signal vessel;
(b) the upwind finishing line for course 5 will be to windward of mark 1.

12 MARKS

- 12.1 Marks 1, 2S and 2P will be orange inflatable tetrahedrons
12.2 Mark 1a will be a red ball.
12.3 New marks used according to SI 15 will be yellow inflatable tetrahedron.
12.4 The starting marks will be RC vessels with an orange flag.
12.5 The finishing marks will be either an RC vessel with a blue flag or a yellow inflatable mark.
12.6 An RC vessel signalling a change of course, according to SI 15.1, shall be treated per RRS 31. *(This Changes rule RRS 31)*

13 COMMUNICATION

- 13.1 **[DP]** All boats shall carry a VHF radio capable of communicating on channel 72. Channels 68, 69, and 71 may be used.
13.2 On the water, the RC will make courtesy broadcasts to competitors on VHF radio.

- 13.3 **[DP]** From the first warning signal until the end of the last race of the day, except in an emergency or as required by a rule, a boat shall not make voice nor data transmissions and shall not receive voice nor data communication that is not available to all boats.
- 13.4 The RC may broadcast the course, bearing and distance information before the warning signal, start times, starting infractions, and information important to racing. Failure of the transmission, failure of any boat to receive or properly interpret this information, or any errors or omissions on the part of the hailed messages shall not constitute grounds for granting redress. *(This changes RRS 62.1(a))*
- 13.5 Individual recalls and boats penalized under RRS 30.2 or RRS 30.3 may be broadcast on the designated VHF channel using bow/sail numbers. *(This changes RRS 29.1, 30.2 and 30.3)*
- 13.6 Failure of the RC to make a broadcast or to time it accurately will not be grounds for a request for redress. *(This changes RRS 62.1(a))*
- 13.7 The RC may broadcast any course changes over the designated VHF channel. Failure of a boat to hear such notification or failure to broadcast will not be grounds for redress. *(This changes RRS 62.1(a))*

14 THE START

- 14.1 The starting line will be between the staffs displaying orange flags on the port end RC line vessel and starboard end RC signal vessel.
- 14.2 To alert boats that a race will begin soon, an **ORANGE** flag will be displayed with one sound signal at least **1 minute** before a warning signal is displayed. This flag will be removed approximately 5 minutes after a valid start with no sound signal.
- 14.3 **[SP]** A boat starting later than four (4) minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing.
- 14.4 RRS 30.4 (Black Flag Rule) is changed to permit the RC to display bow number and/or sail number.

15 CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

- 15.1 To change the next leg of the course, the RC will lay a new mark (or move the finishing line) and remove the original mark as soon as practicable. When in a subsequent change a new mark is replaced, it will be replaced by an original mark. At the weather mark, the RC will make every effort to set an offset mark with a change mark, however, if it is absent, proceed to the next mark of the course from the weather mark.

16 THE FINISH, TIME LIMITS AND TARGET TIMES

- 16.1 For both upwind and downwind finishes, the finishing line will be between a staff displaying a blue flag on the finishing line vessel and a staff displaying a blue flag on a nearby RC vessel, or the course side of a nearby yellow inflatable mark.
- 16.2 The time limit for the first boat to sail the course and finish a race will be 2 hours after her start.
- 16.3 The time limit for the first boat to round Mark 1 for the first time after the start is 30 minutes.
- 16.4 Boats failing to finish within 30 minutes after the first boat sails the course and finishes, and not thereafter retiring, being penalized, or given redress, will be scored TLE (Time Limit Expired, see Scoring). *(This changes RRS 35, A5.1, A5.2 and A10)*
- 16.5 The target time for races is 45 to 60 minutes. Failure to meet the target time will not be grounds for redress. *(This changes RRS 62.1(a))*
- 16.6 Flag A displayed at the finish means “no more racing today.”

17 PENALTY SYSTEM

- 17.1 Rule 44.1 is change as follows:
A boat may take a One-Turn Penalty when she may have broken a rule of Part 2 or Class Rule C.11 while racing. However, when she may have broken a rule of Part 2 while in the zone around a mark other than a starting mark, her penalty shall be a Two-Turns Penalty.”
- 17.2 Unless the course is shortened to finish at the windward mark, penalties while in the zone of the windward mark or on the offset leg may be delayed and taken as soon as possible on the downwind leg. *(This changes RRS 44.2.)*

18 HEARING REQUESTS

- 18.1 Hearing requests shall be filed by using the US Sailing Racing Rules app and send by email to: Ted McGee sail15370@gmail.com within the appropriate Time Limit. For more details about the app, see SI 26 below.
- 18.2 The Protest Time Limit (PTL) shall be **sixty (60) minutes** after the last boat has finished the last race of the day or the RC signals no more racing today, whichever is later. The resulting time will be posted at the Official Notice Board Online. *(This changes RRS 61.3)*
- 18.3 Appendix T RRS will apply
- 18.4 Notices of scheduled protests or requests for redress hearings will be posted on the Official Notice Board Online to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or may be parties affected by a request for redress.
- 18.5 RRS 66 is changed as follows:
On the last day of the regatta, a request for reopening a hearing shall be delivered:
(a) within the protest time limit if the requesting party was informed of the decision on the previous day.
(b) no later than 30 minutes after the requesting party was informed of the decision on that day.
- 18.6 Notices will be posted on the ONBO **not later than 30 minutes** after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Hearings will be held in the protest room, beginning at the posted time.
- 18.7 Within the protest time limit, the RC shall post on the ONBO the boats that are disqualified or penalized under A5. A boat so notified may only request for redress within 30 minutes after that posting.
- 18.8 Notices of protests by the RC or the Protest Committee will be posted on the ONBO to inform boats under rule 61.1 b).

19 SCORING

- 19.1 One (1) race shall be completed to constitute the regatta.
- 19.2 A boat scored TLE shall be scored points for her finishing place 2 more than the points scored by the last boat that finished according to S16.4.
- 19.3 When fewer than six (6) races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores.
- 19.4 When six (6) or more races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.

20 SAFETY AND SUPPORT PERSON / SUPPORT VESSEL REGULATIONS

- 20.1 **[DP]** Before the first warning signal of each day, all boats shall sail past the stern of the RC Signal Vessel on starboard tack and check in by hailing their sail/bow number. They shall continue to do so until their sail/bow number is verbally acknowledged by the RC.
- 20.2 All Melges 24 boats shall proceed to the racing area under their own power.
- 20.3 **[DP] [NP] [SP]** A boat that retires from a race shall notify the RC before leaving the course area or immediately after arriving ashore via radio contact from PYC (Regatta Director or PYC staff).
- 20.4 All competitors shall wear, while on the water, other than brief periods while adding or removing clothing, an approved US Coast Guard PFD that depends 100% on foam for flotation that is the appropriate size for the sailor with no modification. The PFD must be worn outside of all clothing, except that a thin shirt may be worn over the PFD to prevent snagging. *(This Changes the preamble to Part 4, rule RRS 40 and Race Signals).*
- 20.5 Each support vessel shall have a working VHF radio and monitor the radio, an anchor suitable for anchoring in the waiting area, a basic first aid kit and **a kill-cord attached to the driver at all times while on the water.** **[SP]** No drones are allowed closer than 500 meters from racing areas from the Warning Signal for a race and after the last boat has finished the race. As a penalty for breaching this rule the protest committee may impose a discretionary penalty to all boats associated with the owner / operator of the drone. This *rule* does not apply to the OA drones.
- 20.6 Support person and Support Vessels shall register with the race office during registration times. They shall declare which boat or boats they are attached to. Support person and support vessels shall declare proof of insurance and provide photo ID of the driver. Vessels shall comply with local laws and regulations regarding their operation.
- 20.7 Under all circumstances, coaches and other support vessels are expected to assist any boat in danger.
- 20.8 Coach and support boats shall display a flag, or other identification symbol, as may be required by the race committee.

- 20.9 There shall be no transfer of any goods or equipment until after the finish of the last race of the day between Melges 24 and their support boats.
- 20.10 Support persons shall not communicate with competitors (by any means) from the time the racers leave the dock until completion of the final race (*This changes Preamble of Part 4*).
- 20.11 **[DP] [NP]** Team leaders, coaches and other support personnel shall be outside of the racing area described in SI 20.13 and 20.14 from the Preparatory Signal until the last boat finishes the race or the RC displays a postponement, general recall or abandonment signal, unless they are helping a boat in danger. Breaking this rule will be penalized by the Jury.
- 20.12 **[DP]** Any penalty given by the jury is at their discretion but shall be applied to the overall score and therefore not discarded. (*This changes Appendix A*)
- 20.13 The **racing area** is defined as a surface which borders are over 100 meters from the laylines.
- 20.14 The **starting area** is a rectangle with its borders 100 meters to windward and leeward and 100 meters to pin ends of the starting line.
- 20.15 A boat and its crew shall at all times keep clear of all commercial vessels and shall not maneuver in any manner which would cause a commercial vessel to be unable to sail their proper course or carry out their commercial functions in a normal manner.
- 20.15.1 A boat whose actions or maneuvers result in a Danger Signal (5 Horns or Sounds) from a commercial vessel, shall be protested.
- 20.15.2 **[NP]** A boat in violation of SI 20.11 can only be protested by the RC. (*This Changes RRS 60.1 and 60.3*)
- 20.15.3 The penalty for breaking this SI 2.11 shall be disqualification from the entire regatta in which case rule RRS 36 will not apply. (*This changes RRS 36*)

21 REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT

- 21.1 Substitution of competitors will not be allowed without prior written approval of the Regatta Chair, Tom Pace (OA). Competitors desiring to substitute crew shall have crew members weighed-in prior to 0830 on that race day at the Race Office, unless otherwise extended by the Regatta Chair, Tom Pace (OA).
- 21.2 Substitution of equipment will not be allowed unless authorized by the OA. Requests for substitution shall be made to the OA at the first reasonable opportunity.
- 21.3 Any substitution granted via NoR/SI 21.1 or 21.2 will be posted on the Official Notice Board Online.

22 LAUNCHING AND BERTHING

- 22.1 The PYC hoist and launch ramp will be available on demand. Please coordinate with fellow competitors.
- 22.2 **[DP]** Except when sailing, all boats shall be kept in their assigned docks in the PYC harbour. Fenders and mooring lines will be required.

23 PRIZES

- 23.1 The top finishing team will be awarded the Bushwhacker Perpetual Trophy.
- 23.2 Prizes will be given to the top 3 teams overall and to the top 3 Corinthian teams.
- 23.3 Prizes will be given to the top 3 teams in the Atlantic Coast Region.
- 23.4 Prizes will be given to the top 3 teams in the Gulf Coast Region.

24 DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

- 24.1 Competitors participate in the event entirely at their own risk. See RRS 3, Decision to Race. The OA will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the regatta.
- 24.2 Sailing is by its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event, each competitor and the responsible adult agree and acknowledges that:
- They are aware of the inherent element of risk involved in the sport and accept responsibility for the exposure of themselves and their boat to such inherent risk whilst taking part in the event;
 - They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore;
 - They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omission;
 - Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate;

- e) The provision of a race management team, patrol boats and other officials and volunteers by the event organizer does not relieve them of their own responsibilities;
- f) The provision of patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances.

25 MEDIA RIGHTS AND MEDIA VESSELS REGULATIONS

- 25.1 By participating in this event, competitors automatically grant to the OA and the event sponsors the right, in perpetuity, to make, use, and show, at their discretion, any photography, audio and video recording, and other reproductions of them made at the venue or on the water from the time of their arrival at the venue, until their final departure, without compensation.
- 25.2 All Press and official spectator boats shall be registered by the race organizing authority during registration.
- 25.3 Press and spectator vessels shall display any flag, or other identification symbol as may be required by the Race Committee.
- 25.4 The race organizers may appoint one or more photo vessels, which will be allowed within the race course. The position of these boats shall not be grounds for redress. *(This changes rule RRS 62.1)*
- 25.5 Press and spectator vessels shall not interfere with boats racing or the Regatta Direction in any way.

26 US SAILING RACING RULES APP

- 26.1 The US Sailing Racing Rules app is available for Apple and Android OS and can be downloaded at no cost.
- 26.2 US Sailing App download links:
Apple: [US Sailing Racing Rules on the Apple Store](#)
Android: [US Sailing Racing Rules - Apps on Google Play](#)
- 26.3 To get familiar with the app, there is a tutorial video on how to use the App that can be found here: [Videos - U.S. Sailing Racing Rules App \(c22sail.com\)](#)

28 KEY CONTACTS

REGATTA CHAIR

Name: Tom Pace

E-mail: tomracechair@gmail.com

PRINCIPAL RACE OFFICER (PRO)

Name: Hal Smith

Email: hal_smith@mindspring.com

REGATTA MARKETING & PUBLICITY

Name: Talbot Wilson

Email: talbot@talbotwilson.com

USMCA SE GOVERNOR

Name: Tony Stanley

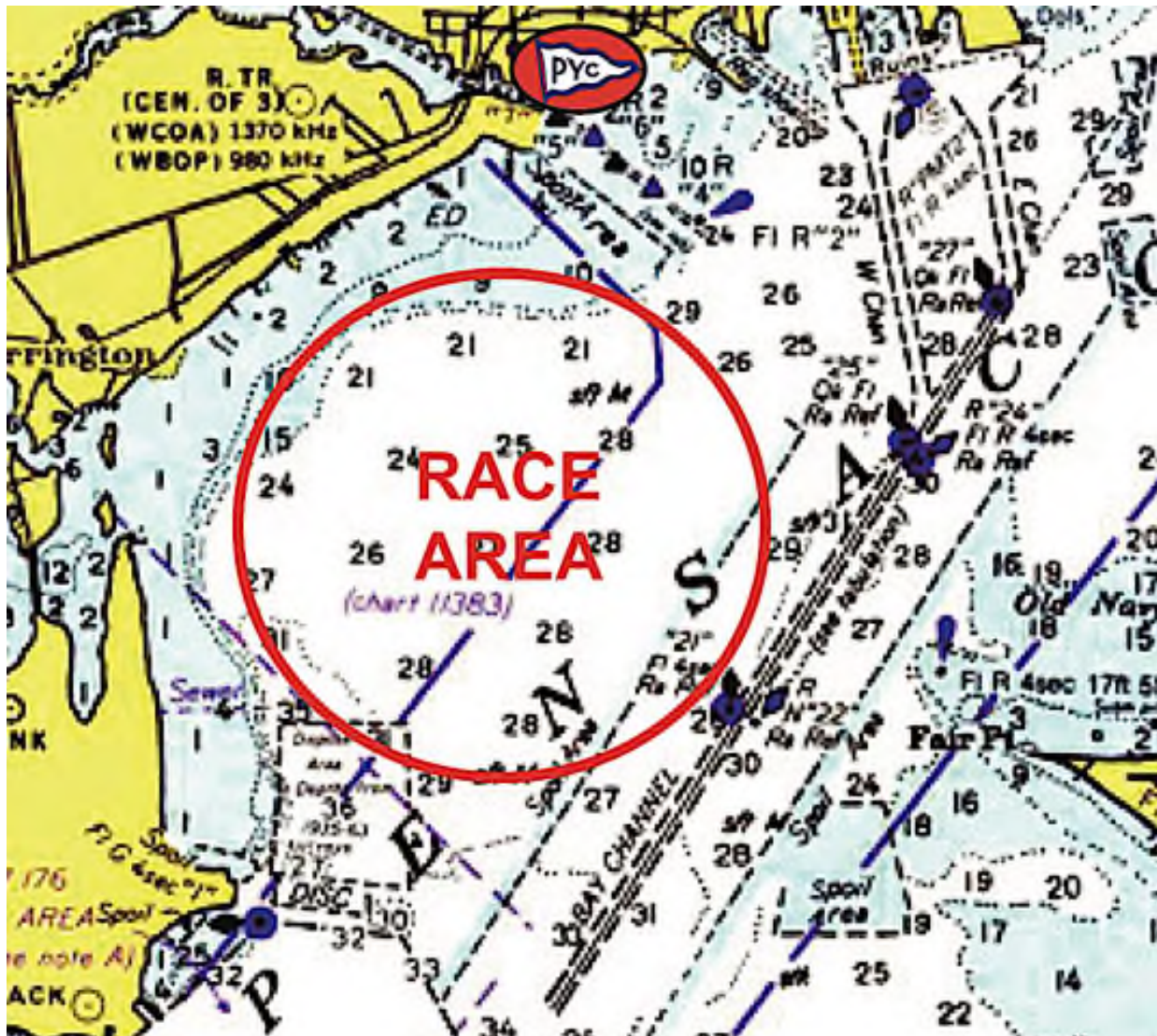
Email: tonystanley419@gmail.com



MELGES²⁴



2021 BUSHWHACKER & ATLANTIC & GULF COAST CHAMPIONSHIPS Attachment A – RACE AREA





2021 BUSHWHACKER & ATLANTIC & GULF COAST CHAMPIONSHIPS Attachment B - COURSE DIAGRAM



Pennant 4 / Course 4

Start – 1 – 1a – 2S/2P – 1 – 1a – Finish (Downwind)



Pennant 5 / Course 5

Start – 1 – 1a – 2S/2P – 1 – 1a – 2S/2P – Finish (Upwind)



MELGES²⁴



2021 BUSHWHACKER & ATLANTIC & GULF COAST CHAMPIONSHIPS Attachment C – COVID POLICY

September 30, 2021

The Bushwhacker Cup for the Atlantic Coast and Gulf Coast Championships is scheduled to take place in Pensacola, Florida. All events will be conducted in compliance with all Covid-19 protocols in place at the time of each event based on current state and Escambia County and City of Pensacola information. The Bushwhacker Cup will take place in Pensacola, Florida, USA on the dates scheduled as followed:

Friday Nov 12: Registration – Measurement, Practice Race, Dock Talk

Saturday Nov 13: Up to 5 Races followed by dock party

Sunday Nov 14: Up to 5 races followed by award ceremony/party

All events will be conducted in compliance with Covid-19 protocols in place at the time of each event. However, as these protocols are subject to change, competitors, coaches and race officials are requested to check the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website (<https://www.cdc.gov>) to ensure awareness of compliance with the latest restrictions and updates before finalizing their travel plans. Conditions differ for International and Domestic travellers, and information on the specific requirements is available via the links below:

- **International Travellers** – effective January 26, 2021, all passengers entering the USA are required by the CDC to provide proof of a negative Covid-19 test, regardless of vaccination. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/international-travel-during-covid19.html>
- **Domestic Travellers** - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-during-covid19.html>

Please be aware that whether your travel status is international or domestic, travel is not advised until you are fully vaccinated. All participants in the Bushwhacker Cup are **strongly encouraged to be fully vaccinated before arriving at the venue.**

The CDC guidelines advise travellers to follow all state and local requirements. The Pensacola economy is now fully open, with no capacity restrictions in place for most businesses and gatherings. Information for those traveling to Pensacola, whether from within the US or from another country, can be found on:

Florida Covid-19 Response website: <https://floridahealthcovid19.gov/travelers>

Institute for County Government website: <https://flicg.org/covid-19-by-county>

Guidance on the use of Covid-19 safety guidelines, including face coverings, as prescribed by Escambia County is available at: <https://myescambia.com/covid-19-information-for-escambia-county>

The Organizing Committee will make every effort to advise competitors of any changes to Covid-19 protocols as prescribed by the government and/or Miami-Dade County, but it is each competitor's responsibility to inform yourself of protocols and compliance.

For those who need to be tested before returning home, information on Testing Sites in Escambia County can be found at:

<https://myescambia.com/covid-19-information-for-escambia-county>

Whilst you are in Pensacola, if you think you have been exposed to Covid-19 please refer to:

<https://myescambia.com/covid-19-information-for-escambia-county>

Due to the covid-19 pandemic, a far-reaching entry ban has been in place for months in the USA. The protocols detailed above do not guarantee passage into the USA from abroad and your covid-19 vaccination status makes no difference. International travellers will be required to hold a National Interest Exception (NIE) which allows travel to the US for persons whose entry is of national interest. The NIE shall be sought from the US Embassy in the country from which you were granted a US visa or ESTA authorization. Approval of an NIE comes directly from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security via the US Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC) and US Sailing. You must secure your NIE well in advance of your anticipated travel date.