



**THISTLE CLASS ASSOCIATION
2011 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP
JULY 30 - AUGUST 5, 2011
PENSACOLA YACHT CLUB
Pensacola, Florida
SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**



1 RULES

The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in the *Racing Rules of Sailing, 2009-2012 Edition* (RRS), the prescriptions of the United States Sailing Association, and the Thistle Class Association Constitution, By-Laws, and Specifications (Class Rules). In case of conflict between the Notice of Race and the Sailing Instructions, the Sailing Instructions shall prevail. This changes RRS 63.7.

2 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located on the southeast corner of the PYC sailing center exterior wall.

3 CHANGES IN SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any change in the sailing instructions will be posted before 0900 on the day it will take effect, except that 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 from the PYC flagpole.

4.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, « 1 minute » is replaced with « not less than 30 minutes » in Race Signals AP. This changes Race Signals.

5 SCHEDULE OF RACES

5.1 Racing is scheduled as follows:

Date	Warning	Race
Sunday, July 31	1200	Welcome Ceremony
	1230	Skippers Meeting
	1430	Tune-up race
Monday, August 1	1155	Races 1 & 2
Tuesday, August 2	1155	Race 3
Wednesday, August 3	1155	Championship Races 4 & 5, President Races 1 & 2
Thursday, August 4	1155	Championship Race 6, President Race 3
Friday, August 5	1155	Championship Race 7, President Race 4

The Race Committee may adjust the race schedule to suit weather conditions.

No warning signal will be made after 1530 on Friday for any race in the Championship Series.

6 DIVISION OF THE FLEET

6.1 For the tune-up race, the fleet will be split according to sail number. Division 1 will be comprised of boats with odd-numbered sails. Division 2 will be comprised of boats with even-numbered sails.

6.2 For the qualifying races (races 1–3), the fleet will be split into four groups in accordance with the Class Rules. Each boat shall attach a colored streamer indicating its assigned group to the clew of its mainsail, as follows:

Group A - Green Streamer
Group C - Blue Streamer

Group B - Purple Streamer
Group D - Red Streamer

Group assignments will be posted on the official notice board no later than 1900 on Sunday, July 31, 2011

6.3 For races 1 – 3, the assignment of groups into divisions will be:

Race #	Division I	Division II
1	A (Green) and B (Purple)	C (Blue) and D (Red)
2	A (Green) and C (Blue)	B (Purple) and D (Red)
3	B (Purple) and C (Blue)	A (Green) and D (Red)

For races 4-7, the fleet will be divided into the Championship and President's Divisions in accordance with the Class Rules. Division assignments will be posted on the official notice board as soon as practical following the completion of Race 3. Thereafter, boats in the Championship Division shall remove their streamers; while boats in the President's Division shall continue to fly their streamers.

7 CLASS FLAGS

Class flags will be:

Flag	Qualifying Races (Races 1 – 3)	Championship Races (Races 4 – 7)
Pink	Division I	Championship Division
Purple	Division II	President's Division

8 RACING AREA

The racing area will be on Pensacola Bay in the area approximately 1.5 miles east of PYC.

9 THE COURSES

- 9.1 The diagrams on Attachment A show the courses, including the approximate angles between legs, the order in which marks are to be passed, and the side on which each mark is to be rounded.
- 9.2 The distance between Marks 1 and 3 will be between 1.0 and 1.3 nautical miles. The starting line will be located approximately 0.2 to 0.3 miles downwind of Mark 3. The distance between Marks 1 and 1 (a) will be approximately 100 feet.
- 9.3 No later than the warning signal, the race committee signal boat will display the course to be sailed and the approximate compass bearing from the start to Mark 1. The letter "E" will designate course E and the letter "R" will designate course R.
- 9.4 A gate will be used at the end of the 5th leg of the course. The gate will be located approximately 0.1 mile downwind of Mark 3. Boats shall sail between the gate marks from the direction of the previous mark and round either gate mark. When a gate is used, Mark 3 will not be a mark of the course on legs 5 or 6. If one of the gate marks is missing, boats shall round the one existing mark to port.
- 9.5 Boats shall not pass through the finishing line except when finishing or attempting to finish. RRS 28.1 is changed to provide that a boat breaking this rule may not exonerate itself.
- 9.6 Courses will not be shortened. This changes RRS 32.

10 MARKS

- 10.1 Marks 1, 2 and 3 will be large orange tetrahedrons. The Offset Mark will be a small inflatable orange ball
- 10.2 A new mark, as provided in instruction 14, will be a large yellow tetrahedron.
- 10.3 The starting mark will be a boat displaying an orange flag on a staff and will include a 2-foot red floating ball and line if attached.
- 10.4 While racing, boats shall not touch these balls or pass between these balls and the Race Committee boat to which they are attached. A boat breaking this rule shall have touched a mark as described in RRS 31.
- 10.5 The finishing marks will be a float with an orange flag and a boat displaying an orange flag.
- 10.6 The Gate Marks will be large yellow tetrahedrons.

11 CHECK-IN

Prior to the first warning signal for the first race of the day in which it intends to compete, each boat shall sail by the stern of the committee boat on starboard tack, hail its sail number, and check in as a starter.

12 THE START

- 12.1 Races will be started by using RRS 26. The race committee may display the warning for the Division II at its discretion immediately after Division I starts.
- 12.2 When there has been a long postponement and when more than one race will be held on the same day, the warning signal for the first race and each succeeding race will be made as soon as practicable. To alert boats that a race will begin soon, an orange flag with one sound signal will be displayed for at least four minutes before a warning signal is displayed. The warning for a subsequent race will follow shortly after the start of the first race.

- 12.3 The starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the committee boat at the starboard end and a staff displaying an orange flag on the port end boat.
- 12.4 After a warning signal, boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area.
- 12.5 A boat not starting within 5 minutes after her starting signal will be scored DNS. This changes rule 63.1, A4 and A5.

13 RECALLS

- 13.1 When at a boat's starting signal she must comply with RRS 29.1 or 30.1, the race committee shall promptly display flag X with one sound and periodically hail the sail number(s) of those boats on course side of the starting line or its extensions from both ends of the starting line.
- 13.2 The flag shall be displayed until all such boats are completely on the pre-start side of the starting line or its extensions and have complied with RRS 30.1 if it applies, but not later than four minutes after the starting signal.
- 13.3 Failure to hear the hail, orders of numbers hailed, or timeliness of hail shall not constitute grounds for granting redress.
- 13.4 No hails will be made for boats that were OCS as they clear the starting line.

14 CHANGE OF THE POSITION OF THE NEXT MARK

- 14.1 The only marks whose positions may be changed are the mark ending leg 4 and the finish line. This changes RRS 33.
- 14.2 To change the position of the mark ending leg 4 or the finish line, the race committee will lay a new mark (or move the finishing line) and remove the original mark as soon as practicable. The change will be signaled before the leading boat has begun the leg, although the new mark or finish line may not yet be in position.

15 THE FINISH

The finishing line will be a line between a staff displaying an orange flag on a race committee boat at the starboard end and the course side of the nearby finishing mark.

16 PENALTY SYSTEM

A boat that takes a penalty or retires under 44.1 shall sign the acknowledgement form posted in the vicinity of the official notice board within the protest time limit.

17 TIME LIMIT

- 17.1 Time limit for all races is 2.5 hours.
- 17.2 In races 1–3 only, if no boat sails the course and finishes within the time limit in a division, the race shall be abandoned and re-sailed for both divisions.

18 PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

- 18.1 A boat intending to protest about an incident that occurs in the racing area shall notify the race committee finish boat of her intention, including the sail number(s) of the boat(s) being protested. This changes RRS 61.
- 18.2 The protest time limit is 60 minutes after the race committee signal boat docks. Docking time will be posted on the official notice board.
- 18.3 Protest forms will be available from the Jury on the second floor of the Clubhouse and shall be delivered to the Jury within one hour of the posted docking time of the race committee signal boat.
- 18.4 Within the protest time, the Race Committee will post the sail numbers of all boats that are penalized under RRS 29, 30, and SI 11. A boat so notified may only file a request for a redress hearing within 60 minutes. This changes RRS 62.2.
- 18.5 Notices of protests by the race committee or protest committee will be posted to inform boats under RRS 61.1(b).
- 18.6 A notice indicating the parties, time, and order of hearings fulfilling the requirements of RRS 63.2 and its prescriptions will be posted not later than 30 minutes following the expiration of the protest time limit.
- 18.7 A list of boats that, under sailing instruction 16, have taken a penalty or retired, will be posted within 30 minutes after the protest time limit.
- 18.8 For the purpose of RRS 64.3(b) the "authority responsible" is the measurer appointed by the organizing authority.
- 18.9 Breaches of instructions 6.2, 6.3, 11, 12.3, 16, and 20 will not be grounds for a protest by a boat. This changes RRS 60.1(a). Penalties for these breaches may be less than disqualification if the protest committee so decides.

18.10 In accordance with rule 70.5(a), decisions of the protest committee are final. US Sailing's permission has been granted. If the requirements are not met, the decisions of the protest committee may be appealed. US Sailing's permission is limited to races 1, 2, and 3. Competitors may appeal decisions of the protest committee in races 4 through 7 and the Presidents Series.

18.11 On the last day of the regatta a request for reopening a hearing shall be delivered

- (a) Within the protest time limit if the party requesting reopening was informed of the decision on the previous day;
- (b) No later than 30 minutes after the party requesting reopening was informed of the decision on that day.

This changes RRS 66.

19 SCORING

The Low Point scoring system of RRS Appendix A will apply as modified by Class Rules. The series score for boats in the Championship Division will be the total of all their race scores. The series score for boats in the President's Division will be the total of their race scores excluding races 1 through 3.

Seven races are scheduled. Four races must be completed to constitute a series for the Championship Division. One race must be completed to constitute a series for the President's Division.

20 SAFETY

A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee as soon as possible. Sign in sheets will be located near the hoists for competitors to notify the race committee that they are off the water. All contestants are to sign in each time that boats come into harbour after completion of races.

21 REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT

21.1 Substitution of crews will not be permitted without the prior written approval of the National Race Committee. No substitution of skippers is permitted.

21.2 The same boat, equipment and sails approved during the measurement shall be used throughout the regatta. Substitutions will not be permitted without the prior written approval of the National Race Committee.

22 EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

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

23 RADIO COMMUNICATION

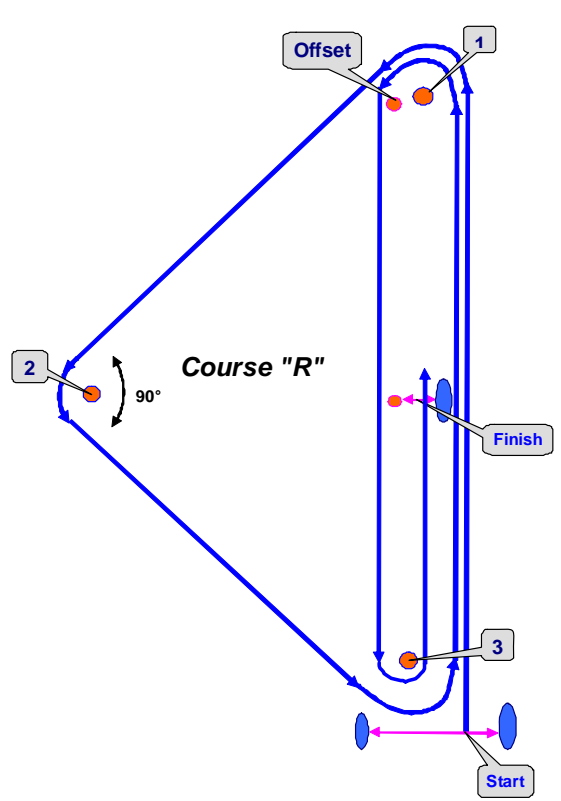
VHF radios or other communication devices may be used only for emergencies after leaving the dock for the racing area until after finishing the last race of the day. This restriction also applies to mobile (cell) telephones.

24 SAFETY REGULATIONS

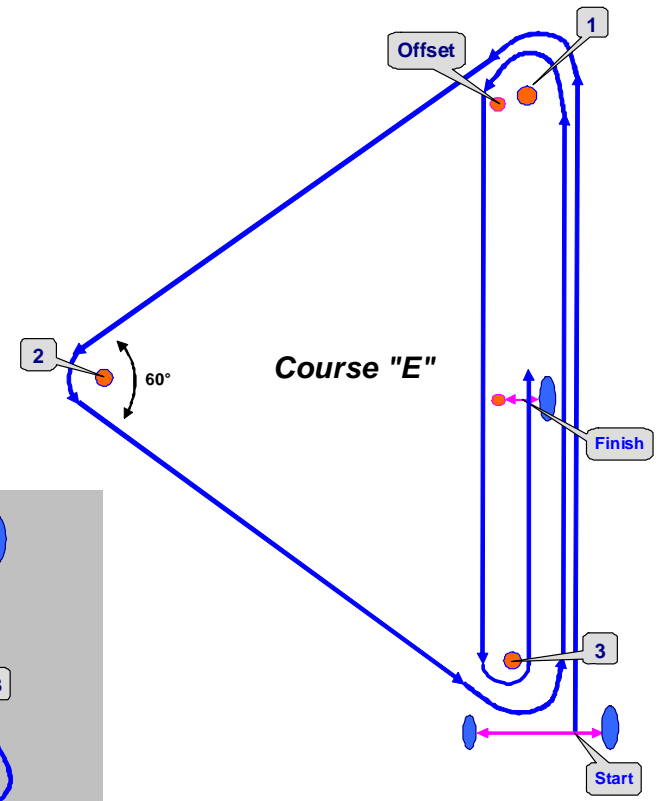
Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. See Rule 4. The organizing authority will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the regatta.

Attachment A
Description
National Championship

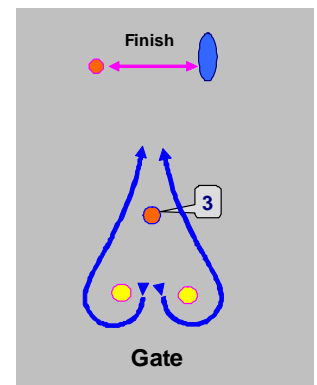
Cour: 
2011



Course "R" : Start, 1, 2, 3, 1, Offset, Gate, Finish.



Course "E" : Start, 1, 2, 3, 1, Offset, Gate, Finish.



Gate