



SAILING INSTRUCTIONS (SIs)

RS Aero 2025 North American Championship

September 26-28, 2025

Hosted By: Fairhope Yacht Club

Organizing Authorities: RS Aero North American Class Association and Fairhope Yacht Club

1 RULES

- 1.1 The event is governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing* and *Class Rules* of the International RS Aero Class Association.
- 1.2 All competitors shall be members of the RS Aero Class Association prior to registration on ***Thursday, September 25, at 0900 hrs.***

2 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1 Any changes to these Sailing Instructions will be posted no later than 15 minutes after the Skipper's Meeting or before 0900 hrs. each consecutive day, on the Official Notice board, located under the clubhouse next to the tiki bar.

3 COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

- 3.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the Official Notice board located under the clubhouse next to the Tiki Bar.

4 CODE OF CONDUCT

- 4.1 Competitors shall comply with reasonable requests from Race Officials.

5 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 5.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed from the flagpole on the beach next to the gazebo.
- 5.2 When the code flag "AP" (postponement) is signaled ashore, "one minute" is replaced with "30 minutes" in the Race Signal AP. This modifies "Race Signals".

6 SCHEDULE OF RACES

- 6.1 Refer to the NOR for a comprehensive schedule of events.
- 6.2 On Friday and Saturday (Sept. 26-27), the first warning signal will be at 1215.
- 6.3 On Sunday, Sept. 28, the first warning signal will be at 1055.
- 6.4 Three (3) races will be attempted each day for Sept. 26 and 27. Two (2) races will be attempted on Sept. 28 for a maximum of eight (8) races. The Race Committee may run one (1) additional race each day if the racing is behind schedule or if the predicted weather for the next day is unfavorable for racing.
- 6.5 On the last scheduled day of racing, no warning signal will be made after 1500 hrs.

7 CLASS FLAGS

- 7.1 The class flag shall be an RS Aero Class Flag

8 RACING AREA

- 8.1 The racing area is Mobile Bay, opposite the clubhouse.

9 COURSES

- 9.1 There may be three (3) types of courses as defined in Addendum A, Course Diagrams.
- 9.2 The course being sailed will be posted on a board on the committee boat. It is the sailor's responsibility to verify the course prior to the start of each race.

10 MARKS

- 10.1 Marks of the course will be orange tetrahedra, and the change of course marks will be yellow tetrahedra.
- 10.2 Starting mark will be a green tetrahedron.
- 10.2 Finishing mark will be a small orange mark or hippity hop.

11 CHECK-IN ON THE WATER

- 11.1 When the RC boat displays Code Flag L prior to the first Warning Signal each day, competitors shall sail past the stern of the RC boat, on starboard tack, and hail her sail number until acknowledged by the RC. Only the RC may protest alleged breaches of this Sailing Instruction. Should a boat breach this Sailing Instruction, the RC may apply a Scoring Penalty calculated as stated in Rule 44.3(c) without a hearing. This changes RRS 60.1 and 60.3.

12 THE START

- 12.1 Races will be started using RRS 26. The warning signal will be made 5 minutes before the starting signal.
- 12.2 As a courtesy, 1 minute before the warning signal of each race, there will be a series of short repetitive sound signals to alert competitors that a starting sequence is about to begin.
- 12.3 The Preparatory Signal shall be made with either the P, I, or U flag.
- 12.4 The starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the RC boat and a nearby start line mark of the course.
- 12.5 If any part of a boat's hull is on the course side (OCS) of the starting line at her starting signal and she is identified, the Race Committee will attempt to hail her sail number. Failure to hail her number, failure of her to hear such a hail, or the order in which boats are hailed will not be grounds for a redress for request. This changes RRS 61.1(a).
- 12.6 A boat not in the starting line area at the starting signal or that is in the starting

line area but does not start within 5 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start (DNS) without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.1 and A5.2.

13 CHANGES TO THE COURSE

- 13.1 To shorten the course, the Race Committee will display signal flag “S” from the RC boat along with two (2) horn blasts during the finishing leg of the current lap.
- 13.2 To maintain course configuration during a race, the Race Committee may make minor adjustments of the course, up to 10 degrees and .10nm, without signaling a change. This changes RRS 33.

14 THE FINISH

- 14.1 The finishing line shall be between a staff displaying a blue flag on the RC boat and a nearby finish line mark of the course.
- 14.2 While boats are finishing, Code Flag “A” displayed means “no more racing today”. Upon finishing, boats shall immediately proceed to the dock.
- 14.3 While boats are finishing, Code Flag “H” displayed means “proceed to the dock” and shall normally signal a break or lunch. Upon finishing, boats shall proceed to the dock.

15 PENALTY SYSTEM

- 15.1 Appendix P, Special Procedures for Rule 42, will apply and is changed as follows:
 - In P2.1, First Penalty, the word “First” is deleted.
 - P2.2 and P2.3 are deleted in their entirety.
- 15.2 The alternative penalties of RRS Appendices V1 will apply (two-turn penalty replaced with a one-turn penalty except in the zone around turning marks).

16 TIME LIMITS

- 16.1 The Finishing Window shall be 20 minutes and is defined as the time for boats to finish after the first boat of their class sails the course and finishes. Boats failing to finish within the Finishing Window, and not subsequently retiring, penalized, or given redress, will be scored Time Limit Expired (TLE) without a hearing. This changes RRS 35, A4, A5, and A10.

17 HEARING REQUESTS

- 17.1 Appendix T (Arbitration) will be in effect.
- 17.2 Protests and requests for redress shall be delivered to the Protest Committee within 30 minutes after the RC boat docks and blasts one (1) long horn after the last race of the day. Hearings will be held as soon as possible on the dock.

18 SCORING

- 18.1 The low point scoring system, RRS Appendix A2, shall apply.
- 18.2 One completed race is required to constitute a regatta.

- 18.3 When fewer than five (5) races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores.
- 18.4 When five (5) or more races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores, excluding her worst score.
- 18.5 The Corrected Finish Times of each race for RS Aero shall be calculated using International RS Aero Class Association Time Correction numbers per Class Rule H2.1: RS Aero 5 = 0.960, RS Aero 6 = 1.000, RS Aero 7 = 1.035, RS Aero 9 = 1.070
- 18.6 RS Aero Class Rule H3.2 shall be in effect: A competitor may use a rig size and sail which is smaller, but not larger, than stipulated when finalizing their registration on-site without disqualification. The competitor's scoring, however, shall always be calculated based on the rig size stipulated at on-site registration.

19 SAFETY REGULATIONS

- 19.1 A boat that retires from a race shall notify the Race Committee at the first reasonable opportunity.
- 19.2 Safety Abandonment: In the event the RC boat pulls anchor to assist in a safety situation, the then current race shall be considered abandoned and signal flag "N" will be displayed on the RC boat along with three (3) horn blasts at the earliest opportunity after the safety situation is resolved.
- 19.3 Weather Abandonment: In the event severe weather is approaching and would make continuing the race potentially unsafe, the RC boat will display Code Flag N over H (code flag V need not be displayed) along with three (3) horn blasts. All boats shall immediately abandon the race and proceed to the Viridian Sailing Center dock. Further information will be provided to competitors once the RC boat has docked.
- 19.4 At all times while on the water, competitors shall wear personal flotation devices, except briefly while changing or adjusting clothing or personal equipment (code flag Y need not be displayed). This Changes RRS Rule 40.

20 REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT

- 20.1 Substitution of competitors after check-in is not allowed.
- 20.2 RS Aero Class Rule H.5.1 shall be in effect: The rudder stock, tiller, tiller extension, and hull appendages may be changed during a regatta; this is a change to RS Aero Class Rule C.6.2.

21 BOATS

- 21.1 Boats may be supplied by the Organizing Authority per SI 22 below.
- 21.2 All boats, supplied by the Organizing Authority or the competitor, shall comply with the current International RS Aero Class Association's Class Rules.

- 21.3 Only the Optional Equipment as specified in RS Aero Class Rules C5.1 may be used at the competitor's choosing. RS Class Rules C5.2 and H5.3 are not in effect. Use of Any equipment outside the scope of RS Aero Class Rule C5.1 shall be grounds for disqualification without a hearing of each race where such equipment is used.

22 BOATS SUPPLIED BY THE ORGANIZING AUTHORITY

- 22.1 Boats may be supplied for competitors, who shall not modify them or cause them to be modified in any way except as allowed by SI 21.2 and SI 21.3.
- 21.2 All equipment supplied with the boat for sailing purposes shall be in the boat while afloat.
- 21.3 The penalty for not complying with one of the above instructions is disqualification without hearing from all races sailed in which the instruction was broken.
- 21.4 Competitors shall report any damage or loss of equipment, however slight, to the organizing authority's representative immediately after securing the boat ashore. The penalty for breaking this instruction, unless the protest committee is satisfied that the competitor made a determined effort to comply, is disqualification without hearing from the race most recently sailed.

22 OFFICIAL VESSELS

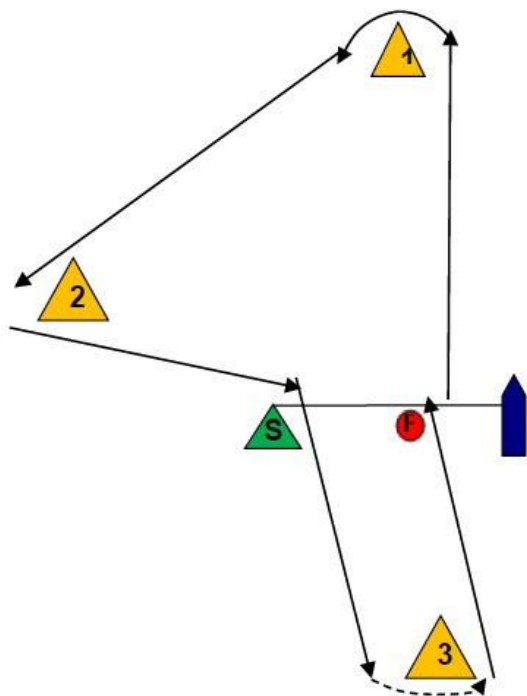
- 22.1 Official vessels will be identified at the Skippers Meeting.

23 RISK STATEMENT

- 23.1 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 acknowledges that sailing is a potentially hazardous activity with inherent risks. These risks include strong winds and rough seas, sudden changes in weather, equipment failure, boat handling errors, poor seamanship by other boats, loss of balance on an unstable platform, and fatigue, which can increase the 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.**

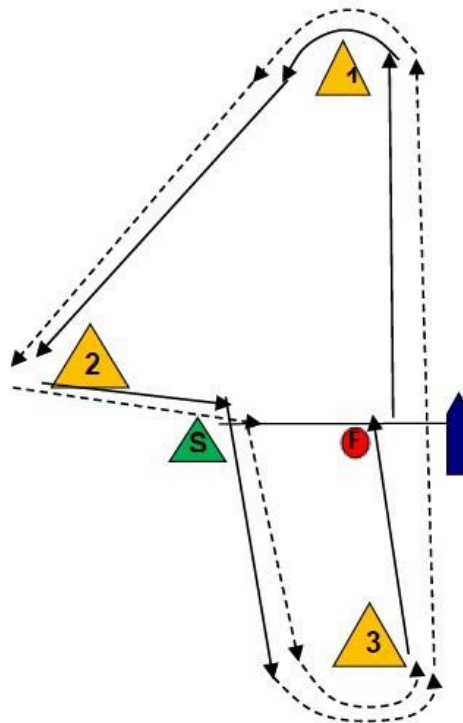
Appendix A – COURSE DIAGRAMS

Course H1



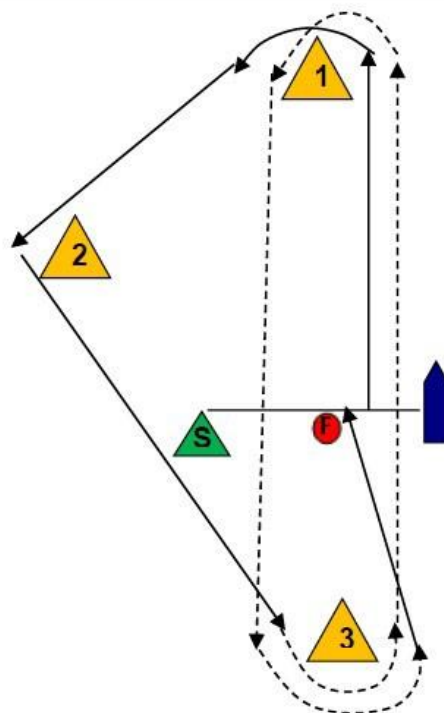
Start, 1 (port), 2 (port), S (starboard), 3 (port), finish

Course H2



Start, 1 (port), 2 (port), S (starboard), 3 (port), 1 (port), 2 (port), S (starboard), 3 (port), finish

Course TW



Start, 1 (port), 2 (port), 3 (port), 1 (port), 3 (port), finish

ADDENDUM B – EMERGENCY INFORMATION AND PLAN

Regatta Contacts

Co-Chairs

- Trin Ollinger – (251) 583-3875
- (PRO) Randy Fitz-Wainwright – (251) 377-8419

Medical Facilities

Closest Urgent Care

AlphaCare Urgent Care
210 Greeno Rd, Fairhope, AL 36532
Open Saturday & Sunday, 8:00 am – 8:00 pm
Phone: (251) 277-5300

Closest Hospital / Emergency Room

Thomas Hospital
750 Murphy Ave, Fairhope, AL 36532
Phone: (251) 928-2375

Medical Emergencies on the Water

- Casualties will be brought into the Harbor.
- Notify the Race Committee immediately on **VHF Channel 72** and/or by phone (see contacts above).

Life-Threatening Emergencies

Examples: head injury with loss of consciousness, severe bleeding, drowning, or if in doubt.

1. **Call 911** immediately.
2. Notify the Race Committee on VHF Channel 72 and/or by phone.
3. If safe, transfer victim(s) to a safety boat.
4. Proceed directly to the dock for EMS ambulance pick-up.

Serious but Non-Life-Threatening Injuries

Examples: severe cuts, broken bones, head injuries while conscious, or if in doubt.

1. Notify the Race Committee on VHF Channel 72 and/or by phone.
2. If safe, transfer victim(s) to a safety boat.
3. Proceed to the dock for first aid.
4. Call 911 if needed and wait at the dock for the EMS ambulance pick-up.

Weather Monitoring

- The Race Committee and Dock Staff continuously monitor weather conditions.
- In the event of approaching severe weather, the Race Committee will announce **race abandonment** (see Sailing Instruction 19.3).
- All boats must return immediately to the dock and await further instruction.