



SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

2024 Commodore's Cup

St. Petersburg Sailing Association

St. Petersburg, Florida

1. RULES

SPSA's Commodore's Cup 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 or multi-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 run by a race committee over a course based on SPSA's standard government marks. The course will be announced by the race committee prior to the first warning signal. All boats within a class will start at the same time, and boats will be scored based on PHRF handicap rating.

4. 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 visually on the boat (and may be announced as a courtesy on VHF Channel 72) at least 10 minutes prior to the warning signal for the first class. All verbal communication between the race committee and competitors on the day of the race will be over VHF Channel 72.

5. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

No changes to the Sailing Instructions are anticipated. Changes to the sailing instructions made prior to 1800 the evening before the race will be posted on the website with an email notification to

registered competitors. Changes made after this time will be announced via email and on VHF (Channel 72) on the day of the race. No changes to the sailing instruction will be made after 10:00 AM - one hour before the scheduled first start.

6. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

There will be no signals made ashore.

7. SCHEDULE OF RACES

The event will consist of one (1) race. The first warning signal is scheduled to be issued within 10 minutes of 11:00 AM local time on Saturday, March 2, 2024.

8. CLASS FLAGS

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

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 east of the St Pete Pier.

10. THE COURSE

The course to be sailed will be determined by the race committee on the day of the race. The course will be posted as described in Section 3 (Notices To Competitors).

11. MARKS

The course will use SPSA's standard government marks. These marks are described in the member handbook and are additionally provided in Appendix 1.

12. AREAS THAT ARE OBSTRUCTIONS

The St. Petersburg Pier is designated as an obstruction.

13. THE START

The starting line will be between an orange flag displayed on the committee boat and the government mark "G3".

The Race Committee boat will display an "L" flag when it is prepared to check in competitors. Checking in with the race committee is mandatory. Each competitor shall communicate the boat name, sail number, class and any modifications to the boat's normal rating. Check in can be performed by hailing the race committee on VHF Channel 72.

Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area and racecourse

during the starting sequence for other classes.

A boat starting later than 30 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start (DNS) without a hearing. This changes rule RRS A5.

14. THE FINISH

The finish will be between an orange flag displayed on the committee board and the government mark "G3". To properly finish a boat must:

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.

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 by midnight of the race day. Notification will be sent by text or email no later than midnight of the day following 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

Each boat's finish time will be recorded by the race committee and adjusted via "Time on Distance" adjustment using PHRF ratings and the distance of the racecourse. A boat's finish place is determined by their adjusted time. Boats should additionally record their own finish time to independently verify posted scores.

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 US Sailing Rule 3, 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.

APPENDIX 1 SPSA Marks

(Degrees & Decimal Minutes)

Mark	Latitude	Longitude
Pier	27 46.41	82 36.73
G1	27 47.58	82 35.23
G3	27 45.97	82 36.57
S	27 45.53	82 36.69
Front G	27 47.58	82 35.23
Rear K	27 47.95	82 34.93
5G	27 47.27	82 33.35
Little J	27 45.88	82 34.34
Big J	27 45.05	82 34.33

Useful information; a locator map, images, bearings and distances between marks; can be found in the SPSA Members Directory and on the SPSA web site (www.SPSA.us).