



SAILING INSTRUCTIONS
2024 Off the Wall Regatta
January 28, 2024
St. Petersburg Sailing Association
St. Petersburg, Florida

1. RULES

SPSA's Off The Wall race shall be governed by the current US Sailing Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) and these Sailing Instructions.

2. ELIGIBILITY

This event is open to any single-hulled sailboat eligible for a West Florida PHRF (WFPHRF) rating. If you don't have a WFPHRF, you can request a provisional rating from SPSA.

3. RACE DESCRIPTION

This race will be a "pursuit" race. Each boat's start time will be based on "Time on Distance" adjustment using PHRF ratings and the distance of the course to be sailed. A boat's finish place is determined by the order of their finish in their class.

4. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

Notices to competitors will be posted on the SPSA website and may be distributed by email. Additionally, notices may be made via VHF Channel 72 on the day of the race.

5. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

No changes to the Sailing Instructions are anticipated. Any changes to the Sailing Instructions will be posted on the website and announced on VHF (Channel 72) on the day of the race. No changes to the sailing instruction will be made after 10:00A AM - one hour before the scheduled first start.

6. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

There will be no signals made ashore.

7. SCHEDULE OF RACE

This race is scheduled for Sunday January 28, 2024. The scheduled time of the first warning signal for this race is 10:55 AM. The first start will be 11:00 AM. There is one race scheduled for this event.

8. CLASS FLAGS

No class flag will be displayed.

9. RACING AREA

The start and finish will be in the vicinity of government mark "G3"; the sailing area will be in Middle Tampa Bay

10. THE COURSE

The course to be sailed will be set based on weather conditions. The distance and approximate bearing to each mark will be provided, however, determining the exact location of any marks used in the 2024 Off The Wall race is the responsibility of each competitor.

The course will be posted on the SPSA website no later than 6:00 PM on Saturday, January 27, 2024.

11. MARKS

The SPSA 2024 Off the Wall Race will use government marks.

12. AREAS THAT ARE OBSTRUCTIONS

The St. Petersburg Pier is designated as an obstruction.

13. THE START

The starting line will be in the vicinity of "G3". The starting time for each boat will be posted on the SPSA website, no later than 6:00 PM on Saturday January 27, 2024

To start properly, at the boat's given start time, the boat must:

1. Be behind a line between an orange flag on the committee boat and Government Mark "G3" and
2. Must cross that line between an orange flag on the committee boat and Government Mark "G3".
3. Boats not imminently starting shall avoid the starting area.

14. THE FINISH

The finish will be at "G3". To properly finish a boat must cross the line between "G3" and the committee boat. The finish time for each boat will be recorded by the Race Committee.

15. PENALTIES

RRS 44.2 is modified so that one 360° turn satisfies the rule.

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 (DNF) without a hearing. This change rules 35, A4, and A5.

16. PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

Protests are discouraged. In the case of damage or an egregious foul, a protest may be filed. The protesting boat shall immediately hail the fleet on VHF channel 72 and announce their protest - who they are protesting and why. Protest forms are available at the SPSA website (www.spsa.us) or from any SPSA officer. 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. For each class, the protest time limit is 2 hours after the last boat has finished the last race of the day. 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 or another appropriate venue, beginning at 19:30 on the Thursday following the race, unless all parties agree to another time.

17. SCORING

This race is a "pursuit" race. Each boat is given a start time specific to that boat. The boat's start time is calculated based on "Time on Distance" adjustment using PHRF ratings and the distance of the course to be sailed. A boat's finish place is determined by the order of their finish in their class.

18. SAFETY REGULATIONS

All boats shall monitor VHF Channels 16 and 72 during the race. A boat choosing to retire from the race shall make a general announcement on VHF -Channel 72 to the fleet to inform the fleet that they are retiring from the race.

19. EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with class rules and sailing instructions.

20. TRASH DISPOSAL

Competitors shall not throw or drop any refuse overboard. Failure to properly dispose of refuse will result in disqualification from the race.

21. 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.

22. 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 fleet.

23. PRIZES

Awards will be given for each class based on the number of qualifying boats in that class as follows:

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

24. 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 before, during, or after the regattas.

25. INSURANCE

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