

**THISTLE MIDWINTERS EAST REGATTA**  
**Fort Walton Beach, FL <sup>SEP</sup> March 3<sup>rd</sup>– March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023**  
**Organizing Authority: Thistle Class Association & the Fort Walton**  
**Yacht Club**

**SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

**1. RULES**

- 1.1. The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in the current Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) and the Thistle Class Rules.
- 1.2. The US Sailing prescriptions to 63.1 and 63.2 do not apply.
- 1.3. RRS 63.7 shall be replaced by, "If there is a conflict between the Notice of Race and the Sailing Instructions (SI's), the Sailing Instructions shall apply." This changes RRS 63.7.
- 1.4. Bow numbers will be supplied and installed by the OA

**2. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS**

- 2.1. Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located at <https://yachtscoring.com/emenu.cfm?eID=15527> and will also be posted on the back porch of FWYC.

**3. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

- 3.1. Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted by 0900 on the day it will take effect.
- 3.2. Any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 1900 on the day before it will take effect.

**4. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE**

- 4.1. Signals made ashore will be displayed at the flagpole on the west lawn of FWYC.
- 4.2. If a postponement is signaled ashore, the warning signal will be made not less than 60 minutes after Flag AP is lowered. This changes Race Signals "AP."

**5. SCHEDULE OF RACES**

- 5.1. Thursday March 2<sup>nd</sup>  
1300-1630 Registration and Competitor Check in
- Friday March 3<sup>rd</sup>  
0900 Competitors briefing  
1000 Warning, 1<sup>st</sup> race of the day
- Saturday March 4<sup>th</sup>  
0900 Competitors briefing  
1000 Warning, 1<sup>st</sup> race of the day
- Sunday March 5<sup>th</sup>  
0900 Competitors briefing  
1000 Warning, 1<sup>st</sup> race of the day
- 5.2. The RC may run as many as three races per day.
- 5.3. 9 races are scheduled. Three races are required to constitute a regatta.

## **6. CLASS FLAG**

6.1. The class flag will be a Thistle Class pennant.

## **7. RACING AREA**

7.1. The racing area will be on Choctawhatchee Bay east of the yacht club.

## **8. COURSES**

8.1. SI addendum 1 shows the course designations and the order in which marks are to be passed.

8.2. The course, bearing and the approximate distance to Mark W will be displayed from the RC signal boat and announced on VHF Channel 72.

## **9. MARKS**

9.1. Marks W and O will be an orange tetrahedron and orange ball respectively. Marks LS, LP, (gate marks) will be yellow MarkSetBots, and R will be a large Orange inflatable. The finish pin will be a Green MarkSetBot. If the weather mark changes, the new mark will be a Yellow tetrahedron and an orange ball for the offset mark.

## **10. THE START**

10.1. The starting line will be between the staff displaying an orange flag on the RC signal boat and a staff displaying an orange flag on the pin end boat.

10.2. At least five minutes prior to the warning signal of a race, the RC will hoist its orange starting line flags with a sound signal.

10.3. The RC signal boat will, after the starting signal, attempt to hail the sail or bow number of boats who are OCS on VHF Channel 72. The delay of such a hail, the order of the hail or the failure of a competitor to hear such a hail, shall not be grounds for granting redress; this changes RRS 62.1(a).

## **11. CHANGING THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE**

11.1. To change the next leg of the course, the race committee will change the position of the next mark as soon as practicable in accordance with RRS 33.

11.2. The angle of the gate may be adjusted without making any signals. This changes RRS RACE SIGNALS.

11.3. The race committee can change a mark by up to 10 degrees or .1 nm without signaling a change. Such change will be announced over VHF 72. This changes RRS 33.

## **12. THE FINISH**

12.1. The finishing line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the RC finish boat and the course side of the nearby finishing mark. This changes RRS RACE Signals.

## **13. TIME LIMITS**

13.1. A boat starting later than 4 minutes after her starting signal will be scored DNS without a hearing. This changes A4 and A5.

13.2. The time limit is 90 minutes for the first boat to complete the course as required by RRS 28.

13.3. Boats failing to finish within twenty (20) minutes after the first boat in a race sails the course and finishes will be scored TLE "Time Limit Expired" and will receive points for their finishing place plus one more than the last boat to finish, but not worse than DNF. This instruction changes rule 35, 63.1, A4, and A5.

#### **14. PROTESTS**

- 14.1. RRS 44.1 is changed so that the Two-Turns Penalty is replaced by the One-Turn Penalty (Appendix V1 applies).
- 14.2. A boat intending to protest about an incident that occurs in the racing area shall notify the finish boat of her intention, including the sail or bow number of the boat being protested. This changes RRS 61.
- 14.3. Protest forms are available in the vicinity of the Jury desk at the FWYC.
- 14.4. The protest time limit will be posted on the official online notice board.
- 14.5. Protests shall be delivered to a protest committee representative at the FWYC within 45 minutes of the posted docking time of the race committee finish boat.
- 14.6. A boat that takes a penalty or retires under rule 44.1 shall provide the information required on the penalty acknowledgement form posted on the jury desk within the protest time limit. This changes RRS 44.1
- 14.7. The protest notices required by RRS 63.2, and the notification of protests by the RC or the protest committee required by RRS 61.1(b), will be posted on the official notice board as soon as possible after a protest has been delivered, but not later than 15 minutes after the protest time limit.

#### **15. REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT**

- 15.1. Substitution of crews will not be permitted without the prior written approval of the Chief Measurer. Substitution of skippers amongst the crew registered for the boat is permitted with prior written approval of the Chief Measurer.
- 15.2. The same boat, and equipment shall be used throughout the regatta. Boats will be allowed to use two mainsails, two jibs and one spinnaker throughout the regatta. Substitutions will not be permitted without the prior written approval of the Chief Measurer.

#### **16. SCORING**

- 16.1. The Low Point System of RRS Appendix A will apply, except that no race score will be excluded from a boat's series score. This changes RRS Appendix A2.

#### **17. SAFETY REGULATIONS**

- 17.1. Before the first race of each day competitors shall check in by hailing their sail numbers until acknowledged by the RC.
- 17.2. Only the RC may protest alleged breaches of this sailing instruction. This changes RRS 60.1.
- 17.3. A boat that retires from a race shall notify the RC prior to leaving the racing area. If this is not possible, she shall notify the Safety Coordinator, located in the FWYC office upon arriving ashore.

#### **18. RADIO COMMUNICATION**

- 18.1. The RC will monitor VHF channel 72 for competitor emergencies.
- 18.2. The following additional stipulations apply to the Thistle Class Association's Chief Measurer's Rulings 65 and 74: VHF radios may be utilized to monitor the weather channels at any time. The RC may communicate safety or race related information on channel 72. Competitors are encouraged to monitor the safety channel throughout the race. Communication between competitors regarding any race information not related to safety is expressly prohibited.

## **19. ON THE WATER COACHING**

On the water coaching by Greg Fisher will be permitted per TCA Bylaw X paragraph 3b which states "A coach boat, approved by the Executive Committee or by a regatta Organizing Authority designated by the Executive Committee may provide coaching to a wide range of competitors to enhance all competitors' enjoyment of the event."

## **20. PRIZES**

20.1. Prizes will be awarded as per the NOR.

## **21. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY**

21.1. Competitors participate in this regatta at their own risk. See RRS 3, Decision to Race. The Fort Walton Yacht Club, Thistle Class Association, sponsors, race committee, Officers and board of directors of FWYC, and all those involved in these organizations will not accept Liability/Responsibility for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during and after this regatta.

## **22. CONTACT INFORMATION**

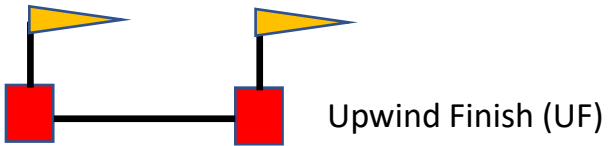
**PRO** Mark Foster 361-816-9801 [mfoster1053@gmail.com](mailto:mfoster1053@gmail.com)

**Chief Judge** Jerry Thompson 252-560-1546 [trimsails@gmail.com](mailto:trimsails@gmail.com)

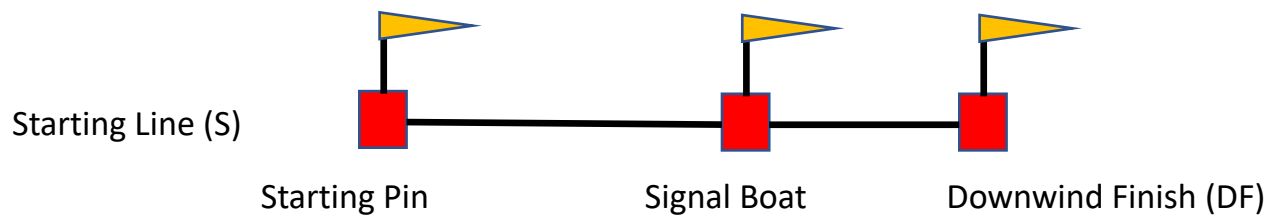
# SI Addendum 1 – Course Chart

Offset Mark (O)   Weather Mark (W)

Reaching Mark (R) 



Leeward Gate (L)  



- Course 1 – W-O-LS/LP-W-O-LS/LP-UF
- Course 2 – W-O-LS/LP-W-R-LS-UF
- Course 3 – W-O-LS/LP-W-O-DF