

St Petersburg Sailing Association

2017-2018 Race Series

September 9, 2017 to April 28, 2018

Tampa Bay off St Petersburg, FL

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

1. RULES

All races will be governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing*.

2. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

Notices to competitors will originate from the race committee boat. The order of starts and courses to be sailed will be posted (and may be announced on VHF Channel 72) at least 10 minutes prior to the warning signal for the first class.

3. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

A printed copy of the sailing instructions is available in the 2017-2018 St Petersburg Sailing Association Membership Directory & Sailing Instructions Booklet, which is distributed to all SPSA members and available on request to all competitors.

Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted on the race committee boat at least 10 minutes prior to the warning signal for the first class. The race committee may also communicate on VHF Channel 72.

4. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

There will be no signals made ashore.

5. SCHEDULE OF RACES

5.1 Dates of racing:

For spinnaker and cruiser classes:

Saturday, September 9, 2017 *Race 1 (1400 Start)*

Saturday, October 21, 2017 *Race 2*

Saturday, November 11, 2017 *Race 3*

Saturday, December 9, 2017 *Race 4*

Saturday, January 20, 2018 *Race 5*

Saturday, February 24, 2018 *Race 6*

Saturday, March 17, 2018 *Race 7*

Saturday, April 28, 2018 *Race 8*

5.2 Number of races: There will be one race for each class.

5.3 The scheduled time of the warning signal for each race is 10:55 AM except as noted.

5.4 To alert boats that a race or sequence of races will begin soon, the orange starting line flag will be displayed with one sound at least five minutes before a warning signal is made.

6. CLASS FLAGS

The SPSA flag will serve as the class flag for all classes.

7. RACING AREAS

The racing area is in Tampa Bay east of St Petersburg; see Appendix A.

8. THE COURSES

8.1 The diagrams in Appendix A show the courses, including the approximate angles between legs, the order in which marks are to be passed, the side on which each mark is to be left, and the approximate length of each course.

8.2 No later than the warning signal, the race committee signal boat will display the approximate compass bearing of the first leg.

9. MARKS

SPSA marks are identified by letter designation; see Appendix 2. Determining the exact location of government marks used in any race is the responsibility of each competitor.

10. AREAS THAT ARE OBSTRUCTIONS

The following areas are designated as obstructions: the construction zone of the St Petersburg pier.

11. THE START

11.1 The starting line will be between an orange flag displayed on the committee boat and an inflatable mark or an SPSA mark.

11.2 The Race Committee boat will display an "L" flag when it is prepared to check in competitors. Communicating the boat name, sail number, class and any modifications to the normal rating constitute check in, which is mandatory.

11.3 Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area during the starting sequence for other races.

11.4 A boat starting later than 30 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes rule A4.

12. CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

The course may be shortened at any mark of the course. The orange flag on the committee boat will be replaced by an "S" flag and the committee boat will sound two short sounds.

13. THE FINISH

13.1 The finishing line will be between an orange flag displayed on the committee boat and an inflatable mark or an SPSA mark.

13.2 If the race committee is absent when a boat finishes, she should report her finishing time, and her position in relation to nearby boats, to the race committee at the first reasonable opportunity.

14. TIME LIMITS AND TARGET TIMES

Boats failing to finish within 60 minutes after the first boat in their class sails the course and finishes will be scored Did Not Finish without a hearing. This changes rules 35, A4 and A5.

15. PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

15.1 Protest forms are available at the www.spsa.us website and from the Race Committee. Protests and requests for redress or reopening shall be delivered to the Vice Commodore or, if unavailable, to an SPSA Flag Officer within the appropriate time limit.

15.2 For each class, the protest time limit is 2 hours after the last boat has finished the last race of the day or the race committee signals no more racing today, whichever is later.

15.3 Notification will be sent by text or email no later than midnight of the day of the race to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Hearings will be held at the St Petersburg Sailing Center, beginning at 1930 on the Thursday following the race, unless all parties agree to another time.

17. SCORING

17.1 The scoring system is as follows:

- (a) The World Sailing International Empirical Handicap Scheme for Yachts will be used.
- (b) This scoring system is described in <http://www.sailing.org/38243.php>.
- (c) Crew skill factors will not be used in determining ratings.
- (d) Scoring will be based on the Low Point System as defined by US Sailing in The Racing Rules of Sailing for 2017 - 2020, Appendix A.
- (e) A boat must participate in at least 4 races to qualify for season awards.

17.2 Four races are required to be completed to constitute a series

17.3

- (a) When fewer than 5 races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores.
- (b) When from 5 to 8 races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.

18. SAFETY REGULATIONS

18.1 All boats shall check in with the Race Committee before the start of the race. Check in may be accomplished by hailing or by VHF radio on Channel 72

18.2 All boats shall monitor VHF Channels 16 and 72 during the race.

18.3 A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee as soon as possible.

20. EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with class rules and sailing instructions. On the water, a boat can be instructed by a race committee equipment inspector or measurer to proceed immediately to a designated area for inspection.

24. TRASH DISPOSAL

No competitor shall throw or drop any refuse overboard.

25. 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.

26. RADIO COMMUNICATION

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. VHF Channel 72 will be used for communications with the race committee.

27. PRIZES

28.1 Prizes will be given as follows:

Annual prizes for the SPSA Series will be given for each class based on the number of qualifying boats in that class:

- 1 boat - 1st Place
- 2 boats - 1st Place and 2nd Place
- 3 or more boats - 1st Place, 2nd Place, and 3rd Place

28.2 The following annual, perpetual trophies will be awarded:

The Clint and Tony Johnson Memorial Trophy will be awarded to the winner of the Spinnaker class.

The Frank Venezia Trophy will be awarded to the winner of the Cruiser class.

28. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. See rule 4, Decision to Race. The St Petersburg Sailing Association will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the regattas.

29. INSURANCE

Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance.