

THISTLE CLASS ASSOCIATION

2023 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

July 14 – 21, 2023

North Flathead Yacht Club

Somers, MT

NOTICE OF RACE

Organizing Authority: The 2023 Thistle National Championship Regatta is organized by the Thistle Class Association (TCA) in conjunction with The North Flathead Yacht Club (NFYC). The National Race Committee (NRC) is the Organizing Authority (OA) for the National Championship Regatta. The notation (NP) in a rule means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1 (a).

1. RULE

- 1.1 The regatta is governed by the rules as defined in the *Racing Rules of Sailing*.
- 1.2 The US Sailing prescription to RRS63.2 will not apply.
- 1.3 Racing Rule 60.1 (a) is changed to add: Boats failing to display required advertising may not be protested by another boat.
- 1.4 Other racing rules may be changed. These changes will appear in full in the Sailing Instructions.
- 1.5 Alcohol consumption by persons under 21 years of age, the use of illegal substances and the abuse of prescription-only drugs shall be considered "misconduct" for the purposes of RRS 69.
- 1.6 It is each skipper's responsibility to ensure they and their crew adhere to all state and county health regulations. [NP]

2. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1 Sailing Instructions will be available at www.regattanetwork.com/event/25405 and the NFYC registration desk no later than Friday July 14, 2023 at 1400 hrs. In order to conduct a more green regatta, printed paper copies of the SI's will only be available upon request.

3. RADIO COMMUNICATION

- 3.1 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 This regatta is open to all Thistle skippers who are youth, active or family TCA members in good standing and have sailed the required qualifying event(s) to be eligible to compete in Thistle Class Nationals, as outlined in the Bylaws of the TCA. A boat competing in this event must be registered with the class and have a valid measurement certificate. Skippers may race a borrowed or chartered Thistle as long as the boat is registered with the class. Registration is limited to the first 90 boats registered.
- 4.2 No competitor may be paid to sail in this event, and private coaching is not allowed in this event, as per TCA Bylaw Article X, Section 3.
- 4.3 Eligible boats may enter by completing online registration and paying regatta fees by June 1st, 2023. No entry will be accepted after July 1st, 2023 without written permission from the Regatta Chairman and National Race Committee.
- 4.4 Online registration can be found at <https://www.regattanetwork.com/event/25405>
- 4.5 Competitors must complete on-site registration and the measurement process during times specified in the schedule; any extension requires written permission from the Regatta Chairman and National Race Committee.

5. FEES

- 5.1 Early Registration Fees: \$485 inclusive of \$40 TCA Trophy Fee and Friday awards dinner for a crew of 3, for registrations completed and paid before June 1, 2023. Late entries will be accepted with a \$100 late fee between June 2nd and July 1st, 2023.
- 5.2 Registration fees are fully refundable (less any credit card and club spot processing fees).
- 5.3 Skippers 26 years old and under may apply for a registration fee refund by contacting VP Growth and Promotions, Aaron Holland (sailnmusic@gmail.com). Applications should be sent in no later than June 1st, 2023 and should include birthdate. Details of reimbursement will be available upon application.
- 5.4 Additional Banquet Tickets are available for \$40 per person. Kids under 6 eat free.
- 5.5 Additional details and tickets for other evening social events at NFYC will be available no later than May 1st, 2023

6. ADVERTISING

- 6.1 Boats may be required to display advertising which will be supplied by NFYC.

7. PRACTICE RACE, QUALIFYING SERIES, AND FINAL SERIES.

- 7.1 In the practice race, the boats will race as a single fleet.
- 7.2 The decision to sail as two divisions utilizing the Bordes System, two divisions in one fleet, or as one division, as described in TCA Bylaw Article XIV Section 8, will be made after the close of registration and posted as an amendment to the NOR.

8. SCHEDULE

8.1 Registration and Measurement

Friday, July 14 1400 – 1700 hrs
Saturday, July 15 0900 – 1600 hrs
Sunday, July 16 0800 – 1000 hrs

8.2 Practice Race

Sunday, July 16 Practice Race 1200

8.3 National Championship Race Series

Monday, July 17 Racing Start Time TBA
Tuesday, July 18 Racing Start Time TBA
Wednesday, July 19 Racing Start Time TBA
Thursday, July 20 Racing Start Time TBA
Friday, July 21 Racing Start Time TBA

8.4 The RC, with guidance from the NRC Chair, may adjust the race schedule to provide the optimum sailing conditions for the selection of a National Champion per TCA Bylaws, Article XIV Section 5.

8.5 On the last scheduled day of racing, no warning signal will be made after 1530 for any race.

9. MEASUREMENT

9.1 Each boat shall have a valid measurement certificate.

9.2 Boat, equipment, and sails will be measured, inspected and may be spot-checked as specified in the TCA rules, RRS or the Sailing Instructions. Specific items to be measured at registration will be found on the measurement forms posted at <https://www.regattanetwork.com/event/25405>

10. VENUE

10.1 The Regatta will be held at: North Flathead Yacht Club 200 Lesley Ave, Somers, MT 59932.

10.2 Races will be sailed on Flathead Lake in Somer, MT southeast of the North Flathead Yacht Club

10.3 Housing: Camping will be available at Somers Middle School. Additional information about camping and local hotel information will be available at www.thistleclass.com/flathead-lake-thistle-nationals-2023.

11. THE COURSES

11.1 The courses will be in accordance with the TCA Bylaws, Article XIV Section 11.

12. PENALTY SYSTEM

12.1 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.

12.2 Appeals: In accordance with rule 70.5(a), decisions of the protest committee are final. US Sailing's permission has been granted. If the requirements shown on <https://www.ussailing.org/competition/rules-officiating/appeals/no-appeal-rule-70-5-procedures/> are not met, the decisions of the protest committee may be appealed. US Sailing's permission is limited to the qualifying series. Competitors may appeal decisions of the Protest Committee in the Championship and Presidents Series.

13. SCORING

13.1 Scoring for the National Championship shall be as described in TCA Bylaw Article XIV Section 14.

13.2 The scoring method for the National Championship shall be posted as an amendment to the NOR after registration has closed and the National Race Committee has determined whether to sail under the Bordes system per NOR section 7.2.

13.3 Four (4) races are required to be completed to determine the National Champion.

13.4 Pursuant to RRS 90.3 (e); there shall be no changes to race or series scores resulting from action, including the correction of errors, initiated after 6 PM on Friday for the Championship and President Series races.

14. SUPPORT BOATS

14.1 Support Boats shall be registered and marked with an NFYC supplied identifier.

14.2 Due to limited open berthing spaces, anyone planning on bringing an additional boat of any kind to the event must contact the Regatta Chair to make arrangements for use of hoists and slips.

15. DRY SAIL AREA

15.1 Dry sail spaces will be assigned for all competitors and be available beginning Friday July 14. For arrival before the 14th please contact the Regatta Chairman to make arrangements.

16. 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.

Inherent in the sport of sailing is the risk of permanent, catastrophic injury or death by drowning, trauma, hypothermia or other causes. Each competitor shall be required to sign a waiver for loss, damage, or injury to persons or property incurred in connection with the Regatta that occurs as a result of a competitor's actions.

17. INSURANCE

Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum value of \$100,000 USD. Registrants must show proof of insurance at Registration.

18. AWARDS

18.1 The National Championship and "Louis Carron Perpetual Trophy" will be awarded to the winning boat in the Championship Division.

18.2 Other awards will be made at the discretion of the Organizing Authority.

19. FURTHER INFORMATION

19.1 For any questions or further information, please contact:

ASHLI SLAWTER, Regatta Chair at ashli.slawter@gmail.com

Jesse Shedden, National Race Committee Chair at jesseshedden@gmail.com