

Conch Republic Cup 2017

January 22nd – February 3rd, 2017

Conch Republic Cup, Organizing Authority
Supported by Key West Community Sailing Center and
Hemingway International Yacht Club
Key West FL, Varadero & Havana Cuba

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

1 RULES

- 1.1 The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing*.
- 1.2 No national authority prescriptions will apply.
- 1.3 If there is a conflict between languages the English text will take precedence.

2 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

2.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice boards. If notices have been posted, code flag “L” will be flown at the location listed below to indicate that a notice has been posted. If subsequent notices are posted, a corresponding numeral pennant will be flown to indicate that a new notice has been posted. The location of the official notice board and flag pole for each venue are listed below:

Key West: Dante’s near the stage for the notice board, and the Conch Harbour Marina flag pole, located on the Dock immediately adjacent to Dantes for signals.

Varadero: To be announced as boats finish Michele Geslin Memorial (MGM) Cup.

Havana: Club Nautico back pavilion.

2.2 All notices will also be posted www.yachtscoring.com as internet availability permits.

3 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

3.1 Any amendments to the sailing instructions or Notice of Race will be posted on the official notice boards no later than 2100 hours on the day before they are to take effect.

3.2 Oral changes to the sailing instructions may be made on the water. If the race committee intends to provide oral changes, it shall display code flag “L” from the Signal boat and attempt to hail competitors on VHF channel International 68.

4 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

Signals made ashore will be displayed from the flagpoles described in section 2. When flag AP is displayed ashore, ‘1 minute’ is replaced with 120 minutes for all venues. If your boat is not within eyesight of the venue, the RC will announce any signals on VHF International 68 on the hour and half hour until the AP flag is dropped or Abandonment is signaled.

5 SCHEDULE

- 5.1 Sunday, Jan 22: 1000-1600 Check In and Opening of Race Village at Dante’s
1000-1600 Vendor’s will be set up for business.
1200-1500 KWCSA Exhibition Racing of Bic Open youth program (optional)

Monday, Jan. 23: 1000-1600 Registration and Race Village Open for Business (Dante's)
 1200-1500 KWCSA Exhibition Racing (optional locals race to be announced)
 1600 Skipper's Meeting (Dante's)
 1630-1830 Welcome Party at Dante's.

Tuesday, Jan. 24: 1700 – Start Race from Key West to Varadero.

Wednesday, Jan. 25: Arrive at Varadero.
 1700 Skippers' Meeting (location to be announced)
 1800 Cocktail and Appetizer Welcome Reception at Marina Gaviota.

Thursday, Jan. 26: 1700 Start Race from Varadero to Havana.

Friday, Jan. 27: Arrive at Hemingway.
 1700 Skippers' Meeting (location to be announced)
 1800 Welcome Reception at Hemingway International Yacht Club (HIYC).

Saturday, Jan. 28: Lay Day.

Sunday, Jan. 29: 1000 Castillo Del Morro Race & Parade along
 The Malecon.
 1800 Awards Party at HIYC.

Monday – Wednesday, Jan. 30 – Feb. 1: Lay Days.

Thursday, Feb. 2: 1700 Start Race from Havana to Key West.

Friday, Feb 3: Arrive in Key West.
 1800 Awards Party and Dinner at Dante's.

6 CLASS FLAGS

Classes will be assigned the following class flags:

Neon Green	PHRF "A"	(Spinnaker)
Medium Blue	PHRF "B"	(Non-Spinnaker)
White with "A"	Schooner	
Neon Pink	Multihull	

*Cuban Class may start in PHRF "B" or Multihull classes and be eligible for trophies.

7 RACING AREAS

STARTING:

7.1 The intended starting area for each distance race will be located in the vicinity of the following LAT/LONs:

Key West:	24°31.70N	81°49.20W	(Near Key West Channel mark G"9")
Varadero:	23°14.50N	81°09.00W	(West of Cayo Piedras del Norte)
Havana:	23°05.40N	82°30.50W	(Near mid-channel mark De Barlovento)

7.2 The intended starting area for the buoy race in Havana will be located in the vicinity of the following LAT/LONs:

Havana:	23°08.48N	82°24.75W
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FINISHING:

7.3 For the distance races, the finish line will be located in the vicinity of the following LAT/LON's:

Key West to Varadero:	23°15.10N	81°06.30W
Varadero to Havana:	23°05.40N	82°30.50W
Havana to Key West:	24°27.45N	81°48.00W

8 COURSES

- 8.1 For the buoy race in Havana, (Race details are pending approval from the Cuban authorities, and will be made available before the race.) Attachment A(to be posted) (Courses): Describes the course, the order in which marks are to be passed, and the side on which each mark is to be left.
- 8.2 The course to be sailed will be designated by numeral pennants flown from the race committee Signal boat.

9 MARKS

- 9.1 Starting marks will be a signal boat with an orange flag on the starboard end and a yellow tetrahedron on the port end.
- 9.2 Finishing marks will be a designated government mark, a yellow tetrahedron, or a signal boat with an orange flag (for the buoy race).
- 9.3 Rounding marks will be an orange tetrahedron or a designated government mark.

10 THE START

- 10.1 Races will be started by using RRS 26.
- 10.2 The starting line will be between the staff displaying an orange flag on the signal boat and the course side of the port end yellow tetrahedron.

11 THE FINISH

11.1

For the Key West to Varadero Race: The finishing line will be between the course side of the starboard end yellow tetrahedron and the Cabezo de Coral mark (FL G 5s).

For the Varadero to Havana Race: The finishing line will be between the course side of the yellow tetrahedron and Marina Hemmingway mid channel buoy (De Barlovento).

For the Havana to Key West Race: The finishing line will be between Key West Entrance Lighted Whistle buoy and Key West Main Channel Lighted Bell Buoy "2" (Red). This finish line may be crossed in either direction.

For the buoy race in Havana: The finishing line will be between the course side of a yellow tetrahedron and the staff displaying an orange flag on the signal boat.

11.2 For all distance races, competitors shall record their finish time (per 24 hour clock). The RC will be monitoring VHF channel International 68 between 0900-1000; 1300-1400 each day following a distance race to receive finish times. In addition, an envelope with finish time recording sheets will be available at all times in the cockpit of the signal boat displaying an RC flag. The competitor's finish time may be recorded on a sheet and left in an envelope designated for that purpose. Finish times must be received within one hour of the race time limit.

11.3 If the yellow tetrahedron finishing mark is missing at any finish, the finishing line is a line through the remaining mark at a 90 degree angle to the last leg of the buoy race or the rhumb line of the distance races and of the shortest practicable length.

12 TIME LIMITS AND TARGET TIMES

- 12.1 For the three distance races the time limit to finish is 22 hours. Boats not finishing within the time limit will be scored TLE (Time Limit Expired) without a hearing and will be assigned points equal to the number of boats sailing the course and finishing within the time limit plus 2 points. This changes RRS 35, A4 and A5.
- 12.2 For the buoy race (Castillo Del Morro Cup) the time limit to finish is 180 minutes. Boats not finishing within 60 minutes after the first boat in her division sails the course and finishes, and not thereafter retiring, being penalized or given redress, will be scored TLE (Time Limit Expired) without a hearing and will be assigned points equal to the number of boats sailing the course and finishing within the time limit plus 2 points. This changes RRS 35, A4 and A5.

13 PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

- 13.1 Protest forms will be available at the Regatta Table in the clubhouse or area announced at the Competitor's Meeting for that venue. Protests shall be delivered to the race committee representative at the Regatta Table within the protest time limit. The protest time limit shall be 90 minutes after the Race Committee signal boat returns to the dock for the buoy race or 60 minutes after the last boat to finish or the race time limit for the distance races. The return time will be posted on the Official Notice Board.
- 13.2 Notices will be posted within 30 minutes after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties.
- 13.3 Notices of protests by the race committee or jury will be posted to inform boats under rule 61.1(b).
- 13.4 Protest and Request for Redress Appeals for the races to and from Key West will be addressed to US Sailing. The race from Varadero to Havana and the Havana Buoy race will be addressed to the Cuban Sailing Federation. There are no National Prescriptions that apply to the RRS for neither the US Sailing nor the Cuban Sailing Federation jurisdictions. This changes RRS 88.1.

14 SCORING

- 14.1 The Low Point System of Appendix A will apply.
- 14.2 One completed race shall constitute a regatta.
- 14.3 Each boat's series score shall be the total of all race scores. This changes RRS A2.
- 14.4 Handicap adjusted scores will be computed with time on distance.
- 14.5 For the overall trophy, all boats shall have their scores computed as one overall fleet in each race per above and the best series score will be the overall winner.

15 SAFETY REGULATIONS

- 15.1 All boats are required to check in by VHF channel International 68 prior to each start when in the starting area. The RC will receive check-in hails from 1 hour prior to the start until 5 minutes prior to the first warning signal.
- 15.2 A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee as soon as possible.
- 15.3 Boats must maintain a watch on VHF channel International 68 at all times while racing.

16 REQUIRED EQUIPMENT AND SAFETY INSPECTION

16.1 All US Coast Guard safety equipment shall be required, and each boat shall be subject to inspection. Current pre-inspection certificates and stickers will be accepted and are encouraged. It is further recommended that each skipper review World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations for Category 3 races and prepare his boat with safety measures appropriate for offshore sailing. A link to these regulations is: <http://www.sailing.org/specialregs>

16.2 All boats shall have either a SPOT or Delorme In Reach and provide the URL information to organizing authority so it can be tracked on Kattack. This shall be the responsibility of the skipper.

17 DIVING EQUIPMENT AND PLASTIC POOLS

Underwater breathing apparatus and plastic pools or their equivalent shall not be used around keelboats between the preparatory signal of the first race and the end of the regatta.

18 RADIO COMMUNICATION

During the entire event, the race committee shall use International VHF channel 68 for communicating with the competitors. Except in an emergency, a boat shall neither make radio transmissions while racing nor receive radio communications not available to all boats. This restriction also applies to mobile telephones.

19 PRIZES

19.1 Trophies will be given to the top three finishers in each division for each race.

19.2 The Conch Republic Cup Trophy will be presented for the best score overall for all races between all competitors.

20 DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. See rule 4, Decision to Race. The organizing authority 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.

21 INSURANCE

Conch Republic Cup is not requiring vessel insurance to participate in the race week. Conch Republic Cup is also not accepting any liability for any participant or their equipment. All participants will be signing a release of liability waiver prior to racing.

22 CLEAN REGATTA

We are proud to announce that we have joined the race to restore ocean health with Sailors for the Sea's Clean Regattas program. Protecting our local waters is very important to this regatta and we ask for your help in this effort. The ocean, lakes and rivers of our planet are in crisis with plastic pollution, oil spills, and marine debris threatening marine wildlife and human health. To learn more about this initiative visit www.sailorsforthesea.org

We ask for your help on the following items:

- Ensuring recycling and trash is separated properly before disposing of waste
- Switch your team over to reusable water bottles
- Place an oil absorbent pad in your bilge
- Ensure that your head is secured and observe the no discharge rule

23 TELEVISION AND PHOTOGRAPHER'S RIGHTS

Competitors give absolute right and permission for any photographs or video footage taken of themselves or their competing boat to be published in any media whatsoever; for either editorial or advertising purposes, or to be used in press information.