



**North Gulf Challenge 2023**  
**The St. Petersburg Yacht Club is the Organizing Authority**  
**Hosted by the St. Petersburg Yacht Club and the Pensacola Yacht Club**  
**March 19 to March 25, 2023**  
**Sailing Instructions**

**1. Rules:** The event will be governed by Current edition of the Racing Rules of Sailing, including the US Sailing Prescriptions for Monohulls (or Multihulls), and the 2022-2023 World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations Category 2, amended to read that each boat shall have sufficient fuel on board, at the start, for running 150 miles.

**1.1** This is a WFPHRF Category 1 Regatta amended to say that all classes may utilize electric and/or hydraulic winches, auto-pilots and wind vane steering.

**1.2** Between the hours of local sunset and local sunrise, Part 2 of the Racing Rules of Sailing will be replaced by Part B, the Steering and Sailing Rules, of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREGS), otherwise known as The Navigation Rules.

**1.3** An Inspector designated by the organizing committee may perform random inspections for compliance of the equipment.

**2. Notices to Competitors**

Notices to Competitors will be posted on the Official Notice Board on the Yacht Scoring (YS) Website.

**3. Changes in the Sailing Instructions**

A change in the Sailing Instructions will be posted on the YS Official Notice Board before 0700 on the day it will take effect.

**4. Signals Made Ashore**

Signals made ashore will be displayed from the flagstaff located on the east side of the SPYC clubhouse. When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 Minute' is replaced by 'not less than 60 minutes' in the race signal AP.

**5. Schedule of Races**

Sunday, March 19, 2023	1100	PHRF Cruiser Class	First Warning Signal
Monday, March 20, 2023	1100	PHRF Spinnaker & Multihull	First Warning Signal

**6. Classes, & Class Flags**

Spinnaker	Yellow Flag
Cruiser	Purple Flag

**7. Course:**

- \* Start will be off of the St. Petersburg Pier with a yellow tetrahedron as the start mark in the vicinity of 27° 46.410 N – 82° 37.225 W.
  - \* Southerly to “C” Cut Lower Range (Iso R 6s 56ft) leaving to starboard 27° 39.8 N – 082° 37.186 W
  - \* Southwesterly through the center three spans and associated fenders of the Skyway Bridge
  - \* Out the Southwest Channel, leaving Bell Buoy G”1” Fl G 2.5s to Starboard. 27° 32.329 N – 082° 48.592 W
  - \* Northwesterly to RW “T” MO (A) Recon (-) to Starboard 27° 35.307 N – 083° 00.684 W
  - \* North-North Westerly to Finish at Entrance to Pensacola Bay leaving G”1” Fl G 2.5s to Starboard. 30° 16.262 N – 08 ° 17.546 W
- \* Note: All Latitudes and Longitudes are approximate.

The course will not be shortened and the finishing line will not be moved. This changes RRS 32.1. The rated distance for this race is 325 nautical miles. This distance is not subject to protests or requests for redress.

## **8. The Start and Starting Line**

**8.1** The starting line will be between a staff bearing an orange flag on the race committee signal boat and the starting mark which will be a yellow tetrahedron.

**8.2** Before the first warning signal each boat shall sail past the stern of the signal boat and hail her name and sail number, which will be acknowledged. If unable to check in orally before the first warning signal, she shall hail the race committee signal boat on VHF channel 63 and state her position relative to the starting line.

**8.3** Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall stay clear of the starting area and of boats whose warning signal has been made.

**8.4** The race will be started in accordance with RRS 26.

**8.5** Order of starts is listed in SI #6.

**8.6.** The race committee may change the location of the starting line in response to certain weather conditions. It will display flag "L" and proceed to the new location. Should the race committee pass a mark or marks of the course enroute to the new location, that mark will be eliminated from the designated course. **The new starting line will then be between an orange flag on the race committee signal boat and a government mark.**

**8.7** If the starting line is moved, the rated distance of the race will be adjusted accordingly. The adjusted distance is not subject to protests or requests for redress. This changes RRS 62.

**8.8** A designated observer may announce all visual signals being displayed by the race committee on VHF Channel 63. Information reported by the designated observer is provided as a courtesy to competitors and does not in any way alter the competitor's responsibility to observe the race committee's signals that govern the conduct of the racing. Errors or omissions on the part of the designated observer will not be grounds for granting redress. This changes RRS 62.1 (a).

## **9. Recalls**

**9.1** The race committee signal boat will attempt to hail OCS Boats on VHF Channel 63. The delay of such a hail or failure of a competitor to hear such a hail will not be grounds for granting redress. This changes RRS 62.1(a)

**9.2** After a General Recall, the recalled class's next warning signal will be made after the first attempt to start all other classes. If there is more than one recalled class they will start in their original order.

## **10. The Finish**

**10.1** The finish line will be between a staff bearing a blue flag on the Race Committee Boat and the Entrance Mark to Pensacola Bay leaving G"1" Fl G 2.5s to Starboard. 30 ° 16.262 N - 087 ° 17.546 W.

If the Race Committee Boat is not on station at the time of finishing, each boat shall record her own finish time when she is within 0.1 nautical miles of the Entrance to Pensacola Bay leaving G"1" Fl G 2.5s to Starboard at a bearing of 090 degrees magnetic as described in the RRS 34, the US Sailing Prescriptions (using GPS Time). The skipper shall call the Race Committee on VHF Channel 63 as soon as possible after finishing with the vessel's finishing time. If unable to make contact via radio, Call George P. Pennington – 727-580-5431 or Beth Pennington – 727-992-3344. The Skipper must submit her finish time in writing to the Race Committee stationed at the Pensacola Yacht Club, no later than 8 hours after finishing. (\*Note: Be prepared to take your own time.)

## **11. Protests**

**11.1** A boat intending to file a protest shall notify the race committee on VHF Channel 16 immediately after finishing.

**11.2** Protest forms are available on lined on YS website. Protests shall be delivered to the race committee no later than 4 hours after the finishing time of the protesting yacht. This changes RRS 61.3 and 62.2.

**12. Scoring:** The low point Scoring System, RRS Appendix A will apply.

## **13. SAFETY**

**13.1** The safety of a boat and its crew is the sole and inescapable responsibility of the Skipper, who must ensure that the boat is fully sound, thoroughly seaworthy and manned by experienced crew who are physically fit. The Skipper of the boat must be satisfied as to the soundness of the hull, spars, rigging, sails and all gear, and must ensure all equipment is properly maintained and stowed, and that all aboard know where it is kept and how it is used.

**13.2** If a boat's engine is operated for propulsion while racing, the details of the operation shall be logged and reported to the race committee within the protest time.

**13.3** Boats withdrawing from the race shall notify the race committee by radio, satellite phone, or e-mail as soon as possible. Persons and numbers to contact: St. Petersburg Yacht Club 727-822-3873; race headquarters at the Pensacola Yacht Club #850-432-7006; Selga Sakss Cell #727-320-5177; George Pennington's Cell # 727-580-5431; Beth Pennington's Cell # 727-992-3344.

**13.4** If unable to contact regatta authorities, a boat shall notify the U.S. Coast Guard that it has withdrawn from the race and state its position and destination.

## **14. Communications**

**14.1** Each boat shall carry a transponder.

**14.2** From the time of their preparatory signal until they have finished or withdrawn from the race, competitors may not

receive weather, current or navigational information except by broadcast from a public source available to all competitors without charge. This restriction also applies to boat-to-boat transmissions, except for SI #8.8.

**14.3** General use of the Internet and publicly available web sites to obtain weather and Gulf of Mexico current information including National Weather Service data is permitted. Weather routing data developed specifically for the race may not be received while racing.

**14.4** Protests alleging infringement of SI Paragraph 14 shall only be initiated by the race committee. This changes RRS 60.1.

**15. Prizes** – There will be prizes for all classes

**16. Disclaimer of Liability**

Competitors participate in this regatta at their own risk. See RRS 3 “Decision to Race.” The organizing authority, the sponsors, the race committee, officers and board of directors of the SPYC, and all those involved in these organizations will not accept any responsibility for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during or after this regatta.

