



**Thistle Southeastern Championship Regatta**  
**Fairhope Yacht Club, Fairhope, AL**  
**April 15-16, 2023**  
**SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**



**1. RULES**

The Regatta will be governed by the 2021-2024 *Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS)*, the current *Prescriptions of U. S. Sailing*, One Design class rules, the *NOR*, except as any of these are changed by these sailing instructions.

**2. ENTRIES**

Eligible boats may enter by completing registration with the organizing authority. Skippers must be an Active member of the Thistle Class Association (TCA) and boats must have valid measurement certificate with the TCA.

**3. NOTICE TO COMPETITORS**

Notice to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located next to the Tiki Bar, in the area directly below Fairhope Yacht Club.

**4. CHANGES IN SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

- 4.1 Any changes to the Sailing Instructions will be posted at least 1.5 hours before the scheduled start of the day's racing, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 7:00 pm the day before it will take effect.
- 4.2 Changes to the sailing instructions may be made on the water. The Signal Vessel will display Signal Flag L with one sound. Each vessel will receive and acknowledge the oral change.

**5. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE**

- 5.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed at the Fairhope Yacht Club flag pole, on the west side of the club house.
- 5.2 Flag "AP" with two sounds (one when lowered) means 'the race is postponed.' When AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 30 minutes' in the race signal AP.

**6. SCHEDULE OF RACES**

- 6.1 A five (5) races will be attempted, with no more than three (3) races on the first day of racing.
- 6.2 No warning signal will be made after 1230 hrs on the last day of racing.
- 6.3 Competitors are required to stand by, well clear of the finish line after finishing and await the next start or further instructions from the Race Committee.

**7. CLASS FLAGS**

The class flags shall be displayed at the skippers meeting.

**8. RACING AREA**

- 8.1 The racing areas will be Mobile Bay, off the FYC Club, approximate area to be explained at skippers meeting..

**9. THE COURSE**

- 9.1 The course will be posted, description of course found in Illustration A.
- 9.2 The approximate compass bearing from the start to the first mark of the course will be displayed from the race committee signal boat.

**10. MARKS**

- 10.1 Marks will be orange inflatable marks (tetrahedrons or "tomatoes"). Change of course marks after the start will be of a different color (yellow) and will revert back to orange if further changes of course are necessary.

**11. THE START**

- 11.1 Competitors shall check-in at the Race Committee boat before the first race of each day.
- 11.2 Races will be started using *RRS 26*.
- 11.3 The starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag or shape on the Race Committee signal boat's port side and the nearby mark.

11.4 Race Committee will attempt to hail OCS, but failure to do so or a competitor's failure to hear a hail are not grounds for redress. Such hails will be made via VHS radio. This changes RRS 29

11.5 A boat shall not start later than 5 minutes after her starting signal.

**12. MARK BOATS**

12.1 Mark boats may display RC flags and may be stationed beyond each mark. Failure of a mark boat to be on station or display her signal will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 62.1(a).

**13. THE FINISH**

13.1 The finish line will be between a staff displaying blue flag on the Race Committee boat's port side and the nearby mark.

**14. PENALTY SYSTEM**

14.1 RRS *Appendix V* will apply

**15. TIME LIMIT**

15.1 Boats failing to finish within 30 minutes after the first boat sails the course and finishes may be scored Did Not Finish (DNF). This changes RRS 35.

**16. PROTEST**

16.1 Protests shall be written on forms available at the official notice board to competitors and delivered to a race officer within the protest time which will begin when the course committee boat signals its return to the harbor.

16.2 Protest will be heard in the order in which they are received and at the first reasonable opportunity.

16.3 Protest notices will be posted within thirty minutes of the protest time to inform competitors when and where there is a hearing in which they are parties to a hearing or named as witnesses.

16.4 RRS 66 is changed by adding this sentence: "On the last day of racing, a party to the hearing may ask for a reopening no later than one hour after being informed of the decision."

**17. SCORING**

17.1 The Low Point Scoring System will be used. The number of races completed to allow one (1) throw-out is five (5). This changes RRS A2. Ties will be broken in accordance with RRS A8.

**ILLUSTRATION "A"**

The diagram illustrates the layout of Course LA. It shows a windward mark (1a) and a leeward mark (1) at the top. Below them are two leeward marks, 2s and 2p. At the bottom, there is a start/finish line (S/F) and a race committee boat with a blue flag on its port side.

Course LA — Windward/Leeward with Offset Mark, Leeward Finish	
Signal	Mark Rounding Order
LA2	Start - 1 - 1a - 2s/2p - 1 - 1a - Finish
LA3	Start - 1 - 1a - 2s/2p - 1 - 1a - 2s/2p - 1 - 1a - Finish
LA4	Start - 1 - 1a - 2s/2p - 1 - 1a - 2s/2p - 1 - 1a - 2s/2p - 1 - 1a - Finish