

LOW COUNTRY HOOK 2017 OCEAN RACE
17, 18, 19 August 2018
Skidaway Island Boating Club
and
The Yacht Club of Hilton Head
Present The Low Country Hook Ocean Race
Hilton Head Island to Skidaway Island

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

1. **RULES:**

The race will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS).

2. **ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY**

2.1 Eligibility requirements for boats are a minimum length overall of twenty four feet. All competing boats must have a current PHRF rating, have auxiliary power, and be manned by an eligible captain and crew.

2.2 Boats must comply with 2018 US Sailing Safety Equipment Requirements: <https://www.ussailing.org/resource-library/safety-equipment-requirements-2018/>

This race is categorized as a Coastal Race. A functioning VHF radio is mandatory equipment for all Offshore races.

2.2 Eligible boats may enter by completing the registration form available at <http://www.regattanetwork.com/event/19048> together with the required fee by 12 August 2019.

2.3 There will be separate classes for spinnaker boats, non-spinnaker boats, and cruising boats. The Race Committee reserves the right to assign boats based to classes based on PHRF. If enough boats are not registered for a cruising class then those boats will be combined with the non-spinnaker class.

2. **NOTICES TO COMPETITORS:**

Notice to competitors will be announced at the Skippers meeting and over the VHF hailing channel 71 in advance of the start of the race. Notices may also be emailed.

3. **CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS:**

4.1 Any changes to the sailing instructions will be announced at the Skippers meeting or over the VHF hailing channel prior to the start of the race.

4.2 Oral changes to the sailing instructions may be made on the water over the VHF hailing channel.

4.3 Any schedule change will be emailed to the boat owner by 8:00 pm on the day before it will take effect.

4. **SIGNALS MADE ASHORE**

Signals made ashore will be displayed from the docked signal boat and announced over the VHF hailing channel. When flag AP is displayed ashore, "1 minute" is replaced with "not less than 60 minutes". This changes race signal AP.

5. **SCHEDULE**

6.1 Friday, 17 August at Harbour Town Yacht Club, 6:00 pm, Skippers meeting

6.2 Saturday, 18 August at 9:55 am, Warning Signal for the first class will be given (The order of starting each class will be given at the skippers' meeting and announced again over VHF prior to the warning signal)

6.3 The warning signal for each succeeding class will be made with or after the starting signal of the preceding class.

6. RACING AREA:

The racing area will be the Calibogue Sound, Atlantic Ocean, Wassaw Sound and the Wilmington River

7. THE COURSE

Mark	Leave Mark to	
Start Green 7 (Calibogue Sound Entrance) ALL Government Marks must be honored & passed on their required side.	Signal Boat & Start Pin	
Tybee Roads	Stay clear of shipping traffic	
Green 5 (Tybee Range Lighted Buoy 5)	Starboard & Make Turn South toward R2W	
Red 2W (entry to Wassaw Sound)	Starboard	
ALL Government Marks must be honored & passed on their required side from R2W to the Finish Line		
Red 4 (uncharted mark)	MISSING	
Finish Line North of Landings Harbor		

8.1 The marks, the order in which marks are to be passed and the side on which each mark is to be left are indicated.

8.2 Start near Green 7 south of Hilton Head Island

8.3 All government navigation buoys and day marks in Wassaw Sound and the Wilmington River must be honored and passed on their required side.

9. THE START

9.1 The race committee may announce upcoming signals over VHF hailing channel.

9.2 Before the warning signal, boats intending to race shall check in by sailing past the stern of the signal boat on starboard tack hailing their sail number or boat name if no sail number.

9.3 The starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the signal boat and an inflatable buoy located near G7 at the entrance to Calibogue Sound.

9.4 No boat shall start later than 10 minutes after its starting signal.

9.5 Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area during the starting sequence for other racers.

10. THE FINISH

10.1 The finish line will be between a staff displaying an RC flag on a race committee boat and an inflatable buoy north of Landings Harbor Marina

10.2 The course may be shortened. In that event, the finish line will be the RC flag on a committee boat and an inflatable buoy. The shortened course will be announced over the VHF hailing channel.

10.3 Boats without sail numbers shall contact the finish boat on the VHF hailing channel approximately 10 minutes before crossing the finish line and immediately after crossing the finish line.

10.4 The time limit to finish will be 5:00 pm.

10.5 Boats not finished by 5:00 pm shall be scored based on their position on the water at 5:00 pm.

12. RETIREMENT

A boat which retires from the race shall notify the signal boat over the VHF hailing channel as soon as practicable.

13. PROTESTS

13.1 Protests shall be in writing using the US Sailing form and delivered to the signal boat, committee boat, PRO, or Race Committee Member within 30 minutes of its docking at Landings Harbor.

13.2 Protests shall be heard as soon as practicable in the approximate order received.

SCORING AND PRIZES

14.1 The RRS low point scoring system will apply.

14.2 A trophy will be awarded to the top three finisher of each class.

SAFETY

15.1 All boats shall carry an operating VHF radio. The hailing channel will be 71.

15.2 All boats shall be sailed by at least 2 persons. The maximum number of crew is N people, where N is: $(LOA \times .3) - 2$, with all fractions rounded up.

15.3 The US Sailing Safety Equipment Requirements for category Nearshore are recommended.

DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

Competitors participate in the race entirely at their own risk. See RRS 4, Decision to Race. 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 race.

INSURANCE

Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance sufficient to cover liability for loss, damage, injury or death.

