SAILING INSTRUCTIONS - Offshore

ST. AUGUSTINE RACE WEEK

March 30th thru April 3rd 2016

"A Race for Champions, a Race for the Children"

www.sarw2016.com

1   RULES

1.1   The St. Augustine Race Week Offshore Series shall be governed by the "2013-2016 Racing Rules of Sailing" (RRS); the PHRF rules of the First Coast Sailing Association (www.sailjax.com); and class rules for any One-Design class established. The First Coast Sailing Association (FCSA) is the Organizing Authority for this Series. The St. Augustine Yacht Club will host the final awards ceremonies on Saturday evening.

1.2   ALTERATIONS TO THE RULES

The following sections of these Sailing Instructions alter provisions of the RRS:

1.2.1   Failure to start within time limit – Sailing Instructions 10.7.3

1.2.2   Time limit – Sailing Instructions 12

1.2.3   Establishment of arbitration procedures – Sailing Instructions 14.3

1.2.4   Steering Assistance – Notice of Race 5

1.2.5   Competitors shall display Regatta Burgee – Sailing Instructions 5

1.2.6   Even if not racing, if the Race Committee observes a participating yacht obstructing the passage of a vessel not involved in the Regatta and in violation of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, the Race Committee may proceed against the yacht under RRS 60.2.

1.3   TIME - All published times used in association with the race will be Eastern Daylight Saving Time (UTC minus 4 hours) in 24-hour format. Official Race Committee time will be synchronized with the US Naval Observatory Master Clock telephone voice announcer: 202-762-1401 or 202-762-1069.

1.4   USE OF ENGINE

1.4.1 In accordance with RRS 42.3(i) - In an emergency, an engine or other means of propulsion may be used when appropriate to avoid collision or in grave emergency. Full details shall be given to the Protest Committee who, after a hearing, may impose a penalty.

1.4.2 An engine may be used to supply power for charging batteries, pumping, weighing anchor, or other necessary purposes, provided mechanical propulsion is not engaged.

2   RADIO COMMUNICATION

2   RADIO COMMUNICATION - The Race Committee will monitor VHF 72 during races, and may, as the circumstances dictate, communicate with a yacht while racing. (VHF 78 will be used as a secondary channel should local interference become a problem.)

3   SIGNALS MADE ASHORE - No signals will be made ashore. Yachts should monitor VHF 72 prior to leaving dock on days of adverse weather in case the Race Committee declares postponement or abandonment.

4   NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

4.1   Prior to the Wednesday Skippers' Meeting, Notices to Competitors will be posted on the regatta registration website (link thru http://www.sarw2016.com/). After that, duplicates and new Notices will be posted on the City Marina office door. Whenever possible, notice of changes to the Sailing Instructions and other general information (such as abandonment due to adverse weather) will be given on VHF 72.

4.2   All VHF announcements are only an aid to competitors and are supplementary to any flag signals or official notices. Failure to make any announcement via VHF will not be grounds for redress.

5   REGATTA BURGEES - While racing, each yacht shall fly from her backstay or her starboard shroud (if no backstay) the official Race Week burgee, to be distributed along with each Skipper's Bag when registering (modifies RRS Prescriptions 56).

6   **RACING AREA** **-** The racing area will be in the Atlantic Ocean as depicted on NOAA Chart 11480.

7   **SCHEDULE OF THE RACES** **-** The first warning signal for each day's racing will be at 1025 for Cruiser Classes; Performance classes will start immediately thereafter. The overnight pursuit race for Cruiser Class A will start at 2200 Wednesday; individual start times will be announced at the Competitor's meeting.

8   **COURSES** **-** The courses for Performance and One-Design Classes will be the same each day (refer to 8.1).

Each day's Cruiser Class course will be posted on the starboard side of the RC boat once on station at the start line. The course for the Wednesday overnight race will be announced at the Competitors' Meeting.

Each day's start area will be in the vicinity of the St. Augustine Entrance Buoy 'STA' @ N 29° 54.912' – W 81° 15.280'. Wind direction and sea conditions will determine precise start locations.

8.1   **Race: Performance Triangle** – two races are planned each day for Performance and One-Design Classes.

Course: 45-45-90 triangle course with a maximum W/L leg of 2.0 NM; consisting of three inflated buoys ('A', 'B', and 'C') and a start/finish line leeward of 'C' (see course sketch). Round marks to port. Start at the RC boat with pin to port; finish at the RC boat with pin to starboard. Mark 'C' will not be considered a 'mark of the course' on the first windward leg, nor on the final finishing leg.

- One-Design Classes (3x W/L)   *Start (Pin/RC) – A – C – A – C – A – Finish (RC/Pin)*
- Spinnaker Class: (Triangle + 2x W/L)   *Start (Pin/RC) – A – B – C – A – C – A – Finish (RC/Pin)*
- Non-Spinnaker Class: (Triangle + 1x W/L)   *Start (Pin/RC) – A – B – C – A – Finish (RC/Pin)*

8.2   **Race 1: "Scout and Back"** – Wednesday overnight race for Cruiser A; and Thursday race for Cruiser B.

<u>Wednesday Night Pursuit Start</u>… Each yacht will be assigned a start time based on its PHRF handicap, with the first start for the slowest rated yacht at 22:00:00. The course and the individual start times will be published at the Competitors' Meeting. No yacht shall start prior to its published individual start time as synchronized with USNO time (refer to 1.3). A yacht shall have started when it is within 200 feet of the St. Augustine entrance buoy 'STA', *<u>and</u>* 'STA' bears 180° magnetic. Rule 30.1 shall <u>not</u> be in effect.

<u>Thursday Start</u>… between the RC boat and the Performance Triangle buoy 'C', in the direction heading most away from land, or as directed by the Race Committee.

<u>Head</u>… easterly to designated 'Course' longitude.

<u>'Turn'</u>… at the designated longitude. A yacht must cross and 'turn' at the designated longitude line before finishing. Each yacht shall record in her log the lat / lon and time at this 'turn'.

<u>Finish</u>… at the St. Augustine Entrance Buoy 'STA', when within 100 feet of 'STA', *<u>and</u>* 'STA' bears 090° M.

Course	Longitude	NM from STA	Course	Longitude	NM from STA
'K'	W 81° 08.000'	6.327	'Q'	W 80° 55.000'	17.624
'L'	W 81° 06.000'	8.065	'Y'	W 80° 50.000'	21.969
'M'	W 81° 04.000'	9.803	'Z'	W 80° 45.000'	26.315

8.3   **Race 2: "Conquistador's Corner"** – Friday race for both Cruiser Class A and Cruiser Class B.

<u>Start</u>… between the RC boat and the Performance Triangle buoy 'C', in the direction heading most away from land, or as directed by the Race Committee.

<u>Head</u>… Northeast (about 045°) <u>or</u> Southeast (about 135°) to the designated 'Course' lat / lon corner.

<u>'Turn'</u>… at the designated latitude AND at the designated longitude. A yacht need not go to the lat / lon point itself, but she must cross both the latitude line and the longitude line before finishing. Each yacht shall record in her log the lat / lon and time at these 'turns'.

<u>Finish</u>… at the St. Augustine Entrance Buoy 'STA', when within 100 feet of 'STA', *<u>and</u>* 'STA' bears 090° M.

Course	North Corner Location	NM from STA	Course	South Corner Location	NM from STA
'F'	N 30° 06.0' : W 81° 05.0'	14.213	'T'	N 29° 44.0' : W 81° 05.0'	14.087
'G'	N 30° 04.0' : W 81° 07.0'	11.571	'V'	N 29° 46.0' : W 81° 07.0'	11.441
'H'	N 30° 02.0' : W 81° 09.0'	8.930	'W'	N 29° 48.0' : W 81° 09.0'	8.796
'J'	N 30° 00.0' : W 81° 11.0'	6.292	'X'	N 29° 50.0' : W 81° 11.0'	6.153

8.4 **Race 3: "Pedro's Passage"** – Saturday race for both Cruiser Class A and Cruiser Class B.

Start… between the RC boat and the Performance Triangle buoy 'C', in the direction heading most away from land, or as directed by the Race Committee.

Head… from the start line to the designated 'Course' lines of latitude. The Race Committee will designate the course and an initial heading by displaying two letters: the course designator letter and an 'N' or an 'S' to indicate the first designated latitude line to cross. For example: 'D N' will indicate course 'D', with the requirement that yachts shall cross the designated North latitude line first, before crossing the designated South latitude line.

'Turn'… at the designated latitudes. A yacht must cross and 'turn' at both the designated North and South latitude lines before finishing. Each yacht shall record in her log the lat / lon and time at these 'turns'.

Finish… at the St. Augustine Entrance Buoy 'STA', when within 100 feet of 'STA', _and_ 'STA' bears 090° M.

Course	Latitude S	&	Latitude N	~ Distance
'P'	N 29° 48.0'	&	N 30° 02.0'	28.0
'E'	N 29° 49.0'	&	N 30° 01.0'	24.0
'D'	N 29° 50.0'	&	N 30° 00.0'	20.0
'R'	N 29° 51.0'	&	N 29° 59.0'	16.0
'O'	N 29° 52.0'	&	N 29° 58.0'	12.0

9 **CLASS FLAGS**   Cruiser (A): Pink   Spinnaker: Gold   One-Design: TBA

                                        Cruiser (B): Blue   Non-Spinnaker: Gray

10 **THE STARTS**

10.1 The starting line for Performance and One-Design Classes will connect between an orange flag displayed on the RC boat and a pin-end inflatable buoy.

10.2 The starting line for Cruiser Class day races will connect between an orange flag displayed on the RC boat and the leeward mark 'C' inflatable buoy that makes up part of the Performance Triangle course.

10.3 The starting line for the Cruiser Class A Overnight Race is described in section 8.2.

10.4 Once the RC boat is on station at the start line, each yacht shall check in with the Race Committee prior to the warning signal of the first class by sailing past the stern of the RC boat and hailing its boat name. Alternatively, yachts may hail the RC boat on VHF 72 for this purpose. Yachts failing to check in may be scored DNC.

10.5 A yacht shall disengage all engine propulsion systems prior to the preparatory flag for its class, or otherwise within 4 minutes of its start time (RRS definition for *Racing.*)

10.6 Rule 30.1 "I Flag Rule" (sometimes called the 'Round-an-End Rule') will be in effect for all races with a Race Committee boat on station at the start line.

10.7 **Start Sequence** – The start order will be Cruiser A, Cruiser B, One-Design, Spinnaker, Non-Spinnaker. Depending on Class sizes, the Race Committee may combine Cruiser Classes for a single start; they also may combine Performance Classes for a single start. One-Design Classes will start alone.

    10.7.1 - Races will be started using RRS Rule 26: 5 minute warning signal.

    10.7.2 - The warning signal for succeeding starts will be made quickly after the preceding class clears the line.

    10.7.3 - Yachts that have not properly started within 10 minutes of their class start may be scored DNS.

11 **THE FINISHES**

11.1 When the RC Boat is on station for taking finish times, the finish line will connect between a solid orange flag displayed on the RC boat and the designated finish mark.

11.2 When finishing during conditions of low visibility, a yacht shall make every attempt to identify itself to the RC boat by shining a light on its sail numbers, or by hailing the RC boat on VHF 72, or by other means.

11.3 For Cruising Class races with no RC boat on station at the finish…

a) Using a timepiece that is synchronized with USNO time (refer to 1.3), a yacht shall record its own finish time (to the second) as described in 8.2, 8.3, and 8.4. As a courtesy, the finishing yacht should simultaneously sound a horn to indicate it has finished racing. When possible, note the finishing times of nearby yachts.

b) As soon as practical after finishing, a yacht shall report its finish time to the Race Committee via cellular telephone text. Report boat name and finish time in the following manner: "Astral Sloop 14.32.16". In no case shall a yacht fail to report its time directly to the RC any later than 1 hour following its finish. Should reporting by text fail, the RC will also be available via VHF for this purpose.

Designated RC phone/text #: _____ to be announced at Competitors' Meeting.

12   **TIME LIMITS** - Modifying RRS 35, and inclusive of the overnight Cruiser Class A race, there will be a fixed time limit for each day's Racing of 16:00:00; yachts finishing after the time limit will be scored DNF.

13   **REPORTING PENALTY TURNS** - A yacht that has taken a penalty under RRS 44 shall report such to the Race Committee immediately after finishing by hailing the RC boat or when otherwise reporting its finish time.

14   **PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS**

14.1   A Yacht intending to file a protest shall notify the Race Committee of that intent immediately after finishing by hailing the RC boat or when otherwise reporting its finish time.

14.2   Protests shall be filed on an official US SAILING protest form with the Race Committee not more than 2 hours after the final yacht finishes that race.

14.3   ARBITRATION - For protests involving an alleged breach of the rules of Part 2 of the RRS, an optional short arbitration hearing may be held prior to proceeding with an official protest hearing (modifies RRS Part 5, B).

15   **SERIES SCORING**

15.1   Race and Series scoring will be in accordance with RRS Appendix A, Low Point System as modified here:
> DNF, RAF = number that started the race for that division
> DNS, OCS, DSQ = number that came to the starting area for that division
> DNC = number entered in the race for that division

15.2   Each day's scored racing will be combined to count for that day's class awards. Two days scored races are required to constitute the Series. All scored races will be combined for the Series awards.

15.3   Modifying RRS Appendix A2, there will be no excluded scores.

16   **RACE RESULTS -** Results for each race will be announced at its respective after-event party. Overall Regatta Results will also be e-mailed to the addresses given on the registration documents. Any request for clarification of the results shall be raised as soon as possible, and in any case, within 5 days of e-mail publication. Results will also be posted on the regatta registration website and on www.sailjax.com.

17   **RESPONSIBILITY AND LIABILITY**

17.1   **The safety of a yacht or sailing vessel and its crew, the decision as to whether or not to start, and having started, whether or not to continue is the sole and exclusive responsibility of each yacht's designated skipper.** *For the purpose of this section, the term "yacht" shall mean the designated skipper as representative of the owner, and in the absence of the designated skipper, members of the remaining crew.*

17.2   A yacht is entirely responsible for its own safety, whether afloat or ashore, and nothing, whether in the Notice of Race or Sailing Instructions or anywhere else, reduces this responsibility.

17.3   It is for the yacht to decide whether it is fit to sail in the conditions in which it will find itself. By going to sea the yacht confirms that it is fit for those conditions and its crew is competent to sail and compete in them.

17.4   The yacht is required to hold adequate insurance and in particular to hold insurance against third party claims.

17.5   Nothing done by the organizers can reduce the responsibility of the yacht.

17.6   The provision of patrol boats does not relieve the yacht of its responsibilities.

17.7   The yacht is responsible for ensuring that it is equipped and seaworthy so as to be able to face extremes of weather; that there is a crew sufficient in number, experience, and fitness to withstand such weather; and that the safety equipment is properly maintained, stowed, and in date and that crew members know how to use it.

17.8   The yacht is responsible for adhering to all local, state, federal, and international laws and regulations governing the operation in the body of waters where the race and race events shall be held. This includes conformance to the United States Coast Guard Safety Regulations.

17.9   Inspection of a yacht by the Race Committee does not reduce the responsibilities of the yacht set out here.

2016 St. Augustine Race Week – Race Course Diagram

"Theoretical" Set-up for: Performance Classes

along with

Cruiser Classes Start Line