

THISTLE CLASS ASSOCIATION 2023 MIDWINTERS EAST CHAMPIONSHIP



**March 3 – March 5, 2023
Fort Walton Yacht Club
Fort Walton Beach, FL**

NOTICE OF RACE

Organizing Authority: The 2023 Midwinters East Championship Regatta is organized by the Thistle Class Association (TCA) in conjunction with the Fort Walton Yacht Club (FWYC).

1. RULES

- 1.1 The regatta is governed by the rules as defined in the *Racing Rules of Sailing* and the *Thistle Class Rules*.
- 1.2 As allowed by RRS88.2, the US Sailing prescriptions to RRS 60 and 63.2 do not apply.
- 1.3 RRS63.7 shall be replaced by, "If there is a conflict between the Notice of Race (NOR) and the Sailing Instructions (SIs), the Sailing Instructions shall apply." This changes RRS 63.7.

2. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Sailing Instructions will be available at <https://yachtscoring.com/emenu.cfm?eID=15527>, and the FWYC registration desk no later than Thursday 2 March, 2023 at 1700 hrs. To conduct a greener regatta, printed paper copies of the SI's will only be available upon request.

3. RADIO COMMUNICATION

The RC may transmit via VHF radio information concerning safety, OCS boats, and general information to assist in the management of the event. Except in an emergency, a boat that is racing shall not make or receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats. VHF Channel will be available in the sailing instructions.

4. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

- 4.1 The event is open to all competitors who meet the Thistle Class Association eligibility requirements. Skippers may race a borrowed or chartered Thistle as long as the boat is registered with the class.
- 4.2 Eligible boats must register by completing the entry form at <https://yachtscoring.com/emenu.cfm?eID=15527> and paying the required fees.
- 4.3 Competitors' check in will be held on Thursday, March 2 in the FWYC Castaway Room from 1300 - 1630.

5. FEES

- 5.1 Registration Fee: \$300. Registration fee includes 3 tickets to the Welcome Social and Banquet.
- 5.2 Additional Welcome Social tickets are \$25 and Banquet tickets are \$48 per person.

6. ADVERTISING

- 6.1 Boats may be required to display advertising which will be supplied by the Organizing Authority (OA).

7. SCHEDULE

Wednesday, Mar 1	1300 – 1700 Coach TCA and Tuning
Thursday, Mar 2	1000 - 1030 Coach TCA 1300 – 1600 Team Racing 1700 – 1800 Skippers Meeting 1800 – 1930 Welcome Social at Club
Friday, Mar 3	0830 – 0900 Coach TCA 1000 Racing 1600 – 1700 Coach TCA Daily Recap
Saturday, Mar 4	0830 – 0900 Coach TCA 1000 Racing 1600 – 1700 Coach TCA Daily Recap 1800 – 2100 Social Banquet Offsite
Sunday, Mar 5	0830 – 0900 Coach TCA 1000 Racing After Racing - Awards

7.1 The RC may adjust the race schedule to suit weather conditions.

7.2 On the last scheduled day of racing, no warning signal will be made after 1400.

8. MEASUREMENT

8.1 Each boat shall have a valid measurement certificate and be registered with the TCA.

9. VENUE

9.1 The Regatta will be held at:
The Fort Walton Yacht Club
180 Ferry Road NE
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548
Tel: 850-243-7102

9.2 Races will be sailed on Choctawhatchee Bay

9.3 Housing: Tent camping only at point. Local hotel information is available at <https://www.thistleclass.com/events/thistle-midwinters-east-2023/>.

- 10. THE COURSES**
10.1 The courses to be sailed will be windward-leeward or windward-leeward-triangle and will be described in the sailing instructions.
- 11. PENALTY SYSTEM**
11.1 A boat that takes a penalty or retires under RRS 44 shall sign the acknowledgement form posted in the vicinity of the official notice board within the protest time limit.
- 12. SCORING**
12.1 The series scores for boats will be the total of all their race scores, with no races excluded.
- 13. SUPPORT BOATS**
13.1 Support Boats shall be registered and marked with an OA supplied identifier.
- 14. DRY SAIL AREA**
14.1 Dry sail spaces will be assigned for all competitors and be available beginning Monday Feb 27. For arrival before the 27th please contact the Regatta Chairman to make arrangements.
- 15. RISK STATEMENT**
RRS 3 states: 'The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue to race is hers alone.' By participating in this event each competitor agrees and acknowledges that sailing is a potentially dangerous activity with inherent risks. These risks include strong winds and rough seas, sudden changes in weather, failure of equipment, boat handling errors, poor seamanship by other boats, loss of balance on an unstable platform and fatigue resulting in increased risk of injury.
- 16. INSURANCE**
Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum value of \$100,000 USD. Competing teams must show proof of insurance at Registration.
- 17. AWARDS**
17.1 Trophies will be awarded for first through fourth place. Perpetual MWE trophies will also be awarded.
17.2 Other awards will be made at the discretion of the Organizing Authority.

18. FURTHER INFORMATION

For any questions or further information, please contact John D. Farris, Regatta Chairman at FleetCaptain@FWYC.org or by calling 850-305-9653, Tommy Glenn at tbglen@gmail.com or 256-508-4636.