



2025-2026 Viper 640 Winter Series
December 13-14, 2025, January 10-11, 2026, and February 7-8, 2026
Sarasota Sailing Squadron
Sarasota, FL USA

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

POSTED December 12, 2025

The notation '[NP]' in a rule of the sailing instructions (SIs) means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1.

1. RULES

- 1.1 The event will be governed by the *rules* as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing* ("RRS").
- 1.2 The Organizing Authority ("OA") is the Sarasota Sailing Squadron ("SSS").
- 1.3 The US Sailing prescriptions to the following rules will **not** apply: RRS 25.1, 34, the preamble to Section B, 63.1, 81, and Appendix U.
- 1.4 The US Sailing prescriptions to the following rules will apply: the preamble to Part 5, RRS 65.1, 70.3, 76.1, 88.2, Appendix R, and Appendix V.
- 1.5 In the event of a conflict between the Notice of Race and the Sailing Instructions, the Sailing Instructions shall govern. This changes RRS 63.5(c).
- 1.6 RRS 60.4(a)(2) is changed to read as follows: "(2) if it is from a boat that alleges a breach of a rule of Part 2 or Rule 31 but she was not involved in ~~or~~ and did not see the incident, or".
- 1.7 If the Vakaros® RaceSense® system is used, additional procedures and rules regarding its use shall be posted on the official notice board and online on the regatta website and shall be incorporated into these sailing instructions as Addendum B.

2. COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

- 2.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board under the SSS Clubhouse Pavilion. Unofficial notices may be posted on the event website at www.regattanetwork.com.
- 2.2 The RC will use **VHF channel 72** to communicate information including the location of the starting area, countdowns, OCS bow/sail numbers, general recalls and postponements. These communications are a courtesy only. Failure of the RC to make, the timing of, or failure of a boat to hear these communications shall not constitute grounds for granting redress. *This changes RRS 61.4.*
- 2.3 Communications among RC vessels overheard by a competitor will not be an improper action, nor grounds for redress. These communications are a courtesy only. *This changes RRS 61.4.*
- 2.4 Except in an emergency, a boat shall neither make radio transmissions while racing nor receive radio communications not available to all boats. This restriction also applies to mobile telephones.

3. CHANGES TO THE SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 3.1 Any change to the SIs will be posted not less than 60 minutes prior to the first scheduled race (or removal of AP ashore, whichever is later) on the day it will take effect.
- 3.2 Any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 2000 on the day before it will take effect.
- 3.3 Oral changes may be provided on the water. The RC Signal Boat will display L over C to indicate an oral change to the SIs is being communicated. In addition, the oral changes will be announced via VHF channel 72.

4. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 4.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed on the Flagpole east of the SSS Clubhouse.
- 4.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, "1 minute" is replaced with "not less than 30 minutes." *This changes Race Signal AP.*

5. SCHEDULE OF RACES

- 5.1 Three events are scheduled for the series.
- 5.2 A maximum number of five (5) races are scheduled per day.
- 5.3 The weekend schedule for each event is as follows:
 - Event Day 1: Saturday
 - 0900 to 1000 Registration, event check-in
 - 1030 Competitors' informational briefing
 - 1200 First warning signal; additional races to follow
 - Event Day 2: Sunday
 - 1000 First warning signal; additional races to follow
 - 1500 No warning signal after this time
 - TBD Awards as soon as practicable after racing

6. CLASS FLAG

The class flag will be the Viper 640 class insignia on a white field.

7. RACING AREA

Racing will take place on Sarasota Bay north of New Pass Channel.

8. THE COURSES

- 8.1 The courses will be windward/leeward in configuration. A windward offset and leeward gate will be used if possible. Refer to Addendum A.
- 8.2 If no windward offset mark is in place, boats shall sail directly from the windward mark to the leeward mark(s) or finish.
- 8.3 If a single leeward mark is in place instead of a gate, the mark shall be left to port.
- 8.4 No later than the warning signal, the RC shall announce on VHF channel 72 the course designation, distance and the approximate compass bearing of the first leg.

9. MARKS

- 9.1 Start marks will be RC signal vessel on the starboard end and either a RC boat or Robo Mark on the port end.
- 9.2 Finish marks will be an RC boat and a Robo Mark.
- 9.3 Marks 1 and 1a will be a Robo Marks.

- 9.4 Marks 2S and 2P will be Robo Marks.
- 9.5 The change mark for Mark 1 will be a yellow tetrahedron.

10. THE START

- 10.1 All races will start in accordance with RRS 26.
- 10.2 The starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the RC signal vessel at the starboard end and a staff displaying an orange flag on either the RC vessel or the Robo Mark on the port end.
- 10.3 A boat that does not start within five (5) minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start (DNS) without a hearing. *This changes RRS A4 and A5.*
- 10.4 If the Vakaros® RaceSense® starting system is not being used, as a courtesy, the RC shall attempt to hail OCS, UFD and BFD boats via VHF channel 72. The failure of the RC to make the announcement, the order of the announcement, or failure of a boat to hear the announcement shall not be grounds for redress by a boat. *This changes RRS 61.4(b).*

11. CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

- 11.1 The RC may adjust any leg of the course by moving the Robo Mark(s) up to 010° in bearing and/or 0.1 nm in length without a signal or change of mark color. *This changes RRS 33.*
- 11.2 Subject to 11.1, to **change** the next leg of the course, the RC will lay a new mark (or move the finishing line) and remove the original mark as soon as practicable. When a change mark is put in place for Mark 1, no offset mark 1a will be set.

12. THE FINISH

The finish line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on a RC vessel on the port end of the line and a staff displaying an orange flag on a RC vessel or the Robo Mark on the starboard end of the line. This changes RRS Race Signals.

13. PENALTY SYSTEM

- 13.1 US Sailing Prescription Appendix V1 will apply as follows:
- **V1: PENALTY AT THE TIME OF AN INCIDENT** The first two sentences of rule 44.1 are changed to: "A boat may take a One-Turn Penalty when she may have broken one or more rules of Part 2 or RRS 31 in an incident while racing. However, when she may have broken one or more rules of Part 2 while in the zone around a mark other than a starting mark, her penalty shall be a Two-Turns Penalty."
- 13.2 Penalties for infractions within the zone of the windward mark or on the offset leg may be delayed and taken as soon as possible on the downwind leg. *This changes RRS 44.2.*
- 13.3 The protest committee may impose penalties less than disqualification (DPI), for violation of class rules and racing rules other than those in RRS Part 1 and Part 2, 28 and 31 as permitted and in accordance with RRS 64.

14. TIME LIMITS AND TARGET TIMES

- 14.1 The target time for the first boat to finish each race is 35-40 minutes. Failure to meet the target time for a race shall not be grounds for redress by a boat. *This changes RRS 61.4(b).*
- 14.2 If no boat has passed Mark 1 within twenty (20) minutes of its start, or if no boat has finished within seventy (70) minutes of its start, the race shall be abandoned.
- 14.3 Boats failing to finish within fifteen (15) minutes after the first boat of the fleet sails the course and finishes, will be scored the place of the last finisher plus 2, without a hearing. *This changes RRS 35, A4 and A5.*

15. PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

15.1 Request forms for hearings or scoring reviews are available at the SSS Clubhouse. Protests and requests for redress or reopening shall be delivered to the designated representative of the Protest Committee ("PC") at the SSS Clubhouse within the protest time limit.

15.2 The protest time limit is 45 minutes after the RC Signal Boat docks at the end of each day.

15.3 Requests for Scoring Review (including OCS) shall be filed within the protest time limit on forms available at the SSS Clubhouse. Such a request will be reviewed by the RC before being scheduled for a hearing by the PC. If unresolved, it shall be considered a request for redress. *This changes RRS 61.1-61.4.*

15.4 Notices will be posted within 15 minutes after the protest time limit has expired to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Hearings will be held at the SSS Clubhouse.

15.5 After a hearing, penalties for breaking *rules*, other than those of Part 1 or 2, that do not specify a penalty, shall be at the discretion of the PC and may be less than disqualification as permitted and in accordance with RRS 64.

16. SCORING

16.1 Each event will be scored using Appendix A, except that when less than six (6) races are completed, a boat's score will be the total of her race scores, and when six (6) or more races have been completed, a boat's score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score. This changes RRS A2.1.

16.2 One (1) race is required to be completed to constitute each event.

16.3 For Series scoring purposes, any boat that competes in one of the two events will also be scored in the Series. A boat's score for the Series will be her total score, including all races not sailed in the Series, excluding her worst 30% (rounding up to the next higher whole number) of race scores.

17. SAFETY

17.1 [NP] Boats are required to check in by sailing past the RC signal vessel on starboard and hailing their **bow number** to the RC signal vessel before the warning for the first race each day.

17.2 [NP] A boat that retires from a race or leaves the race area between races shall notify the RC as soon as possible.

17.3 All boats shall carry an operating VHF radio capable of communicating on standard USA VHF channels.

17.4 RC will monitor VHF Channel 68 as a Safety Channel.

18. REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT

18.1 Substitution of competitors, including any change in the number of crew members, will not be allowed without prior written approval of the Organizing Authority or the Principal Race Officer (PRO).

18.2 Substitution of damaged or lost equipment will not be allowed unless authorized by the PRO.

18.3 Requests for substitution shall be made, in writing, at the first reasonable opportunity.

19. PRIZES

Prizes will be awarded as described in the NOR.

20. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

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 hazards.

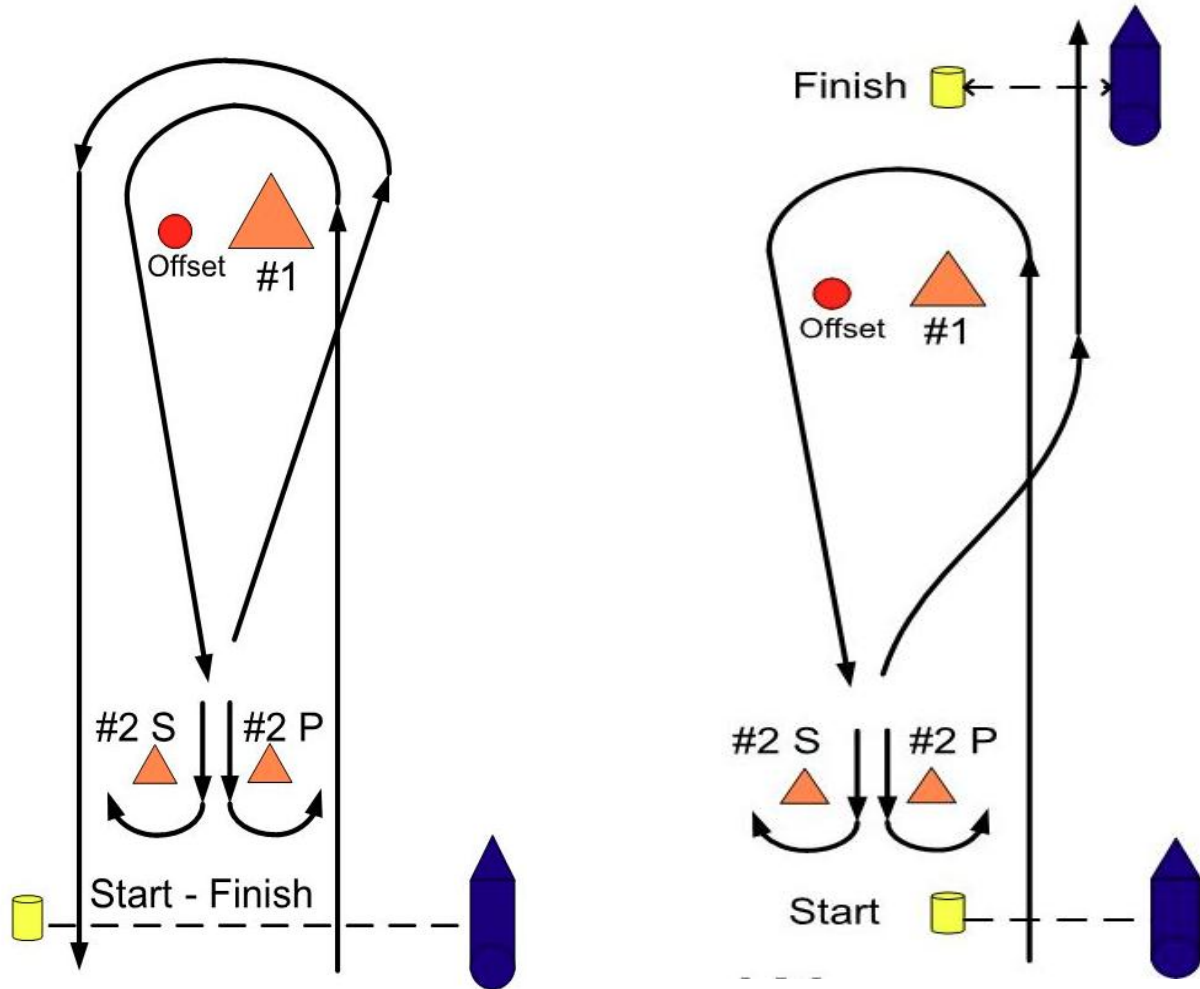
21. FURTHER INFORMATION

Event Chair Travis Yates - travisdyates@gmail.com

PRO – kevendeiber@gmail.com

Sarasota Sailing Squadron – manager@sarasotasailingsquadron.org

ADDENDUM A COURSE DIAGRAMS



COURSES	
	3: Start – 1 – 1a – 2s or 2p – Finish
4: Start – 1 – 1a – 2s or 2p – 1 – 1a – Finish	5: Start – 1 – 1a – 2 or 2p – 1 – 1a – 2s or 2p – Finish
<p>Note: The shapes and colors of the marks may vary from the depictions on these diagrams.</p> <p>Note: Marks 1, 1a, 2s, 2p when listed above are rounding marks and must be rounded in the order and direction shown on the diagram.</p> <p>Note: Marks 1 and 1a may be passed on either side on the last leg of Course 3 and 5.</p>	